

Water use OK... with caution



Photo by Bill Bayer
WILLIAM OSWALD POURS fresh water from a hydrant into buckets for residents who crowded outside St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken yesterday.

By ROY KAHN
Staff Writer

A day-old warning against drinking tap water in Jersey City, Hoboken and Lyndhurst, was lifted by state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials yesterday. Officials reported much of the oil which seeped into an aqueduct serving the communities had been flushed out, but cautioned residents to use their senses before drinking.

"People can use the water if they feel it is safe," said William Laffey, DEP Bureau of Potable Water supervisor. "It was people calling us that originally alerted us to the spill. No doubt they can still use their physical senses to tell if it (the oil) is still there."

In West Caldwell, the fourth community affected by the spill, residents' senses were spinning with the smell of diesel fuel as the municipality of 13,000 people reported continuing high concentrations of the pollutant.

As the first user on the line which stretches from the Boonton Reservoir to Jersey City, the tiny West Caldwell community is believed to have been hit by the brunt of the estimated 50 to 250 gallons of No. 2 oil which contaminated the aqueduct.

West Caldwell Water Department Superintendent Nicholas Holota said the ban on drinking was still in effect as plans were worked out to clear the tainted water lines.

Laffey explained that part of the West Caldwell problem resulted from its location, which is above the point where Newark Water and Passaic Valley Water Co. aqueducts intersect the Jersey City Water Co. line.

Water from Newark and Passaic was used to flush the lines in Lyndhurst, Jersey City and Hoboken, but it never reached West Caldwell.

Meanwhile, investigations into the spill's cause have centered on mechanical failure in an emergency generator fuel supply system.

According to Eric Nemeth, chief chemist at the Parsippany facility, the leak was believed to have been discovered Sunday night, shortly after a routine test was performed on the generator.

Nemeth said it was "likely" the oil spilled from a conduit between the fuel tank and the machinery, through a drain and into the ground. He did not rule out the possibility that the problem may have been compounded by leaks in one or both of the 20,000 storage tanks which fuel the generator.

Tests on the tanks, which were drained completely yesterday, are expected to be performed today.

But questions regarding the spill go beyond where it started to how the oil made its way into a supposedly sealed pipeline.

The 72-inch pipe located about 30 feet from the fuel tanks is encased in a concrete vault.

Workers Monday night said the oil had seeped through the vault walls.

"I don't know anything about that," Laffey said. "But I can't imagine concrete walls so porous that oil seeps through."

Yesterday evening, however, workers reportedly discovered a faulty seal between two of the vault walls, which would have allowed the oil to seep into the chamber.

Cappiello will ask Bartletta about return

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he will try to contact Frank Bartletta, Hoboken revenue and finance director, in the next few weeks to find out if he plans to return to his job.

Bartletta doesn't, Cappiello said. He will look into a replacement for Bartletta who has been out of work since December 5 because of ill health. A few months ago he had an operation to improve the circulation in his legs and he reportedly has had problems walking even after the operation.

The elderly Bartletta had been drawing his paycheck while out since he never took a sick day until last December in his 14 years with the city. Bartletta has also never taken a vacation day and could stay out until December and continue to receive his pay.

Cappiello said he wants to find out exactly what the situation with Bartletta is, to determine if he should name a replacement.

While Cappiello has refused to say if he has anyone in mind for Bartletta's job, informed sources say that Hoboken Councilman Bernard Scrivani is currently the mayor's choice.

The Jersey Journal has tried to reach Bartletta but no one answered the phone or the door of his house on Hudson Street despite numerous attempts to contact him.

His wife had told The Journal three months ago that her husband would be back at work in three weeks. She also has been unavailable for comment.

U.S. aid sought to enhance business area

By RICHARD GOLDENSOHN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The city plans to seek a federal grant of \$200,000 to \$500,000 to renovate a First Street business area by repairing stores, streets and sidewalks, and adding trees and shrubberies, a local official said yesterday.

Fred Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA), said the grant, which would be sought from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), would be used for the four-block stretch of First Street from Washington Street to Willow Avenue. There are about 30 businesses in the area.

The Hoboken CDA, Bado said, is collecting data for the grant application, which is expected to be filed with HUD in July. It will take several months for federal action on the application, he said.

Bado said a recent survey of area merchants showed they favored the plan and would be willing to make improvements with the help of federal subsidies.

He said CDA members will meet with local bank officials early next week to assess their willingness to participate in the program by making loans to local merchants.

Bado said that the program will be similar to city's SHOP program which has helped individual city businesses in the past. But the new program would have the advantage of being "targeted in one area," he said.

Although the plans are not yet complete, area housing might also qualify for rehabilitation funds.



Photo by Bill Bayer
BOYS LEAN AGAINST a wall bordering a vacant lot at First Street and Park Avenue in Hoboken yesterday, a business area the city wants to rehabilitate.

Presses fight for can deposits

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he's going to try one more time and will launch a statewide campaign to get the state legislature to pass a bill barring throwaway soda and beer bottles and cans.

His previous try at convincing the legislature of the value of such legislation a year and a half ago ended in defeat for the mayor when the bill wasn't even introduced after intense lobbying from the soft-drink and glass industry.

But, the mayor said he has an idea which should satisfy both industries. Cappiello said he would like New Jersey to follow Connecticut's lead and introduce a bill that does

allow soda cans and beer cans and bottles that are throwaway but still requires a deposit on them.

That way, the mayor said, the glass and soft drink industries will be able to produce as many of their products as before.

And the public, he said, won't litter because they can bring their cans and bottles back to the store for a refund.

Beer and soda bottles and soda cans lying on Hoboken's streets are one of the city's biggest problems, he said.

"For graduation at the high school stadium we had to clear away over 1,500 bottles and cans," he said.

"The stadium was a mess."

Besides being unsightly, the mayor said, the beer and soda bottles and cans often get into city drains and clog up the sewer system.

Sewer collapse new problem

While repairs have been completed to the ruptured water main on Fifth Street in Hoboken, city officials have discovered they have a new problem — the sewer line there is also broken.

That discovery was made Thursday night after workers had completed repairs to the water main.

Roy Haack, sewage plant superintendent, said repairs to the sewer line, between Garden Street and Park Avenue, may take a few

days to complete.

Haack blamed the sewage pipe collapse on the same reason the water line collapsed — erratic water pressure from Jersey City, from which Hoboken buys its water.

He said when Jersey City flushed out its water Monday night to get rid of the oil that had leaked into the system, it shut off all water for 12 minutes. Then, he said, water was turned back on and it flowed through to Hoboken at 80 pounds pressure.

Normal flow is 60 pounds pressure. This, Haack said, caused a vacuum effect which caused the pipes to collapse.

Four other water pipes have collapsed in Hoboken besides the one on Fifth Street, since Monday.

Jersey City Business Administrator Joseph Giorgio said

yesterday that Jersey City was not responsible for the collapse of Hoboken's mains. He said they collapsed because they were in poor condition.

But Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he stands by Haack's statement that the erratic water pressure generated by Jersey City caused the collapse.

Cappiello said he plans to talk to Jersey City officials in the next few days about paying for damages the damage incurred in Hoboken.

'Not our fault' mains broke, Jersey City tells Hoboken

Jersey City officials today said they can't be blamed for collapsed water mains in Hoboken.

"We're not responsible for the condition of their water mains," said Jersey City Business Administrator Joseph Giorgio. "They should make certain their mains are in good condition. If they were, they wouldn't have those problems."

Five mains in Hoboken collapsed on Tuesday, and officials of that city blamed it on erratic water pressure caused by the measures taken by Jersey City to clean up its oil-tainted

water supply.

Hoboken buys its water from Jersey City.

The higher water pressure resulted from flushing of the Jersey City mains, according to Hoboken officials.

Giorgio noted that Jersey City's water mains, which are as old as Hoboken's, suffered no breaks at all during this week's crisis. He said that is because Jersey City has an ongoing capital improvements program to repair and maintain water and sewer lines.

Meanwhile, Jersey City health officials reported that tests show the drinking water is as free of hazardous materials as it was before Monday, when an undetermined amount of oil from an emergency generator leaked into the Boonton Reservoir.

Still, some areas continue to experience traces of an oily taste and odor in their drinking water, and that might linger several more days, they said. However, they re-emphasized the water is safe for drinking and washing.

Cappiello says councilmen met on government change

By Randolph Diamond

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello charged today that opposition Councilmen Nunzio Malfetti and E. Norman Wilson Jr. had a "political meeting" yesterday morning in Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato's office to discuss changing Hoboken's government to a commission form.

"I have nothing against them meeting," said the mayor, "but they should not meet on city time. Let them meet after working hours."

The two councilmen, however, and Amato all denied Cappiello's statement as did Wilson's aide George Guzman, who was also said to be present in Amato's office.

Wilson said he and Guzman were meeting with Amato to discuss some sewage problems in Hoboken when

Malfetti came into the office and happened to ask him, just as a point of information, if commissioners in a commission form of government were paid.

Right then, Wilson said, Cappiello walked into the office and overheard Malfetti's question.

"He started accusing everyone of having a political meeting," said Malfetti. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

"It's a complete lie," said Amato.

Malfetti has been circulating petitions throughout Hoboken calling for a change in Hoboken's present mayor council form of government to a commission form. Cappiello said he went into Amato's office looking for Wilson because he wanted to get some information on some of the programs be-

ing offered by HOPES from the councilman. Wilson is head of HOPES, a Hoboken agency that offers programs for senior citizens, pre-schoolers and low- and moderate-income residents of Hoboken.

Meanwhile, Cappiello and Malfetti had a separate falling out in the mayor's office.

Cappiello said Malfetti just walked into his office without permission and he told the councilman that he can't just walk into his office.

But Malfetti said he and Cappiello were having a vocal argument outside Cappiello's office when Cappiello walked away and went into his office.

Malfetti refused to say what the argument was about. When asked he replied "sour grapes."

50 students to clean Hoboken yet again

The Hoboken Community Development Agency will have 50 high school students working for it this summer doing what other students did the summer before and what other students did the summer before that.

They will be cleaning up the same 60 or so vacant lots that have been cleaned up the last two years in a row and were littered again right after they were cleaned.

Despite the fact that the areas usually remain clean for only a few days after they are cleaned up, Hoboken Community Development Director Fred Bado said he feels the program is important.

"We can't just give up," he said. "The lots would be even more lit-

tered." Bado also said the city wouldn't have to pay the salaries of the youths clearing the lots since they are being provided by the CETA program.

The CDA director also said he believes the high school youths get good experience in holding down a job by cleaning the lots.

Bado also said there are exceptions on lots being dirtied again after they are cleaned. Community interest was so high after one lot was created at Third and Madison streets, that the CDA decided to create a lot on that space.

Bado said a similar project could be done this year since the CDA still has around \$10,000 left to create mini-parks in the city.

Amato reinstates son, aide

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato has reinstated his son, Andrew Amato Jr., and a public works garage foreman Anthony O'Cello to the public works department payroll, despite the fact they are still awaiting trial for allegedly participating in a scheme in which public works department equipment and supplies were stolen and sold to a

local hardware store. Amato defended the move saying trial for his son and O'Cello would be months off and it would be unfair to deprive the men of income when they had not been proven guilty of anything.

The public works director said he made the decision in consultation with the Hoboken assistant city

lawyer Thomas Calligay. Both Amato Jr. and O'Cello were suspended from the public works department on April 24. They had been arrested by detectives from the Hoboken police department on April 18 with another public works department worker and an owner of the city paint and hardware store after a lengthy investigation by the police.

Tickets down as police take over meters

Since the Hoboken Police Department took over enforcement of the city's parking meters from the Hoboken Parking Authority two months ago, the number of tickets given out has dropped approximately 35 percent.

Hoboken parking authority figures show the city's meter maids, or parking violations officers as they were officially known, were giving out on the average 4,000 tickets a month from January 1979 to March 1980.

But police department figures show that when the police department took over enforcement of the meters in April, the number of tickets given out in that month dropped to 2,308.

In May the number of tickets given out by the police department went up to 3,021 but still far below the number of tickets being given out by the meter maids.

The fine for each parking ticket is worth \$2 and the potential revenue if all tickets were paid was \$8,000 a month when 4,000 tickets were being given out.

A check with city officials concluded that Hoboken could lose up to \$20,000 in revenue in the coming year due to the decline in tickets for over-time parking at meters.

George Crimmins Sr., Hoboken police chief, said he feels the police are doing an excellent job despite the decline in tickets being given out because they have so many other things to do.

The parking authority had four meter maids assigned to give out tickets at meters but Joseph Hottendorf, Parking Authority executive director, terminated the meter maids when the city refused to design them as special police officers.

Hottendorf had said there was a question as to whether the tickets were legal because the meter maids might not have had the authority to give out the tickets. He asked the law department to introduce a resolution making the meter maids special police officers but the law department officials refused saying they didn't think it was legal to make the meter maids special police officers.

Hottendorf subsequently terminated his meter maids, who were on the CETA program, and they were reassigned.

Oil flushed from Jersey City, Hoboken pipes

Water fit to drink—if not to taste

By Peter R. Weiss

It's okay to drink the water in Jersey City and Hoboken today, although there may still be traces of an oily taste and odor.

Despite that, the water is safe for drinking and washing, said officials who kept an all-night vigil monitoring the effects of generator oil leaking into Jersey City's main water supply at the Boonton Reservoir in Parsippany-Troy Hills.

Early yesterday, the city shut off the supply of water coming from the reservoir and used water purchased from Newark and from the Passaic Valley Water Company. City Engineer William Goble said he hoped to resume using water from Boonton later today.

The lines from Boonton to Jersey City have been flushed continuously since yesterday morning.

Jersey City also supplies water to Hoboken, West Caldwell and

Lyndhurst, as well as to a few large corporate customers in other municipalities.

City officials are examining an emergency generator at the Boonton Reservoir and two oil tanks which service it, believed to be the sources of the leak.

About 30,000 gallons of fuel oil were pumped out of the tanks to trace the exact location of the leak.

It was reported that the leak was actually detected late Sunday night,

but officials in Jersey City itself were not notified until yesterday morning. Mayor Thomas F. X. Smith has ordered Business Administrator Joseph Giorgio to investigate the alleged delay.

Smith said the oil seeped through the ground, which filtered it somewhat, but still found its way into an aqueduct chamber beyond the area where the water is treated for impurities. Goble said that if the oil had leaked in prior to the point where

water is treated, there would have been no problem.

Goble said the leak may have come from a filter in the generator itself, but that the tanks were pumped out to make sure. In any event, he said a thick layer of concrete will be placed under the tanks to insure that this type of accident cannot recur. Officials first estimated that only about 15 gallons of fuel oil had leaked

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into the water, but later admitted it was a much greater amount.

Although water was ordered from other sources early in the day, the tainted water had already reached mains in Jersey City, and residents all day and night reported bad odors and taste.

The downtown area and parts of Greenville were not affected, officials said, because those areas are served by a secondary reservoir in Jersey City which was full yesterday, and therefore did not need any water from Boonton.

One of the problems with determining whether the water was safe, officials discovered, is that there are no established standards for measuring levels of oil contamination in drinking water.

"The water might have been safe all day long, for all we knew," com-

mented assistant Business Administrator Robert Hackel.

Jersey City officials yesterday contacted federal, state and New York City health and environmental agencies in an unsuccessful attempt to find out how much oil makes drinking water unsafe.

Taking no chances, Jersey City and Hoboken residents were informed by police cars that they should not drink the water, even though the state Department of Environmental Protection and Jersey City health officials said they did not think there was a real health hazard.

Health Officer Walter Lezyinski said no illnesses were reported in Jersey City as a result of the water problem.

Many residents relied on bottled water or other canned and bottled beverages. As a result, many stores were sold out of those items by evening.

The spokesman said there have been minor injuries inflicted on officers who get into scuffles when patrolling alone.

Though train crews are in the yards at night, the lighting is poor and some yards cover approximately two miles of land, noted Summerville.

There are about six major Hudson County yards covered by Conrail employees at night. They include the Greenville Yards, Harsimur Cove at Monmouth and Henderson streets in Jersey City, Weehawken River Yard and Coal Yard in the Greenville section.

Several hospitals and other institutions also relied on supplies of bottled water yesterday.

Jersey City Purchasing Agent Joseph Daley contacted several supermarket chains, which promised to make special deliveries of bottled water today.

To insure a supply of available drinking water to Hoboken residents, Mayor Steve Cappiello ordered a number of emergency steps taken.

A temporary water line was hooked up at the Weehawken border, bringing in potable water from the Hackensack Water Company which obtains its supply from Oradell and Rockland County, New York.

In addition, the mayor arranged with the Port Authority to bring drinking water to residents of the housing projects at Fourth and Jackson Streets. There tenants lined up to get water for drinking and cooking.

Cappiello also ordered the city's own water truck into service, picking up supplies of drinking water for St. Mary Hospital.

Jersey City officials took samples of water from various locations through the night for testing at the Public Service Electric & Gas laboratory in Maplewood. They also made periodic telephone checks with residents throughout the city, to see if the water still tasted and smelled of oil.

Because of the lack of standards to measure the effect of oil on drinking water, Jersey City's tests yesterday were sort of a "pioneering" effort, said Goble. The idea was

to measure the amount of oil in samples of water which were known to taste or smell bad to see if a pattern could be established.

But, said Goble, "the best test is still the nose and the tongue."

Smith and several department directors and aides spent the entire day dealing with the situation. In the early evening, Smith and Fire Director Raymond Maloney went to Boonton Reservoir for a first-hand look, while others maintained a vigil at City Hall.

Bayonne Mayor Dennis P. Collins helped Jersey City residents by keeping fire hydrants open in the city's up-town districts.

"Right after I learned of Jersey City's problem, I called Mayor Smith and offered Bayonne's help, Collins said. "I informed him that we would leave our fire hydrants open so that people could come in and take whatever amount of water they would need."

Bayonne gets its water supply from the Wanauke Reservoir, which is operated by the New Jersey District Water Commission.

Rep. Frank Guarni of Jersey City called the incident "regrettable . . . (but) ironically timely" because the House Ways and Means Committee today is slated to vote on the Hazardous Waste Containment Act, which is aimed at the removal of toxic and other waste materials from the environment, especially water systems.

Hearings on the measure were held last week at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and Guarni said he will give priority to getting the bill approved.

Again?

There is a saying something to the effect that those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

Well, Hoboken is apparently determined to illustrate the proof of that.

For two consecutive years, the Community Development Agency has hired 50 high school students for the summer and has put them to work cleaning up 60 or so vacant lots.

The youngsters did a good job. Each year, they cleaned the lots beautifully.

And each year the litterers and the vandals went to work and the lots were soon a mess again. They are a mess now.

And the CDA is getting ready to hire 50 more high school students and put them to work for another summer.

Why not try to break the pattern? Why not concentrate on ten lots for cleaning? Why not take some of that \$10,000 still left in the mini-park funds and use it to dress up some of those 10 lots as mini-parks?

If they get strewn with litter again, then leave them that way and clean up other lots next year. Those that stay clean could get the mini-park treatment. Those that the neighbors fail to respect could be left as neighborhood reproaches.

Malfetti, Cappiello trade

salvos over use of pier

Hoboken Councilman Nunzio Malfetti today blasted Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello for allowing a private individual's two ships to tie up at the city's Sixth Street pier without asking City Council approval.

"He has no right to do that," said Malfetti. "The council should be informed of such decisions."

The mayor had said at the City Council meeting last week, after Malfetti questioned him on it, that the two ships were surplus minesweepers that a private individual was going to turn into scrap.

Cappiello said the city would receive \$750 a month in rent for the pier while the ships are scrapped.

Cappiello said today he did not need the council's approval, since he is only renting the pier on a month-to-month basis and not signing a lease.

But Malfetti said any matter concerning Hoboken's waterfront should be brought to the city council.

The ships have been tied up at the pier for more than two weeks.

"I have never heard of that," said Malfetti. "Paying rent afterwards, not before."

Cappiello, however, said he has not collected any rent because he wants the individual who will rent out the pier to first get insurance, which he was yet to do. Cappiello said the owner has not done any work on the ships and will not do any until he obtains insurance.

Who is that individual? Cappiello said he doesn't remember his name but said Public

Hottendorf would shut city garage

The executive director of Hoboken's Parking Authority, Joseph Hottendorf, said today he will recommend that the city's parking garage — on Hudson Street between Second and Third street — be closed down unless something is done to prevent a make-shift ballfield next to the garage from interfering with the garage's operation.

Hottendorf said he would make that recommendation to the Parking Authority Board, which controls the garage.

Hottendorf said children using the field have been throwing rocks at the garage and there has been one case where a car's windshield was smashed. He said he is currently investigating two other cases where windows may have been smashed.

In addition, Hottendorf said he has had to have his garage attendants wash every car in the D garage three times in the last few weeks because of the dust from the ballfield.

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri had complained yesterday about the problem saying that the topsoil on the makeshift field was blowing away and ending up in the garage and on the terraces of apartment residents in Grogan Marineview Plaza, the apartment complex next to the field.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he expects staff from the Community Development Agency to start spraying a chemical down in the next few days to prevent the topsoil from flying around.

Cappiello also said he will meet with Public Safety Director James Giordano to inform him to provide more police protection for the field to prevent rock-throwing.

Hottendorf said the D garage, one of the city's three garages, took in \$100,000 in revenue last year.

Water surge breaks Hoboken mains

By Peter Weiss and Randolph Diamond

Erratic water pressure from Jersey City since Monday night when oil was discovered in the mains coming from the Boonton Reservoir, has caused five Hoboken water mains to cave in, Roy Haack, Hoboken sewerage plant superintendent, said today.

Anthony Venutolo, Jersey City's Public Works Director, said he was not fully aware of the fact concerning Haack's charges but declared he would launch an investigation. Hoboken purchases its water from Jersey City.

At Jersey City's main reservoir at Boonton, meanwhile, officials were still digging and pumping oil out of the drenched soil.

It is no longer leaking into the water, they added, and the reservoir is again being used to supply the city and its other customers.

Since Monday, most of Jersey City's water was being supplied by the Passaic Valley Water Commission. Yesterday afternoon, water from Boonton began replacing it, and by today the city was getting about 40 million gallons from its own reservoir and 20 million from Newark.

An oily taste and odor may linger temporarily but there is no health hazard in drinking the water, city of-

officials emphasized. However, Jersey City officials denied a contention by Hoboken officials that there is excessive oil in the water.

In Hoboken, the most serious break occurred yesterday morning at

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Fifth Street, near Garden. A section of the street 18 by 30 feet caved in, dropping seven feet. The break affected water service to a number of families but Haack reported that repairs had been completed about 6:30 p.m. and service was restored.

Five houses in the area were flooded with 3 to 5 feet of water in their basements, ruining boilers and basement possessions. A car that had been parked on the site fell into the excavation. The car was towed out of the pit and officials said the owner was able to drive it away.

Three other breaks occurred at Fourth Street and Willow Avenue where a small portion of the street collapsed. The fifth was at Observer Highway and Jackson Street.

The superintendent said when Jersey City flushed out its water

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Hoboken Water Department crews begin repair work of Fifth and Garden streets on one of the five water main breaks in the city. An official blames the break on the erratic flow of water from Jersey City since Monday.

2 indicted employes back on Hoboken city payroll

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato says he will keep his son, Andrew Amato Jr., and foreman Anthony O'Cello Jr. on the public works department payroll, despite the indictment of the two men yesterday by a Hudson County grand jury. They are charged with stealing city roofing supplies.

The public works director had put his son and O'Cello back on the payroll on Monday, saying a trial could take months and that it would be unfair to deprive the men of income when they had not been proven guilty.

Amato said today he stands by that statement even with the grand jury indictment.

The two men were arrested April 18 after police said they stole \$200 in roofing supplies from the public works garage and sold it to the City. Paint and Hardware Store on Washington Street in Hoboken. Amato suspended them on April 24th.

Edwin Chius, Hoboken's business administrator, however, said he is not sure the men should be on the payroll and says he wants to talk over the matter with Amato.

Fire levels Conrail warehouses

65 firefighters in 3-alarm battle



Firemen hose down warehouses in the Conrail train yards in Hoboken yesterday.

Staff Writer
HOBOKEN—Sixty-five firefighters from Hoboken and Jersey City battled for 3½ hours yesterday to extinguish a fire that destroyed two freight warehouses in the Conrail train yard here.

Several firefighters suffered minor cases of smoke inhalation, Hoboken Deputy Fire Chief Edward Fitzsimmons said. Other firefighters were treated at St. Mary Hospital for eye irritation from fumes curling out of about 200 70-pound bags of titanium stored in the Railway Trucking Inc. warehouse at 217 Observer Highway. Titanium is a chemical used in lead-based paint.

The Railway warehouse and the Oliver and Son Inc. food warehouse at 333 Observer Highway were destroyed by the blaze, officials said.

Heat from the fire drove firefighters back when they first tried to enter the burning warehouses. "It was going like hell when we got there at 1:30 p.m.," Fitzsimmons said.

The blaze reached its peak at about 2:30 p.m., when there was an explosion

inside one of the burning structures. Warehouse workers told firefighters that propane gas was stored inside.

Flames breaking through the roofs darted 30 feet into the air, eyewitnesses said, and puffs of thick, black smoke fouled the air. The cause of the blaze is undetermined, but fire officials suspect vandals set the fire.

Deputy Fire Chief Edward McDonald said the blaze started in a railroad platform adjacent to the south side of the warehouses. He said a similar fire damaged the same building about three years ago.

McDonald said the buildings are owned by Conrail and leased to the warehouse concerns.

Fitzsimmons said four engine companies and two truck companies from the Hoboken department were supported by five companies from Jersey City.

As firefighters left the scene at about 5 p.m., a heavy smoke continued to fill the air, as did the strong odor of charred materials.

Officials suspect arson

2nd fire strikes Conrail yards



Gutted remains of yesterday's fire at Conrail yard warehouses in Hoboken. Photo by Ted Russell

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Firefighters from Hoboken and Jersey City battled for an hour early last night to bring a blaze at a vacant Conrail warehouse under control. Fire officials suspect arson in the fire, the second blaze in three days to hit the string of buildings along Observer Highway.

Two firemen were taken to St. Mary Hospital for injuries. Capt. Robert Moore hurt his back when a portion of the roof collapsed over him. He remained hospitalized and at last report, his condition was still being evaluated, according to hospital officials. Firefighter Patrick O'Neill suffered smoke inhalation and was treated and released, the officials said.

"They suspect a possible arson," said Fire Chief James Houn. "Someone saw a couple of kids leaving the area on bicycles around the time that the fire started," he said.

The three-alarm blaze broke out about 5:15 p.m. Eyewitnesses said flames shot through the roof and out the top floor windows. "It looked just like a campfire," said one.

The blaze began in the "cockloft," the area located just below the roof, according to fire officials. By the time firefighters arrived on the scene, the entire roof and second floor reportedly were engulfed.

Moore was injured when he climbed a stairwell in front of the building reportedly to enter a second-story door. As he yanked on the door, one eyewitness said, a portion of the overhanging roof let go and dropped down over his head. He was able to walk down the stairs where he was met and escorted away, the witnesses said.

The blaze was contained to the third floor and roof. The rest of the warehouse suffered little damage, fire authorities said.

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The building which is located at the western tip of a string of warehouses was scheduled to be destroyed along with the others after Aug. 1.

As firefighters battled yesterday's blaze, dozens of kids, oblivious to the action only yards away, played among the wreckage left by Tuesday's fire. They were busily hunting notebooks that were stored in the building but undamaged by the blaze.

That fire completely destroyed two attached warehouses owned by the state Department of Transportation. The blaze began in the early afternoon, and took 65 firefighters nearly 3 1/2 hours before it was brought under control.

Port Authority offers Hoboken waterfront ideas

By Tom Golodnik

If all goes well — and that's a big "if" — Hoboken may see some beginning signs of redevelopment along its waterfront in about two years.

"I'm confident that by working together, very important improvements to the waterfront can occur," L. Michael Krieger, manager of Economic Development Programs for the Port Authority, told about 50 persons attending a meeting last night at Hoboken City Hall.

Though no specific plans were discussed at the session, Krieger did present some "concepts" on potential uses for the waterfront.

The feasibility study of the Hoboken shoreline from the city line to about 10th Street is being jointly undertaken by the Port Authority, the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

The DOT and the Port Authority have hired the American City Corp., a consulting firm, to provide market research and development advice for the waterfront district which also includes a section of Jersey City east of Henderson Street and north of the Holland Tunnel entrance.

The district includes a portion of the Erie-Lackawanna rail yards, the N.J. Transit commuter facilities, the historic Hoboken railroad terminal, the Hoboken/Port Authority piers and

See PORT AUTHORITY — Page 24

Community council — who will serve?

Only 17 Hoboken residents, four of them Hispanic, have filed applications for membership on Hoboken's Community Advisory Council.

The council can have up to 2 members.

"People just haven't been applying," said Thomas Olivieri, outreach worker in the Community Development Agency. "We've tried everything — taken out advertisements in the newspaper, handed out flyers and even gone door to door. But there just isn't that much interest."

The CAC acts as an advisor to the Community Development Agency. Olivieri said the board is supposed to represent the ethnic and economic character of the Hoboken community. He said that since

Hoboken is almost 50 percent Hispanic half the board should be Hispanic.

There currently are three members on the board, all of them white.

Most other board members resigned last summer after a \$50 per month payment to board members was discontinued.

Olivieri said questionnaires have been sent to those who have applied for membership asking their background.

Olivieri said a decision could be made on the new board members within six weeks.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto has the final authority in picking the board members.

Ballfield's dust defies treatment

Dust continued to rise over the weekend from the ballfield at Third and Hudson streets in Hoboken despite the calcium chloride laid down on the playing surface to stop it.

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri had complained on Monday that topsoil from the makeshift field was blowing away and landing on cars in Hoboken's parking authority garage and on the terraces of apartments

in Hoboken's Grogan Marineview Plaza apartment complex.

Meanwhile, Ranieri reported that inspectors from the Hudson County Regional Health Commission have been at the ballfield taking samples of the air by the field.

Ranieri suggested one reason the calcium chloride may not be working is because the field is not being watered down twice daily as it should be.

Hoboken to monitor parks

Members of the Hoboken City Council agreed last night that rowdiness is rampant in the city's parks and they'll meet Monday to do something about it.

When a resolution was presented at a meeting last night to purchase six new police cars, it prompted Council President Walter Cramer to complain about conditions in the city's parks. He suggested the 11 p.m. curfew was not being enforced nor was the law against public drinking.

As a symbolic gesture to support his complaint, Cramer cast the lone negative vote against purchase of the new vehicles.

Councilman Robert Ranieri

agreed with Cramer. "Summer is here and the parks are a no-man's land," he said. Ranieri suggested that Cramer direct the Public Safety Committee to meet. The committee, headed by Councilman Louis Francione, will confer Monday afternoon with James Giordano, the Public Safety director. One councilman said there is a 10 p.m. curfew in the parks most of the year and an 11 p.m. curfew during the summer months.

Ronald Wladich, a local resident, said he was forming a committee to have a statue created symbolizing all of the immigrants of various nationalities who have arrived and helped to build Hoboken over the

years. He asked if the council would approve a site for such a statue and emphasized that the project would be privately financed. The council generally agreed it was a good idea.

In answer to a query from Councilman Nunzio Malfetti about two Navy ships berthed at the city's Sixth Street pier, Mayor Steve Cappelletto said they were surplus minesweepers bought by a private individual to turn into scrap. The owner will pay \$750

months to the city to use the piers, Cappelletto said, as soon as insurance arrangements are completed.

Councilman Ranieri announced that his Water and Sewage Committee will meet 7 p.m. Thursday at the

city clerk's office to take a second look at repair work carried out last year at the Fifth Street sewage pumping station.

In other business, the council eliminated a plan to have buses use skip stops and approved a lease with the Parking Authority for development of cleared land on Bloomfield Street, between Observer Highway and Newark Street.

The council approved the reappointment of Judge Rudolph Nadeo for a fifth, three-year term and also approved the reappointment of Mary Gaspar as a trustee of the Public Library Board.

Rink is final student request

By Thomas Peterkin

Final exams have long been a source of frustration and often disappointment for the student. But The Hudson School, a middle school for gifted and talented children in Hoboken, gave its students something a bit more challenging for a final English exam.

Seventh and eighth graders were asked to compose a letter on an issue of importance to them. A number of the letters, addressed to Mayor Steve Cappelletto, dealt with the creation of a recreational area in the city, including a roller skating rink.

Orlando Martinez, a seventh grader, praised the mayor for "progress and achievements" since he took office, but wants more. "In that time," (since Cappelletto

took office) wrote Orlando, "we have made our streets cleaner, constructed newer and stronger buildings, and even given summer jobs to the bored and tired teenager who could use some money."

"With that progress, however," he continued, "I haven't seen one roller skating rink in Hoboken."

Orlando suggested that one be erected. Concluding his letter, he added: "P.S. It might get you some votes in the next election."

Another seventh grader, Erik Sherr, took a more direct approach in addressing the mayor.

"It has come to my attention that a recreational skating arena is needed in the Hoboken area."

Erik explained some of the "perils" skaters face on River Road and outlined several ways the city

could profit from an outdoor rink.

"It would relieve the streets of some of many minors and, therefore, lessen juvenile delinquency; taxes could be donated to the city from admission to the rink, rental of skates, etc.; finally, the rink might lessen unemployment by supplying jobs," he wrote.

Lucas Ferrer, the eighth grade valedictorian, wrote of a recreational center being "an alternative to the street lives thousands face every day."

Lucas, who addressed himself to the editor of The Jersey Journal, explains, "I have reason to believe that boredom can lead to smoking pot, joining gangs and possibly violent fighting."

Concluding, he said, "I'm sure you will agree with me that Hoboken does need some kind of recreational center."

An underlying concern through many of the letters is that skating in Hoboken is dangerous, with skaters having to dodge cars and avoid other street hazards.

Cappelletto said he is aware of the students' requests and has taken steps to satisfy them.

"We would like to do anything we can to satisfy the kids," he said. "It is a good idea to keep them occupied so as to keep them away from other vices."

The mayor said that as part of a "couple of programs working," streets conducive to skating, such as Frank Sinatra Drive, are closed off on weekends.

Hoboken official fined \$100 on code violation

Ignoring the plea of city prosecutor Ross London to set a stiff fine, acting Municipal Court Judge Chris Pappas fined Hoboken Planning Board Chairman Ben Goodman \$100 in the city's municipal court yesterday after he found him guilty of three counts of not providing hot water in the tenement house he owns at 100 Washington St.

Pappas fined Goodman \$50 each, the minimum fine allowed under Hoboken law, for a lack of hot water on June 16 and 17 and suspended the fine on June 11 for lack of hot water on that date after finding him guilty of that count.

Pappas told The Jersey Journal after court he set the low fine because he "didn't want to kill Goodman" financially by setting high fines and in light of his testimony that he took action to correct the problem.

Goodman, however, contradicted himself in court, first saying there was absolutely no problem at all in his

tenement with a lack of hot water and then saying after he had gotten complaints about a lack of hot water he called a boiler company that found some mechanical problems with his boiler that they fixed.

Hoboken Patrolman Thomas Meehan, president of Hoboken's Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and a resident of 100 Washington St. had given Goodman the three summonses for a lack of hot water.

Goodman had told a Jersey Journal reporter last week that he only supplies hot water between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. though he denied making that statement in court yesterday.

London asked Pappas for a stiff fine for Goodman because he said the landlord had chosen to plead not guilty, was then found guilty and in his defense offered a contradictory defense.

After court, Meehan said he was

See HOBOKEN — Page 24.

Assess blame for delay in pumping station

The chairman of the Hoboken Council's water and sewer utilities committee said today a lack of communication between city officials is the reason for the latest delay in the repair of the city's Fifth Street pumping station—which is still not working correctly four years after Public Works Director Andrew Amato said that emergency repairs were needed.

Committee chairman Robert Ranieri said delays in communication between Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto, Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the plumbing firm of Pini and Sons, the firm of Mayo Lynch, the city's engineers for the job and Amato all caused the problem. Cappelletto commented: "I am to blame."

Ranieri said all that was needed to put the pumping station in order was a \$1,400 alternator and that Mayo-Lynch had made a request to the city administration for the part.

But Ranieri said no city official took responsibility for making sure the part was bid and nothing happened for over a year until his committee had a meeting last week.

Ranieri said Amato is the likely target for blame since the request for an alternator apparently had laid on his desk for months, but the councilman said Amato has only been a figurehead in the whole pumping station situation and said the real decision were being made by the mayor, Chius and the law department, and not Amato.

Cappelletto said that he agrees with Ranieri that there was a lack of communications and he said as chief executive of Hoboken he has to take blame for the foul-ups. "I am to blame," he said.

Fire forces spread thin in Hoboken

By Randolph Diamond

The president of the Hoboken Firemen's Superiors Union has charged the safety of Hoboken residents and firemen is being jeopardized by the shortage of firefighters on duty this summer.

Fire Captain William Bergen, union president, said a fire engine company that was located in the firehouse at Observer Highway and Madison Street has been moved to the firehouse at Eighth and Clinton streets where another engine company is located.

The reason this was done, Bergen said, was because there is a shortage of firemen on duty. He said there was one fireman this summer assigned to the Observer Highway engine company while the average engine company has three firemen and one captain.

"It looks good on paper because the city can tell the public the engine is still running by putting it in the same firehouse with another engine," he said. "But the public and our firemen are being put in danger."

Bergen said his union either wants the city to pay overtime for the present firemen or hire new men to solve the problem.

Fire Chief James Houn, however, said the city doesn't have the money to pay the overtime or hire new men.

And Houn said the reason there is a shortage of men is because of the superior union's insistence that all firemen be allowed to take their vacations in July and August. If vacations were spread throughout the year, Houn said, there would be no problem.

\$2 in Jersey City; \$14.75 in Hoboken

Tax rates rise in nine municipalities

By John J. Farrell Jr.

Jersey City's tax rate has gone up \$2 while Hoboken's rate increased \$17.75, according to 1980 tax rates struck by the Hudson County Board of Taxation for nine of the county's 12 municipalities.

Jersey City's new rate of \$88.98 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, a \$2 boost over last year's property tax rate, was attributed by tax experts to higher requirements in the budget,

accounting for some \$1.40 of the total increase, and the loss of \$6 million in 1979 — making up the remaining 60 cents of the boost.

Hoboken's new rate of \$111.94 per \$1,000, the county's highest, was attributed by the tax analysts to the city's assessor's \$15 million reduction of many land values in the city from what they were last year. In 1979, the total land values were \$42,819,200; this year, \$27,826,701.

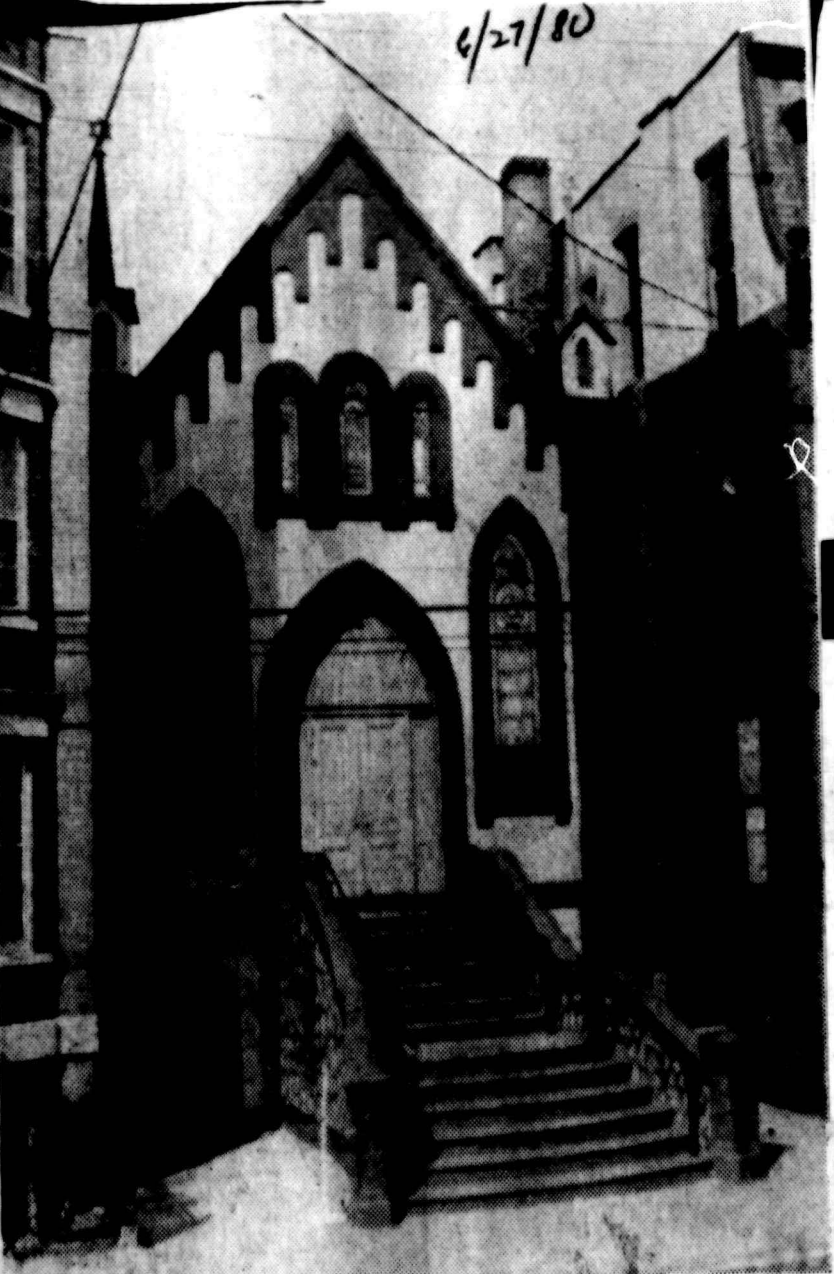
West New York, where there is a \$14.83 increase in the rate to \$83.36 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, the local government had to raise \$15.3 million in this year's budget, an increase of \$2.7 million over 1979 because of more money needed for local and school purposes. The same analysts also recalled West New York has lost a considerable amount of federal and state funding and is feeling the after-effect of earlier tax appeals which the town lost.

Secaucus has the lowest rate for 1980 — \$26.82 per \$1,000 assessed valuation — but that represents a \$1.45 increase over last year. The town's 1980 rates total \$546,605,200, in contrast to last year's \$524,566,100. Some county costs accounted for the slight rate increase. The board did not set 1980 tax rates for North Bergen, Weehawken and Union City because their budgets have not been submitted. Rates for those three municipalities will be set after budgets are adopted.

However, a board spokesman explained that two other rates adopted yesterday, a county rate of \$11.04 for \$1,000 assessed valuation and county vocational school rate (paid by all municipalities except Bayonne which has its own vocational school) of 87 cents, an increase of 28 cents. The three "late" municipalities' shares have been calculated and included in those rates.

The rates follow:

Tax District	1980	1979	Diff.
Bayonne	\$ 78.87	\$75.03	+\$ 3.84
East Newark	55.66	45.48	+10.18
Guttenberg	55.85	54.45	+ 1.40
Harrison	59.01	55.61	+ 3.40
Hoboken	111.94	94.19	+17.75
Jersey City	88.98	86.98	+ 2.00
Keansburg	60.40	52.75	+ 7.65
Secaucus	26.82	25.37	+ 1.45
West New York	83.36	68.53	+14.83



Landmark

This building at 637 Garden St., originally built as a synagogue and now used as a Protestant church, will become Hoboken's first locally-designated historic landmark. (Story on Page 2.)

Landmark rite tomorrow for 1883 house of worship

A small Gothic revival building, in continuous use as a house of worship since it was built around 1883, will become Hoboken's first locally designated historic landmark tomorrow.

Ceremonies at 1 p.m. will mark the dedication of the Iglesia Alianza y Misionera at 637 Garden St. with land-

mark status. The Protestant church and community center, which serves Hoboken's Hispanic community, originally was a synagogue built for Congregation Adas Emuno, Hudson's oldest Reform Jewish congregation. The building retains all its original exterior features, according to Patric Florio, a Hoboken historic

preservation specialist.

Mrs. Florio said the building's highlights include stained glass windows with the Star of David in them and a rotunda.

She said the building was recommended for local landmark status by members of the church and the designation was approved by members of the Hoboken Historic District Commission and the city council last month.

OK taller fence for clothing plant

The owner of a Hoboken clothing manufacturing plant has been granted permission by the city's board of adjustment to raise the height of a fence surrounding part of the property to 14 feet.

The zoning code provides for a maximum fence height of six feet. Board Chairman Frank Camerone said representatives from

the factory had complained the six-foot cyclone fence now surrounding the lot at 107 Park Ave. had not stopped persons from climbing over it and damaging air-conditioning equipment and breaking into a boiler shed.

A request to construct a one-family structure at 518 Jefferson St. and leave less than the minimum amount of open space on the property

was not acted on last night and will be reviewed again by the building inspector before the next board meeting.

The subdivision of property at 233-235 Washington St. into three separate properties was approved.

Also approved was a subdivision at 536 Hudson St. The 42-family apartment house at that address was severed from another smaller

building behind it on Court and Sixth streets. The smaller building is being renovated.

Running? Bring galoshes

Almost half of Hoboken's four-month-old running track was still under water today from the weekend rain.

The track is flooded whenever it rains.

A spokesman for Hoboken's Community Development Agency, which built the track, said officials of the Orlando Construction Company of Union City have defaulted on the project and cannot be located to finish the work. But the CDA official said there is still \$46,000 they have not paid Orlando. Orlando also constructed basketball courts next to the Garden Street track.

That money, the CDA spokesman said, can be

used to repair the drainage problem on the track as well as pay some of the sub-contractors Orlando did not pay for their work.

Thomas Calligy, Hoboken assistant city lawyer, said Orlando officials will be notified this week that the city will pay the subcontractors out of the money it is withholding from the company.

And Calligy said that after the city satisfies the subcontractors it will let Orlando officials know that the rest of the money will be spent repairing the track as well as for making any needed repairs to the basketball courts.

Hoboken will conduct its own census count

Hoboken officials — worried that the census bureau has undercounted the city's population — will start their own mini-census in the next few days to try and prove Hoboken has been given a short count.

And city workers, such as police and firemen, will be asked to volunteer their own time in helping conduct the census, Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

Preliminary estimates from the census bureau show that Hoboken's population has declined from the 1970 census, George Crimmins, Hoboken CETA census director, said.

He estimated based on the information he has now that Hoboken's population could fall below 40,000 in the coming census. Hoboken's population was listed as slightly above 46,000 in the 1970 census.

But Crimmins said he believes the census workers have missed many of the city's residents — especially its Hispanic ones — in the count. He said he has received numerous reports of local residents not being counted.

Cappiello said an undercount could cost the city thousands and thousands of dollars in state and federal aid.

"I want to get as many of our city workers as possible to help us conduct our own mini-census," he said. "We need their help."

Crimmins said the volunteer city workers along with his own staff will make spot checks of areas of Hoboken where they believe there is undercount in order to prove to census officials that their figures are wrong.

Ranieri wants ballfield given to parking agency

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri said today that the makeshift ballfield at Third and Hudson streets has turned into a dustbowl whenever the wind blows and should be taken away from the city's health and welfare department and community development agency and be run instead by the city's parking authority.

Ranieri said the officials of the health and welfare department and community development agency have shown they are not able to take care of the field.

"They have laid a chemical down (calcium chloride) to stop the topsoil from blowing away and landing on cars in Hoboken's parking authority

garage and on the terraces of the nearby apartment buildings, but it hasn't done any good," he said.

Ranieri said the parking authority, however, under the direction of executive director Joe Hottendorf, has managed to maintain the lawn outside the authority's garage on Hudson Street between Second and Third streets without any problem.

"They have shown they can take care of things, so why not have them run the ballfield?" Ranieri said.

Hottendorf said, however, that the parking authority's charter does not permit it to operate a ballfield. But he said he had met with James Farina, Hoboken health and

welfare director, to try and resolve the situation. Hottendorf said the field will be closed next week until the start of the PAL football season in August, and in the meantime his maintenance crews will help Farina's crews plant grass and make sure it is watered regularly.

Hottendorf said the grass should prevent the topsoil from blowing away.

Hottendorf said he has already spent his entire \$5,000 maintenance budget for the year in cleaning dust off cars in the garage.

Meanwhile, Farina said he hopes he and Hottendorf can resolve the problem together. CDA officials were unavailable for comment.

Unions warn council of tragedy

By John Kamp

The presidents of Hoboken's two firemen's unions warned the City Council last night of possible tragedy if the department's manpower problem is not solved.

Mike Bravaro, head of the rank-and-file Local 1078 IAFF, informed the panel, at its regular meeting, that the city's six fire companies have an average of 13 firefighters per shift — about two per company — when there should be at least 18 men, or three per company, per shift.

He told the council that Fire Chief James Houn said there wasn't enough money in the budget to keep the units running at full-strength. Houn had told The Jersey Journal earlier in the week that the manpower shortage was caused by the Superior Union's insistence that all firemen be allowed to take their vacations in July and August.

When questioned on this by the council, Bravaro claimed that the problem was not confined to the vacation period but was "practically all year."

Fire Capt. William Bergen, president of the Superior Union, told the council he would favor closing one company to have an ample amount of men in the rest of the units.

"Don't spread 'x' amount of men too thin to keep six rigs running," he advised.

"I don't worry about money," Bravaro told the council, his voice rising. "That's your problem. I worry about the protection of our people and certainly the people of Hoboken."

"I'm not asking for anything else but to have enough people to protect ourselves."

Council President Walter S. Cramer said he and the panel was unaware of the problem and promised to investigate the matter with the public safety committee, which oversees the department.

Also, ordinances amending the police and fire department ordinances were passed unanimously on first reading by the council. A public hearing on them will be held Aug. 6.

The new ordinances, basically, shift the responsibility of appointments and promotions in

the fire and police departments from the council to the director of public safety.

In other business, the council instructed city engineering consultant James Caulfield to investigate sewage backup problems experienced by some Washington Street landlords between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The council also resolved to allocate \$4,975 for purchase of an alternator for the Fifth Street pumping station.

According to councilman Robert Ranieri, the alternator resembles a large bathtub plug and will block the sewage pipe that comes into the station.

This, he explained, will allow an engineer to climb into the pit the pipe runs into with equipment that will make the station fully automated.

Firemen blast City Council on understaffing

By JEFF KIMBLE

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The heads of the city's firefighters and fire officers association charged last night the city was negligent in seriously understaffing the department's force.

Speaking before the City Council, Capt. Paul Bergen and Firefighter Michael Bavaro claimed the department had only 13 men available on each shift instead of the minimum requirement of 18.

"I am not using scare tactics — I am using plain fact," said Bavaro. "Thirteen men can't operate six rigs. I have to worry about the protection of the people of Hoboken."

Bavaro said he was promised the department would not have less than 18 men per shift. He said he was told when the number dropped to 17, it would be corrected. Now, he said, the number was down to 13.

"I don't know where it's going to stop," he said. "We're liable to get hurt. We're not asking for anything but the protection of the city."

After Bavaro, Bergen read the council a letter he had sent to the mayor disavowing any responsibilities should a disaster occur.

Bergen said the city is attempting to maintain six companies with only enough men to maintain five. One company, Engine No. 1, which was moved from Observer Highway to Clinton Street, was only a "paper company," he said, because there was only one man in the company instead of the required three.

The situation has gotten so bad, he said, that at times one man has been forced to drive a truck alone. Bergen said if the driver faced a difficult turn, the lead truck had to stop and a man had to get out and get on the other truck to help make the turn.

Both men expressed disappointment the firemen were not consulted when the public safety committee discussed the proposed ordinance which will give the public safety director the power to revamp the fire department.

Vandals' flood ruins Hoboken gym floor

Most of Hoboken High School's gym floor is ruined. The school's pool overflowed, sending an inch of water into the gymnasium and causing \$50,000 damage to the gym floor. Hoboken School Superintendent George Maier, said today.

Maier said the incident happened last Thursday at around 5 p.m. when vandals entered the building and turned on a water main leading into the pool.

Maintenance men upstairs, meanwhile, were unaware of what was going on and discovered the situation too late, Maier reported.

The superintendent said he believes the vandals entered through an open window in the school's lunchroom area. He said he has ordered an internal investigation in addition to one being conducted by Hoboken police.

Maier said he believes the school district is insured for most of the \$50,000 in damages and said he thinks a new gym floor could be installed by September.

He reported that a small area of

the floor can still be used for the Hoboken Recreation department's summer programs.

Maier said the water also spread to classrooms and school shops on the first floor but that there was no damage there.

The superintendent said quick thinking by maintenance employees prevented another \$5,000 in damages when they removed a few thousand sheets of printing paper from the floor of one of the shops before it became wet.

Wallington quits as Hoboken union chief

The president of Hoboken's Municipal Employees Association, John Wallington, has resigned from his post, citing personal reasons.

Wallington has been replaced by Jude Fitzgibbons, the association's vice-president, until the association's next election in November.

Wallington has served a year and a half as president, and under his leadership municipal employees received their first written contract.

Wallington was unavailable for comment, but Fitzgibbons reported that personal pressures were responsible for the resignation.

Fitzgibbons said one of his first acts as union president will be to visit all municipal work sites and check conditions. He said the

association is still receiving numerous complaints about City Hall restrooms.

The toilets con-

stantly malfunction, he said, and many woman employees are afraid to use the rest rooms because they fear at-

tacks.

Hoboken's renaissance moves to business district

By Randolph Diamond

The renaissance that has taken place in the uptown section of Hoboken over the last few years has now spread to Hoboken's downtown business district.

There are now three major renovation projects involving office space and apartments currently going on in addition to numerous other smaller projects.

Across from the Hoboken PATH station on Hudson Place the old Trust Co. of New Jersey bank building — vacant for seven years — is being renovated into office space by Ed Flaherty, president of Energy Engineering Co. of Jersey City.

Once the historical building is renovated, Flaherty said he plans to move his energy consulting firm from Jersey City to Hoboken. Construction on the building was started on April 1 and is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

Patricia Florio, Hoboken historic preservation specialist, said Flaherty is preserving all the interior and exterior of the building in the renovation.

She said the bank building features a beautiful inner rotunda and decorative ornament plaster work ceiling.

Meanwhile, on Newark Street at the corner of Hudson Street, Applied Housing Associates is renovating a three-story building into commercial office space.

Joe Barry, president of Applied housing, said he will move his Newark law office into the building and other space in the building will be rented out to other lawyers and commercial tenants.

Applied's big project, however, is the renovation of almost 200 residential units in what were former tenement houses on Washington and Bloomfield streets between Observer Highway and Newark Street. Also included in that project is the old Jersey Observer building on Newark Street.

Two of the smaller renovation projects include the renovation of an old building at First and River streets into a restaurant and the renovation of a vacant storefront at Newark and Bloomfield streets into an arts and crafts gallery.

Don Cotter, who will run the gallery, said he eventually plans to convert it into a restaurant and bar.

These projects, in addition to a number already completed, by City Hall including the Marineview Groin Plaza Office building, are rapidly changing the face of the downtown business district.

In addition, Ms. Florio said a number of shopowners have started renovating the facades of their stores after being encouraged by the ongoing renovation.

"It is having a mushroom effect," she said.



The vacant Trust Co. of New Jersey bank building on Hudson Place in Hoboken is being rehabilitated for office space, one of several such projects in the city.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said he believes the boom in the downtown business area is largely due to the shortage of gasoline.

"With less people using cars, people are beginning to realize the convenience of the downtown area to public transit," he said.

The Erie-Lackawanna station with commuter trains to Northern New Jersey and the PATH station with trains to New York are both located within the downtown business area.

Thomas Newman, president of the First Ward Block Association, a

group concerned with the development of the downtown area, said the current boom of renovation in the area shows that "people seem to have an unlimited faith in Hoboken."

But while renovation is good for the downtown area, Newman said there is also a negative aspect in that many long-time Hoboken residents are being displaced.

"Hoboken is losing its character as a working class town," he said.

Newman said the renovation must be carried out in a way that tends to not displace people.

Van Wie overtime hit by councilmen

Two Hoboken councilmen today blasted Mayor Steve Cappiello for allowing his confidential aide, William Van Wie to get paid for 50 overtime hours — amounting to \$800 in extra salary — during the water crisis in mid-June.

Both Councilmen Nunzio Malfetti and Robert Ranieri said they have launched investigations into the matter.

"It's outrageous," said Malfetti. "The city is laying off employees and the mayor's confidential aide is getting this kind of money."

But, what makes it even more outrageous, Malfetti said, is the fact that much of the overtime was for repairing a water main that had broken due to the erratic water pressure from Jersey City during the water crisis.

"Van Wie makes \$18,000 a year to do administrative chores," Malfetti said. "He's not supposed to be fixing pipes when we can have a laborer do that at half the cost."

Van Wie was unavailable for comment.

Ranieri said the mayor overstep-

ped his bounds by allowing Van Wie the 50 hours overtime.

"Van Wie is not a union employee," said Ranieri. "There are no provisions at all for him to get overtime." While adding that Van Wie himself is a fine employee, Ranieri said the whole incident disturbs him.

"All the councilmen just took pay cuts and yet Van Wie is allowed to gather this overtime," he said. "It's one of the most outrageous things I have ever heard of."

Cappiello, however, said he saw nothing wrong with giving Van Wie the overtime.

"He was out there during the water crisis coordinating the services to our various residents so they could have bottled water to drink," the mayor said. "One night he worked until 5 a.m."

The mayor said all of Van Wie's overtime was for hours after his normal 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift and that fixing the water main was only a small part of the many things he did.

Hoboken detectives led by former commander

Hoboken Police Lt. Patrick Donatucci has been named acting commander in charge of the Hoboken

detective bureau after a three-year absence from the job.

Donatucci, a lifelong friend of Hoboken Councilman Anthony Romano, was removed as commander of the detective bureau in 1977 after Romano lost the mayoral bid to Steve Cappiello. He had served as commander of the bureau since 1973 and had been a Hoboken policeman since 1959.

Donatucci replaces Police Capt. Russell Sweeten, who suffered internal injuries in an automobile accident while on vacation in Florida last month. Sweeten is reportedly now recovering in Florida.

Police sources say they expect Sweeten to be out for at least three months.

Donatucci, meanwhile, said during his tenure as detective bureau head to plans to go out with his fellow officers on investigations.

"I plan to be out right beside my men," he said.

12 teachers left unhired in Hoboken

There are still 12 Hoboken teachers who have not been rehired for the new school term in September, according to schools superintendent George Maier.

Maier said the teachers, whose salaries were paid by federal funds, have already been notified of their layoff. But he said there is a possibility some of the teachers could be rehired by mid-summer if additional federal funds come in.

The superintendent said the loss of the teachers, who all taught special remedial classes, won't affect the normal class size in the school system, but he said some remedial classes may be larger in the fall due to the cutbacks.

Nine maintenance men, in addition to about a dozen other Board of Education employees, have been laid off due to a cutback in funds.

Meanwhile, Maier's daughter, Mona, has been hired for the coming school year as a \$12,000-a-year psy-

chological intern. Maier said his daughter will report to the district's psychologists and help them with their work.

He said the position is being paid totally with federal funds and will not come out of the local funds.

Fire chief snuffs out understaffing charges

HOBOKEN—Fire Chief James Houn yesterday disputed charges leveled during last week's City Council meeting that the city has been put in danger because of understaffing in the department.

Charges that 13 men were working each shift instead of the required 18 were made at last Wednesday's meeting by Capt. Paul Bergen and Firefighter Michael Bavaro, heads of the city's fire officers and firefighters associations.

Both men said that the situation was dangerous, and Bergen read the council a letter his union sent to Mayor Steve Cappiello disavowing any responsibility should a disaster occur.

However, Houn, while expressing concern about the manpower shortage, downplayed the potential danger to the city.

"During the summer vacation period, we are running a couple of men shorter

than we really should," he said, "but we feel that the protection we are providing is sufficient."

Bergen also complained last week that Engine Co. 1 was transferred to Clinton Street from Observer Highway creating a "paper company" because there was only one firefighter in the unit instead of the traditional three.

"That's only an eight-week deal," said Houn. "Rather than close it altogether, I combined it so we would have the equipment at the site."

"I'll put the company back to its original location after the summer," the chief said.

He added that the city had a municipal assistance agreement with neighboring cities that would provide additional help in the event of a large fire. —Jeff Kisseloff

Cappiello's aide defends his water crisis overtime

Hoboken mayoral aide William Van Wie said today the city got a bargain with \$800 he was paid for 50 hours of overtime during the recent water crisis.

Van Wie said the 50 hours was only a fraction of the extra time he worked. He was answering Councilmen Nunzio Malfetti and Robert Ranieri who criticized the overtime when the city is laying off employees.

Van Wie, who makes \$8,000 a year, said he normally puts in 50 to 60 hours a week working for Mayor Steve Cappiello even though he's only paid for 30 hours.

The mayoral aide said he never has filed for overtime but he felt during the water crisis the hours he put in above the call of duty.

Van Wie also said Ranieri's comment that he is not a union

employee and thus not entitled to overtime is not true.

He said he is a paid member of Hoboken's Municipal Employees Association.

Van Wie said he is particularly disturbed over Malfetti's remarks because the councilman never complained to him that there was a problem.

Officials rumored to slug it out in Hoboken

PIER 6 IN HOBOKEN: It wasn't exactly the Leonard-Duran fight, but Hoboken City Hall is still buzzing over the reputed one-rounder June 27 between Business Administrator Edwin Chius and Health and Welfare Director James J. Farina.

We hear the sparks began to fly after Farina accused Chius of sending an anonymous letter to the press complaining about alleged filing of false time cards by Farina's employees. Farina apparently received a similar complaint directly from Chius that day.

Well, Farina marched into Chius' office and fists allegedly began to fly. Witnesses say Farina was doing quite nicely when the bout was broken up by City Hall employees who were called to the scene, and Chius was spotted leaving the building with a bloody nose.

Chius could not be reached for an interview. Farina admitted the fight took place, but was reluctant to comment further. He did say, however, that he had no intention of turning pro, and would be content to retire undefeated. "I'm a lover, not a fighter," he said.

Chius skeptical about workers never being late

By Randolph Diamond

Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius has discovered discrepancies in the timecards of Hoboken Health and Welfare Department workers.

Chius sent out a memo (a copy of which was obtained by The Jersey Journal) to Health and Welfare Director James Farina stating that a number of different supervisors in the recreation division were approving employees' paychecks.

Chius told Farina he wants to know which supervisor is responsible for Recreation Department employees.

Asked to comment on the letter Chius said it was part of a routine review he was doing on the timecards of every department in the city.

Chius said, however, that what was more disturbing than the varying signatures on the timecards was the fact that, according to the timecards, not one health and welfare employee has been late in the last six months.

"All the timecards indicate that employees come in at 9 a.m. and leave at 4 p.m.," he said. "I find it hard to believe the no one's been late in the last six months."

Farina, however, said there is nothing surprising about that. He said

See CHIU — Page 21.

Chius skeptical

Continued from Page 1

he has good employees who arrive and leave on time.

Concerning the discrepancies on the timecards, Farina said he is currently trying to straighten the matter out.

Chius, meanwhile, said he is beginning to think the city has two choices in the matter of employee hours.

One, he said, is to throw the timecards away and abandon trying to keep track of the employees. The other is to install timeclocks, he said.

Cappiello aide defends claim for \$872

By JEFF KISSELOFF

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Claiming that he was merely serving the people of Hoboken during an emergency, mayoral aide William Van Wie yesterday defended himself against criticism from two councilmen because he collected 50 hours of overtime pay for work he allegedly performed during the water emergency in June.

The issue was raised at a caucus last week by Councilman Nunzio Malfetti, who called the payment totaling \$872.55 "outrageous."

Councilman Robert Ranieri joined in the criticism, charging that the payment was illegal and that it should be returned.

While Van Wie expressed displeasure with Ranieri's position, most of his anger was reserved for Malfetti, who has been a con-

stant critic of the Mayor Steve Cappiello administration.

"Why didn't he (Malfetti) come to me and ask me about it before he said those things at the caucuses," Van Wie said. "Why didn't he do it the American way and ask me about it first. As far as I'm concerned, I wasn't doing anything illegal. I was working under the mayor's orders. I was assisting on the water truck, and I helped supervise the job on the water breaks."

"I thought I was being a good Samaritan, and look what comes out."

Asked why Malfetti may have raised the charges, Van Wie replied, "It's political. He's trying to embarrass the mayor. He's signed a petition for good government."

Malfetti could not be reached for comment.

The 50 hours of overtime that Van Wie

billed the city for his "good Samaritan efforts" gained him nearly twice the amount that city Water Supervisor James Murnane charged the city during the same period, according to records in the Department of Public Works, which supervised efforts during the crisis.

Public Works Director Andrew Amato said he had no recollection of Van Wie working with his men during the crisis.

"I knew nothing about it," he said. "I had no idea what he did. I had nothing to do with it — thank God."

Van Wie replied that Amato wouldn't have known anything about it. "I only report to the mayor," he said. "But there were several councilmen who saw me working the truck," he added.

Alert cop saves Hoboken landmark

By Randolph Diamond

A historical turn-of-the-century Hoboken building that has landmark status was almost turned into a parking lot yesterday morning even though the building's owner, the Washington Savings Bank, had not received permission to demolish it from the Hoboken Historic District Commission as required by law.

Only the actions of an alert Hoboken cop, Patrolman Thomas Meehan, who asked the demolition crew from the V.O'Tillio Contracting Co. of Paterson to show him its demolition permit prevented the vacant four-story building at 111 Washington St. from being reduced to a pile of rubble.

A crane from the contracting company along with a demolition crew of five workers were all ready to start work at approximately 9 a.m. when Meehan came by.

When the crew could not produce a demolition permit, Meehan notified Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo who informed them they could not demolish the building.

Arezzo told The Jersey Journal a permit had never been issued for the landmark building to be torn down because the Washington Savings Bank had not gone to the Hoboken Historic District Commission to receive per-

mission to demolish it as the law requires.

David White, an executive with the Washington Savings Bank, refused to comment on the situation and officials at the V. O'Tillio Contracting Co. would only say the whole thing was a mix-up that had been straightened out.

The building that was almost torn down is right next to a parking lot that is used by the Washington Savings Bank. The lot, in turn, is next to the bank's main branch on Washington Street in Hoboken.

Patricia Florio, Hoboken

Historical Preservation specialist, said the turn-of-the-century building at 111 Washington Street automatically has landmark status because it falls within the Hoboken Southern Historic District which roughly consists of the central business district of Hoboken.

Hoboken Councilman and Historic District Commissioner Robert Ranieri said he was absolutely "shocked" at the bank's actions.

"I understand they wanted to expand their parking lot," said Ranieri.

See ALERT — Page 22.

Hoboken has rent subsidies for developers

Hoboken's Community Development Agency has 70 federal rent subsidies left for developers who want to renovate tenement houses, but so far there have been no takers.

Sal Santaniello, Housing and Neighborhood Development coordinator, said he believes the tight money market is one of the reasons that no developer has expressed interest in the 70 units left this year under the Neighborhood Strategy Area Program.

Still, Santaniello said he is optimistic that a developer will come forth with a proposal to take at least half of the subsidies by the preliminary deadline of Aug. 9.

The government had allowed Hoboken approximately 270 subsidies during the last two years.

Under the rent subsidies a tenant pays 25 percent of his income as rent, with the government paying the rest. The rent is set at a price that would be considered the fair market value for a particular apartment.

Continued from Page 1

"I could understand a fast-food chain doing something irresponsible as tearing down a historical building without permission but a bank . . ."

Ranieri said the building had been occupied by a theatrical scenery shop but they had apparently moved recently.

Ms. Florio said if the building had been demolished, it would have been a great loss to Hoboken.

"It has cast-iron piers on the ground floor, all of the original window designs are still intact and its cornice still exists," she said.

Ms. Florio said the building also matches other buildings of the same period on the block.

"Tearing it down would be totally inconsistent with the design of the block," she said.

Ranieri meanwhile said he expects Washington Savings Bank officials to formally request the HDC to consider a request to tear down the building at their next meeting. That meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday night, Ranieri said.

The note says get out — but to where?

By JEFF KISSELOFF
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—"Please take notice that on June 30, 1980, you are to quit and vacate the premises now occupied by you as tenant."

Twenty-two words on a plain legal form, and the bottom dropped out of Robert Peirano's life.

Living alone on Social Security in a two-room apartment on Bloomfield Street, Peirano had 60 days to pack up his things and find a new apartment. He said he had no warning. He had been there 10 years.

Desperate, Peirano turned to Terri Ratti for help. A caseworker at the Hoboken Senior Citizens Center and a longtime resident of the city, Ratti has been a virtual one-person army standing up for people like Peirano when they have nowhere else to go.

The word that Ratti uses most often is "gentrification." It comes from the word "gentry," or people of breeding, and refers to an increasingly common situation in which established neighborhoods are destroyed by an influx of wealthier residents.

"That word is the bane of our existence," said one newcomer to the town. The new resident had just purchased a brownstone on Willow Avenue, displacing several residents in the process.

The word has special meaning in Hoboken, a city whose population has undergone radical changes over the last few years. With its proximity to New York City and an abundant supply of old fashioned brownstones on tree-lined streets, the city has become a haven for real estate brokers and white-collar professionals fleeing the high Manhattan rents for the bargains available just across the river.

The influx has been a boon to many local businesses, while in several areas around the city, real estate values have skyrocketed. At the same time, as more and more buildings are purchased by new landlords, rents are going up, and the supply of well-kept, low-rent apartments is disappearing. Gentrification is a

two-edged sword — except for people like Peirano.

The deadline for Peirano's eviction is passed. Every day, he leaves his home worried his front door will be padlocked when he returns. Despite assurances from Terri Ratti that his new landlords cannot throw him out like that, he cannot calm down.

"In three weeks I am going to be 70," he said. "If I make it, I don't know if I will. I am a mental and physical wreck." His hands shake as he talks.

Peirano, whose family first moved to Hoboken in the 1890's, is paying \$170 a month rent. He offered to pay \$250 if he could stay, an increase illegal under the rent control law.

"I get \$450 a month from social security, so I figure I can go as high as \$250," he explained. "But he doesn't want me there. He wants me out."

Peirano's new landlords are Robert and Constance Ferrie, who lived in New York before purchasing the building on April 30. Ralph and Barbara Corvino are also listed as the new owners on the eviction notice.

Mrs. Ferrie blames the situation on the old owners. "We bought the building on the condition that it would be vacant," she said. "That was in the terms of the agreement to buy the house."

"I am very sympathetic to his problem, but we were legally entitled to the house being vacant."

She added that they could not afford to keep him as a tenant, even at \$250 a month. It is their intention to renovate the apartment and then charge a higher rent. How high, she would not say.

Meanwhile, Peirano is searching for an apartment — with little success. "I am on hold all over," he said. "The only cheap apartments are rat-infested. Not only that, but they discriminate against you if they see you're 70 years old. They don't want you."

Mayor Steve Cappiello says he has heard the complaints before. Although he says he believes the influx of new residents has had a positive impact on

the city, he says he doesn't like the displacements. But he doesn't feel that he can do anything about it.

"What the people are doing is a private matter between the landlords and the tenants, and I don't know if the government can interfere in the private matters of people," he said.

Cappiello added he also doesn't want to see buildings abandoned by landlords, because they aren't getting a fair return on their investment.

Terri Ratti bristles at the suggestion the government has no right to interfere. "Of course it's his problem," she said. "He has to protect his people. If it wasn't, why do we have a rent control law?"

Cappiello agrees the situation is causing some hardships for the people of Hoboken, and that the problem will only get worse as the supply of low-income housing dwindles.

"Adding to the problem is that there has been no investment by the government or private sector in new housing," said the mayor. "What we are trying to do with our rent control laws is keep the situation in check as best as we can."

The city's rent control ordinance covers all apartments in the city, with certain exceptions such as furnished rooms or apartments, hotels, motels, or federally-funded housing. According to the law, the maximum allowable increase is 7.5 percent or the current Consumer Price Index rise, whichever is lower. The same applies to vacancies, so that once an apartment is vacated, the maximum allowable increase is also 7.5 percent.

Landlords get around this by applying for hardship or capital improvements increases. For this, they must meet certain specifications in the law. If they do, the increase is allowable.

Since many of the people who are displaced are poor, many complaints about rents or evictions are directed to legal aid societies, such as Jersey City Legal Services.

"I would say that this has been a steady problem over the last few years," said Greg DeBord, one of the group's attorneys. "Our office handles a lot of these problems coming from Hoboken, not only through gentrification, but also through federal subsidies that are given to the city or private developers."

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Photo by Ted Savall

BOB PEIRANO, 70, sits on the stoop at 920 Bloomfield St. in Hoboken, where he was evicted yesterday.

Continued from Page 6

He explained when buildings are renovated, problems occur — not only when the rents are raised, but also because frequently the new units are smaller, and large families are forced to move elsewhere.

Through her job at the senior citizens center, Terri Ratti directs those who qualify to DeBord. The problem there, she said, is that people like Peirano frequently don't qualify for the free aid, because their incomes are too high. Yet they can't afford to pay a lawyer to represent them if they have to take their cases to court.

The city does have a housing court, where citizens can take their complaints without a lawyer. But most people, Ratti said, are afraid to take their complaints before a judge.

"They won't come forward and speak up," she explained. "They don't stand up for their rights, because they don't know what their rights are."

Because so many are afraid, she has no idea how many have been displaced. "There are too many that never come to my attention. They just quietly move on without complaining."

Where do people like Peirano go? "God only knows," she said. "I would venture to say that most of them move out of the city. Many of them go their children, which is frequently the last place that they want to go."

Cleaning Hoboken becomes 7-day job

A number of Hoboken public works employees will be required to work weekends and take their two days off during the week as part of a drive to keep Hoboken clean.

Roy Haack, acting public works garage head, said today a total of 11 public works employees will be required to work on the weekends as part of the schedule change. He said the men picked for weekend duty will be those with the least seniority and there will be absolutely no overtime for weekend employees.

Haack said he expects the change to take effect in two weeks. Up to five public works employees have been working weekends in the last few months.

But Haack said five are not enough to keep the city clean.

"By the end of a weekend our city's filthy," Haack said. "We lose the continuity of the clean-up effort

during the week by slacking off during the weekend."

Haack said he realizes the public works employees who no longer have their weekends free may not like it much. But he said they will have no choice.

"The public works department is here to see that the people of Hoboken are satisfied, not employees," he said.

Jude Fitzgibbons, president of Hoboken's Municipal Employees Association, said he felt it was unfair that some men will be singled out to work weekends.

"There should be a rotation of all public works men to work the weekends," he said.

But Haack said rotation would interrupt the regular weekday activities of the public works department.

Fitzgibbons said the association would take no action.

Judge may stop couple from renting

JERSEY CITY—A Hudson County Superior Court judge yesterday ordered a Fort Lee couple to explain why they should not be prevented from renting out a Hoboken apartment until the state decides whether the couple was guilty of racial discrimination in their rental procedures.

Randy Nayudu has filed a complaint with the state Division on Civil Rights against Steven and Jane Madias, of 1125 Palisade Ave., Fort Lee.

In the complaint, Nayudu charges he was not allowed to rent an apartment in a building located at 630 Hudson St. and owned by the Madias couple because he is an Indian.

The state director of the Division on Civil Rights, on behalf of Nayudu, asked Superior Court Judge Geoffrey Gaulkin to prevent the Madias couple from renting the apartment until their investigation of the matter and ruling is complete. Gaulkin will hear arguments from both sides July 18.

According to the court papers, Nayudu claims he lost his home in a fire. He was told of the apartment in the building owned by the Madias through a friend from Hoboken who knew the man who formerly resided there.

Nayudu claims he was discouraged from renting the apartment by the landlord, whose name was not given in the court papers. According to those papers, Nayudu was told the rent was about to be raised from \$207 to \$325 when he became interested in renting it. He was also informed the owners might sell the building soon, he claimed. —Karen Yaremko

Lifestyles are clashing on a block in Hoboken

By Randolph Diamond

It is a block of one-family homes for the most part.

But there are three tenements on a block of Hoboken's Park Street between 6th and 7th streets. One of the tenements is at 624 Park Ave. Just hearing the address brings anger to the faces of some who live in the block's one-family homes.

"People from that building are outside drinking beer on the stoop and making noise all night," said one woman who owns a home on the block. She asked not to be identified.

"There's a guy with a tattoo of a nude girl on his backside who shaves his head outside the building every other night. It's absolutely disgusting. I'm afraid to let my little daughter out on the street."

Another woman who lives on the block said loud radios blare from the building constantly.

"It's terrible," she said. "I can't sleep at night."

Block residents said they have called Hoboken police numerous times to complain but say nothing has been done.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. said his department's manpower is limited and the people at the tenement are not committing any actual crimes. There is a limit to how much his men can do, he said.

Block residents also say one of the reasons they believe the building attracts such people as tenants is because of its decayed condition.

In March, a number of violations were revealed, from exposed electrical wiring, broken windows, and empty fire extinguishers to a lack of heat and hot water.

Almost all these conditions con-

tinued despite a number of violations cited against the landlord, the Fidelity International Finance Corp., of Warwick.

The case has been postponed in court several times and is scheduled for a hearing next week.

FIFC has been fined \$700 for not providing heat or hot water for more than a month, the largest fine ever levied in Hoboken.

An inspection of the building showed several of the 10 families living in the tenement at the time the original violations had been suc-

ceeded by new tenants.

Two tenants who have lived in the building for more than a year said they sympathize with those who live in the one-family homes.

"We don't like the troublemakers either," said one young woman.

"That's right," said a second. "It's not that we don't care and want to live in filth. We don't want to be pigs nor live with them."

Meanwhile, they report that the FIFC has sent them notices informing them that the building is to be shut down and requesting them to move in 30 days.

Gallo may be leaving legislature

While Hoboken Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo maintains he has not decided whether he will retire at the end of his current term in November 1981, informed Hoboken political sources say he has already decided to do so.

"I have not made any decision at this time," said Gallo. "I don't know if I'm going to retire."

The 66-year-old legislator refused further comment.

Sources say Gallo has already told a number of politicians, including Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, that his current four-year term is his last. Gallo has served in the Assembly since 1973.

Gallo, according to the sources, also will retire as secretary to Hoboken's Board of Education at the same time.

Gallo has been involved in Hoboken politics for more than 30 years, holding his first appointed position in 1947. That year he began a four-year term on the city's Board of Adjustment.

In 1951, he was elected to the city commission and served for two years. The commission was reorganized into

the mayor-council form of government under the Faulker Act and Gallo was later elected to the council, serving as its president.

He was appointed secretary of the board of education in 1964 and was first elected to the state Assembly in 1972 when a special election was held to fill the unexpired term of Silvio J. Falla, who had been murdered. Gallo was re-elected four times. He represents the 33rd Assembly District, which includes Hoboken and part of North Hudson.

Meanwhile, sources report

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri has already met with the county's Democratic leaders and asked for the organization's nod to run for Gallo's seat in the 1981 elections.

But Ranieri was reportedly told he must have Cappiello's approval to get the nod. The sources say the mayor has yet to let Ranieri know whether he will have his approval or not.

Ranieri, running as an independent against Gallo last November, was badly beaten by the assemblyman.

Uncertain of landmark says building inspector

Hoboken Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo said today he doesn't think it's feasible to save the landmark Hoboken office building at 111 Washington St. that was almost torn down illegally on Monday.

"The amount of money that would be needed to make the building safe would make it unfeasible to save the building," he said.

Arezzo said he is currently making a further inspection of the building and should be able to determine by Monday whether it's an actual hazard.

Yesterday Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello revealed that the building has numerous fire and safety violations.

But Patricia Florio, Hoboken historical preservation specialist, said she feels the building is no less safe than many other buildings in town.

And she said tearing it down would create "a dangerous precedent."

"If that building comes down,

then what's to stop someone else saying the rest of the buildings on the block are unsafe and they should come down too," she asked.

The 111 Washington St. building, which is owned by the Washington Savings Banks, was nearly torn down on Monday by a five-man demolition crew from the V. O'Tillio Contracting Company of Paterson even through no demolition permit was ever issued.

Arezzo said he had not granted the permit because the bank had never gone to the Historical District Commission to ask permission.

Only the actions of Hoboken patrolman Thomas Meehan stopped the building from being torn down. Meehan asked the demolition crew from their demolition permit and when they couldn't produce it, he informed Arezzo, who would not let the building come down.

Officials from the Washington Savings bank and the contracting company have still not offered an explanation as to Monday's events.

Meanwhile, the bank has re-

quested that the HDC hear its request for the building to be torn down at a meeting on Tuesday night.

If the HDC, however, goes against the savings bank request, bank officials can appeal to the city council, which has the final say on the matter.

Hoboken fires consumers' friend

By Randolph Diamond

The elderly woman knocked on the office door of Hoboken's Director of Consumer Affairs Audrey Borg. But the door was locked and Mrs. Borg was nowhere to be found.

"I need help," the woman said. "I paid \$500 for a chest in a local store and the drawers don't close properly. But the store won't give me back my money."

The elderly woman walked away crying.

Mrs. Borg has become a victim of Hoboken's financial problems. She was laid off from her \$5,400 a year part-time job two weeks ago by Public Safety Director James Giordano because of the city's financial woes.

"Giordano said he wouldn't lay off any cops or firemen but he laid me off instead," said a bitter Mrs. Borg. "He didn't even give me any notice. A week before I was let go he told me."

Giordano is on vacation and was unavailable for comment.

Mrs. Borg said she would often work many hours above the 20 hour she was paid for helping out Hoboken consumers who had problems.

"I would spend my weekends working on cases," she said. "If someone called me at home as long as I wasn't busy that moment I would help them."

She said that in the past 12 months she has served 400 Hoboken consumers and received actual cash or services for consumers in excess of \$100,000.

"This was the only department in the city government that gave something back to the consumer," she said. "Yet with all the positive glory I was still laid off."

Mrs. Borg manned the office of consumer affairs in City Hall for

eight years, but she has only received a salary for the last three.

Mrs. Borg said she is hoping that Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello may be able to find some type of state or federal funds to restore her position.

"The mayor told me there might be a possibility of obtaining funds," she said.

But Cappiello was not that optimistic.

"I'll do what I can," he said. "I've asked for federal and state funds to restore a number of laid-off workers. But I have no idea if there are funds."

Informed City Hall sources, meanwhile, said the possibility of obtaining funding for Mrs. Borg's position was very small.

Meanwhile Mrs. Borg is finishing up the paperwork on the 30 or so cases she still has outstanding.

"Someone has to help," she said.

Bank, historic panel war over old building

The Hoboken Historic District Commission and the Washington Savings Bank have hardened their positions regarding a building at 111 Washington St.

The building in question, a vacant and "unsafe" structure according to bank officials, was nearly demolished last week. The bank said it wishes to construct a parking lot on the site.

If not for the quick actions of a

Hoboken policeman, the building would have been rubble. A wrecker's crane still sits at the site today.

The bank had not sought commission approval to demolish the structure — approval needed because the dwelling is in the city's historic district.

At last night's commission meeting, an attorney for the bank, Joseph Appasella, questioned the panel's right to exist and rule the use of private land.

The commission has too much power," the attorney said, "and not enough safeguards to protect the people."

Appasella said that according to the commission's by-laws, the commissioners are infringing upon the constitutional rights of at least his client, the Washington Savings Bank.

The official bank position remains that it will demolish the structure, with approval of the commission, although the governing body postponed a final decision.

"We would like to set up a meeting," said commission chairwoman Helen Manogue, "to explore options open to the bank besides destroying the building."

Appasella claimed it is "not

economical" for the bank to maintain the building "as is," despite assurances from Mrs. Manogue of possible tax benefits and assistance from the state and federal governments for rehabilitation.

She said she would write a letter to James Pinto, a bank executive, to set a meeting within the next 10 days.

"We try to accommodate all those who come before us," said Mrs.

Manogue, "but we must maintain the historical significance of the building in Hoboken."

What upset commission members most was the revelation that bank officials plan to erect a new structure over the lot "perhaps in a couple of years," although the application to demolish the turn-of-the-century building calls only for replacement with a parking lot.

Hoboken landmark may be a firetrap

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today the Hoboken landmark building that was almost demolished illegally on Monday may be a firetrap.

Cappiello said an inspection by the building inspector's office last

April of the five-story building at 111 Washington St. showed numerous fire and safety violations.

The building, which is owned by the Washington Savings Bank, falls within the Hoboken Southern Historic District and has landmark status. It

cannot be demolished without the permission of the Hoboken Historic District Commission.

But on Monday, a giant crane was in place and a five-man demolition crew was ready to tear down the building even though it did not have a demolition permit.

Only the actions of Hoboken Patrolman Thomas Meehan, who asked the demolition crew to show him their permit, prevented the building from being razed.

The demolition permits are issued by the city's building inspector's office only after the HDC gives permission for the building to be demolished.

But neither the demolition company, the V. O'Tillo Contracting Co. of Paterson, nor the bank appeared before the HDC to make such a request, or offered an explanation as to Monday's events. The bank reportedly wants to create a parking lot on the building's space.

The bank's request to tear down the building has now been scheduled to be heard at a meeting of the HDC Tuesday night.

Cappiello, meanwhile, said the April inspection report of the building show exposed electrical wiring and wood beams, an open elevator shaft, no fire-rated material in the entire building, a lack of handrails on the stairway and debris throughout the building.

Cappiello said he will go to Tuesday's HDC meeting as an observer.

Meanwhile Patricia Florio, Hoboken historical preservation specialist, said, she feels that despite the building inspector's report the building is sound.

"The building is in just as good shape as many other buildings in Hoboken," she said.

Ms. Florio said she believed with renovation the building could be renovated and the violations removed without any problems.



YOUNG PERSONS from Hudson County CETA's summer employment program are working to help spruce up the playing area near Stevens Park in

Hoboken yesterday. Pictured left to right are Avilda Torrez, Gerelene Blake and Denise Jones, all of Hoboken.

Photo by Bill Beyer

Half day' shifts hit

Hoboken Councilman Nunzio Malfetti says he's beginning to think some Hoboken department directors work half days.

Malfetti says he can't find the directors in their offices when he visits them in City Hall. Even their secretaries, he says, don't seem to know where they are.

Malfetti said he has found the most problems with Hoboken Health and Welfare Director James Farina, Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew Amato and Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Chius, he said, is often not in during the morning, while Amato and Farina can't be found in the afternoon.

Chius refused comment until he saw Malfetti's comments in print but both Farina and Amato said they both worked full days and when they were out of their offices their secretaries did know where they were.

Both Farina and Amato said they also spent countless hours on their own job at night and on weekends finishing up paper-work and supervising the various functions of their departments.

Housing

There is a cluster of tenement houses along Park Avenue in Hoboken where 70 families make their home.

The tenants complain about faulty fire escapes, plumbing and electrical problems, rodent and insect infestation, and a long, long list of maintenance and repair problems.

The landlord replies that the tenants are partially to blame because many of the repairs he makes are quickly destroyed.

There should be at least two approaches to any attempt to solve this and other housing problems in Hoboken.

The first is that serious thought must be given to consolidation — or at least, coordination — of the city's inspection services. Councilman E. Norman Wilson has suggested such a consolidation effort.

At the same time, the tenants should be doing more than complain. They should get together and form some kind of organization so that they can help to protect, improve and plan future maintenance for the buildings in which they live.

If the city does its part and the tenants do their share, there has to be an improvement. The alternative is frightening.

Wilson weighing race against Cappiello

By Randolph Diamond

Hoboken Fifth Ward Councilman E. Norman Wilson Jr. is considering a race against Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello in next May's elections.

While the councilman has refused to comment publicly on the matter, informed political sources say a number of influential businessmen, community leaders and politicians

who oppose Cappiello have all approached Wilson and asked him to run.

The sources say Wilson is now studying the situation to see how realistic a shot he would have at unseating Cappiello, who will be running for his third four-year term.

The councilman, the sources say, will make a decision in the 1979 elec-

tions when he beat incumbent City Council President Martin Brennan by 70 votes. While Wilson's margin of victory was slim, it was still considered an upset by political observers because of the heavy support Brennan got from Cappiello and his supporters. The mayor literally pulled out all stops to get Brennan re-elected.

Wilson, 41, is a lawyer who has

headed a local federally funded program, the Hoboken Organization Against Poverty and Economic Stress, for approximately 15 years.

The program provides programs for senior citizens, pre-schoolers and the poor.

As head of the program, Wilson has made friends with large segments of Hoboken's disadvantaged and has developed his own political base.

The councilman, who is confined to a wheelchair, is the son of E. Norman Wilson Sr., once the city's law director. Wilson Sr. resigned his post after eight years after a falling out with Cappiello in 1973.

Wilson knows that beating Cappiello would be no easy task.

Cappiello will have a number of important patronage positions to give out in the next year.

And sources note that only strong Cappiello supporters who promise to work hard to deliver votes for the mayor will be considered for the positions.

Meanwhile, back at the board of education, board members plan after Labor Day to hire a new lawyer and, according to sources, the new man will have the mayor's backing.

The board fired Robert Taylor more than a year ago and has been using lawyers on a consultant basis since then.

Cappiello has refused to comment on the selection, saying he doesn't want to talk politics.

Asks Hoboken inspection team

By Randolph Diamond

Hoboken Fifth Ward Councilman E. Norman Wilson Jr. called today for a consolidation of the Hoboken city's inspection bureaus to help improve conditions at many of Hoboken's tenement houses.

Reacting to yesterday's Jersey Journal article on the conditions in a group of Hoboken tenement houses from 805 to 821 Park Ave., Wilson said it has become apparent that the city's current inspection system is not working.

"Right now the housing inspection bureau, the board of health, the electrical inspector, the fire inspector

and the building inspector all make separate inspections," he said. "And one bureau often does not know what the other is doing."

Wilson said this can lead to inefficiency and duplications.

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HOUSING
On Page 14.

"We need a coordinated approach to the area of housing inspection to make sure landlords are forced to correct violations," he said.

Hoboken Chief Housing Inspector Michael Curcio had urged such a coordinated approach last year but city of-

ficials never picked up on the idea.

But today, Hoboken Health and Welfare Director James Farina said he agreed with Wilson and said he believes the coordinated approach to inspections is the only way to go.

"It's obvious after reading this Jersey Journal article that our present system of inspections is not working well enough," he said.

Farina said he expects to confer with Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello either late today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Hoboken Councilman Thomas Kennedy, chairman of the City Council's health, welfare and

See: HOBOKEN — Page 18.

Cappiello is launching auto shop crackdown

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has announced yet another crackdown — this one on the city's illegal auto shops.

Cappiello said the auto shops, which he says are fly-by-night operations for the most part, are springing up all over Hoboken.

"Many of the shops are leaving cars they can't fix abandoned on the streets of Hoboken," the mayor said. "And then the city has to pay to tow the cars away."

Cappiello said many of the auto shops are

housed in unsafe structures and are creating a fire hazard.

The mayor said he has instructed both the police and fire departments to begin the crackdown.

Hoboken Police Sgt. James Peak said he has already issued one summons to an illegal auto shop and he and fire inspectors are looking for others.

Cappiello had announced yesterday a crackdown on illegal drinking in the streets.

Tenement inspection team gets Cappiello OK, but not now

By Randolph Diamond

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today said he was in favor of a centralized city inspection bureau to help improve conditions at many of Hoboken's tenement houses.

But the mayor said he believes a formal consolidation of all the inspection bureaus in the city is at least a year off because the city doesn't have the space available now to place all the inspection bureaus in one location.

In a year, however, Cappiello says he believes the waterfront commission will close the hiring hall it will soon be opening on the top floor armory of City Hall and the city will inherit the office space.

See CENTRALIZED—Page 14.

Hoboken

Continued from Page 1.

recreation committee, said his committee has been investigating reports of unsanitary conditions outside the Park Avenue tenement houses and will make a report at tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Tenants told The Jersey Journal that despite complaining to numerous inspection agencies in the city they have not received a response to their complaints about conditions at City Hall.

The landlord of the buildings, Joseph Pini, has maintained that the tenants themselves are vandalizing his buildings, causing most of the problems.

Hoboken, losing worker struggles to clean parks

Hoboken's short-staffed Parks and Recreation division is losing another worker next week and could stand to lose more by the end of the summer.

James Farina, Hoboken's health and welfare director who supervises the parks and recreation division, said the layoffs are due to the city's financial problems.

"One worker will definitely have to be laid off next week, and two more will probably have to be terminated at the end of the summer," he said. "I don't want to lay off anyone, but there is nothing I can do to stop it."

Farina said he now has only eight park workers to take care of six parks and it's an impossible job.

"We just can't adequately clean

the parks now," he said. "I don't know what we are going to do once we lose more men."

Inspector's plea: Measures a weighty item

HOBOKEN—It's hard to believe that someone could speak poignantly about the municipal department of weights and measures, but Joe Iervolino did just that at last night's City Council meeting.

Iervolino was laid off from his superintendent's position on June 25 in a budget-cutting move which effectively closed the one-man department.

But in a passionate plea before the council, Iervolino spoke of the importance of his work to the citizens of this city.

There are 20 gas stations with a total of 146 pumps in Hoboken. Each of those pumps has to be calibrated with a five-gallon test measure, he said. There are the food markets, he added, which have

to be inspected not only for weights, but also for packaging.

Later on, Iervolino added some more: "You have Laundromats. You get a dryer for 25 cents for 10 minutes. That has to be inspected to make sure it's working properly. There are parking meters and post office meters that have to be inspected."

Iervolino takes his work seriously. "When you talk about weights and measures, you speak from the heart," he said.

Council President Walter Cramer said he was surprised when he heard of Iervolino's dismissal.

"I have directed that the department of public safety, meet next week and

discuss the matter," he said. He indicated that there is a possibility that Iervolino will be restored to his former post.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said afterward that he does not think that the department has the funds to rehire Iervolino. However, he said, he had met with the state superintendent of weights and measures, and there is a "good chance" that Iervolino can continue his work under the auspices of the state, which would then pay his salary.

Iervolino's spirits seemed to brighten with the news that his post might be retained. Smiling, he said, "We'll see next week when they weigh and measure it." —Jeff Klinefelter

Public workers want weekend compensation

The president of Hoboken's Municipal Employees Association, Judge Fitzgibbons, said today he will demand that Hoboken public works employees who are required to work weekends and have their two days off during the week be compensated extra for the weekend work.

"Working the weekends is the graveyard shift," he said. "No employee wants to work them instead of being home with their family. Employees who have to work the weekends should at least get extra

pay."

Fitzgibbons said he will make his demand a major issue in the current contract negotiations going on with the city. The municipal employees have been without a contract since January and are still working under the 1979 contract.

Roy Haack, acting public works department garage head, announced Tuesday that 11 public works employee would be required to work weekends without extra pay in order to keep the city clean.

Tenants live in filth, landlord blames them

By Randolph Diamond 8/14/80

Alex Perez believes Hoboken should take action soon on the conditions in the Park Avenue tenement house he lives in or it will be too late. "The firemen are going to have to carry the bodies out in body bags before anything is done," said Perez. "And it will happen. A fire is just bound to hit these tenement houses with all the safety and fire violations."

But the landlord throws the blame back onto the tenants.

Problems with the fire escapes, which include missing rungs, are the least of the problems of many of the 70 families living in the string of tenement houses from 805 to 821 Park Ave., says Perez.

In Perez's apartment, the problems start at the front door. It is literally coming off at its hinges and the lock is also broken.

Inside the apartment there is a broken window, some water leaks and an electrical outlet that doesn't work. Stagnant water in the Perez bathtub will not go down the drain, forcing the Perez's to take showers at relatives' houses.

"That must be a health violation," said Perez. "But we've called the Hoboken Board of Health

for the last year and nothing has been done. They sent an inspector once and we never heard from them again."

Perez, who is in his mid-20's, moved to 821 Park Ave. with his wife a year ago from Union City to be near his job at a Hoboken manufacturing plant. He says the problems with the apartment all existed the first day he saw it, but the landlord, Joseph Pini, assured him they would be corrected.

He and his wife are now looking for another apartment. Other tenants say they also get no response when they call city agencies for help. Elizabeth Rivera, another tenant in 821 Park Ave., is also looking to get out of her building.

There are holes in the floor in her apartment, a bathroom ceiling that was patched up because it fell down and looks like it is about to fall again, mice and roaches, a broken water faucet on the kitchen sink, a broken bedroom window and water leaks.

Tenants in at least 10 of the apartments had similar gripes. Some tenants, however, are more concerned about a youth gang that hangs out in the buildings late at night.

"They smoke pot and drink beer at all hours of the night," said one tenant who asked not to be identified. "They range in age from about 16 to 19 and if you go into the hallway and

ask them to stop making noise and leave the building they pull out a knife and threaten to kill you."

Tenants said none of the front doors to the tenement houses lock, which allows the gang easy access. And when they call police, the gang flees before the police arrive and returns when police leave.

Pini, a licensed plumber, runs the plumbing and heating firm of L. Pini and Son in Hoboken with his two brothers.

He says the tenants cause many of the problems in the buildings and he maintains when they do have legitimate complaints the problems are fixed as soon as possible.

The landlord says at least half the repairs he makes to the buildings are subsequently destroyed.

"I buy gutters for the building and they are stolen," he says. "Why don't we have locks on the front door? Because they were busted by people. The mailboxes were also busted. I didn't create the holes in the floors in the apartments. Someone has to be doing it."

"Each and every month when I collect the rent, I ask the tenants if there are any problems and then write it down on this list," he says.

See TENANTS—Page 24.



This row of tenement houses on Park Ave. in Hoboken is in almost unlivable condition, according to tenants. The landlord says it's the tenants' fault.

Hoboken group asks water crisis rebate

Hoboken's Anthony Russo Civic Association is asking the Jersey City Water Department for a rebate or credit for Hoboken homeowners because of the recent water crisis.

Anthony Russo, standard bearer of the organization, said there is absolutely no reason Hoboken homeowners should have to pay for water during the few days they couldn't use it because it was feared contaminated.

"The residents of Hoboken shouldn't have to pay for someone's error in Jersey City," he said.

Russo said he has written to John Krempa, director of the Jersey City Department of Water, on the matter and is currently waiting for a response.

If, however, the response is negative, Russo said his civic association may sue Jersey City for damages.

CETA director firing is upheld

HD-7/16/80 By JOE LAURA Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The Hudson County Comprehensive Employment and Training Act grievance committee yesterday upheld North Bergen Mayor Anthony DiVincent's firing of the township CETA director.

DiVincent was justified in firing John Rygielki last year for "gross mismanagement," the grievance committee unanimously ruled.

The former director will appeal the committee's ruling, according to his attorney and son, Joseph, who said he would have been "surprised" if the panel had ruled in favor of his father.

"We really didn't expect to receive any other decision from a grievance committee of Hudson County CETA on a decision made by a Hudson County mayor," Rygielki said.

He said he would appeal the committee's decision to county CETA executive director Edward Farrelly and, if necessary, all the way through the court system.

Kenneth O'Grady, the current township CETA director who once worked under Rygielki, last week told the committee that 12 checks had been made payable to persons who had never reported for work during Rygielki's tenure.

Meanwhile, township officials are still working on a reply to the county's charges that it owes more than \$1.3 million in CETA funds to the county that it cannot account for from July 1976 to March 1979.

Rygielki has said his hearing is not related to the unaccountable funds, adding that he has testified before a federal grand jury investigating all aspects of the county's CETA program.

Moving of hiring hall seen only as temporary reprieve

While the Bi-State Waterfront Commission is in the process of moving its Hoboken hiring hall from the old Jersey Observer building across the street to city hall, the move is only a temporary reprieve for the apparently doomed hall.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said Waterfront Commission officials have told him that they will most probably use the top floor armory in city hall as a hiring hall for a year and then close it down as they increase use of a computerized hiring system.

Under that system, longshoremen can make a phone call each weekday afternoon and find out if they are scheduled to work the next day as opposed to showing up in a hiring hall that same work day.

A spokesman for the commission confirmed Cappiello's statements that the Hoboken hiring hall is doomed but said the only question is when.

The spokesman said right now the hiring halls are mostly being used for last-minute work assignments since most workers are being notified the day before their working assignment.

He said with an expansion of the computerized system the hall wouldn't be needed anymore.

There are four other longshoremen hiring halls in

Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island and Port Newark.

The spokesman said the commission would also like to close the ones in Brooklyn and Staten Island, leaving one hiring hall for each state.

He said the commission has a one-year lease on the top floor of city hall with the option to renew at the end of the first year for one more year.

The commission will be paying Hoboken \$15,000 a year in rent for use of the armory and will be spending \$20,000 to create offices and renovate the now unused space.

The commission is moving the hall because the Jersey Observer building is being renovated into apartments by Applied Housing Associates.

The move is expected to be completed within a month.

6-foot St. Ann statue to be carried in streets

By A. Elizabeth Foley

The women of St. Ann's parish, Hoboken, working in rotating shifts, will carry a life-size statue of St. Ann in procession on Saturday for more than five hours through the city's streets.

The six-foot statue and its platform, decorated with flowers and bunting, weighs more than 600 pounds.

The procession is part of the annual celebration of the Feast of St. Ann, patroness of the church. Devotion to the saint is further expressed by the lighting of thousands of vigil

candles in the church at 704 Jefferson St.

Immediately following a celebrated 11 a.m. mass, Saturday, the statue will be taken from the church for its tour through the streets. The first group of 12 women to carry the statue will be members of St. Ann's Guild, headed by Lillian Russo, president.

During the procession, which will include Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, the Capuchin Friars, parishioners and devotees of St. Ann, monetary gifts will be pinned to the statue and placed on the platform by area residents and passersby.



Alex Perez points at the deteriorating ceiling and wall in his apartment on Park Ave. in Hoboken.

Landlords suspected of arson

By Randolph Diamond 8/14/80

Hoboken police are conducting an investigation into what they believe may be an arson ring involving local landlords. Informed police sources say a number of different landlords are being investigated.

The sources say particular attention is being paid to landlords whose tenement houses burn down right before they are sold to a rehabilitation firm.

"This way the landlord collects twice," said one police source. "He gets money from the insurance company and then he gets more money

when the building is sold to the rehabilitation company."

Hoboken detectives have been looking through the files of Sal Santaniello, Hoboken's Housing and Neighborhood Developer-coordinator, for information on various landlords who recently sold their buildings to rehabilitation firms.

Santaniello confirmed police had looked at some of his records but said police told him they were just doing a crime survey at various buildings.

Police sources also report they are looking into what they believe is a rip-off scheme by certain Hoboken

landlords in that right before they sell a building to a rehabilitation firm or close it down they report to police thousands of dollars of vandalism and then collect insurance on it or write it off as a tax loss.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. confirmed that the second investigation was going on and called it "an absolute rip-off by some landlords."

Crimmins said he has been in touch with agents from the Internal Revenue Agency and expects the Hoboken police to work with them in conducting the investigation.

Orders crackdown on drinking in street

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has announced a crackdown on illegal on-the-street drinking of alcoholic beverages.

Cappiello said he has ordered that all city patrolmen diligently enforce the city's ordinance prohibiting the drinking of alcoholic beverages on Hoboken streets.

The mayor said he is taking the action following numerous com-

plaints concerning young people drinking late at night in Hoboken's streets and parks.

"Our women and children are scared to walk the streets of our city at night," the mayor said. "The young people drinking in the streets often harass them. It has to be stopped."

Cappiello said the illegal drinking is not in tune with the city's renaissance.

"It's very unsightly," he said. Fines for those convicted of drinking in the streets range from \$25 to \$200.

The mayor said he hopes those given summonses and found guilty will be given stiff fines, and he said he has expressed that opinion to the city's two judges.

Municipal Court Judge Rudolph Naddeo yesterday publicly announced that he is going to get tough with persons caught drinking in Hoboken's streets. Naddeo has been dealing out the minimum \$25 fine to those caught drinking in the streets.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. said his men already have given out more than 250 summonses in the past month, but he said he will tell his men to double their efforts.

The mayor said the drinking problem seems to be greater this

New parking penalties take effect in Hoboken

Drivers who violate parking regulations in Hoboken may be facing higher fines because of a new schedule of penalties which took effect yesterday, according to city officials.

The \$2 fine for overtime parking or failing to pay a parking meter is now \$3 and the other \$2 penalties for parking in a taxi stand, parking a commercial vehicle overnight and leaving a vehicle in a school or loading zone will cost violators \$5.

Double parking, improper parking and parking in a prohibited area and railroad tracks have gone from a \$3 fine to \$5.

Remaining at the \$5 penalty are violations involving parking in an intersection, driveway, crosswalk, restricted area, sidewalk, bus zone, and at two-hour meter parking.

Alternate parking, fire hydrant, and fire zone parking violations remain at a \$10 fine.

Roller disco planned by Hoboken recreation

The Hoboken Recreation Department will sponsor a roller disco tomorrow night at 8 o'clock. Dubbed "Studio Rollers," the disco will operate exactly like a professional club with a D.J., lights, waiters, special sound, and other effects.

It will be located in the Acres of Fun Amusement Park, 80 Harrison

Street. The disco is a spin off of Studio 124, a dance club which operated out of the Hoboken Multi Service Center. The new club will be run every Wednesday night during the summer to persons 16 to 21 years old. Guests are asked to bring their own skates and there will be a dance floor for those who don't skate.

Hoboken to revive pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds

For the first time in four years the Hoboken school system will provide an educational program for 4-year-olds.

Frank McGorty, Hoboken assistant superintendent of schools, said it was decided to restart the program because of the large need in Hoboken for such a program.

The program had been terminated when funding for it by the federal government was stopped.

McGorty said the few day-care centers and the Hoboken head start program that offer such a pre-kindergarten program now are full to capacity.

"There are about 150 children in the present programs and there were 450 children in our kindergartens," he said. "Those figures alone show there's a lot of children who could take advantage of such a program."

See PRE-KINDERGARTEN—Page 8.

The assistant superintendent said the school district will attempt to use existing teachers to teach the classes so there will be no additional expense to the district.

McGorty said there will be two sessions in the program, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, both lasting two-and-a-half hours.

Free umpiring clinics



Edward M. Farrelly left, executive director of Hudson County CETA; Cheryl Greerloff, secretary; and Frank Spano, CETA supervisor, finalize plans for the upcoming CETA umpire clinic.

For everyone who thinks umpiring is so easy, your chance to see the other side of the picture awaits you, thanks to a series of umpiring clinics being sponsored by the Hudson County CETA Recreation and Youth Division.

The clinics will start Tuesday with a 9-11:30 a.m. session at Weehawken Stadium, where a second clinic will be given Wednesday. Two sessions will be held next Thursday and Friday at the North Bergen 64th Street Little League Field. The final clinics are scheduled for Monday,

Aug. 4 and Tuesday, Aug. 5, at Roosevelt Stadium, Union City. The clinics are free and open to all boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who want to learn to be umpires.

A recent survey of local private and public athletic programs showed there is a shortage and a demand for many part-time officials.

For more information, call Joe Baron and Cheryl Greerloff at 650-0680, ext. 201-238. Frank Spano, a highly respected umpire, will conduct the clinics.