

Group to study Hoboken recreation

By TERRY BRENNAN

The Hoboken City Council created a five-member, voluntary commission yesterday to study methods to better utilize the city's limited recreational facilities.

With Hoboken's meager 1.9 acres of park land, the city is one of the most densely populated areas in the country and has one of the lowest ratios of recreational facilities to population.

"We have to do whatever we can to get more of our youngsters off street corners and into parks and gyms," Cappiello said. "Our kids need alternatives to keep them busy and make sure they stay out of trouble. Recreation is one of the best ways to tackle that."

While the waterfront has been one area continually mentioned for possible expansion of park land, Cappiello stressed that he expects to lure industry to settle there to reduce Hoboken's high tax rate. He added that several parcels of land could still be used to take advantage of the city's access to the Hudson River.

"I think we can take advantage of that property to create both jobs and playgrounds."

Cappiello critics lashed out at the mayor during last month's campaign because he had appropriated less than one per cent of the city's \$15 million budget for recreation.

The mayor acknowledged yesterday that more funds are needed to adequately cut into the problem. He also said it was unfortunate that \$100,000 was removed from the school budget for after-school recreational programs.

"There's little doubt that we have few facilities and little

funds to really solve the recreation problem," Cappiello said. "I'm just hoping this commission will help us more than make do with what we have at the present time."

Councilman Robert Ranieri introduced the resolution to create the Commission and emphasized that Hoboken doesn't have available funds to really put much of a dent into the city's program.

Ranieri said he worked out the resolution with the mayor because they agreed the council should oversee the commission.

Recount ends in tie

A recount of absentee ballots cast for county committeeman for Hoboken's Second Ward, Second District, turned up an extra vote for Max J. Gobbo yesterday, turning his loss Tuesday to Vincent P. Andreola into a tie.

Gobbo obtained a court order for the Hudson County Board of Elections to con-

duct a recount of 13 absentee ballots cast in that race and the recount yesterday turned up the extra vote, making the tallies 94 to 94 for the two candidates.

The municipal Democratic Committee will now, in all likelihood, elect Gobbo, a supporter of Mayor Steve Cappiello, to the position.

Won't wear guns off duty Hoboken cops face suspension

All Hoboken policemen could be suspended and face departmental trials if the city's law department rules they must carry guns while off duty.

That possibility exists as a result of the Hoboken Patrolmen's Benevolent Association adopting a policy of no longer wearing guns while off duty. The PBA policy was set after demonstrating outside the Hudson County Administration Building, Jersey City, against the indictment of Patrolman Walter Lebrink Jr. on a murder charge.

"I'd rather face a departmental hearing than be indicted for murder," declared Patrolman James Behrens, PBA president, in announcing the members would no longer wear any guns while off duty. He said Lebrink was off-duty when he responded to a

call for assistance and ended up getting indicted.

However, Police Chief George Crimmins said he is asking for the city law department's opinion on whether police must carry guns while off duty.

Behrens and other off-duty members wore empty holsters. They said they turned in their weapons and 500 rounds of ammunition to the prosecutor's office.

State law does not require police to carry guns while off duty, according to informed sources, but local departmental rules and regulations might specify that they must have them.

Crimmins said if the city law department rules the police must carry the weapons while off duty,

Behrens and all the other patrolmen could be suspended.

Off-duty PBA members, joined by wives of those on duty and off-duty police from North Bergen, Union City, Jersey City, Weehawken, county police and sheriff's officers, demonstrated close to two hours yesterday outside the administration building.

The protested Lebrink's indictment on a charge of murdering Dennis J. Kierce, 23, of Jersey City, Feb. 22.

Occasionally, tooting whistles, some 150 demonstrators carried signs reading, "Dead Cops Can't Help You," "Prosecutor Handcuffs Hoboken Cops" and "Grand Jury Heard A One-sided Story."

One sign blasted Dep. First Asst. Prosecutor Edward C. McGill saying

"Forgive Him . . . He Does Not Know What He Is Doing."

A manikin of a dead police officer (lying on a stretcher) who didn't shoot was on the scene.

The indictment accuses Lebrink of murdering Kierce and lying to the grand jury that it was in self-defense.

Hoboken police reported at the time that Lebrink, while called upon during a tavern commotion, shot Kierce after the latter confronted him with a gun. Later, police said, the gun turned out to be a starter pistol which fires blanks.

Kierce is the son of Raymond Kierce, director of Hudson County's employment and training division.

Kierce commented that the demonstrators were "not in possession of the facts" and were "pre-

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Hoboken eyes street cleaner

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken may have renewed luster if the City Council passes a resolution next week accepting a \$39,000 state grant to clean its streets.

The grant, issued through the Safe & Clean Neighborhoods Program, will be put toward the purchase of a water truck to spruce up city streets. Hoboken hasn't been watering down its streets on a daily basis since its old truck "died" about seven years ago.

"The truck should give us the chance to finally get at some of that mud and grime that sweeping can't really get at," said Business Manager Edwin Chius. "I don't say the streets will be spotless right away, but I'm hoping to add a little sparkle when the truck hits the streets in September."

While Hoboken sweeps Washington st. twice a week and all other streets once every seven days, Chius said the water truck should be able to scrape away embedded dirt that sweeping just doesn't get to.

The gardens

It looked like a stroke of fortune for Hoboken vegetable lovers when a councilman undertook to provide them with two unused tracts adjoining the apartment houses in the Grogan Marine View Plaza development.

There was \$5,000 available from the state to meet expenses. Perhaps the Hoboken bureaucrats in charge of such matters did not move as fast as they might have, but eventually all the approvals are in, except that of the Housing Authority.

The time to plant vegetables will soon be over. Will the authority speed up its OK before it is too late?

Bartletta is acting Hoboken mayor

Frank J. Bartletta, Hoboken's director of revenue and finance, has been named acting mayor while Mayor Steve Cappiello attends the National Conference of Mayors gathering in Arizona for the next week.

top executive from today until next Saturday, when Mayor Cappiello and his wife are expected back.

It is the second time Bartletta has served as acting mayor. The first was during the administration of former Mayor Louis DePascale.

Hoboken parents say teachers 'rush' closing

Hoboken's schools officially close for the summer on June 22, but according to some parents a number of teachers have been "rushing" the eventual by telling kids not to bother coming in.

That was the complaint presented to the Board of Education last week by Mrs. Due Newman who has a child attending the A.J. Demarest Junior High School.

Mrs. Newman said that there was a general "slowdown" at the school and that some teachers are releasing the students early from class and telling them not to come to school. She added that some gym classes were being conducted without an instructor or teacher.

Mrs. Mary Gaspar, school board president has instructed Thomas Gaynoe, assistant superintendent of

schools, to look into the matter and make a report to the board.

According to teacher sources, the slowdown is a fact but not an uncommon one. It prevails in almost every school system towards the end of the school year.

They explained that every teacher has a certain amount of ground to cover during the school year which culminates in final exams. When the work has been completed there is usually nothing to do except begin to review it again or start going into the work the students will be given when the schools reopen in September.

"But the main problem is the pupils themselves," said one teacher.

"They know that they've covered their work and that school is going to close in a week or two. It's pretty

hard to keep their attention when they get to that stage."

One school principal, Patrick Capone of the Leinikau School, says that parents are responsible for part of the problem by allowing their children to stay home.

Capone has issued a directive to his teachers saying that report cards will not be given to any child who does not attend school through the end of the year, although normal absences for illness will be excluded from the directive.

"We have cases of mothers coming in to take their children to Puerto Rico or elsewhere for the summer," he said. "We can't punish the child if he or she has successfully completed their work and we won't hold them back from promotion. But we can hold back the report cards from the parents."

\$100M mortgage fund hailed

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday a \$100 million mortgage housing fund created to bypass redlining policies by banks "fits right in" with the city's housing programs.

The Neighborhood Loan Program, funded by tax-exempt bonds issued by the New Jersey Mortgage Finance Agency, encourages home ownership in distressed urban areas where local government is committed to improving the neighborhood. Homebuyers on the city's West Side will be eligible for the 7 1/2 per cent mortgage loans.

"This fits right in with the concept of

neighborhood preservation that we've tried to implement in the city," Cappiello said. "I think the reason our housing programs have worked is our strong community spirit. That's the same spirit this program is trying to tap."

Although most of Hoboken's housing programs have been centered upon where multi-family units were attached and had solid foundations, the program is limited to one to four family homes for either renovation or new construction. Cappiello said the loans could eventually be used to fit in with the city's plan to raze some structures in the area.

"I'm pleased with the construction potential in the program because we ultimately expect to tear down some of the dilapidated housing

there," Cappiello said. "We hope to be able to take advantage of that during the second year of the program."

The \$100 million will be used as a mortgage pool to stimulate home buying in areas where banks have been traditionally reluctant to finance mortgages. Some 25 municipalities have joined the program including West New York, Jersey City and Bayonne.

Constance Gibson, the agency's director of development and management, told city officials at a meeting yesterday that potential buyers must contact any of 37 participating lending institutions to get the loans. She said the agency will guarantee all mortgages and

that the only profits banks will reap come from increased customers.

Cappiello said the city is creating a Neighborhood Assistance Center in conjunction with its Community Development Agency this summer to channel prospective home owners to lending institutions. None of the participating banks is located in the city.

The program has allocated \$59 million for loans for the first year and must set aside \$14 million for possible default. About \$29 million will then be available for loans the second year of the program.

Mrs. Gibson said she expects the agency to float another bond issue after the present project expires in two years.

Dozen could lose jobs in Hoboken re-shuffle

As many as a dozen Hoboken municipal employees could be bumped from their jobs July 1 by persons hired on the city's federally-funded Urban Rodent Control Program, scheduled to phase out by that date.

Edwin Chius, acting city business administrator, told members of the city council at last night's caucus, "You're going to have a lot of problems with Civil Service come July 1."

A state Civil Service representative met with officers of the city's municipal employees union yesterday at their request, according to Chius, to discuss moves he says are being made by certain Hoboken federal employees to displace persons on the regular city payroll.

Chius says he was told by the Civil Service spokesman that the workers on Hoboken federal payrolls, with the exception of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) employees, are eligible for similarly

classified regular city jobs if they've passed the appropriate Civil Service exams for those jobs.

Helen Lodato, head of the city's Municipal Employees Union, could not be immediately reached for comment on what steps the union may take to block the bumping action.

In other developments at the caucus, Council President Martin J. Brennan, upset over persistent breakdowns of the city's mechanical street sweepers, advised acting Public Works Director Andrew Amato to "issue the drivers brooms and cans and have them do the (sweeper) route that way."

Not only did the sweepers malfunction last Monday, as they reportedly did again yesterday, said Brennan, but also the special policeman assigned to accompany the sweeper and give out tickets to motorists parked in its path, "didn't show up and he didn't even call in, either."

30 machines flawed, says Romano protest

Anthony Romano, defeated by some 4,000 votes in Hoboken's May 10 municipal election by Mayor Steve Cappiello, seeks to set aside the results at a Superior Court hearing July 6.

In a complaint filed with Superior Court Judge Thomas J. O'Brien against Joseph T. Brady, Hudson County's elections

superintendent; the county board of elections, City Clerk Anthony Amoroso, and various candidates, Romano, joined by Anthony Russo, who ran on his ticket as a councilmanic candidate, alleges 30 of 32 voting machines used in the election malfunctioned.

The plaintiffs want the court to set aside the election and set a new election date, although a recount failed to upset the results.

Romano and Russo, represented by Andrew Battistich, claim a voting machine expert confirmed that the machines malfunctioned in such a manner that it was possible to vote for "two mayors" or "three councilmen" instead of four.

Hoboken cops must wear guns off-duty

It's official. Hoboken policemen do have to carry their guns even when off duty.

And to make sure that directive isn't misunderstood and is binding on the men, Chief George W. Crimmins issued another departmental order advising them of the fact.

Recently, members of the department threatened to refrain from carrying their guns when off-duty to protest the indictment of a brother officer, Ptl. Walter Lebrink Jr. Lebrink was indicted by a Hudson County Grand Jury on a murder charge stemming from an incident in February outside a local tavern. The officer, who was off-duty at the time, shot and killed Dennis Kierce, 23, after Kierce allegedly pointed a gun at him. The gun turned out to be a starter's pistol which couldn't fire a bullet.

According to the chief, most off-duty men are carrying their guns in spite of the threat not to.

"I observe," the chief said. "And my observations are that I have yet to see an off-duty officer without his weapon. I strongly believe that the threat was something done on the spur of the moment."

Crimmins said he issued the second order on carrying off-duty guns because the original was issued so long ago — years before he became chief — that it couldn't be found without a great deal of research and paperwork. It was easier to issue a new one.

Unwanted gardens

Hoboken had a great chance to do something that would have meant a lot to scores of its residents, but the city's Housing Authority has incomprehensibly turned it down.

Two sizeable tracts of unused land were available as garden sites at the Grogan Marine View Plaza. A councilman arranged for their use. Many people were eager to plant vegetables there. It would have been an admirable community service project, but it needed the approval of the Housing Authority.

The authority has turned down one of the sites because someone has filed a preliminary application to put a building on it. None of the multitude of agencies that would have to approve the building has as yet even considered it. Construction could not possibly start for at least two years.

The other site has been rejected by the authority because someone might get hurt in the garden and sue the city. The councilman already had arranged for the necessary insurance, but the Housing Authority apparently ignored that point.

The reasons for rejecting the gardens seem more like pretexts. Could politics have been the real reason?

Hoboken senior project would bring in \$70,000

James Gabriele, president of the corporation that wants to build a 10-story senior citizen apartment house in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project in Hoboken, said today that the project would produce approximately \$70,000 a year in revenue for the city.

The corporation is the Columbian Towers Corp., an independent arm of the Hoboken Knights of Columbus Council.

According to Gabriele, a spokesman for the corporation had been inaccurately quoted in another newspaper as saying that the corporation would produce only \$70 a year in taxes for the city.

"The corporation will be paying 15 per cent of its gross income each year to the city in lieu of tax payments," he said. "That will amount to approximately \$70,000 and is equal to what the city is supposed to be getting from each of the 25-story apartment houses."

Although there has been some opposition to the proposal, mostly from the city's parking authority, Gabriele said that the plan was in the best interest of the city and the parking authority.

"The lot is vacant now and there are no valid proposals for any other use on that land," he said. "Maybe something better will come along next year or the year after, or the year after that. But how long is the city to wait to get some revenue from that land?"

"We are even willing to rent one parking space in the parking authority's garages for every apartment—and the authority can use those spaces for other parking when not occupied. That's a better arrangement than it has now."

"We sincerely feel that the proposal is good for Hoboken. It wouldn't have been made if we didn't."

Hoboken may get 'first' moving sidewalk

Our Washington Bureau

New Jersey could become the testing site for the world's first "moving sidewalk" in a railroad station, if the Senate approves a \$6.1 billion transportation appropriations bill next week.

The project was added to the bill at the request of Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., who is the ranking

Republican on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

The Case proposal calls for allocating \$600,000 to construct a 300-foot-long "moving sidewalk" that would connect the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Terminal and the PATH Terminal in Hoboken.

Case said it would "be the first such operating walkway in the world."

Hoboken summer school slated to open June 27

Hoboken students who lack sufficient credits to graduate or keep up with their class will be able to earn them at a summer high school beginning June 27.

The Board of Education last night approved a summer school and the appointment of 12 members of the faculty to staff it at the high school.

The board accepted a wide variety of bids for supplies, services and equipment and turned them over to a committee for study and recommendations. Mrs. Mary Stack

Gaspar, board president, said the board will re-advertise for electrical and ventilation work in July in connection with the system-wide food program. No bids were received on it last night.

She said 15 employees worked at the recent municipal election and she is awaiting a ruling by board attorney Robert W. Taylor on whether it was legal to also pay them their school salary for that day. A ruling may come after Taylor returns from a vacation, she said.

State queries Hoboken school bills

By JEAN DEITZ
Dispatch Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — Auditors from the state Department of Education are questioning more than \$10,000 in expenses by the Hoboken school board—expenditures which include sending its attorney to Trenton in a limousine, a luxury which cost the board \$265.

Included in the list of suspect bills are 15 visits paid by school board members to Hoboken eateries—Leo's Grandevous, Casella's Restaurant, The Cellar and the Union Club. The tab at one session at Casella's, termed a "personnel meeting," ran as high as \$383.

State auditors uncovered the controversial list during a probe of the school board's books and its accounting system, which the state has found to be seriously inadequate.

The probe was made in conjunction with an appeal to the state by the school board, which said it did not have the money to pay \$1.4 million in summer teachers' salaries.

Under state law, school boards may deduct 10 per cent of a teacher's gross salary in order to make salary payments during the summer months. The state said yesterday that the board of education erred in not making those deductions, which is why it came up short of funds.

Tax Funds Raised

Instead, the Hoboken school board raised tax funds to make up the summer payments. The school board has been ordered to cease the practice and deposit summer payroll deductions in a separate account.

The state department yesterday recommended a complete review of all policies and practices of the school board "due to the questionable nature of many expenditures and the apparent dual role of 'administrative office/attorney.'"

R. W. Taylor is the board attorney. The state auditors noted that Taylor's position as attorney is fulltime, according to the board books, and that pension and ill fringe benefits are paid by the board.

In addition to his regular salary, the board reimbursed Taylor for \$3,500 in "professional services"; \$650 for a trip to Boston; \$265 for limousine service to Trenton; and more than \$800 in other services and expenses.

A separate bill for \$257 for Taylor's phone was also listed in the group of questionable expenses.

\$2,500 at Eateries

About \$2,500 was spent by the board at local restaurants during the period audited—July 1, 1976, through March 31, 1977.

Also questioned was a \$323 bill for Christmas cards, and a \$900 liquor bill.

After going through the books, the education department, in a detailed report released yesterday, said that Assemblyman Thomas Gallo, school board secretary, and Frank J.

Bartletta, the custodian of school monies, often did not comply with state statutes in filing financial records.

State urges ban on all parking at River Road's end

A survey conducted by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) has recommended that Hoboken ban parking on both sides of the northern end of the recently rehabilitated River Road, Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer said today.

The councilman said that he will take up the recommendations of the report with the other members of the council within the next week or two before having an ordinance prepared which would make parking illegal.

"The report recommends for safety that parking be banned on both sides, near 11th Street, for the first hundred feet or so," he said. "Even though parking is a problem in the area and I don't like to see us lose any spaces, safety must be the first consideration."

Cramer said he thought that the

city could get away with banning parking just on the one side of the street but the decision on how the ordinance will read would be up to the full council.

"The report isn't binding on the city, it only makes recommendations that we should follow," he continued. "Parking along both sides of River Road has been a long standing practice, one that never caused any major problems. But that was before the road was rehabilitated."

"Now that it is a fit street, maybe the best street in the city and traffic is again building up on it, we must consider safety. The exit from the Maxwell House Coffee plant parking lot is in this area. The cars exit onto River Road where it meets 11th Street. With all of the parked cars it is difficult to see if someone is leaving the parking lot until you are right on top of the exit."

Hoboken PBA threatens radio system grievance

Hoboken's police radio communications system is faltering and may be the subject of a grievance against the city unless immediate steps are taken to eliminate the problem, it was learned today.

According to department sources, the police radio network has become unreliable in that transmissions from Union City, Weehawken and North Bergen, who share the same fre-

quency as Hoboken, cut off Hoboken's. And Hoboken transmissions apparently do the same thing to those by police in those municipalities.

In addition, the police also pick up transmissions from Bridgeport, Conn., which also cut out Hoboken's transmissions, it was reported.

Department sources said that it often puts local police officers into potentially dangerous situations.

In one recent incident, a local officer had stopped three men in a car. He radioed in for a back-up unit. However, his transmission was not received by the police operator due to a number of radio exchanges originating from Bridgeport which blocked out the local transmission. The sources said that the transmis-

sion did eventually get through but it was almost 15 minutes later.

James Behrens, president of the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), said that the matter is being brought to the city's attention but no grievance is being filed at this time. He added that the city will be given some time to take corrective action. However, if that action—applying for a less crowded radio frequency—isn't taken, the PBA would follow up with a formal grievance.

It was also reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which licenses all police radio networks, will be advised of the problem on the chance that some of the departments that are cutting in on Hoboken's transmission are using equipment stronger than allowed.

Mayors invited to park hearing

Five mayors whose constituents heavily use Liberty State Park in Jersey City are being invited to the next hearing of its study and planning commission July 6 in Newark. They are Thomas Smith of Jersey City, Dennis Collins of Bayonne, Steve Cappiello of Hoboken, Kenneth Gibson of Newark and Abraham Beame of New York.

Brian Strum of Bergenfield, executive director of the commission, said the panel wants to keep the mayors personally abreast of suggestions made at the opening two hearings, held yesterday morning at Jersey City State College and Thursday night at Stevens Center, Hoboken.

The latest suggestions, offered at yesterday's round of "good discus-

sions," were for possible future use of the 800-acre area as follows:

A performing arts center similar to Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., recommended by Sonya Moskowitz of Jersey City; a pool and other recreation facilities, made by Peter Zampella Jr. of the Jersey City Parks Department; three dioramas depicting past important events concerning the area, by Grace Edge, a South Jersey historian; and a monument honoring immigrants who passed through Ellis Island and settled in the Jersey City area, by Edward Warlikowski, representing the Jersey City Polish American Progress Association.

Dennis Enright, Jersey City plan-

ning director, saw a need to extend the state park to include an adjacent 800 acres in Caven Point. Twenty-five per cent of that acreage, however, is under water, Enright advised.

A fourth — and final — hearing will be staged toward the end of next month, possibly on July 26, said Strum, in order to give as many persons as possible the opportunity of expressing views for the park.

John T. Connor, president of Allied Chemical, officiated as chairman. Commission members participating from Hudson were Mrs. Audrey Zapp, of Jersey City; Joseph Lesawyer, a leading figure in the Ukrainian National Association, based in Jersey City, and Mrs. Helen Manogue of Hoboken.

Amato: Legal dumping plan in works

Illegal dumping of rubbish at various sites around Hoboken has long been a problem for the city's public works department. But Director Andrew J. Amato is working on a plan

where any city resident with rubbish to get rid of may do so — with the city's blessings and assistance.

"We're going to bring the dumping sites to the public rather than let the public dump where it wants to," said the director. "And the way we'll do it is by bringing large containers into the neighborhoods for a few days and encourage residents of those areas to get rid of all the junk they have but don't want."

Amato said the city would rent the containers from a contractor for the duration of the program — approximately two to three weeks.

"At this time I plan for it to be only a one-time proposition," he con-

tinued. "But if it is successful maybe we can make it an annual thing. Sort of a clean up week thing."

After the program is over, citizens will still be able to get rid of their unwanted household rubbish but with a little more trouble. Amato said that he will probably reinstate rubbish compactor service at the city's garage on Willow Avenue and allow residents to bring their rubbish there.

"The old compactor site at the sewerage treatment plant became a dump," he continued. "We won't be able to allow that to happen at the garage. There isn't the space and it would become an eyesore too quickly. The rubbish will have to go right into

the compactor and the containers removed as soon as they are full, and then replaced with an empty one."

Amato said that the compactor and containers would be used to dispose of rubbish the city picked up in its daily rounds. But residents with rubbish they wanted to get rid of would also be allowed to bring it to the garage to be compacted.

The one drawback, said Amato, is that the rubbish would be accepted only during the normal work day — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. — and on Saturdays during those same hours.

"The proposal is still only that," he added. "I haven't presented it to the mayor yet for his approval."

Water bills are going up for Hoboken, Jersey City

Jersey City residents and businessmen face a water rate increase of up to 65 per cent next year because of the high cost of bonds needed to pay for a new filtration plant at the Boonton Reservoir.

The increase would bring the average homeowner's water bill to between \$180 and \$200 a year. The average bill is now about \$120 a year, according to Finance Director Jerome Lazarus.

Out-of-town water customers, including Hoboken and three Bergen municipalities, would also be hit by the increase. About 40 per cent of Jersey City water is sold to outsiders.

The news that water rates, which were increased up to 87 per cent for residents only two years ago, might rise sharply again apparently took Mayor-elect Thomas F.X. Smith by surprise. However, Business Administrator Joseph Contreras said he and other officials have been predicting it for more than a year.

Smith and his legal advisers called a meeting yesterday which was attended by several consultants who have been working on various aspects of the city's water supply system, special attorney Howard Rosen, who was retained for water rate issues, and representatives of local banks,

which have purchased bonds used to pay for work at Boonton.

Smith said he plans to name a panel to study the feasibility of establishing an autonomous agency to take over the city-operated water supply system.

Contreras said the city's water utility anticipates a deficit of about \$5 million next year, mostly because of costs associated with the bonds necessary to pay for the new plant. Actual construction is costing \$29 million, and there is about \$10 million in related interest and other costs.

This year there was a deficit of \$2.1 million, but instead of raising water rates to cover it, the city made up the difference with federal revenue sharing funds.

Among the ideas explored at yesterday's meeting were a state takeover of the water supply system and selling it to a private firm.

However, the participants agreed that neither seemed as practical as creating an autonomous water authority.

Among the cited benefits of an autonomous authority are its ability to increase water rates to meet costs without first seeking the permission of the state Public Utilities Commission. But it was also pointed out that an autonomous authority would probably have to pay a higher interest rate on its bonds than the city itself, whose bonds can be "qualified," or guaranteed, by the state.

And, Rosen added, that would not solve the short-term problem of making up next year's deficit.

Hoboken warns firm to fix those streets

A company working on the repair, relining and replacement of some of Hoboken's water lines has been told that it isn't doing a good job patching up the streets after its work is finished and is being threatened with legal action if it doesn't improve.

Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today that he has sent a letter to Ameron Inc., one of two companies now working on the water lines, advising it that he isn't satisfied with the job it's been doing closing up the streets.

"The fill in the slits is to be thoroughly tamped down so that there isn't any sinking or settling after the asphalt has been put back," he said. "Either this isn't being done or it's being done improperly."

"A number of instances have been reported to the department when slits that were worked on by Ameron or one of their sub-contractors have started to sink a few days after they were closed up."

"I have warned the company that it had better improve the quality of work in this area or the matter will be

referred to the city's law department for action."

According to Amato, Ameron is finishing up the portion of the water line work it contracted for and should be leaving the city in a few weeks. He said he wanted the company to know in advance that if the city wasn't completely satisfied with its work the company may not get the final payment on the job.

"If it doesn't do the job right the city is going to hire someone who will finish it properly," he said. "And the cost of that will come out of the final payment."

It was also learned that Amato and Mayor Steve Cappiello are also leaning heavily on the other company working on the water lines — Spiniello Contracting Co. of Newark. That company has the contract to do the lines in the northern section of the city.

Get the job done

Hoboken's Community Development Agency seems to have fallen down on the job in its rehabilitation of Church Square Park.

Summer is at hand and the youngsters in the teeming streets would like to use the new improved facilities which were promised and for which federal tax dollars were allotted.

The CDA hired contractors who ripped out the old facilities, but have done little to replace them. A city recreation official called the CDA several times to ask why the park basketball courts had not been restored. He was unable to find anyone who had the answer.

Finally the head of the CDA looked into it and reported the contractor was waiting for Public Service to remove a utility pole.

Evidently no one with enough executive drive is pushing the Church Square Park project.

Hoboken Council may cut talk limit

Hoboken citizens wishing to discuss matters with the City Council will have less time to do so if new meeting procedures proposed by Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer are adopted.

Cramer's resolution is ready for introduction at the July 1 reorganization meeting. Citizens presently have five minutes to address the council on any one item, provided they sign in before the meeting and specify what matter or matters they wish to talk about — if more than one item they get an additional five minutes for each.

Cramer proposes that they be given three minutes on any resolution, five minutes on a claim resolution and five minutes on an ordinance. But there is a catch — the reply from the City Council president comes against the citizens' time. And on the claims the five minutes will be one for one or all of them.

Time also will be limited during the

public forum portion of the meeting conducted when the council has concluded all of its regular business. In the past, citizens had been given unlimited time to talk with the council. Cramer wants it now limited to five minutes, with the provision the council president can continue the conversation if he sees fit.

Residents also will be required to face and address the council when speaking, not the audience. Any citizen who turns his back on the council members and faces the public while talking will be asked to yield the floor. Failure to do so will constitute grounds for that person's removal from the council chambers.

Patrolmen may boycott Hoboken test

A total of 88 Hoboken patrolmen are eligible to take the test today for sergeant which is being given by Civil Service Commission at North Bergen High School. But there is still a question of how many men are going to show up for it.

According to sources within the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), the test may be boycotted as a show of support for Patrolman Walter Lebrink J., who was recently indicted by a Hudson County Grand Jury on a murder charge.

PBA sources report that there is great sentiment among members to boycott the test because Lebrink, who is one of those eligible to take it, is not in the proper frame of mind for the examination and that could affect his performance.

Although PBA officials would not comment on the matter, sources said that the boycott would have to be unanimously accepted by the membership to be effective. The city has seven vacancies for sergeant. If a dozen or so of the PBA members decide to take the test and pass, the city will get a list of men eligible for the promotion. And because of the list there won't be any new tests called for the grade until all the men on it have been appointed or the list expires. The lists are good for two years.

An examination for lieutenant will be held June 11 at East Orange Catholic High School. Nineteen sergeants are going to take that examination. A test for captain will be held the same day and place with 11 lieutenants eligible to take it.

Cut the tieups

How often have you been caught in a multi-lane traffic jam and noticed a police car caught in it, too, the policeman sitting there helplessly, unable to get to the mishap that caused the tieup?

Mayor Cappiello of Hoboken, who was once a police sergeant, is thinking of something which has occurred to many a motorist trapped in massive traffic: restoring the motorcycle police.

It may be that many police departments went overboard in recent years in all but abolishing motorcycle patrols. The mayor points out that in a traffic tangle a motorcycle cop can weave through the stalled cars and reach the scene of a mishap.

This flexibility makes motorcycles superior to police cars in traffic tangles. Bring them back to Hoboken, Mayor Cappiello.

Despite repairs, Hoboken's water use still a mystery

In spite of new water lines and millions of dollars in repairs, Hoboken is still unable to account for a large amount of water it buys daily from Jersey City. But Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato thinks the answer may be found in the water meters, not in broken and leaking lines.

"I have a sneaky suspicion that we have a lot of faulty meters that are either not working at all or are giving the city inaccurate readings," said the director. "There may even be instances where there are no meters at all."

"And there is only one way of finding out, a building by building survey of the whole city. I expect to order such a survey after conferring with Mayor (Steve) Cappiello on my proposal."

Amato said that the survey would be conducted with existing personnel in the water department. And everyone assigned to it would be required to submit a daily work sheet showing how many buildings they checked and the conditions they found.

"The big problem isn't going to be with broken meters or meters that are non-existent, but with ones that are running," the director continued. "They may be running but are they running right and giving the city the proper water use figures. There really isn't any way of determining this without proper testing equipment which I don't think we have."

However, common sense can help. It figures something is wrong if the use for a 10-family apartment building is about the same over a period of several months as the use for a two or three-family building. Comparisons of water use can show this and then we can check to find which meter is wrong."

Before the waterline repair and replacement program started two years ago Hoboken was able to account for only 50 per cent of all the water it bought from Jersey City. It was assumed that most of the loss was due to bad lines. But with two thirds of the city now with new or refurbished lines, the city has been able to account for only 10 to 20 per cent of that original loss.

Water line installed in Hoboken

A new section of water line has been installed between Second and Third streets on Washington Street in Hoboken without encountering any major voids or washouts, according to the engineer on the project, Joseph Lynch.

The original work consisted of a three-block stretch in which an old six-inch line would be removed and replaced with a new eight-inch line from First to Fourth streets.

The work between First and Second went smoothly without any problems. However, the job was stopped for a few days when the men reached a little north of Second Street so that tests could be made to determine if there were any washouts under the street that might cause a failure. None was found and the work was resumed.

3 in Hoboken face time off for absences

Three Hoboken Public Works employees are facing suspension today for being away from their job Friday afternoon without permission, Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

According to Amato, the three men were assigned to do some masonry work at a vacant lot at 12th Street and park Avenue where a playground is being made for neighborhood residents.

"I went to the site at approximately 1:40 p.m. to see how the men were doing but found no one there," said Amato. "I waited around until 2:45 p.m. and still no one had showed up."

Sinatra portrait unveiled before Hoboken crowd

By FRED BERNSTEIN

More than 150 admirers of Frank Sinatra crowded into the periodical room of the Hoboken Public Library yesterday for the unveiling of a portrait of the city's most famous native son and his mother, Dolly.

Outside the library, another crowd, certain the performer would attend the ceremony, spent almost two hours waiting for the singer's arrival.

But Sinatra had already sent Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello a telegram in which he declined to attend "due to my current filming schedule and other commitments which preclude me from being present."

The singer spent part of the day at Korvette's in Paramus shooting scenes for his new movie, "Contract on Cherry Street."

But friends and relatives gathered in Hoboken to reminisce about the singer, who almost everyone said had been "a very quiet kid."

"He used to do a lot of studying and reading," said Lawrence (Babe) Garaventi, the brother of Dolly Sinatra. Mrs. Sinatra died in a plane crash earlier this year.

Also present were Fred Tamburro, 65, and Jimmy Petroselli, 67, who used to sing with Old Blue Eyes in the late 30s in a group called the Hoboken Four.

Tamburro's wife passed around a plastic-coated newspaper photo of the group performing on the "Major Bowes Amateur Hour," the program credited with first bringing Sinatra to public attention.

Cappiello issued a request to all these present to contribute any Sinatra memorabilia they may have to the library, which is putting together a permanent collection on the singer's life.

Already showcases throughout the library displayed books and magazine articles devoted to Sinatra and jackets from his many albums.

Also on hand was a framed replica of Sinatra's birth certificate, which bears the date Dec. 12, 1915.

The painting of the singer and his mother, done from a photograph by a California artist, was donated by Hoboken residents.

Admiring the painting, Cappiello said it represents "the opportunity that's open to any person in this country to make it all the way to the top."

Outside, the crowd awaiting Sinatra showed disappointment. Many of those who had waited were elderly and said they had known Sinatra when he was a little boy.

Terry D'Amelio, 16, also waited for the performer, saying, "We really thought he was going to come."



Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and Lawrence Garaventi of West New York hold the newly unveiled portrait of Frank and Dolly Sinatra at the Hoboken Public Library

Mrs. Borg passed test state says

Hoboken's Community Affairs Local Assistance officer, Mrs. Audrey Borg, has been notified by the state that she has passed her state test and will soon be awarded subpoena powers to assist in the performance of her job, it was learned today.

And with the power Mrs. Borg said she planned to vigorously enforce the state's new consumer fraud laws.

"Persons convicted of consumer fraud can now be fined up to \$2,000 on the first offense," she said. "It also grants CALA officers the right to subpoena records and books into court as well as the individuals involved in fraud cases."



Famous faces

This portrait of Frank Sinatra and his mother, Dolly Sinatra, painted from a photograph taken shortly before she was killed in an airplane crash in January, was unveiled yesterday at ceremonies opening the Sinatra memorabilia collection at the Hoboken Public Library.

Ranieri: Use land for recreation

Councilman Robert Ranieri today made his third request to the Hoboken Housing Authority that it consider using land at the Grogan Marine View Plaza for recreation.

The councilman said he was disappointed that the authority did not go along with his suggestion that the land be used for vegetable gardening, but

he feels it can easily be turned into sandlot-style baseball fields.

It might be too late for spring planting, he said, but it wouldn't take much to create badly needed play areas. "Third Street, from Hudson to River Streets, would be ideal," he said.



Frank Sinatra films movie scene in Korvette's, Paramus.

No Homecoming for Ol' Blue Eyes

Hoboken Heartbroken as He Stands 'Em Up

By DONALD SINGLETON

Everybody figured this was going to be it, the long-awaited return of Frank Sinatra to his old hometown of Hoboken, and as the hour of 11 approached yesterday morning, people began gathering in droves across the street from the public library.

The occasion was the official unveiling of a new portrait of Sinatra and his late mother, Dolly, and the establishing of a collection of Frank Sinatra Memorabilia in the old library across the street from Church Square Park, where Frankie probably played from time to time when he was a kid.

But when Mayor Steve Cappiello arrived a few minutes before 11, everybody knew from the look in his face that Sinatra wasn't coming.

That didn't stop everybody from making it a big Frank Sinatra Day in

Hoboken, however, and nobody seemed to mind that Frankie — who was 15 miles away in Paramus, making a movie — didn't come. "Aw, he's a busy man," they all said in an understanding way after Cat Vello read Sinatra's apologetic and appreciative telegram.

Frankie hasn't been back to Hoboken very often since 1942, when the bobbysoxers went nuts over him at the Paramount Theater on Broadway, turning him into the superstar he has remained ever since.

(There was one time, in 1948, when he came back to ride on a fire engine in a local parade, and to sing in a local theater; but some people booed him that day, one story goes, and Frankie vowed he would never return to Hoboken.)

Anyhow, if there was any grudge, all seems forgiven now, and there were nothing but good words for Sinatra yesterday.

Jimmy Petroselli, 67, of Hoboken, and Fred Tamburro, 65, of North Bergen, both had good words for their

old partner — they and Frankie are the surviving members of The Hoboken Four, a group that won a national talent contest in 1936.

"Could you sing as well as Sinatra?" somebody asked Tamburro; "Naah, he always had something that we didn't have," he answered. "There was something about his voice."

So everybody just had a good time, admiring the portrait (done from a photograph), chuckling at Sinatra's Lith certificate (Francis Albert Sinatra, male, 415 Monroe St., Hoboken, Dec. 12, 1915), listening to Frank Sinatra records, shaking hands with a few of Sinatra's uncles and cousins, who told how they remember Frankie singing scales in the bathroom when he was a kid, and marveling at how quick Frank flew to New York when he heard that his uncle was sick last Labor Day.

"He's a great guy and he lifted this town sky-high," said Petroselli, his old partner; and you couldn't ask for a much better endorsement than that.

Control the controls

Hoboken's City Council is contemplating stiffening the rules which limit the amount of speaking by the public at its meetings.

One provision would allow the council president to cut off a speaker after five minutes during the "public forum" part of the meeting after the council has transacted its business.

This proposal does not seem unreasonable. There have been speakers at the Hoboken meetings who ramble on . . . and on . . . and on . . .

The speakers would be required to face the councilmen, not the audience. That, too, seems fair enough.

But the third proposed change gives the public short shrift. A speaker who wanted to object to claims for payment of money the council was about to act on would be limited to five minutes regardless of how many claims he wanted to discuss or how well he had prepared his remarks.

What's more, the time consumed by the council president in replying to him would be subtracted from the speaker's five minutes. How this would be worked out is not made clear, but it certainly would give the president the opportunity to use as much of the speaker's time as he wished.

Let the councilmen take another look at the problem so that they control and not gag those who really have something to say.

School Board to meet on teachers' salaries

The Hoboken Board of Education will convene shortly for a private special session to discuss how to comply with a state order to pay \$1.4 million in teachers' summer salaries from its current school budget by mid-July.

A written directive by State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke compels the board to apply surplus funds from its current budget toward the "major portion" of the July payment.

The board, which has until June 30, 1978, to adjust its budget for the next fiscal year, has made a practice over the past several decades of paying summer teachers from its next year's budget.

Mary Stack Gaspar, board president, said, "If we've exhausted all our revenues from this fiscal year, I understand the state would allow us to work out some other way of paying the teachers since we have to pay them by contract."

One option the board will explore, according to Mrs. Gaspar, is the introduction of special legislation that would permit the board to "borrow on this year's budget to pay the teachers' salaries while cutting back on next year's budget."

"At least that's my formula," said Mrs. Gaspar.

Endorsing that idea as a possibility, Dr. Vincent Calabrese, assistant commissioner of education, says the board would have to "reduce expenditures for the coming fiscal year" to come up with the amount anticipated for 1978 summer payments.

Calabrese estimated the board showed a surplus for the fiscal year just ending July 1 of between \$700,000 and \$800,000. A recently completed state audit detailing the amount of "free appropriation balances," among other things, has been sent to the board office.

Mrs. Gaspar said she hasn't yet seen the audit.

She said the public would have to be excluded from the special meeting "because there will be lots of persons whose jobs may be affected" (should the board have to make cuts in next year's budget).

The trustees won't be able to ask board counsel Robert W. Taylor for advice when they meet, according to Mrs. Gaspar, because the attorney departed for Switzerland last week.

400 sign petition asking Hoboken to raze building

A petition bearing the signature of almost 400 Hoboken residents asking for the demolition of an old brick building just north of 14th and Bloomfield streets has been served on the city council by the recently formed 14th Street Block Association.

Manuel Perez, the owner of a candy store on 14th St. and the president of the association, said the building detracts from the neighborhood and has become dangerous and an eyesore.

"It's a hang-out for drunks, a shooting gallery for junkies and a local dump filled with trash and debris," he said. "But more important than that, it is a place where young children have started to play, and every time they do they take their lives in their hands."

The building is the former office of the now defunct Shore Railroad, according to city officials. It has been vacant for several years after being gutted in a general alarm fire.

According to Perez, the building is filled with hazards, especially for youngsters. The basement has several feet of stagnant water in it, the inside of the building is filled with assorted forms of junk and debris ranging from old mattresses and beer cans to broken-down railroad equipment, and the floor is covered with water which conceals other hazards.

Perez showed a Jersey Journal reporter a small patch of water that was uncluttered by debris. "There's a big hole there and it's at least six feet deep," he said. "My dog fell in there last week and almost drowned."

In the center of a large room that once served as a repair shop for the railroad hangs a 30-foot-long chain.

Perez said it is used by the children to swing on. "If one of them should ever slip and land in this junk, the injuries would have to be serious."

There also have been a number of fires in the building, Perez added. Most were minor but there is potential for others more serious. And they could threaten other buildings in the neighborhood.

Boarding up the building may be one solution, but Perez said that has been done before and is quickly torn down.

"It must either be torn down or rehabilitated," he said, "before some child is seriously injured or killed."

If Perez expects speedy action from the city he isn't going to get it. Almost a week has gone by since the petition was presented to the council and law department. But the law department still hasn't determined if the court-appointed receiver is for the railroad, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

The councilman said the city's plan is to have its building inspector, James Caulfield, check the building, find the dangers, and then send a letter to the receiver — if his identity can be determined — demanding corrective action. Ranieri said he did not believe that Caulfield had made the inspection yet.

Hoboken drops special cops

There won't be any more special police in Hoboken. And that means those city inspectors and agents other than policemen who have been getting police powers so they can issue summonses might not be able to do that any more.

Police Chief George W. Crimmins said today that after conferring with Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director that he has decided not to approve any more requests for special police powers.

"There is a difference between making someone a special police officer and granting certain police powers," said the chief. "We have been making persons special policemen."

"Specials become my direct responsibility just as any member of the force. However, I have no supervision of these people and I'm not willing to accept the responsibility for them under those conditions. State law is very clear on that. I'm responsible for them and their actions."

Crimmins said the city could get around the law by putting those employees requiring the power to issue

summonses under the chief's supervision. But Crimmins added that he did not want that added responsibility.

The city council had been granting the special police powers to various employees for the purpose of giving them the power to issue summonses. However, that action is subject to final approval by the chief.

If city inspectors, plumbing sanitation, fire, health, meter attendants aren't special officers how can they issue tickets and enforce the laws that pertain to their areas of jurisdiction?

Crimmins said he thought the city could pass an ordinance that would grant them the police powers they needed to do their jobs. But they would not be special officers and he would not be legally responsible for them.

"That's only a logical guess on my part," he said. "I'm not an attorney. The law department should have the final say on how it is to be done."

Law Director Lawrence Florio was not available for comment.

2 waste filter systems getting Hoboken tryout

Two pilot treatment systems designed to determine if Hoboken's sewage can be effectively filtered to meet state and federal pollution standards, are now in operation at the city's treatment plant as part of a \$100,000 test program undertaken by the city.

The systems were designed by Joseph Lynch of the engineering firm of Mayo, Lynch and Associates. According to Lynch, it will be several weeks before any data will be available to evaluate the test.

"We are not trying to find out if the two systems will work," said Lynch. "Both have already been tested at other locations around the country, and they work well. What we are trying to determine is whether they can handle Hoboken's discharge."

"The discharge in Hoboken is commonly called industrial sewage because everything goes into one household discharge, the system must also be capable of handling the substances that are put into it by industry such as various chemicals, petroleum products, paints, and whatever else there is."

"We think both systems can do that but it has to be proven in the field to satisfy the state and federal anti-pollution agencies. We are testing two different systems to find out which one will do it best and will be the most economical to operate."

The two filtering systems cost \$57,000 to build. One is called a bio-disc system and the other a trickling filter. The bio-disc consists of a series of large plastic filter pads that revolve in a large drum. The trickling filter also uses filter plates over which the sewage passes. But the plates are in a large tower.

Lynch said that the principal

behind both systems was basically the same. Bacteria form on the filter media (the plates). It attacks the sewage breaking it down into harmless compounds that can be removed from the waste. The final fluid discharge is virtually free of all pollutants.

Lynch said that both systems would be operated for about six months once the growth of bacteria had reached the proper level.

The tests are important to Hoboken. It is under federal mandate to upgrade its treatment system from a primary plant to a secondary treatment system. Since it has pulled out of the Hudson County Sewerage Authority, Hoboken will have to meet that mandate on its own. The results of the tests, if satisfactory, will be the city's main tool in trying to pry funds loose from the federal and state governments for the construction of the new treatment facilities.

State and federal officials have already told Hoboken that it is highly unlikely that it will be able to get any funds for the construction of the project.

City officials, however, feel that if they can get the job done quicker and cheaper than the county, it will be very difficult for state and federal authorities to argue with success.

Forman may return to old job, but can't

The Hoboken Local Assistance Board has voted to allow suspended Welfare Director Jerry Forman to go back to work in his old job as a senior case worker. However, it appears that Forman failed to take the necessary steps for a leave of absence from that post and is no longer entitled to it.

Forman is now in the midst of a lengthy departmental hearing that has been going on for several weeks. The hearing is conducted Tuesday

evenings in the city council chambers. He is facing several charges stemming from payments he authorized or was responsible for to dentists for dental work on welfare clients that was never done.

According to Thomas Calligy, the city attorney representing the assistance board in the hearing, Forman's attorney made a motion at last Tuesday's hearing that Forman be reinstated at his old position because of the lengthy hearing. The board met in closed door session and voted to allow him to go back to his former post.

Calligy said that when Forman's files were checked it was found that See FORMAN—Page 17

his request for a leave of absence from his case worker position was never acted on by the city council and he has lost all rights to that job.

The city attorney added that the hearings for Forman are expected to continue for several more weeks. There are at least eight more witnesses that are to be called to testify before the board can close the hearing and deliberate on a decision.

Rodent program gear may be lost down rathole

Hoboken's Urban Rodent and Insect Control Program officially ends tomorrow but several thousand dollars in missing equipment may force officials to keep the books open on the program for some time to come, it was learned today.

Reports that office furniture and equipment that belonged to the program have disappeared from the city's garage at 456 Second St. where it was being stored were confirmed by Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato.

According to Amato, the equipment was placed in the garage last year when Rodent Control moved out of its large office at Second and Washington streets into a much smaller facility at Sixth and Garden streets.

"I have a document signed by the former director certifying that the

equipment was received and stored," he said. "That was last year. But when we checked to make sure that what he had signed for was on hand we couldn't find any of it."

Amato said he couldn't put a value on the equipment since most of it was used. However, he said it was in good condition when received.

"If it were new it would have to cost \$5,000 or \$6,000," he said. "But I don't have the bills for the furniture either. We are still looking for them, though."

Missing are five desks, five chairs, two swivel chairs, three executive swivel chairs, nine folding chairs, two book cases, a coat rack, a copier table, a mimeograph machine and nine cans of ink, two bulletin boards, two typewriter tables, an electric typewriter, a chalk board, and a step-on waste basket.

Discolored water OK Hoboken chemist says

Hoboken residents were assured today by the city's chemist, Henry Maier, that the city's water is completely safe despite a slight discoloration.

"The water meets all state standards for use," said Maier. "I am required to make daily reports to the state and to do this the tests must be taken several times each day on samples taken from several different locations."

"The water does have a slight tint to it out this is from sediment in the water lines. It is not harmful in anyway, although some people might prefer not to drink it."

According to Maier, the sediment is from work that is being done on the

city's water lines as part of the repair and replacement program.

"As the program progresses the sediment problem should decrease," he continued. "Part of the work being done is the cleaning out of the lines and the relining of them with cement. This removes the sediment."

"However, while the work is going on, and the water crews are turning mains on and off, there will be a certain amount of discoloration to the water. But it is not harmful."

Some city residents had complained that the water was responsible for a wave of minor intestinal ailments. Maier said it wasn't.

"There may be a bug going around, but the water isn't carrying it," he said.

Hoboken schools get state auditor

By Peter Hallam

For the next year, maybe longer, Edward Kent is going to be one of the most important people at the Hoboken Board of Education.

Who is Edward Kent? He's the auditor from the state Department of Education that Commissioner Fred G. Burke has assigned to review each month the expenditure the Hoboken school board makes until it fully complies with all existing state laws.

And it will be Kent who also makes sure that the teachers in the school system get the summer salary payments that are due them on July 15, which total approximately \$1.4 million that the school board says it doesn't have. The state, however, says something different. It estimates that the board will have between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in unspent funds as of July 1 when the current fiscal year ends.

According to Burke, the Hoboken school board has a legal responsibility to pay the teachers the money. The board was supposed to be deducting money from their salaries and setting it aside for payment in July.

Instead, it was budgeting for the summer payments in the budgets for the following year. The summer payment for last July should have been contained in the 1976-77 budget. Instead, it was carried in the 1976-77 budget, a procedure the board has been using for many years. This year the board was ordered by the state to end the practice and to catch up.

First, it is to utilize all escrow amounts deposited to the board's accounts for May and June of this year, plus all balances available at the end of the 1976-77 school year. An audit is being forwarded to the board, said

Burke, which will show the projection of free appropriation balances that should be available based on the state's audit.

Burke added that if these sums should be insufficient the school board must dip into the 1977-78 teacher salary accounts to make up the difference. And if it does this the board must reduce its other expenditures by an equal amount so the budget remains balanced.

According to Mrs. Mary Gaspar, board president, the commissioner's order will have a disastrous effect on the 1977-78 school year. She said most school activities except for the actual instruction of the children probably would end.

Mayor, attorney to discuss eyesore

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken will meet with the attorney for the Shore Railroad today to discuss the dangerous condition of the railroad's building at 14th and Bloomfield Streets.

The 14th Street Block Association recently served the city with a petition with close to 400 signatures asking that the city take steps to have the building rehabilitated or demolished.

According to the mayor, the meeting with the railroad's attorney was scheduled before the petition was presented.

"We've been on this for sometime," said the mayor. "But the progress has been very slow."

The mayor said that city building inspector, James Caulfield, will also attend the meeting. He has inspected the building and will give the mayor a briefing on the conditions and what has to be done to correct them, if they can be corrected.

According to the mayor, it has been difficult for Hoboken to deal

Hoboken seeks more cops, cleaner shopping area

More policemen and a cleaner Washington Street shopping area are highlights of Hoboken's proposed Safe and Clean Neighborhoods application for 1977-1978, according to Edwin J. Chius, city business administrator who prepared the city's application.

Hoboken will be submitting a proposal to the state for \$1,250,000 overall. The city will pay for half and the state the other half, if approved.

"Some of the items we hope to get approval for is a new street sweeping truck," said Chius. "We plan to use it on Washington Street in conjunction with one of our existing trucks. This will give us the capability of doubling the number of days each week that our main shopping district gets cleaned."

Chius added that the additional truck also could be used elsewhere in

the city and serve as a backup unit if one of the other two breaks down.

"We are also looking for two vacuum cleaners which will be used to clean the sidewalks along Washington and First Streets and around the PATH train station each day. And two part-time employees to operate the vacuums from 6 to 9 p.m. five or six days a week."

Chius said the city is also seeking a minimum of four more policemen for the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) to replace department members who have resigned or retired.

Another piece of equipment the city is applying for that will help keep its public buildings free of graffiti is a pressure washer. He said the machine used water and cleaning agents at high pressure to clean paint and dirt off stone, brick and metal.

Hydrant caps ready

The Community Relations Bureau of the Hoboken Fire Department is again making available fire hydrant sprinkler caps to local residents. James Monaco, head of the bureau, said today.

"The caps will be issued to any responsible adult on his signature and approval of the proposed site where the showers will be set up for the children," he said. "The adult assumes responsibility for the sprinkler and the supervision of its use and the children when it is being used."

Persons interested in obtaining one of the caps for their neighborhood use should contact Monaco at 792-5500 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"We have about 10 caps on hand," he said. "But more can be ordered if there is a need for them."

Hoboken beefs up its response to fires

Although Hoboken fire officials said they had no shortage of manpower or equipment in fighting a recent fire on Willow Avenue that badly damaged three tenement houses, the department has never-the-less beefed up the number of engines and men responding to fires in that category. The Jersey Journal learned today.

According to department sources, the day after the three-alarm fire, Acting Chief James Houn ordered that three engine companies and one

truck company respond to all future "still" alarms. A still alarm is any alarm called in by telephone or reported in person at a firehouse.

The day of the fire, May 28, the initial response called for two engine companies—representing two fire engines and four to six firemen—and one truck company—a hook and ladder truck with two or three firemen on it.

Chief Houn confirmed the report that an extra engine company has been added to the initial response but denied that the move had any connection with the Willow Avenue fire or complaints from residents of that area that there was an insufficient number of firemen on the scene to provide adequate initial firefighting.

"This was a move that had been under discussion for a long time," said Houn. "Ultimately, a decision was made to implement the use of an additional company for initial response. The fact that it was done just after the Willow Avenue fire and the questions raised by some citizens is nothing more than a coincidence."

However, Houn would not deny that the additional company does accomplish two things that residents of the area complained about. It brings additional men and more equipment.

"It is a precaution," Houn continued. "If we can bring more men and equipment to the fire scene at the outset the better the chances of containing the blaze and keeping property damage to a minimum."

"Another problem is that with all of the street work that is going on in the city the possibility exists that not all of the responding equipment is going to get to the fire scene as quickly as possible. Streets are being closed left and right for work on the water lines and we don't always get the information immediately. In theory, a truck or engine could encounter one of these blocked-off streets causing a delay in response."

But members of the fire unions see other reasons for the added company—the hope of cutting overtime in the department during the

summer vacation months. They say that the more "weight" the department brings to bear on initial responses the less likely the chance of a fire getting out of hand.

And if it doesn't get out of hand the city won't have to call in off-duty men to help fight it.

Houn agreed that overtime could be cut this way but denied that the desire to reduce overtime spending was the prime motivation for adding the extra company.

Hoboken hiring 'bias' probed

The U.S. Office of Revenue Sharing's Civil Rights Division is looking into complaints that Hoboken in its use of revenue sharing funds is discriminating against Hispanics wanting to become policemen.

Hoboken has received a letter from the division instructing it to provide all personnel records to the division within 15 days of getting the letter. The letter was dated June 24 and received by the city yesterday.

According to the letter, there is a state-wide bi-lingual Civil Service list of men eligible to appointment to the police department as bi-lingual officers. However, Hoboken has not made any appointments from the list to fill vacancies that exist.

Mayor Steve Cappiello was not available to reply or comment on the letter. However, Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who is also the city's personnel director, said

Hoboken will comply with the instructions.

"I haven't had time to look in to the matter," said Chius, "but I doubt very much if we have discriminated against anyone. And if the city did I'm sure it wasn't intentional."

"For its size the Hoboken police department probably has more Puerto Ricans and Cubans on it than any other department in the county. And those men were appointed from

the regular Civil Service list as their names came up. They were not skipped or ignored. So in that respect, I believe the city has been very fair."

"However, I'm not thoroughly familiar with the bi-lingual list or the circumstances surrounding it so I don't think I should make any comment on it," he added. "But Hoboken will cooperate fully with the federal government on this matter and make available to it any and all information it may seek."

Amato will try to drop four inspector jobs

Hoboken may be doing away with four of its five sanitation inspectors, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

"I am meeting with a representative of Civil Service today to discuss the possibilities the city will face if it moves to revamp its sanitation inspection system," he said. "That could include doing away with four of the sanitation inspector posts. This would leave the city with one inspector who would serve as a troubleshooter for the entire city."

According to Amato, he is considering the possibility of using his Public Works foremen as inspectors.

"They are now out on the streets every day with their crews of workmen," he continued. "If there are any sanitation violations they see them."

The director said there are several different systems that could be used in which the foremen would play a key role.

"One is to have them sworn in as special policemen," he explained. "This would give them the power to issue summonses on the spot to anyone they see committing a violation. The drawback here is that if the ticket is contested the foreman would have to appear in court and that would take them away from their crews and other duties for an hour or more."

"Another possibility is to use them as eyes of the sanitation inspector trouble shooter. If they see a violation they radio back to the public works dispatcher who has the inspector go to the scene and issue the summons."

Amato said that the men who are now on the city payroll as sanitation inspectors would not be fired or laid off. Other positions would be found for them at pay equal to what they are now getting. However, that was another matter he wanted to discuss with Civil Service.

"I don't want any of the men to be out of work," he said. "So it is important that I know what moves I can make without putting them in the position of being bumped from their jobs by someone else."

Hoboken sets school work at \$10-\$15M

By TERRY BRENNAN

The engineering consultant to the Hoboken Board of Education said yesterday that "\$10 million to \$15 million" was needed for city schools to meet minimum physical standards. Joseph Lynch, consultant for Mayo, Lynch Associates of Hoboken, said \$5.5 million is needed for basic repairs, and another \$5 million was needed to raise the Connors School. He said the "needs are so extensive it would be academic to go beyond fundamental repairs."

"Most of the eight schools are really in disrepair and need an infusion of big money to scratch beneath the surface," Lynch said. "They still shovel coal by hand in the Connors School so you can get some idea of what shape the boiler's in. They've got some serious problems."

Although Hoboken would get \$200,000 under a proposed \$100 million bond issue now in the state Senate Education Committee, Lynch said that sum "wouldn't even put a dent in the school situation here." He said it would "probably be some time before the board could do anything more than extensive patchwork in the schools."

Councilman Robert Ranieri said he's written state Sen. William V. Musto of Union City to push for revising the formula to allocate more funds to urban schools. Ranieri said suburban schools would "reap greater rewards than urban areas" if the present bond proposal is put on the November ballot.

"I'm especially concerned about the formula proposed in the bill because Hoboken would get only a cosmetic lift in its present form," Ranieri said. "We're not alone in our educational crisis and I hope our legislature realizes suburban schools don't have problems that compare with those in urban areas."

Board President Mary Gaspar said "Everything rests on state shoulders as far as our school buildings go. The boilers are falling apart and we did all we could last winter just to get by. The state's the only thing that could really bail us out."

But State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke has told the board it must come up with \$1.4 million in summer salaries by July 15. Burke said the board has \$700,000 to \$800,000 in current balances and would have to make up the rest from next year's budget appropriations. Mrs. Gaspar said she doesn't know where the board will find the money.

She said "teachers and supplies would be the very last to go if we have to cut more flesh from our budget."



James Lanzetti

360 died in waterfront fire

Recall Hoboken's killer inferno

By GLENN MacDONALD

HOBOKEN (AP) — It was five minutes to four o'clock on a warm Saturday afternoon, June 30, 1900. Hell was about to break loose in Hoboken.

Suddenly a fire started among cotton bales stacked on the docks at Pier 3. Within seconds the blaze had spread the length of the pier and onto the barges loaded with oil drums.

A sheet of flame swept across the deck of a German steamer and then to other ships along the docks. In just a few minutes a quarter-mile area on the Hoboken waterfront became a blazing inferno.

As many as 360 persons may have lost their lives in the blaze, one of the worst maritime fire disasters in American history.

Five-year-old James Lanzetti was playing with some friends near Pier 1 when he spotted a tongue of flame shoot up from the cotton bales.

"In a matter of moments the fire had leaped across the barges and onto the steamers docked nearby," he recalled. "I watched in horror as flames and smoke billowed up into the sky. Then we heard the cries, the pitiful pleas for help from people trapped below decks. It seemed like a chorus of screams. I can't forget them to this day."

As Lanzetti watched, tugboats converged on the blazing

ships. Their hoses played streams of water on the burning steamers, but it did little good. Scores of passengers and crewmen on lower decks died from smoke inhalation or were burned to death. Many tried to crawl out portholes. But the apertures were too small.

Not all the tugboat crews, however, tried to rescue passengers from the ships. Press reports said at the time that

some sailors were more intent on looting valuables off the stricken steamers. Piers 1, 2 and 3 were completely engulfed in flames and the huge warehouses by the waterfront completely destroyed.

The last laugh 8/7/77

Hoboken is going its own way on sewage treatment.

It bolted from the County Sewerage Authority last year because it was unable to get an idea of what the cost of a countywide sewage treatment system would be.

Now the city will not cooperate with an engineering firm hired by the county to prepare a study for a county treatment system.

The engineer hired by Hoboken says he is doing a similar study at one-fourth the cost of the county job and, at those prices, county officials should come in to Hoboken "and get the information themselves."

Hoboken plans to eventually ask for state and federal funds to construct its sewage treatment plant, although state and federal officials have frowned on Hoboken's do-it-yourself attitude.

The Hoboken engineer says the state and federal officials will not be able to say no to the city if it is ready to build a plant cheaper and quicker than the county.

So far Hoboken seems to be having its own way. Time will tell who has the last laugh.



Smoke billows from a packing and crating company on Hoboken's industrial west side. Fire spread to a furniture refinishing firm next door at Fourth and Jefferson Streets.

Hoboken is pushing probe of blaze 8/7/77

Hoboken fire officials resume their investigation today into the cause of a general alarm fire that seriously damaged two brick buildings at Fourth and Jefferson streets.

"At this time the fire is not considered to be suspicious," said Acting Chief James Houn. "However, the investigation into the cause may turn something up to explain what caused the blaze and whether it was suspicious."

The fire was first discovered yesterday morning by the owner of the building at 401 Jefferson St. as he went to open his packing and crating concern. He was greeted by a bail of fire, Houn said.

"That was about 8:15 a.m.," Houn continued. "Apparently it had been smoldering for some time. When he opened the door it gave the fire oxygen and it flared up."

The fire is believed to have started in the rear of the two-story building at 405 Jefferson St. which housed the L. Greig Furniture Refinishing Co.

Houn said that the one-story building contained assorted paints, thinners and other highly combustible liquids which made fighting the fire very hazardous.

By 8:30 a.m. the fire was listed as a general alarm and a partial recall of off-duty men was initiated. By 10 a.m. the fire was declared under control and some fire units were allowed to leave the scene. The mop-up operation continued into late afternoon.

Meanwhile, fire officials are blaming children for the two-alarm fire that tied up portions of the fire department from 10:34 a.m. Sunday to 1:36 a.m. Monday at 500-508 Observer Highway.

According to Mayor Steve Cap-

piello, public safety director, the building has been vacant for some time and is believed to have been abandoned by its owner. No taxes have been paid on the property for some time.

The mayor said that the fire caused severe damage and the building will have to be taken down. He instructed the public works

department to secure the area temporarily while arrangements are made to have the building demolished.

Cappiello wants citizens more active 7/2/77

Hoboken residents may be expecting much from Mayor Steve Cappiello and his council as they start their four-year terms of office. But it is a feeling that is shared by the mayor — he is going to be expecting something from them as well.

The mayor made that clear yesterday as he and Councilmen-at-large Bernard J. Scrivani, Robert A. Ranieri and Thomas M. Kennedy were sworn in during ceremonies on the front steps of City Hall.

"There must be more volunteerism on the part of the public and public participation in government," Cappiello told the large crowd that had gathered on Washington Street. "The cost of providing you with the daily services continues to rise sharply. There is

only one answer — we must start doing more for ourselves."

After the ceremonies the mayor told reporters he would be actively encouraging citizen participation in the city's operation.

"Our citizens must come to realize that this is their city, their government," he continued. "If elected officials are to hold down the cost of operating the city they will have to depend on the people to help."

Cappiello expressed his thanks to local voters for their overwhelming vote of confidence on May 10 and said he thought his large plurality reflected the public's confidence in his administration's accomplishments during his first four-year term of office.

"We have managed to stabilize the tax rate, we've provided better

police protection through participation in the state's Safe and Clean Neighborhoods program, and we have visible proof of advancements made in providing better housing," he asserted. "We will continue in this direction."

The mayor said he wasn't satisfied with the accomplishments made by the city in keeping Hoboken clean.

"But that will be one of the areas we will be concentrating on during the next four years," he added.

Following the swearing in the council convened for its reorganization meeting. Martin J. Brennan, the Fifth Ward Councilman, was re-elected council president.

The appointments of the mayor to head the city's departments were unanimously approved by the five coun-

cilmen in attendance. Missing from the meeting were Anthony H. Romano, Nunzio Malfetti, Louis Francane and Ranieri, although all were seen in the building at the time of the meeting.

The directors and their departments are James Farina, Health and Welfare; Andrew J. Amato, Public Works; Lawrence Florio, Law; Frank J. Bartlett, Revenue and Finance; Edwin Chius, business administrator, and Fred Bado Jr., Community Development Agency (CDA).

New rules and regulations for governing the operation of the council and conducting council meetings also were approved. The new policies will reduce the amount of time citizens have to address and question the council on its business.

Hoboken, builders will discuss project on block redeveloping 7/6/77

Hoboken officials will meet today with representatives of a Westwood construction firm interested in what could become a major redevelopment project in the southern portion of the city.

Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato has arranged a meeting with representatives of the Arolph Construction Co. who are interested in development rights for a portion of the block between Bloomfield and

Garden streets, Observer Highway to Newark Street.

According to Amato, the company is primarily interested in developing the land that was once occupied by Condenser Service — approximately half of the city block — which the city now owns by virtue of tax foreclosure.

"Half a city block is far from being a major redevelopment project," said the director. "But that is what

could develop if everything works out right."

"The company has looked at the property and the surrounding area and come up with some conclusions. One is that if it is to become involved in any redevelopment it must protect its investment. The vacant half-block is in a blighted area which the company believes should be improved as well."

Amato said the meeting will determine what plans the company

has for the half block, and if it is willing to expand those plans to include other sections of the area.

"These talks are still very preliminary," continued Amato. "The city owns the property and can sell it only at a public auction. That means that this company will have to take its chances when the sale is scheduled and bid against any other interested parties."

Amato added that no date has been scheduled for the sale.

Cappiello wants Farina to head health, welfare 7/1/77

James Farina, a recreation supervisor for Hoboken, is Mayor Steve Cappiello's choice to head the new department of Health and Welfare, sources close to the mayor said today.

At least that is the name the mayor has put on the letter of appointment that goes to the city council today at its reorganization meeting.

Also nominated by the mayor for permanent appointment as directors are Frank J. Bartlett, revenue and finance; Edwin Chius, business administrator; Andrew J. Amato, public works, and Lawrence Florio, law director.

The appointments are not expected to be approved unanimously by the council at its meeting today since Mayor Cappiello still has three opposition council members to contend

with — Anthony H. Romano, Louis Francane, and Nunzio Malfetti.

They have remained silent as to whether or not they are going to support the mayor's selections. However, if they vote "no" as a bloc some of the mayor's appointments might be in trouble.

Mayor Cappiello controls the votes of six of the nine councilmen. A few of them have expressed some misgivings about the fact that the mayor made his director selections without any discussion with his councilmen and deprived them of any input into the decision making process.

Farina is an elected member of the Hoboken board of Education who is just starting his second three-year term. Since he is not an elected city official he will not be required to resign from the school board.

Hoboken won't provide data for county sewerage study 7/8/77

Hoboken is not going to cooperate with an engineering firm hired by the Hudson County Sewerage Authority to help prepare a study for a countywide treatment system.

The city has received a questionnaire from the engineering firm of Clinton Bogert of Fort Lee, one of three companies working on the regional project for the county, requesting various data on Hoboken's operation.

But on the recommendation of Joseph Lynch, the engineer hired by Hoboken to do its own treatment study and pilot project, Hoboken will tell the company to "do its own work."

Lynch was asked at Wednesday's council meeting whether the city should supply the information. He

said the company was getting paid to acquire the information, not Hoboken, so it should not supply the data.

"The county authority is paying approximately four times as much for that study as the price we had submitted for the same job," he added. "For that amount they should come in and get the information themselves."

Hoboken was a member of the county authority but withdrew last year when it was unable to get an idea of what the cost would be.

Lynch also advised the council that he was getting good results from the city's two pilot treatment systems. He said one was operating at a degree of efficiency that wasn't expected to be reached for several more weeks.

Based on the outcome and results

of the six-month tests, Lynch will prepare for the city a proposal for construction of a formal plant that will meet all existing state and federal pollution requirements. This will include applications for state and federal construction funds although state and federal officials have frowned on Hoboken's decision to proceed separately from the county authority.

Lynch told the council that state and federal officials would have a hard time saying "no" to the city if Hoboken could come up with a proposal for a plant that would do the job quicker and cheaper than what the county proposed — especially if Hoboken was ready to go into construction and the county was still working on planning.

Ranieri vexed as rival gets top council post 7/7/77

By Peter Hallam

Mayor Steve Cappiello's happy family on the Hoboken City Council may not be so happy after all.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who was just re-elected to office on the mayor's ticket in the May 10 election, gave strong indications at yesterday's meeting of the council that he's displeased with recent developments and plans to make that displeasure felt in months to come.

During the meeting some details of a private caucus held on July 1 were disclosed and revealed that an inner fight between Ranieri and Fifth Ward Councilman Martin J. Brennan over who was to be city council president had occurred. Brennan, who publicly said he would take the job only if no one else wanted it, was re-elected to the post at the special council reorganization meeting that followed.

But only five councilmen attended that meeting — Ranieri, Louis Francane, Nunzio Malfetti and Anthony H. Romano did not.

The first inkling of the rift occurred yesterday when Francane placed Ranieri's name in nomination for acting council president. Brennan is away on vacation visiting a son living in the mid-west.

Before a second could be made by any of the other councilmen, Ranieri declined the nomination, adding that it was "a little late." "I don't think it would be appropriate," he said.

A further indication that all is not well was the councilman's decision to move his seat. For the last four years

he has sat to Brennan's right at the council table. But yesterday he made a point of moving over one chair, putting third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemeli between himself and the council president's chair.

It was also learned that during the July 1 caucus the vote between Brennan and Ranieri was close with one vote deciding the outcome. Ranieri walked out of city hall leaving his wife and mother to observe the reorganization meeting.

After yesterday's meeting Ranieri confirmed portions of the reports saying he did want to be council president and that the position had been promised to him three times during the last four years.

"I make no pretense that I didn't want the position," said Ranieri. "Councilman Brennan knew that I wanted it, although I doubt if that fact was ever relayed to any of the other councilmen. In fact, I fully expected that he would be the one to suggest me during the caucus. He led me to believe that he would."

"When he didn't I saw red. I don't need that kind of aggravation so I left the Hall and went back to work. I needed time to cool off."

Ranieri added that he had called upon the mayor to help resolve the situation before it came to a vote. However, he said the mayor declined claiming he had too much paper work to do preparing for the swearing-in ceremonies and meeting to become involved.

The councilman said he "wasn't pleased" with the mayor's decision not to become involved, but it was the mayor's choice.

Hoboken wins \$1.5M rat war 7/1/77

By TERRY BRENNAN

The \$1.5-million battle to rid Hoboken of its rat problem is finally showing results and the state is taking it off the list of "urban rat cities."

Miss Annette Hirsch, chief of biological services for the state Department of Health, said the Mile Square City has "really cut into its active rat population after eight years in the program." She said Hoboken won't qualify for aid because rats are no longer an economic or health threat.

"Hoboken was a special case because the whole city was considered an infested area when we started the program," Miss Hirsch said. "They breed anywhere they can feed on garbage and reproduce geometrically if you don't control them. It

looks like Hoboken's solved its problem."

While Jersey City is joined by Newark, Patterson and Camden as continuing "urban rat cities," Miss Hirsch said the exact amount of Jersey City's funding hasn't been established yet, the city has already received \$1.3 million in the past, seven years for what Miss Hirsch called "pockets of serious rodent infestation."

Miss Hirsch said the criteria to qualify for the aid was "grease marks or gnaw marks over six per cent of a specific area." She said the grease marks stem from rats' inclination to "roll around in grease."

Rats can produce as many as 50 offspring in a year and it only takes three months for "baby rats" to create a litter of

five or six. That's why Miss Hirsch said "central control extermination" is necessary to really snuff them out.

Andrew Amato, Hoboken director of public works, said he wasn't aware of any rat threat. "The state apparently thinks we've solved the problem," he said. Andrew Amato said the city's Urban Rodent and Insect Control program "has pleased the state because they took away all our money."

Miss Hirsch admitted there's a "super rat" problem in the state because a rodent has evolved a built-in resistance to traditional forms of rat poison.

"Most of these rats infest the waterfront areas and seem to have built up a partial immunity to the poison," Miss Hirsch said.

Amato, Bado clash over City Hall project

A multi-million dollar rehabilitation program planned for Hoboken City Hall is in for some tough sledding because the directors of the Community Development Agency (CDA), which is handling the program, and Public Works aren't seeing eye-to-eye.

According to Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato, the City Hall building is his responsibility even though public works isn't directly involved in the rehabilitation program. However, CDA Director Fred M. Bador Jr. isn't keeping Amato up-to-date on what is planned for the building.

Bado was not available for comment. "As long as I'm legally responsible for the care and maintenance of this building (City Hall) I want to participate in the preparation of any and all changes that are planned for it," asserted Amato. "But so far I've been excluded for almost all of the

meetings dealing on the job. Amato said Bado met this week with some of the contractors that will be working on the building. However, he was not advised of the meeting or asked to attend. He added that he didn't even learn of the session until it was over.

"Unless there is a decided change in attitude on the part of the CDA towards Public Works and myself I will be forced to instruct all of my personnel not to assist in any way," Amato continued. "If CDA wants the cooperation of Public Works it is going to have to work for it. And that means the inclusion of myself or representative at all meetings pertaining to the work that is to be performed."

"No one is going to do anything to this building until I know exactly what it is and I have thoroughly studied the plans and have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction."

Hoboken expects board to seek aid for budget

Hoboken officials expect they are going to be asked to provide financial help to the board of education so that it can resolve the budget problems it is facing for the 1977-78 school year when they meet with Hudson County Superintendent of Schools Russell Carpenter, it was learned today.

According to city sources, the superintendent's office has contacted both school board and city officials in an attempt to set up a joint meeting within the next week or so to discuss the board's financial problems and what can be done about them.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he

would attend the meeting, reluctantly.

"There can be only one reason why the city is being asked to attend — so it can be asked to help the board financially," he said. "I don't know that we can. And if we can I don't know that we will, but I'm willing to listen."

Cappiello said he plans on taking several city councilmen and the law director with him to the meeting. A definite date is still being worked out.

The board's problem is that it must come up with several hundred thousand dollars if it wishes to conduct any activities other than the actual classroom instruction of its students. The actual amount has not yet been determined but estimates put it somewhere between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

For the last 30 years or more the board had been budgeting for the summer salary payments in the budget for the following school year. The state said that because the money was supposed to have been deducted from the teacher salaries during the school year, the money must be in the budget for that same school year.

Volunteers aid Hoboken to fix sewer for \$150

An old wood sewer line along Grand Street in Hoboken has been fixed at a cost of about \$150, eliminating the backup of raw sewage into the basements of homes along a three-block stretch. But residents of the area are still wondering why it took the city 10 years to get the job done.

"This should have been fixed a long time ago," remarked one property owner to a reporter checking the area to see if the sewage backup had been eliminated.

"Most of us (property owners in the area) have spent hundreds, maybe thousands to make repairs that weren't really our fault. We had to

backups between Fourth and Seventh streets along Grand were common. The flow was only a foot or two from the top of the line. After the work was done, the flow was four to five feet from the top of the line.

The director said there was a risk that the work might have disturbed the old line and caused it to cave in and that was the reason the city hadn't attempted to do it before. "I ordered the line opened because it was the only thing that we hadn't tried," he continued. "Property owners in the area are entitled to the service but they weren't getting it. There was no question that some action had to be taken, regardless of the risk."

According to Amato, the only cost to the city for the work was approximately \$150. That was overtime pay for several city workers.

"This was a volunteer effort," he said. "The Spiniello Construction Co. gave us some men and equipment to

use, a couple of local plumbers pitched in, and residents of the area helped out as well. The city had the materials needed to make the repairs on hand so no cost was involved there."

Amato said the city was going to do some additional work on the line near where it ended at Seventh and Grand streets. An overflow line is going to be installed to another nearby sewer line.

"This should eliminate future backups along Grand Street if there are any more problems with that line," he continued. "Before the sewage hits the house lines it will hit the overflow and go into the other sewer line."

Amato said that before the work,

Ranieri new deckhand in fight to land battleship

Hoboken's stubborn efforts to berth the de-activated Battleship New Jersey at a city pier as a permanent tourist attraction were joined today by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

Ranieri said the presence of the famed warship as a combined museum and memorial "would tremendously enhance Hoboken's image as a city on the way back."

The councilman said that Hoboken has advantages over other proposed sites in that it is midway between the Holland and Lincoln tunnels and it has quick access to the New Jersey Turnpike and the George Washington Bridge, bus service to midtown Manhattan, a commuter train terminal near the pier and rapid transit (PATH) service to downtown and midtown Manhattan.

The presence of the floating museum would fit in with the planned massive rehabilitation of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Terminal, Ranieri continued.

"Power needed to operate the ship would be readily available from the city and PATH," he said. "There is parking available nearby at the public parking garages, especially on weekends when crowds would most likely appear and any needed repairs or upkeep could be made by the Bethlehem Shipyard nearby."

Richard T. Bazzone, president of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee, announced that the committee will meet at the Hoboken Library Thursday to plan future activities and to reorganize the committee "so as to rid it of some of the deadwood."

Ranieri asks state probe terminal pay for chief

The state Division of Local Government has been asked to look into the method used by Hoboken to pay former Fire Chief Patrick J. Carmody some \$4,800 for accrued vacation and terminal leave, it was learned today.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today he has contacted the state agency and asked for the investigation because he believes the city did not handle the matter properly.

"I have talked with the head of that agency and his preliminary reaction to what was done was that it wasn't handled properly," the councilman asserted. Ranieri was the only member of the council to vote against the measure at last week's meeting. "I do not wish to embarrass our

former fire chief. I firmly believe he is entitled to the money and should be paid. However, that is not what is being questioned here. It is the method being used by the city to do it."

According to Ranieri, the city cannot pay someone who is already off the payroll. Carmody retired as of May 1. However, the resolution that authorized the vacation and terminal leave payment to the chief said it was for an eight-week period after his retirement date.

The question was brought up at the council meeting last week and prompted the council to have Law Director Lawrence Florio come to its chambers to explain. Florio did not explain but did assure the council that the procedure was legal and "would

stand in the U.S. Supreme Court" if it was challenged. According to Ranieri, the state wants a copy of the resolution and written explanations from the city's comptroller, John Erbeck, and Florio on what was done and on what authority.

"I'm not as convinced as Director Florio that this was handled in the proper fashion," asserted the councilman. "It seems to be highly illogical. I cannot understand how any employee can be paid for eight weeks work when he was off the payroll and didn't work."

"If the resolution had stated that the payment was being made for vacation and terminal leave accrued before his retirement I would have voted for it without any questions."

Hoboken city workers have until Dec. 31 to take all 'off-time'

All Hoboken municipal employees have until Dec. 31 to take all of their accumulated vacation time and compensatory time off or lose it.

That's the message from Business Administrator Edwin Chius that accompanied everyone's pay check this week. And everyone includes police and firemen although those departments have been taking steps of their own in recent years to

do away with large buildups of owed time off.

"It is generally a poor policy to allow employees to build up large blocks of owed vacation days and compensatory time, one that costs the

city money," said Chius. "Time off and vacations should be taken within the year that they are earned."

"If not, we allow them to take the time off at a later date which costs the city overtime for a replacement and frequently at a higher rate, especially if several years have elapsed and employees are being paid at a higher rate than they were in the year the time off was earned."

Chius added that large blocks of accrued time off and vacation time also made it difficult for the city to keep its records straight and required additional extensive record keeping.

"My goal is to wipe the records clean by the end of the year," he continued. "Some exceptions will be allowed but only if the employee puts it into writing and the request is approved by his director and myself. I will reserve the right to make the final decision."

Chius has requested all of the city's directors to submit to him by next Thursday their lists of employees who are owed time off. The lists will document the amount of time owed and when it was accumulated.

Hoboken debt law is approved

By JEAN DEITZ
Dispatch-Trenton Bureau

TRENTON—The Senate and Assembly passed, and the governor quickly signed yesterday, a bill sponsored by Thomas Gallo of Hoboken to give the Hoboken school board five years to pay off its debt for summer teachers' salaries.

Gallo is secretary to the Hoboken school board. Last month the Hoboken board was ordered by the state to discontinue its practice of using future school monies to pay teachers' summer salaries, and to deposit summer payroll deductions in a separate account.

Gallo's bill was not referred to committee, and went directly to both houses for vote. A spokesman for the governor said that next year, the board will have to separate summer salaries.

The spokesman said allowing Hoboken to pay off its debt in five years will make it "virtually painless."

An estimated \$1.4 million in salaries must be raised by the school board.

Auditors for state Department of Education have combed the Hoboken school board's books, and found more than \$10,000 to questionable expenses, including the board's spending \$265 to send its attorney to Trenton in a limousine.

Appoint them

Hoboken Mayor Cappiello's proposal to eliminate the elected board of education and return to the appointed board makes sense.

In theory, the election of school board members gives taxpayers more say in the running of the schools.

In practice, only about a sixth of the usual number of voters turns out for the school board elections, and most of them are followers of one or another politician.

The average voter is not able to find out and compare the qualifications of the candidates for running the school system.

In Hoboken — if not everywhere in the county — most school board candidates who get elected are those backed by the current mayor.

It would be cheaper to have him appoint them.

At the school board elections, the voters also have the opportunity to approve or reject the school budget, a right they do not have under the appointed board.

But only a handful exercise the right to vote on the budget; and the vote is meaningless, anyway, because the state education commissioner has the power to reinstate the budget.

It makes sense to face the facts and abolish the elected school board.

Cappiello for appointed school board, to seek November vote

Hoboken voters again may get the opportunity to express their sentiments on elected or appointed school boards in the November election, it was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he probably will ask the City Council to pass a resolution authorizing a public referendum on the school board as a body appointed by the mayor or elected by the people.

Currently, Hoboken has an elected board. It switched from one

appointed by the mayor in 1974, the year of the first school board election.

Cappiello said he at first favored the elected board, but the city's experiences with the elected board over the last three years have changed his view.

"Democratically speaking, the elected board is probably best," said the mayor, "but financially it's a mess. The board must get \$4 to \$5 million a year from the city to

operate yet the city has virtually no say in the board's operation."

"Right now the board has serious financial problems and in all likelihood the city is going to be called upon to bail it out. And if we are forced to, the city's going to have serious financial problems."

With the exception of the first school budget which was approved by the voters, the city and school board have had to argue out a final rendition of the budget with state authorities.

Usually the board won and the city had to reinstate money that it had cut from the board's budgets.

"The elections cost money, the appeals on the budget cost time and money," continued the mayor. "None of this ever came up when we had an appointed board and a board of school estimate to work out a budget between the board and city."

"Those estimate board meetings weren't always harmonious," the mayor asserted. "Some were hot and heavy, but the problems were resolved here, between the city and the school board without appeal to the state."

Cappiello expected that some citizens would criticize his motivation, claiming he was trying to take political control of the board since he would have the right to appoint its members.

"Every current member of the board was elected with the backing of my administration which, if we follow that theory, should make them indebted to the administration for its support," he said. "It should be fairly obvious to everyone from the differences the city has had with the board that the board members are doing what they want, not what the city wants. Appointed board members could do the same thing."

"My main interest is re-establishing the board of school estimate, not appointing board members. And to again have a board of school estimate we must go back to the appointed board."

If on the ballot and approved by the voters, the board would revert to an appointed body as of next March. The current board members would continue to serve out the terms to which they were elected.

The transition from all-elected to all-appointed would take three years. The first three appointments would be for the elected members whose terms end next March. Three more would be selected in 1979 and three more in 1980.

Assembly votes Monday on Hoboken school bill

TRENTON — Assembly Speaker William J. Hamilton, D-Middlesex, announced today a floor vote will be held Monday on a bill to help bail out the Hoboken Board of Education of its \$1.5 million budget deficit.

Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo, Hoboken Democrat, sponsors the measure "to eliminate prior-year deficits in teacher summer payment plans."

Gallo introduced it without reference June 30. He is expected to ask for Senate approval Monday afternoon.

The legislation, backed by the ad-

ministration, is intended to help ease Hoboken out of the \$1.5 million July 15 deadline for fulfilling its summer payment obligations.

The bill would allow Hoboken to fulfill the obligation over five years.

State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke announced April 26 there would be no further budget restoration after approving \$52.287 in the 1976-77 school budget.

Burke noted the Hoboken request for the additional \$1.5 million was "to replace moneys which were not properly accounted for in past years."

Will aid dystrophy drive

The Hoboken Fire Fighters Association, Local 1078, and the Fire Officers Association, Local 1078, will conduct a fund-raising drive for the National Muscular Dystrophy Association, it was announced today.

The drive will start July 22. Coin-

casters and literature on the children's illness will be distributed around the city. The canisters will be collected on Sept. 1, prior to the national telephone conducted by Jerry Lewis.

Hoboken bonds launch drive to save homes

The First Ward Block Association of Hoboken will begin selling \$10,000 worth of bonds Thursday to raise the money it needs to rehabilitate two brick tenement houses at 208 and 210 Garden St. and Mayor Steve Cappiello is going to be the first customer.

The bonds, which will return six per cent interest, will be repaid when the buildings have been rehabilitated and sold to owners who will occupy them.

"This is the kind of community effort and spirit that Hoboken needs," said the mayor. "The two buildings involved eventually become eyesores and the city would have been stuck with the cost of taking them down."

"Instead, they are going to be renovated and continue to be assets to the community. I will be pleased to

be the first to get this project under way by buying a bond."

Both buildings are four-story brick structures, according to Thomas Newman, president of the association. He said they are both structurally sound although extensive renovations are needed inside.

"This is a pilot project," said Newman. "If we are successful the association plans to buy more properties and rehabilitate them under the same procedures. Much of the work is going to be done by association members with some outside help from local contractors."

Newman said the bonds will be sold primarily in \$100 denominations although lesser amounts will be accepted. The sale will be kicked off in Cappiello's office.

Hope to save local landmark

By STUART LOW

Hoboken's Senior Citizens Center will seek a court order to save the Lutheran Seamen's Mission, charging that demolition of this local landmark would mean unnecessary suffering for evicted elderly tenants.

The 16 tenants of the mission at 67 Washington st. were served on April 15 with an eviction notice from the home's board of directors, setting July 15 as the deadline. After this date, a wrecking crew is slated to level the building to make way for a Shop Rite parking lot, planned ever since a \$155,000 sale was negotiated between the directors and the Shop Rite branch around the corner.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has already stated that he will refuse to issue a demolition permit, after Senior Citizen Center caseworker Terry Ratti informed him that one 87-year-old tenant died and several other octogenarians were hospitalized after being forced to move.

Ernest Schwarz (a former ships carpenter and mission lodger for 15 years) died as a result of the sudden move," accused Ratti in an interview yesterday. "Certain of the other residents got scared and split when the directors first threatened eviction, but 16 others are still here. They'd be lost without the mission they have lived in for so many years."

"The directors told us the notice was served because of building code violations, which they said would be 'senseless and uneconomical for them to remedy.' But I find it interesting that these violations were not discovered until last January, when the Shop Rite negotiations were almost concluded."

Ratti added that Shop Rite was presently taking a "wait and see" attitude before closing the contract.

Gregory Diebold, a Hudson County Legal Services attorney who will represent the tenants once motions are filed in Hudson County District Court after July 15, indicated that humanitarian grounds will not constitute his main strategy. Instead, he will stress the 70-year-old landmark's historical value in the district between City Hall and the Erie Lackawanna terminal. Purchase of the property by the city—possibly with funds from the Community Development Agency—would provide the only long-term solution for the mission, he asserted.

Dr. Heinrich Suhr and the Rev. Otto Winter, the mission's director and pastor, have consistently maintained that their grounds for eviction could easily be upheld in the courts. Besides the \$50,000 in repairs ordered by the building inspector, they argue that Hoboken's dwindling harbor trade ob-

viates the need for facilities like the mission.

Equally important, the Waterfront Commission (which rented office space in the same building) left the premises with the expiration of its lease in March, placing an even greater financial burden on the mission's administration.

Another key argument likely to be advanced by the directors' attorney, Charles Korn, is that the tenants have been given ample opportunity to relocate in the past five months. Places were offered in both Broadway Manor (a nursing home on Staten Island) and the Bronxwood Home for Adults in the Bronx, all rejected by the former seamen as "impossible" to get used to.

The plight of the mission residents has attracted attention throughout the state, notably through recent news features on WNBC and WNEW TV.

Bank approves mortgage for Grogan project

The First Jersey National Bank, of Jersey City, has approved a \$2 million permanent mortgage for the waterfront office building planned for the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project in Hoboken, Bernard J. Kenny, developer, said today.

The mortgage commitment was approved at last Wednesday's meeting of the bank's executive board.

"This represents 50 per cent of the total amount of the required mortgage funds for the first stage of the development," Kenny said. "It is hopefully expected by Mayor Steve Cappiello and myself that the Trust Co. of New Jersey and the Haven Savings and Loan Association will complete the balance of the loan."

"Each of these institutions has expressed a willingness to participate, although the full extent of their respective participation is yet undetermined."

The five-story building will provide approximately 100,000 square feet of space. It will be linked by an enclosed pedestrian bridge to the municipal parking garage at Second and Hudson streets. The new building will be located on the southern half of the block between First and Second streets, from Hudson to River streets.

The original plan was for an office building topped off by a motel. Kenny has now asked the Hoboken Housing Authority to sell him its vacant land in the Plaza complex at Second and Hudson streets. On the southern end of the block between Third and Second, as a site for the motel.

Kenny said that proposal is still being considered by the authority.

"The completion of this long-awaited financing will signal the start of the two key elements of this project that all agree will make the whole development fly," he declared.



Italian Renaissance architecture will characterize the office building for which partial financing has been obtained by Bernard Kenny, developer, in the east half of the block bounded by River, Hudson, First and Second streets in Hoboken.

"Each structure — the office building and motel — is of vital importance to the financial viability of the total development, most particularly the parking garages, which count heavily on both elements to meet its current bond interest obligations."

The building will be of Italian Renaissance design.

According to Kenny, it turned out that lending institutions were not eager to become involved in the relatively new concept of a combined office building and motel. This forced the redesign of his portion of the project into two buildings.

The proposed motel-convention center would be a 10-story structure costing approximately \$6 million. Kenny said he is confident of financing for that portion of the project. He has been granted a franchise for the motel by Ramada Inns.



The Hoboken waterfront north of First Street will look like this if revised plans for completion of the Grogan Marine View Plaza project materialize. In the foreground is a proposed five-story office structure built in Italian Renaissance style. The structure behind it is an existing parking garage, upon which will be added the bubble top shown in the drawing, to house tennis courts. Beyond that is a proposed Ramada Inn motel. Office building, garage and motel would be connected, as shown, by enclosed pedestrian bridges.

Cappiello would meet residents on problems

Residents of the 14th Street area in Hoboken were assured today by Mayor Steve Cappiello that the city was aware of the problems in their neighborhood and was moving to correct them.

"I will be most happy to meet with members of the 14th Street Block Association and its president (Manuel Perez) to see if we can work these problems out together," asserted the mayor.

The association has started a petition drive to bring the city's attention to what neighbors say is "so-so" police protection in their area. They claim they seldom see foot patrolmen, whatever patrols do come into the area are in cars, and they seldom stop. They complained of many robberies and muggings, and heavy traffic congestion compounded by double and illegal parking that goes unanswered by police.

"I agree with their assessment," said the mayor who is also city Public Safety Director. "I will not offer excuses although there are some valid reasons. What I will do is explain to them what we are doing or are going to do about the problems."

"The city does have to make some more appointments to the police department," the mayor continued.

"These men will in all probability end up on the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) which is a walking patrol. I will see to it that a good percentage of these men are assigned to that area during the high crime hours."

Cappiello added that he did not think the city could comply with the demand that 24-hour walking patrols be supplied every day of the week. "I can promise no more than selective enforcement — that is to put men in the area at the times when things are usually the hottest," he explained. "We are using selective enforcement which is concentrating police in the area where they are needed the most. But by doing this some areas get less police protection than others. However, it has been found to be the most efficient way of using the men we have."

Cappiello said he would meet with Perez and the association at any time that is mutually convenient to the mayor and association.

Farina vows shakeup of his department

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken's new director of health and welfare, James Farina, is not pleased with the performance he is getting from some employees of his department. So some changes are going to be made.

The director said today that he is going to begin reassigning a number of department employees within the next week or two in the hope of getting "better performance."

"Before making any changes I will make a complete tour of all divisions," he said. "They may be announced or unannounced but they will be made. And based on these tours and prior information a decision will be made on who is switched and who isn't."

Farina said that based on the number of personnel he has in the department more should be accomplished.

"If the assignments fail to shake up those who haven't been giving the city a day's work for a day's pay, then we'll have to take a little stronger action — suspensions," continued the director. "And if that fails I'll move to remove them from the payroll. In other words, fire them."

The director declined to name any of the employees he felt weren't producing.

"I'm not interested in embarrassing any of them," he asserted. "They will be given the chance to do work. If they live up to my expectations, that will be the end of it."

Unclogged Hoboken sewer won't stay that way

The success of Hoboken's Public Works Department in unclogging a portion of a sewer line along Grand Street has been short-lived.

Director Andrew J. Amato said today another major blockage is building up approximately 40 to 60 feet north of the section that was opened last week and eventually will clog the line again.

"I will advise the mayor of the problem today and suggest that we do the same basic kind of job that we did on the line last week — open it up and dredge out the area that is blocked," said the director. "I will also propose that we undertake doing that for a major portion of the seven-block line, at least from Third to Seventh streets along Grand."

Amato said the new blockage was building up in front of 408 Grand St. and was discovered by two of his men — Joseph Pinto and Philip Orapella —

while pumping out basements in the area that were still flooded with sewage from last week's backup.

"They noticed that the flow in the main line seemed to be slowing down the further north they went on Grand Street," Amato said. "They checked the line out and found that it seems there is another blockage in front of 408 that has to be cleaned out."

The director said he would make a strong pitch to the mayor for permission to do all of the street from Third to Seventh.

"I want to replace all of the top slabs on the wood lines with interlocking concrete slabs," he said. "Then the slabs would be covered with a two-inch layer of concrete. This should eliminate the cause of the problem — dirt settling between the wood slabs."

"The slabs also fall into the line adding to the buildup. The concrete slabs would not do this."

Hoboken project chosen for grant under work act

TRENTON — A total of 523 jobs are projected in the \$3 million Liberty State Park and \$1,788,000 Hoboken Terminal Restoration financed by the 1977 Public Works Employment Act. Work on both projects will begin in 90 days.

Gov. Brendan T. Byrne announced yesterday they are among nine selected to receive \$16,019,589 as the eight per cent state allocation to finance state-sponsored projects.

The governor's office said 275 jobs are anticipated on Liberty Park, 248 on the Hoboken terminal.

The park work involves architectural and structural restoration to the historically registered Central Railroad of New Jersey terminal and its facilities and site improvements to adjacent areas will provide greater public access to the state's waterfront. It also involves beginning active recreational use of the northern rim of the park.

Terminal work covers rehabilitation of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad facility and the Ferry Terminal Building to improve commuter access to the PATH and North Western commuter lines.

The terminal, constructed in 1907, is a national and state historic site. Its ornate, copper-clad facades and spacious waiting room recall the heyday of steam engines and ferries that carried millions to and from New York City.

The initial plan involves the refurbishing of the building's exterior, opening up of the skylights in the waiting room and extensive repairs to roofs and floors.

"The Hoboken terminal is not only a vital project for the 30,000 daily commuters in northern New Jersey, it is a key element in Hoboken's plan of economic revitalization," said Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Hoboken innovation

While Hoboken residents may be taken aback by the prospect of Italian Renaissance architecture rising in their midst on the Grogan Marine View Plaza development, innovative ideas such as this ought not be dismissed out of hand. It is healthy to have original concepts brought up. The styles of architecture now in vogue were innovative in an earlier day. They need not be fixed forever.

An office building and a motel in Italian Renaissance design would certainly attract attention. Hoboken has achieved distinction with its housing program. Italian Renaissance architecture in this prominent place on the Hudson riverfront might complement that distinction.

\$4.8M riverfront facelift approved

By JEAN DEITZ

Dispatch, Trenton Bureau

Two Hudson County cities, Jersey City and Hoboken, were granted a total of \$4.8 million yesterday from the state to bring new life to their crumbling waterfronts by transforming their old railroad terminals into shopping and recreational areas.

Hoboken's dream of a revitalized waterfront district was boosted by approval of a \$1.8 million public works grant that will be used to refurbish the old Erie-Lackawanna railroad and ferry terminal.

The grant given under the Public Works Employment Act of 1977, was one of nine announced by the state yesterday, which selected those projects it wanted to sponsor. A total of \$18.1 million was made available.

Jersey City's massive Liberty State project will receive \$3 million in public works money. It will be used for architectural and structural restoration

of the old Central Railroad of New Jersey terminal at the foot of Johnston av., already designated as an historic site.

Gov. Brendan Byrne said the CNJ terminal restoration would help to provide greater public access to the state's waterfront and begin active recreational use of the northern rim of Liberty State Park.

New Jersey has received a total of \$217 million in public works money. The remainder is being distributed to counties, and municipalities, which are currently deciding which projects to push for approval from the federal Economic Development Administration. Hudson County has been given \$3 million so far and Bergen County \$2.7 million to use on the county level for various public works projects.

The Hoboken terminal grant is expected to provide 248 jobs, and the Jersey City park grant will provide 275 jobs. Both projects should be underway

by the end of the year, since one of the conditions of public works approval is that the work should start up within 90 days.

The nine projects approved yesterday were first approved last year, but weren't funded.

Hoboken's Community Development Agency (CDA) will administer the terminal restoration. CDA Director Fred Bado said yesterday that the grant shows that the city's dream of reviving its waterfront can become a reality.

Bado estimates it would cost \$10 million to revitalize the waterfront district and realize its goal of a waterfront square similar to a restoration completed in Boston's aging waterfront district.

The Erie-Lackawanna terminal restoration will benefit both commuters and local residents since the 1907 structure is badly in need of rehabilitation.

Ferry service across the Hudson River has been discontinued. Bado said the ferry terminal can be converted into a shopping bazaar, theater and museum complex. The city is seeking private developers to invest in the complex.

Hoboken also wants to build a deck out into the river to use as a waterfront park, Bado said.

Cappiello bars sewer repairs paid for by city

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he will not give Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato the go-ahead to start major repairs on the Grand Street sewer line, using only city men and equipment.

But he will see to it that an emergency application for funds for the job is filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Community Development Agency (CDA).

"I can't see spending 100 per cent city dollars on such a project when there is a good possibility that we can get 75 per cent of the cost from the EPA," said Cappiello. "My decision not to support an all-out city project is by no means intended to show any lack of faith in the director."

"He's done an excellent job and is trying very hard to do the best he can for the city. In my opinion, he is succeeding."

The mayor said that during last week's sewer emergency at Fourth and Grand Streets Amato went home,

put on old clothes, and came back to the scene to work with the men.

"It was a dirty job but he got down there with his men and did his share of the work," the mayor continued.

Cappiello said he would not prevent the Public Works Department from doing any other emergency jobs on the sewer line. Amato has asked for permission to open the Grand Street line again in front of 408 Grand because it appears another blockage is building up.

"That would be in the category of a pending emergency," said the mayor. "Something that has to be done right away, and I won't argue with that. However, I don't see doing the entire seven blocks of the line with city funds when we could get the federal government to pay up to 75 cents on the dollars."

Amato said he would abide with the mayor's decision. But he would stay on top of the CDA to make sure that it drew up the application and submitted it as quickly as possible.

Committee to meet Amato on bulldozer operator

The Public Works Committee of the Hoboken City Council will meet Monday with Director Andrew J. Amato to discuss whether or not the five-day suspension of a heavy equipment operator should stand.

Amato suspended Frank Belfiore Wednesday morning for allegedly leaving his bulldozer unattended in a city-owned lot at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street which he had been assigned to clean up.

According to Amato, he checked the area at 10 and 11:15 a.m. and found the bulldozer unattended. He was unable to locate the operator.

It was learned that the council's Public Works Committee was asked to look into the matter after Councilmen Nunzio Malfetti and Anthony H. Romano had met with the director to intercede in behalf of Belfiore. The meeting was unsuccessful and the suspension was not rescinded.

Romano, who is not a member of the committee, said he asked its chairman, Louis Francane, to call the session with Amato.

"The entire matter is very confusing, since there were two men involved," said Romano. "Why is one being punished and the other ignored?"

And both men claim they had their foreman's permission to leave the work site.

"We can't operate the city with a double standard. What's good for one employee should stand for all. If the man was wrong in what he did then he should be suspended. But if there was someone else who did the same thing at the same time, then he too should be suspended."

Amato said he didn't know whether Belfiore had permission to leave the site or not. However, he was more concerned with the unguarded piece of city equipment.

"I'm not pleased that I couldn't account for the operator's whereabouts from 10 a.m. until almost 1 p.m. I could have overlooked that with a reprimand. But I can't excuse leaving that equipment unattended in an open lot where anyone could have driven it away or vandalized it."

Summer salary checks sent to Hoboken teachers

Checks totaling more than \$1.5 million should start arriving in the mail today or Monday at the homes of Hoboken's public school teachers and board of education employees, representing their summer salary payments.

The financial moves that enabled the board of education to make the payments were completed yesterday morning and included a short-term loan for \$230,000 from a local bank and an \$800,000 advance from the city.

A total of \$1,369,000 was needed for payments to the teachers, and \$156,000 for the administrative staff. The board had a surplus of \$780,000 on

hand leaving it short approximately \$740,000.

Under normal conditions the city would be paying to the board some \$2,121,854 between July 1 and Dec. 31 as its share of the education cost for the first half of the 1977-78 school year. To help with the payments the city agreed to advance the board \$500,000 on what would normally be due for the salaries. The remaining \$300,000 included in the advance is for other bills, according to Robert W. Taylor, school attorney.

This still left the board short by \$230,000 so a three-month loan was taken out at a local bank.

Outwardly, it would appear that the school board will be some \$500,000

short in city funds later this year. But Taylor says it's not so.

"The board had something like \$522,000 reinstated by the state to the 1976-77 budget which the city still hasn't paid," he said. "That should offset the \$500,000 we are getting now."

The school board got into the summer salary payment bind by adopting, many years ago, a system in which the summer payments for the previous school year were made with funds from the next school year.

The state ordered the board to stop the practice and to catch up. Since the board hadn't budgeted for the payments in the 1976-77 budget, it found itself in a hole.

Sidewalk sale in Hoboken

If you're a bargain hunter, Hoboken's Washington Street is definitely the place to be on Thursday and Friday as the city's Retail Bureau conducts its annual two-day sidewalk sale.

Billed as the best sale ever on Hoboken's main thoroughfare, local stores will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the convenience of shoppers.

"This should be our best sale to date," said

a bureau spokesman. "We have more merchants participating than ever before and they all have plenty of bargains for shoppers."

The merchants will be moving their wares to the sidewalk for the day. Shoppers can leisurely stroll the street, stopping when some particular article catches their eye.

Stores from First to Seventh streets are participating.

In the event of rain the sale will continue on Saturday. Store hours on that day are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Malfetti seeks battleship

Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti of Hoboken today endorsed the efforts of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee to bring the battleship U.S.S. New Jersey to the city.

"The battleship New Jersey will be a monument to those brave men and women who have served our nation so gloriously in times of peril," the councilman said. "The reputation of our city will be spread far and wide and I firmly believe, as do members of my organization, that the people of Hoboken and this entire seaboard region will benefit through pride and a better economy if the ship comes to Hoboken."

Malfetti said he was in full agreement with Councilman Robert A. Ranieri who also endorsed the ship project earlier this week.

Hoboken housing revival - a U.S. model

By DAVID TREADWELL

Hoboken has rebuilt itself by reviving its housing and has become a model for other cities trying to do the same.

Just across the Hudson River from Manhattan, Hoboken's housing was in serious decline until the revival began in the early 1970s.

Since then more than 15 per cent of the city's housing stock has been renovated at a cost of about \$30 million in public and private capital, city officials say.

Brownstones and rowhouses have been restored. Altogether more than 500 buildings have undergone transformation in this largely working-class city of 45,000, nearly 40 per cent of whom are Puerto Ricans.

The reconstruction has ranged from middle class housing to tenement buildings like the "Tootsie Roll flats" originally built for workers in a now-relocated candy factory. About two-thirds of the money was spent for tenement rehabilitation.

Former New York City residents, drawn by the cheap housing, ethnic charm and relatively safe streets, are discovering Hoboken and adding their sophistication to the city's housing revival.

As housing construction and energy costs soar, cities like Boston, Baltimore, Norfolk, Louisville, San Francisco and Portland have turned to rehabilitation programs to combat urban blight.

But federal housing officials say Hoboken has been unusually imaginative in its use of public funds to stimulate private investment in the city's deteriorating housing stock.

"Hoboken got off to an earlier start than most other cities and remains a pace-setter," says Robert Dodge, development services director in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Hoboken officials say they rejected the "razed-and-rebuilt" approach to urban renewal that often creates more problems than it solves.

"We wanted to stabilize neighborhoods, not disrupt them by demolishing one or two or three blocks and then putting up buildings that might be out of context with their surroundings," said Fred Bado, Hoboken community development director. Thus the city rejected the idea of building high-rise public housing and concentrated on restoring the buildings that were already there.

One rehabilitation program encourages homeowners to make repairs to their property

by supplementing bank home improvement loans with grants from the city's federal housing money.

Howeowners are allowed a grant sufficient to reduce the effective interest rate on their loan to 3 per cent from the customary 8 to 12 per cent.

"Over 60 per cent of the buildings in Hoboken are owner occupied," Bado said. "Before this program, there were almost no home improvement loans being made. Banks didn't know whether they should invest in the city."

The rehabilitation programs began with the Model Cities programs of 1971 and 1972. Since then banks have made loans totaling \$2.7 million to more than 500 homeowners, and there have been no defaults so far, Bado said.

About 85 per cent of the loan applicants were long-time Hoboken residents. The remaining 15 per cent included many newcomers like interior decorator Patricia Tuohy and her lawyer husband Charles.

"Hoboken's not heaven, but it's a terrific little community with lots of momma-and-poppa stores and a charm all its own," said Mrs. Tuohy, 40. "I dreaded leaving Manhattan. Now I'd dread going back."

For \$50,000, the Tuohys purchased in 1975 a four-story federal-style brick rowhouse built in 1888 and put in \$10,000 worth of improvements, including a new furnace and antique marble mantles like the

ones originally over the fireplace. Mrs. Tuohy said the value of their home has increased by \$18,000.

State law gives homeowners in communities with deteriorating housing a property tax break for five years after improvements are made.

Still, property taxes are high in Hoboken. The tax rate is \$10.86 per \$100 in assessed valuation, compared to \$9.94 per \$100 in nearby Newark, \$8.56 in Jersey City and \$5.27 in Montclair. The Tuohys, for instance, paid \$2,100 last year on an assessed valuation of about \$19,000.

The city's tenement rehabilitation efforts have been chiefly handled by a single private firm, Applied Housing Associates, under federal programs subsidizing developers for rehabilitation work.

Walter Barry, Applied Housing's president, said the firm selected buildings that bordered relatively stable communities and were not riddled with massive physical decay and social problems.

"The idea is to use these buildings and the stable communities as a beachhead to move into the city's deeper recesses," Barry said, adding that his firm rehabilitated and now manages more than 40 five-story buildings housing about 1,000 tenants.

Prospective tenants undergo close inspection. The firm's

chief criterion is "family stability." Barry said this allows the firm to accept many families, like those on welfare, usually rejected by other landlords.

"We had some things going

for us here that were conducive to rehabilitation," said Mayor Steve Cappelletto, citing the mile-square city's compact size, aging but sturdy housing stock, ethnic diversity and turn-of-the-century charm. AP

Cappelletto tells city directors they are responsible to him

Hoboken's department directors have received a vote of confidence from Mayor Steve Cappelletto which may not sit too well with some members of the City Council.

The mayor said today he has met with all of the directors and advised them they are answerable to him, not council members, and if any councilman tries to pressure them into doing something that is against their instincts or principles or those of the

administration it should be reported to him at once.

"It has come to my attention that three of our councilmen — Anthony H. Romano, Louis Francione and Nunzio Malfetti — have been pressuring and badgering one of my directors concerning the operation of his department," the mayor said. "The council as a body has the right to make a request of a department director, but it cannot order or direct

him to do something."

"And if the director feels that he cannot comply with the council's request, he doesn't have to. The directors are picked by the mayor and they serve at his pleasure. If the council feels that one isn't performing properly, then it should bring that to my attention and I will look into the matter."

The mayor said he advised his directors that as long as he was satisfied with their performance he would back them "100 per cent."

New broom

Hoboken's new health and welfare director seems to be taking his cue from the city's new public works director who has been in office only a few months but has been boldly changing his department regardless of who might not like it.

The health and welfare chief proposes similarly to make changes in his department, an important part of which is the recreation bureau.

He is familiar with his department, having worked in it for a number of years, so it can be supposed he knows what he is doing. He says he has found room for considerable improvement.

In particular, he says some of his employees are not doing a day's work and he will transfer them to other assignments, to give them a chance to get with it.

If they fail again to produce, they will be suspended. Further failure will lead to dismissal.

Let him go ahead with his plans.

Union City pool open to Hoboken children

Twice a week swim outings will be offered to Hoboken youngsters between the ages of 8 and 13 starting Tuesday.

Health and Welfare Director James Farina announced today that the city has made arrangements with Union City officials to use the swimming pool in the courtyard of the Edison School on Tuesday and Friday afternoons for the remainder of the summer.

Farina expressed the city's thanks to Union City Commissioner Ronald Dario, head of Parks and Recreation, and Mayor William V. Musto for their assistance in making the pool available to Hoboken's youngsters.

Farina said lifeguards will be on duty at the pool. He added that Hoboken also will send supervisor personnel along to help out.

Forman hearing resumes tonight in city council

The departmental hearing for former Hoboken Welfare Director Jerry Forman will resume tonight behind closed doors in the city council chambers. The charges against Forman are being heard by the Local Assistance Board.

The board has been conducting the hearing once a week on Tuesday evenings for almost two months. And according to John Link, assistance board chairman, it could continue for several more weeks because of the many witnesses who still have to appear.

Forman has a number of charges against him but they all stem from irregularities in obtaining dental work for welfare clients. A police investigation of the matter showed that a number of dental bills were submitted by dentists for work that was

never done — and Forman approved their payment. The bills were held up by the city council.

Meanwhile, Mayor Steve Cappelletto has decided against honoring a suggestion from the board that Forman be temporarily put back on the welfare department payroll in his old position of senior welfare investigator-bilingual.

The board made the suggestion at the request of Forman's attorney due to the long period of time that has elapsed since the former director was first charged and suspended without pay. Forman has been off the payroll almost since the beginning of the year.

Cappelletto said he wasn't going to take any action on Forman until the assistance board had concluded its hearing and reached a decision.

Gallo won't talk about that \$2,500 due Fusilli

Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo of Hoboken owes Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli \$2,500. But Gallo doesn't want to talk about it.

Fusilli is one of Gallo's legislative aides. He's on the assemblyman's payroll of \$5,000 a year. The last of this year's two checks — \$2,500 each — was due Fusilli on July 1 but the freeholder admit he hasn't seen it yet.

And Gallo? He admit he has the check and that it hasn't been sent to the freeholder. But otherwise, he'd rather not talk about it.

Fusilli is on the political "outs" with Gallo and Mayor Steve Cappelletto because he supported Anthony H. Romano, the First Ward councilman, in the May 10 mayoral election.

There was talk immediately after Cappelletto's victory that the administration would be out "to get

Fusilli." Holding back the check could be part of the threat.

It has been reported that at the insistence of the mayor, Gallo would drop Fusilli as an aide. However, the freeholder is currently still listed by Trenton as one of the assemblyman's assistants.

Gallo doesn't want to talk about that either, and ducked a number of questions concerning the check and Fusilli's status.

"I don't want to talk about it," he said when asked why he was holding up the check. "Why don't you call me in a couple of days," he asked a reporter.

It was learned that Gallo had been keeping the check in his desk in the Hoboken Board of Education offices in the Wallace School, but he has since taken it from there to his home on Hudson Street. He didn't want to talk about that either.

Hottendorf wants more school funds for cities

The New Jersey School Boards Association has been asked to lobby for a change in the formula of a proposed \$100 million school building aid bond issue by Otto Hottendorf, a Hoboken Board of Education member, so that urban municipalities can get a larger share of the funds.

Hottendorf, who is Hoboken's delegate to the association, has sent out a letter to all other delegates explaining that the proposed bond issue is favoring large suburban regional school districts which will "eat up most of the money."

"The maximum any district would get is \$25 per student," he wrote. "In Hoboken that would amount to \$200,000 provided we get

the maximum. "This favors large suburban regional districts with high ratio of ratables per pupil."

"In Hoboken we need about \$5 million just to make the necessary repairs. Some of schools should be replaced — \$200,000 is just a drop in the bucket for our needs. And all urban districts are in the same fix."

Hottendorf said that areas like Hoboken have old buildings and a low ratio of ratables per pupil.

"The formula for distribution should be based on need," he asserted, "not on the number of pupils."

According to Hottendorf, his proposal has received a favorable reaction from other delegates to the state School Boards Association.

Brighter Hoboken

Hoboken's storefront refurbishing program is going over big — and well it might. Many Hoboken merchants and other businessmen had already spruced up their exteriors before the program was originated, so there was already a trend.

This is a program in which the owner pays half the refurbishing cost and the city kicks in the rest. Many merchants are willing to invest. They do not look upon Hoboken as a dying city. Quite the contrary.

The turnaround that started a few years ago is continuing. More businessmen are coming to Hoboken than are leaving. They have confidence in the city's future.

In view of Hoboken's stabilized tax rate, its improved physical image, and its residential and commercial potential, no wonder its storekeepers are latching on to this cash inducement to make their establishments more attractive.

Sewer workers get a break in Hoboken

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato has ordered that work areas in the city sewers be cleaned and repaired because of what he called "unsafe conditions that are disgraceful."

There are eight such areas throughout the sewer system, called regulator stations, which intercept the sewer lines at various points about 50 feet below the surface, according to Amato.

After going into one of these areas earlier this week, Amato called it a "disgrace," and ordered Roy Haack, assistant superintendent of

the city's sewage treatment plant, to overhaul them.

Haack said the stations will be overhauled, and that a maintenance plan will be put in effect to keep them safe and clean for workmen.

The overhaul will include, according to Amato, clean-up, a new paint job, and installation of lights. "I'm concerned about the working conditions down there," said Amato. "These are men down there, not animals. It's unsafe and disgraceful."

Amato has assigned five men to aid Haack's crews in cleaning up the areas.

crease is almost mandatory. However, there are some alternatives. "Mayor Smith has mentioned the possibility of asking the state to rescind its order for a new plant. Hoboken should join in that petition if it is made. We have as much at stake as Jersey City if that plant is built under current conditions. State and federal funds should be sought to finance the construction, not bonds as was done under the (Paul T.) Jordan administration."

Ranieri, who is chairman of the Hoboken Council's standing committee on water and sewerage, said he would like to establish closer ties with Jersey City authorities responsible for working on the water problems.

"We have much at stake in this, just as much as Jersey City," he continued. "As it goes, we go. I would like very much to have at least one member of our committee sit in with Jersey City officials whenever they get together with state and federal authorities on this matter, not as a dissenter but as an ally."

Hoboken reform

Hoboken's new business administrator has drafted a proposed city ordinance which, he says, puts into writing the buying practices mandated by the state. He says Hoboken has been suffering from "some fast and loose purchasing practices."

While allowing department heads to make purchases of up to \$500 without going through him, he is getting up lists of vendors and the prices they charge for items regularly bought by the city. He expects the department heads to buy from the cheapest vendor on the list, or from the second cheapest if the first fellow is out of stock.

This sounds fine. But there have been many announcements and promises of reforms in Hoboken's purchasing practices in the past. Apparently they did not get far, so the public may well be skeptical of this latest reformation.

However, it is necessary to keep trying. The new business administrator has some academic qualifications for his job. All interested in what happens to the city's money should watch and see how the new system turns out.

that, Smith said Jersey City has always hired firemen from similar Civil Service eligibility lists.

One Hoboken fire department official said there are no blacks or Hispanics among the 136 men now serving, but he says it's not intentional.

"We have a program now through public relations man James Monaco to recruit interest in the department among youngsters coming out of the schools," he said.

Lawrence Florio, Hoboken law director, said he's been informed of the possible suit by the Justice Department and added that he is joining with lawyers for the other 11 municipalities in negotiations to settle the dispute.

He did not say what was involved in the negotiations but asserted that "there is no problem here. We've had no discrimination."

Mayors lay bias to Trenton

Two Hudson County mayors whose communities are threatened with a suit by the federal government insist that the government's complaint is with the state Civil Service commission, not their cities.

for failing to hire blacks and Hispanics as firefighters.

Cappelletto said that Hoboken "will carry on with its procedures as the state Legislature intends." Hiring standards, said the mayor, are set, not by the city, but by the state Civil Service Commission.

According to Cappelletto, Hoboken has not skipped anyone on the Civil Service appointment lists. Echoing

that, Smith said Jersey City has always hired firemen from similar Civil Service eligibility lists.

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The statue of St. Ann is borne through the streets outside St. Ann's Church, Hoboken, during a procession that marked the conclusion of the annual feast held by parish societies.

For love of St. Ann

Festival brightens Hoboken

For thousands of Hoboken residents participating in the procession of St. Ann yesterday, the cares and worries of summer life in the city seemed far, far away.

A 600-pound statue of St. Ann was carried through the streets by the women of St. Ann's Church to culminate the 52nd annual St. Ann Festival which began last Thursday.

For the women, some of whom walked in bare feet to follow tradition, it seemed a holy task.

"We love her, she's precious to us," said Madeline Saulino, one of the first women to carry the statue in yesterday's procession. "Don't worry, we would never drop her."

There is never any trouble recruiting women, according to parishioners. "You wouldn't believe how they clamor for the honor to take the statue," said one.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto, who was an altar boy at St. Ann's in the early thirties, led the procession from the church with Franciscan Bishop Lawrence Graciano.

"Except for my years in the service, I've never missed one of these processions," he said.

A crowd of about 5,000 people (Cappelletto's estimate) turned out for the start of the festivities in front of the church at noon. As the statue of St. Ann — mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus Christ — appeared in the doorway, firecrackers went off all over the street.

As they resounded off the nearby buildings, they sounded almost like a 21-cannon salute.

Men, women and children pushed forward to touch the statue for good luck. Babies were held up by their mothers to kiss the statue.

Jewelry hung all over it, gifts to St. Ann from the people of the parish. A bag hung from the bottom of it, into which dollar bills were placed by those lining the path of the procession.

A band played "Viva Maria," a religious song, and priests and parishioners sang along. The band accompanied the procession, which zig-zagged throughout an area between 4th and 11th streets and Bloomfield and Jackson streets.

They returned to the church around 6 p.m. to complete the festival.

All kinds of Italian specialties were offered at the festival, including zapole, calzone and figatelli.

Cappelletto was ebullient as he talked about the festival and procession.

"This is one of the things that makes Hoboken so special," he said.

Hoboken seen refusing Forman job

Even though Civil Service says former Hoboken Welfare Director Jerry Forman can have his old job back as a senior welfare investigator, it is unlikely Hoboken officials would honor his request to be reinstated.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said today that Forman is entitled to ask or demand his old job back but the final decision — because he did not protect the post through a succession of leaves of absence — is still up to the city.

"Mr. Forman was granted one leave of absence for a six-month period from May 1, 1975, to Nov. 1 that same year, when he was first appointed welfare director," said Chius. "But a review of city council records show that no further leaves were asked for or granted. This left his old position unprotected."

"Under Civil Service law he may within a two-year period ask the city to be reinstated, which I understand he has done. But he is not guaranteed reinstatement. The decision is the city's. If he isn't satisfied with it, he can appeal to Civil Service."

Chius said he hasn't spoken to the mayor about Forman's request but he didn't expect the mayor would honor it.

"The request to reinstate him in his old job has been made twice by the Local Assistance Board and twice the mayor has decided against it," Chius pointed out. "I don't believe he would change his mind now."

The mayor was not available for comment.

The local assistance board is now in the midst of hearing the charges against Forman, which resulted in his suspension last January as welfare director. The hearings are conducted every Tuesday evening in the council chambers behind closed doors.

Forman approached Health and Welfare Director James Farina Wednesday asking for his job back. Farina said he turned the matter over to Chius and the mayor.

Gallo returns check issued to Fusilli

Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo of Hoboken said today he has returned to Trenton the check issued to Freeholder Vincent Fusilli, one of his legislative aides.

Gallo said the check was mailed to Trenton yesterday and he has taken no action on continuing Fusilli's employment as a member of his staff or replacing him.

He would not give his reason for sending the check back, nor would he expand on whether Fusilli will be fired at a later date.

The check, for \$2,500 which is payment for the second half of Fusilli's yearly salary as his aide, was made out July 1, but Gallo never gave it to Fusilli.

He has steadfastly refused to discuss his reasons.

Fusilli supported Anthony H. Romano for mayor this year, bucking Gallo and Mayor Steve Cappiello, and there has been speculation that this is why he is not receiving the check, and that he is about to be fired.

"It seems un-

believable that someone — if it is only one person — could be so indecisive about whether or not he is going to fire me or give me the check," said Fusilli.

He added that he believes the check is legally his, because he wasn't fired by July 1, when it was due.

Hoboken school board ignores asbestos woe

The Hoboken Board of Education has ignored an engineer's report that tiles used in Wallace School and Hoboken High School contain a carcinogenic material. The Jersey Journal learned today.

Mayo, Lynch and Associates, an engineering firm asked by the board to report on the asbestos level in tiles used at the schools, told the board in February that tiles in the boilerrooms contained as much as 50 per cent asbestos, and that the ceilings in the corridors of the high school contained 15 per cent asbestos.

The firm's recommendation was that "as a minimum, the tiles should be sealed," but that the best recourse was to replace them.

Robert H. Taylor, attorney for the school board, said yesterday his understanding of the report was that

it concerned only the boilerrooms, and that the board did not consider it a "major problem."

"It was felt at the time that it didn't necessitate any action because the tiles were used in an area not normally used by the children," said Taylor.

Joseph Lynch of Mayo Lynch said yesterday that there is "no question" that the particles of asbestos could be breathed by the children if the tiles aren't covered.

"The particles are light and small, and float easily in the air," said Lynch.

The final findings by Mayor Lynch and the Jersey Testing Laboratories in Newark, which tested the materials, showed 15 per cent

asbestos in the tiles of the boilerroom at Wallace School, 50 per cent in the boilerroom and some store rooms in the high school, one per cent in the high school gym and 15 per cent in the high school corridors' ceilings.

Board President Mary Gaspar, when contacted by The Jersey Journal yesterday, could not recall what action the board had taken and referred the question to Taylor. She said as far as she could recall, it wasn't in an area where it would affect children.

Anthony Romano, school business manager, and Thomas McFeely, superintendent of schools, were unavailable for comment yesterday.

Lynch said the cost of replacing the tiles would be about \$100,000 for the high school and \$30,000 for Wallace School. He added the sealing of them—which would require removing them and coating them with a sealant—would also be costly.

The Board of Education has been suffering from acute shortage of funds this year.

Hoboken chief to apologize to Council

A letter will be going to the Hoboken Council from Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato apologizing for

his actions at Wednesday night's council meeting, it was learned today. Amato became in-

involved in a yelling match with several of the councilmen and had to be restrained by two persons during the meeting.

"I have a bad temper and I lost my cool," he asserted. "It doesn't matter what it was about or what caused it, I was wrong. I could have just as easily said what I had to say coolly and calmly without getting emotional."

Amato said he is sending the letter to Council President Martin J. Brennan, apologizing for the outburst and pledging his continued cooperation for the future.

The incident that started the shouting matches involved Mayor Steve Cappiello and several of the councilmen. The mayor was under verbal attack for a statement he made several days ago concerning the relationship between the council and city directors.

The mayor had said the council has no authority to order the directors to do anything. The councilmen may ask or request something of a director, he said, but not order it. Only the mayor may give a director an order and take action against him for not following it.

Cappiello made the statement after learning from Amato that three councilmen — Anthony H. Romano, Louis Francione and Nunzio Malfetti — had been "pushing" the director to be lenient with the city worker who had been suspended.

Malfetti denied that he had been pressuring the director to let-up but did admit that he met with Amato in the man's behalf. "Our conversations were gentlemanly," he said. "And I did ask, not demand, the director to give the guy a break."

Ranieri wants to meet Smith on water rates

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri is seeking a meeting with Jersey City Mayor Thomas F. X. Smith to discuss a possible 100 per cent increase in the cost of the water Hoboken buys from Jersey City.

The price is now \$420 per million gallons with the annual cost well over \$1 million.

Ranieri, claiming that the rate the city is now paying is a "false rate," said that he has asked Mayor Smith for a meeting Thursday or Fri-

day to discuss the matter and possible alternatives.

"I have studied this matter for some time and my conclusion is that Jersey City is not going to be able to pay its water obligations from what it is getting in water revenues," said Ranieri. "Jersey City has some large obligation resulting from the state-mandated construction of a new filtering plant in Boonton."

"I doubt very much if the revenues it has taken in will meet the obligations for this year, so a rate in-

Hoboken's city payroll may be by computer

The Hoboken city payroll may be computerized by next Jan. 1, according to Edwin Chius, city business administrator.

Chius said he is studying costs and options regarding whether to buy a computer or hire a bank or data processing firm to handle the work. He said yesterday that so far, the best idea seems to be to buy a small computer that can be built up if needed so that other city functions may be performed with it, such as tax billing.

Chius' remarks came after the release of recommendations by the auditor who conducted the city's audit for last year, one of which was that the payroll accounts be reconciled and analyzed on a current basis.

Chius said the payroll account hadn't been reconciled "in years." He

said a more modern system is needed, and he is trying to get the computerized system for the city.

Mayor Steve Cappiello agreed that something needs to be done, and said he is also looking into establishment of a separate personnel department for all city employees.

Chius said the cost of switching to a computerized system would not amount to much on a long-range basis, especially if the city buys a computer.

The cost of the machine could be offset by savings in personnel, where only two people would be needed compared to the seven now used-five on the city payroll and two on CETA.

The audit, which was conducted by the firm of Pistilli and Italiano of Jersey City, also contained several other recommendations, including:

- That all funds be deposited within 48 hours of receipt. Chius said this stemmed from the practice of holding deposits until the end of the week, and holding funds to make change for bills such as permits, ARC licenses and other small receipts. He said a change fund may be made to allow deposits to be made immediately.

- That the Water Department ordinance passed in 1933 be updated or at least enforced strictly. The point in question regards deposits from consumers, a practice which is no longer followed. There are only three water deposits on the books, all outdated and one from American Lead Pencil Co., which closed in the early Sixties, according to Chius.

- That a legal opinion be obtained regarding the city's involvement and responsibility in the Cemetery Fund for Hoboken Cemetery, North Bergen. The cemetery was established as a quasi-independent agency of the city in the city charter of 1853, according to its president of the board of trustees, Harry K. Barr.

Amendments to the city charter, which are passed by the state legislature, set up the board of trustees for the cemetery, and established a fund to operate it, from which the city is not allowed to use the money for any other purpose.

The cemetery fund is still in existence, with bills paid from the fund and signed by the mayor. He also signs deeds to the plots sold by the cemetery.

Barr says the cemetery is a non-profit institution, and that it is, in essence, owned by the city. Matthew Cannarozzi, assistant comptroller for the city, says the cemetery, which was originally located in Hoboken, costs the city nothing and brings in no revenue.

Any surplus money goes into a trust fund at Trust Company of New Jersey for future custodial care of the almost-filled cemetery, says Barr.

The accountants from Pistilli and Italiano could not be reached for comment, but Chius and Barr said yesterday that no wrong-doing is suspected, and that the auditors probably wanted only to affirm the legality of the city's operation of the fund for the cemetery.

Cappiello said he will meet with all his directors to discuss the recommendations made by the auditors, and that he will pursue action on each of the points.

The teachers

Many of the state's public school teachers want their students to get more difficult standardized basic skills tests than are now being planned.

That was the surprising result of a recent state survey. The head of the nine committees working on the tests says that the teacher recommendation shows "there are many teachers out there who are eager to do a better job than is being done."

The teacher reaction shows that the teachers have confidence in their students and, in the face of disappointing scores in many parts of the state, that is a reaction that might not be expected.

The teacher recommendation also shows the teachers have confidence in themselves, and that is surprising in view of the almost unanimous opposition to the suggestion that teacher performance should be graded as well as pupil performance.

If the teachers are anxious to set higher standards for their students, they are, of course, setting higher standards for themselves. The school system has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Nickels and dimes

Hoboken's city administration is tired of being at the mercy of the garbage collection companies which seem to divide up the territory between themselves so that only one of them bids on any one city contract.

In the past, as each three-year contract expired, Hoboken grumbled, but it had to take the lone bidder at whatever price he offered because the city did not have the facilities to collect the garbage itself.

However, for the last two years Hoboken has been setting aside \$50,000 a year to buy compactor trucks and Mayor Cappiello proposes to continue this in the next two budgets.

That would give the city a \$200,000 start toward competing with the contractor when the current contract expires at the end of 1978.

A great idea. May the city continue putting aside this money, even if something else has to be sacrificed.

Police get Hoboken promise, OK pact ⁹⁹ 11/17/76

The major stumbling block in the Hoboken police contract dispute — the table of organization — is out of the way and the official signing of the contract is expected shortly.

The Hoboken Police Benevolent Association last night overwhelmingly agreed to let the city withdraw the

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table from the new contract thus giving the city the right to determine how many men will work in each rank classification.

In return the PBA got a promise from the city that no changes in the present manpower schedule would be made in the foreseeable future and that there would be no "political reprisals".

The vote, taken in a firehouse at 416 Grand St., will put an end to the ticket blitz the police have been conducting since the weekend as part of

an undeclared job action, a PBA spokesman said.

Other details of the contract were not released since it must still be prepared in final form and voted on by the PBA membership.

However, PBA president James Behrens said he anticipated no trouble in getting his membership to approve the three-year package which is retroactive for all of this year.

"We feel confident the administration will stick to its promise so our men will not be hindered in their chances for advancement," said Behrens.

City councilman Robert Ranieri, who had been handling the negotiations, praised the PBA action when he learned of it in Atlantic City where he is representing the vacationing Mayor Steve Cappelletto at the state League of Municipalities Convention.

"This brings peace to the city of Hoboken," said Ranieri. "It was a hard-fought competition but we are satisfied and happy and are looking forward to a peaceful accord for the next two years."

Public works figures top Hoboken budget list ⁹⁹ 11/10/76

Hoboken's department heads have submitted their proposed 1977 operating budgets to Mayor Steve Cappelletto — all reflect some increases — but the highest figures are from the Public Works Department, which estimates it will need almost \$10 million to keep going.

The budget requests were presented to the mayor yesterday morning in accordance with state law, which requires them to be turned over on Nov. 9.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale gave the following breakdown of his needs: \$2.5 million for public works; \$4 million for the water department; \$2.2 million for the

sewage treatment plant, and \$1 million for health and welfare.

"I've included everything that will be needed to operate these agencies next year, plus money for unexpected situations that always seem to come up and are now treated as emergencies," he said.

"The big jumps are in the water and sewerage. The water figures include more than \$1.5 million we owe Jersey City and most of the rest will be to purchase water for 1977 under the new rate. The sewerage figure reflects anticipated repairs we will have to make."

The other city departments are fairly consistent with last year's figures, although most reflected small increases.

Cappelletto declined to pinpoint any exact figures. The mayor said that they were only proposed and would be trimmed considerably.

"Under the new state law, we are allowed only a 5 per cent budget increase over last year," said the mayor. "There are a few exceptions to this but the city will do everything possible to stay within that 5 per cent range."

Cappelletto said that last year's budget was approximately \$14.9 million.

Projects may lose security if Hoboken can't pay benefits ⁹⁹ 11/21/76

The days of Hoboken's Auxiliary Police as the main night security force in the Housing Authority's projects may be numbered as the result of a legal technicality, it was learned today.

The auxiliary or Civil Defense police have been patrolling the authority's grounds in the southwest section of the city for more than two years, paid at the rate of \$3 an hour by the authority. However, if the authority continues to make the payments it must also assume other financial responsibilities such as

health insurance, pension and legal responsibility if suit should happen to be brought against any of the auxiliary cops for actions taken while on duty.

According to Andrew Scherer, chairman of the authority, that is the legal opinion it and the city have gotten from higher authorities including the state attorney general's office.

"We are 100 per cent satisfied with the job the auxiliary police have done," said Scherer. "That isn't the problem. It's money. The authority can't afford to pay for the added cost which the state says we must assume if the auxiliary police continue to be in the employ of the authority."

The situation would be less complex if the city would assume the payments for the auxiliary police. But city officials have already rejected that, it is reported.

Scherer said that the last remaining course open to the authority is to apply to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (HUD) for additional funds for security and then go out to bid for security service.

"We have had paid security forces in the authority's complex in the past and it didn't work out to the satisfaction of the tenants or the authority," continued Scherer. "One of the advantages of using the auxiliary police is that many of them are residents of the projects and care about what is going on. The guards from some security firm usually don't have the dedication. For them it's just a job."

Charles Smith, Hoboken Civil Defense director and head of the auxiliary police, said his men will remain on the job until the matter is resolved.

Cappelletto impressed by spirit of Israelis ⁹⁹ 11/24/76

The spirit and determination of the Israeli people are what Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto says most deeply impressed him during his 10-day visit to the beleaguered Mideast nation.

"I was amazed by many of the things I saw, particularly the tremendous spirit of the people and their desire to finally achieve peace, even if it means fighting for it now," Cappelletto said.

Cappelletto returned Tuesday night after he and 15 other United States mayors, at the invitation of the Israeli government, toured the country by bus, meeting with President Ephraim

Katzir, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other officials.

The Americans' itinerary took them to Tel Aviv, Haifa, the Lebanese border and the Golan Heights, and Jerusalem, where they met with Mayor Teddy Gollak, Cappelletto said.

He said that in their meetings with the American guests, the Israeli officials all stressed a two-fold message: "Israel wants to make available a home to Jews anywhere in the world land that the nation is willing to fight to defend itself."

Cappelletto said that in an immigration "absorption center" in Tel Aviv, he met Russian immigrants as well as a man from New Jersey who had owned three factories but "just picked up with his family and left" to settle in Israel.

In the area of urban affairs, Cappelletto said he was impressed by planning in smaller cities, where facilities are being built now to accommodate larger populations projected for the year 2000.

Cappelletto said homes are built only on land not suitable for farming, such as hillsides, because every bit of soil that can be farmed is under cultivation. Fish, he said, are raised in large artificial ponds, constructed in groups of 50 or more.

"They're a very productive people," he said.

Cappelletto, who is also Hoboken's public safety director, said he was struck by the absence of fire alarms and fire hydrants in Israeli cities. He was even more intrigued when Jerusalem Mayor Gollak said the city of 400,000 had only 57 firemen.

Gollak explained that buildings are constructed of stone and concrete and that the city's fire department puts great emphasis on code enforcement and inspections so that buildings are "built not to burn," Cappelletto said.

Asked if there were any lessons in the Israel trip that could be applied to Hoboken, Cappelletto said: "I would hope we could generate here the spirit I saw in Israel so we can do what's in the best interests of our community."