

# HELL ON 14th ST.

## The hotel: #8 5/1/82

Owner was fined \$1,000 for not installing electrical smoke detectors

By DIANE CURCIO  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—One day before 12 people died during the 14th Street rooming house fire, the owner was fined \$1,000 for not installing electrical smoke detectors in the building's hallways, a state official said yesterday.

The acting director of the state Division of Housing, William Connolly, said yesterday that in October, city inspectors found that the owner, Andrew Pinter of Jersey City, had violated state housing codes for multiple-family dwellings.

Connolly said that in February the building was reinspected and the violation had not been corrected. On Thursday, a notice was mailed from the housing division's Trenton office to Pinter, fining him \$1,000, he said.

Under state housing codes, multiple-family units such as the five-story, brick structure at 151 14th St. that was destroyed yesterday by fire, must have electrically connected smoke alarms in its hallways. Battery-operated smoke alarms are required in each apartment.

Pinter had battery-charged devices in the rooms and the hallways, Connolly said.

The building's superintendent, Miguel Zacheus, said yesterday that the landlord was about to hire a contractor to install the electrical system.

But Connolly said: "Battery-operated smoke

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A SNAPSHOT of three fire victims. Luis Xavier Colon, 4, center, died; his siblings Willie, 2, and Carmen, survived.



UPI Telephoto

The fire terrifies a young child.



Photo by Bill Boyer

FIREFIGHTERS LOWER the body of what appears to be a child, one of a dozen victims of the blaze early yesterday in a four-story brick rooming house on 14th Street.

## The fire:

Suspicious fire kills 12, one a 1-month-old infant, and injures six others

By ROY KAHN  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Twelve people burned to death and six were injured yesterday when a "suspicious" early morning fire consumed a four-story brick rooming house on 14th Street.

Of the dead, six were children ranging in age from one month to eight years. Two were teenagers and four were adults. The victims were from three families.

Firefighters said the blaze, which they suspect was set, was reported at 4:23 a.m. But by the time the first engines appeared on the scene, flames were already shooting out of windows on all three floors.

As of last night the cause was still being investigated, but fire investigators said it apparently started in a second-story stairwell. It appeared to have spread rapidly throughout the building, trapping the 800-s-week-tenants in their apartments.

Some tenants died in their rooms. One woman, Luz Delia Garcia, was found by firefighters leaning against her apartment window with her newborn baby, Erica Negron, in her arms.

"She looked like a mannequin from a store," said Jimmy Patnaude, 17, who lives down the street. "I thought that was what she was until the firemen went up and took her down."

Garcia and her family were supposed to move into an apartment in New York City yesterday. Thursday night was to have been her last night in the apartment, neighbors said.

There were others trapped in their rooms, who tried to escape by jumping out of windows.

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## The catcher:

I saw a woman on the second floor holding a baby in her arms. She let go and I grabbed it'

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Patrolman James Mancuso stood across from the smoldering building at 151 14th St., where hours earlier children had fallen like rain to escape the early morning fire. At his feet on the sidewalk lay broken glass, ashes and two pillows—pillows desperate parents had used to cushion their children's fall to the sidewalk and save their lives.

"It's hard to remember how it happened, it happened so fast," Mancuso said. "I saw a woman on the second floor holding a baby in her arms. She let go and I grabbed it."

Moments later, he said, a second child dropped from the third floor. The boy bounced on the awning above the door, and then was caught by a bystander.

Mancuso said Patrolmen Ernest Mack and Robert Burns also worked with several unidentified bystanders to catch the children as they fell from windows.

"It was like nothing I'd ever experienced in my life," he said.



Photo by Ted Russell

THE BURNED-OUT PINTER HOTEL, where a fire killed a dozen residents yesterday.



Photo by Bill Boyer

TWO HOBOKEN FIREFIGHTERS, one crying perhaps, or exhausted, or both.

## Fires changing Hoboken

Yesterday at lunchtime patrons at Hoboken's Madison Hotel munched away on clams, oysters, and quiche along with a glass or two of white wine in the Victorian ambience of this restaurant-tavern. It was only a half block from the fatal fire scene at Pinter's Hotel yet it was literally a world apart.

"Slowly but surely, this whole neighborhood is going to become Madison Hotels," said one resident. She pointed to a row of tenement houses across the street.

"In five years those tenements wouldn't be there," said the young woman. "What will be there is fancy renovated apartment buildings and fancy stores

like on Columbus Avenue in New York. I predict there are going to be more fires. How else are these landlords going to get the tenants out?"

"I'm not from Hoboken," said one middle-aged man as he put lemon on his oysters. "I don't know what fire you are talking about. I was just thinking about moving here because of the closeness to New York and the low rents."

Another woman said she hoped the tenement buildings would disappear.

"I don't want people to be burned," she said. "But I wouldn't mind a nicer element of people here, if you know what I mean."

## Fires have killed 55 in four years

A total of 55 persons have died in nine major fires in Hoboken since March 1978.

The grisly streak began on March 10, 1978, when fire took the life of Alberto Langini of 560 Marshall Drive. Two others died in a blaze two months later.

The next major fire occurred in the early morning of Jan. 20, 1979, when 21 persons perished in a blaze that swept through three tenement buildings at 129, 131 and 133 Clinton St.

After that, the next fatal fires occurred on Oct. 25, 1979, and Sept. 28, 1980, when four people died in two tenement fires.

On Oct. 24, 1981, a fire at 102 12th St. took 11 lives, including five children.

Two months later, a suspicious blaze at the Americana Hotel on River Street claimed two lives.

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• Nov. 19, 1980 — Careless smoking lead to the death of one man in his basement apartment at 350 Grove St., Jersey City.

• Jan. 10, 1981 — A 44-year-old was found wrapped in a dirty quilt besides a homemade stove and ashes, reputed to be the remnants of clothing she was wearing at the time of her death in a warehouse at 417 Whiton St., Jersey City.

• Jan. 12, 1981 — Four girls and their mothers were the victims of a fire which swept through 190 New York Ave. in Jersey City. Ironically, the group was only four feet away from safety when they died. The cause was categorized as "undetermined."

• Feb. 7, 1981 — Seven victims, including a witness in an arson case, were killed in a suspicious Jersey City tenement fire at 204 York St. Believed to have begun in a sofa at the rear of the first-floor public hallway, the fire was accelerated by exploding gas. The building subsequently collapsed and the bodies were recovered from the rubble.

• Feb. 18, 1981 — A two-alarm fire killed an elderly man as it swept through two-one family houses at 39

Manhattan Ave. The cause was not established.

• May 28, 1981 — An ignited bedroom mattress led to the death of two teenage sisters plus a neighbor and her four children at 54 Bright St., Jersey City.

• July 2, 1981 — Two Jersey City residents were eventually arrested on charges stemming from a fire at 276 Duncan Ave. that claimed the life of a teenager.

• Oct. 12, 1981 — A fire in a tenement at 67 Park Ave., Hoboken, left two young boys dead.

• Oct. 24, 1981 — Tragedy again struck in Hoboken when 11 persons perished in a Saturday morning blaze at 102 12th St. Arson investigators indicated "some kind of liquid accelerant" had been poured into the hallway before the fire was set.

• Nov. 21, 1981 — The Americana Hotel, a five-story building at 78 River St., Hoboken, was the site of the next fatal fire. Two men perished, 16 were injured, and 60 left homeless. Although the immediate cause of the fire was not determined, there were indications it started in a mattress on the third floor.

## Hoboken Public Library hours to be cut

The Board of Trustees of the Hoboken Public Library and Mrs. Terry Sasse, Acting Director, regrettably announce that due to budgetary cuts, the Library hours will be implemented as of June 1 to be as follows:

Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, Sunday and Monday, closed.

# BLAZE KILLS 12

## HOTEL

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detectors in the common areas had nothing to do with the number of dead in that fire." The "only way that many people could have died was arson. ... Smoke detectors ... interconnected or not ... it makes no difference when people decide to kill each other."

Connolly's remarks were contradicted by the city's electrical inspector, Paul Marzocca.

Marzocca said smoke detectors saved lives at a fire two weeks ago at 109 Clinton St. and another fire on 12th Street four months ago. Although there is no way to tell if smoke detectors at the Pinter rooming house would have saved the tenants, Marzocca said, the devices work, and "the proof is in the two other cases."

He said he does not trust the battery devices because hallways can be consumed with fire and the detector will not sound until someone opens a door to let the smoke enter the apartment.

Electrical detectors are considered better because no matter where the fire is discovered, an alarm will sound throughout the structure, Marzocca said.

Interviewer on the streets outside the up-town blaze, many tenants said they did not hear any alarms.

One tenant, Carmen Tirado, said the alarm could be heard in the hallways but not inside the apartments.

Barbara Pinter, who said she is one of the owners of the rooming house, said the structure has been up for sale for about three years. She declined to comment further on the building, which also houses a restaurant on the ground floor and 13 dwelling units.

Andrew Pinter is listed on city tax rolls as the owner of the building. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Records show that Pinter has owned the building at least since 1965. The structure's assessed value is \$30,000. The 1982 tax bill for the building is \$4,141.20. Pinter's tax payments are up to date, according to a city tax office clerk.

The state law mandating electrical systems in hallways went into effect on Jan. 1. New Jersey is seeking full compliance with the law within five years.

Marzocca said Hoboken is "ahead of the state" in complying to smoke detector laws. He said that 1,400 smoke detectors have been installed in the city where 2,000 are required.



Photo by Bill Boyer

DONALD BRUNESKY is taken by Hoboken ambulance squad volunteers and medical personnel from St. Mary Hospital to a state police helicopter, in which he was flown to the burn unit of New York Hospital.



Photo by Ted Bevel

Onlookers watch anxiously as firefighters remove bodies from the building.

## Blaze brings grim toll to 102

By WINNIE BONELLI

Staff Writer

Yesterday's early morning fire tragedy at Pinter's Hotel brought to 102 the toll of fatalities from a series of fires that have ravaged Hoboken and Jersey City since 1979.

• Jan. 20, 1979 — Fire raged through a 75-year-old Hoboken tenement at 131 Clinton St. leaving in its wake 21 victims, 10 of whom were children. It was labeled by Capt. Ray Falco, chief arson investigator, as "definitely suspicious." Blame was later attributed to three youngsters aged 8 and 9 who set fire to a bag of garbage. They were not prosecuted on the grounds that, because of their age, they did not realize the consequence of their actions.

This fire represented the second worst New Jersey residential fire in modern times. The first occurred in November 1963, when 25 elderly persons perished in an Atlantic City hotel blaze set by a former mental patient.

• Jan. 22, 1979 — Two days later, Jersey City firemen found themselves battling a blaze at 358 York St. that claimed the lives of Marie Gonzalez, her five children and her common-law husband. Sixteen-year-old Kevin Madison was convicted of the crime in March 1981 and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

• March 19, 1979 — A two-alarm fire destroyed a Jersey City tenement, killing six persons and leaving 26 homeless at 192 Mercer St. Although the origin was originally termed "suspicious," the blaze was later pinpointed to a carelessly discarded cigarette.

• March 30, 1979 — A cigarette proved the culprit when five persons, including three children, became trapped in a tenement building fire at 605 Grove St., Jersey City.

• Jan. 2, 1980 — Two drifters met their death in an abandoned Jersey City tenement at 241 Monmouth St. where they set a fire in attempts to keep warm.

• Jan. 5, 1980 — Children playing with matches resulted in the death of a friend and destroyed three Jersey City tenements. The fire originated at 29 Clinton Ave.

• Feb. 8, 1980 — Arson was suspected in a fire that drove a 82-year-old woman to seek refuge in a basement closet in her two-story brick home at 129 Kearney Ave., Jersey City.

• March 2, 1980 — The body of a teenage girl was discovered in the rubble of a four-alarm fire that destroyed a row of three tenements beginning at 162 Union St., Jersey City. Cause of the fire was not determined.

• March 16, 1980 — A 23-year-old man was found dead on the floor of his apartment when police responded to a fire alarm at 349 Liberty Ave., Jersey City. A cigarette stuffed in a couch was noted as the cause.

• March 16, 1980 — A candle used by a woman to light her home became a torch that ignited a row of frame houses and left the homeowner dead. The affected buildings from 123 to 133 Orient Ave., Jersey City.

• June 11, 1980 — Two men were later acquitted of charges that they set a fire which killed a 52-year-old woman and her infant granddaughter. The woman died when she plunged from a fourth-floor window at 516 Bergen Ave., Jersey City.

• Sept. 28, 1980 — The investigation focused on a space heater as the cause of an early morning blaze that claimed the lives of two children at the 224 Jefferson St., Hoboken, site of a three-alarm fire.

• Oct. 27, 1980 — "Possible arson" was cited when another grandmother and two infants were discovered in the after-effects of a fire at 288 Sixth St., Jersey City.

## The injured:

Evacuation and care of victims was coordinated by the founder of the Orange-based National Burn Victim Foundation

By DIANE CURCIO

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Three intravenous bottles and a unit of blood were being pumped into 30-year-old Donald Brunesty as a state police helicopter sped him across the Hudson River in three minutes for special treatment at New York Hospital's burn center.

Having breathed the intensely heated air inside the Pinter Hotel at 151 14th St., Brunesty suffered burns to the inside of his lungs. His lungs swelled from the intense burns, and a tracheotomy was performed at the scene to save him from choking to death.

Brunesty is listed in critical condition, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan hospital said yesterday.

The helicopter transported Brunesty from Kennedy Stadium here to the East 67th Street heliport, one block from the hospital, which is on 68th Street. Dr. Jaime Lara of St. Mary Hospital here accompanied the severely burned man.

Brunesty saved himself from the flames by jumping from an upper-floor of the building, suffered multiple fractures to his legs in the process.

Yesterday's three-alarm inferno killed 12 persons and injured six others, three of them, including Brunesty, required specialized burn care. One of injured was a city firefighter, who suffered smoke inhalation. Two other persons were treated at St. Mary Hospital here.

Ambulances rushed 20-year-old Maria Colon to Hackensack Hospital, and Elizabeth Garcia to St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston. Both women are listed in serious condition. They are severely burned and suffering from trauma, officials said.

Firefighter Jerry Costante, 30, was being treated in the special care unit at St. Mary Hospital for smoke inhalation.

Two-year-old Willie Colon was admitted to the pediatric division of St. Mary for minor burns. The child was reported in stable condition.

The sixth casualty was Santos Sepulveda, 29, who suffered multiple fractures when he leaped from the building to save himself. He also suffered smoke inhalation.

The evacuation and care of Brunesty and the other burn victims was coordinated by Harry Gaynor, founder of the National Burn Victim Foundation, which is based in Orange.

Through a network known as the Regional Emergency Communication System, the foundation provides 24-hour assistance in placing burn victims in hospitals equipped to provide specialized care.

The system, however, was not used to assist the first casualties of the early morning fire, Gaynor said. The doctor at the scene made arrangements to send victims to Hackensack and St. Barnabas hospitals.

## The crowd:

*'I wanted to make sure I got my children out. ... I cried. I cried for all the babies who lived next door'*

By CHUCK SUTTON

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—"It's getting hard to live in Hoboken. You have to live all the time with fear that you are going to get burned," Yvette Caberra, a resident of 153 14th St., said yesterday as she pondered where she would sleep that night.

"I just wanted to make sure I got my children out when I knew the building next door was on fire. I cried. I cried for all the babies who lived next door," she added.

Across the street a group of men were huddled around a man they called Raymundo "TaTa" Torres. He was still crying. His wife, Olga Garcia, 22, died, with their 4-month-old daughter, Katalinain, in her arms.

He had been working late as a bartender and came home to a building in flames. Swollen eyed he showed his only possession, a color photo of his wife and child.

"Why does it happen to the Spanish people who are dying all the time," one young girl about 15 years old asked as she stood watching the crowd around Torres.

"It is Tierra del Fuego (land of fire)," Ruben Ortiz responded, almost in a whisper. Tall Victor Malin stood next to Torres, embracing his friend. An hour later Malin was in Spiro's bar on 14th Street, one block from the fire, initiating a drive to help raise money for the burials.



## 3-alarm blaze guts Hoboken factory

By DIANE CURCIO  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A three-alarm fire gutted a bamboo products factory early Saturday and was still smoldering yesterday as officials searched the charred structure to determine the cause.

Twenty-five firefighters battled the blaze, which broke out around 4:20 a.m. Saturday at the Bamboo & Rattan Works at 901 Jefferson St. Firefighter Frank Castellano suffered a rib injury in the blaze and was treated at St. Mary's hospital.

The fire was first seen on the upper floor of the three-story brick structure, officials said. But when firefighters arrived, the building was fully engulfed in flames. The factory was equipped with a

sprinkler system, but authorities have not yet determined whether the system worked.

Deputy Chief Edward Fitzsimmons yesterday said a fire watch would be kept on the building because the structure was still smoldering. Around 12:30 p.m. yesterday, a small fire flared amid the ruins, Fitzsimmons said.

The fire was so strong that people in Union City said they could smell it Saturday morning. The first alarm came in at 4:20 a.m., followed by alarms at 4:24 and 4:31.

Authorities have not labeled the fire suspicious, but have launched an investigation to determine the cause and location of its origin. Police Detective Sgt. Jack Hove was at the scene yesterday checking the sprinkler system.

## Who torched Hoboken hotel?

### In Hoboken arson almost a way of life

By Thomas Rojas

Raymond Torres arrived home yesterday to find his building a smoking ruin and to witness firemen pulling out his wife, their four-month-old baby still clutched in her arms. Both were dead.

While the fire raged early yesterday morning at 151 14th St., the Pinter Hotel, in Hoboken, Torres was working in Union City. A friend called him and told him to come home right away. Torres, 29, had been living in the hotel with his wife, Olga Garcia, 22, and their infant child, Katelin, since January.

"I can't believe it," said Torres, tears streaming down his face. "I can't believe it."

Once again, fire had struck Hoboken. Once again arson is

See ARSON — Page 4.

## 12 are dead, motive is unknown

By Randolph Diamond  
and John J. Farrell Jr.

Arson is believed the cause of yesterday's fire in Hoboken in which 12 persons — all women and children — died in a roaring inferno that gutted Pinters' Hotel at 151 14th St. The building's owners had been fined just Thursday for failing to install an electronic remote detector system.

Another nine persons were injured, three of them seriously, in the fire that left 40 persons homeless from the hotel and an adjoining apartment house at 153 14th St.

It was the fourth suspicious fatal fire in Hoboken in seven months — fires that have killed a total of 27. None of the fires have been solved.

As word about the latest fire spread many residents spoke of the theory that there was a conspiracy to burn out poor tenants so buildings could be converted to luxury apartments.

The hotel has been for sale for two years.

"I didn't believe at first what these community groups were saying that these fires were all arson-for-profit but this is just too much of a coincidence," said Pierre Manieri, a Hoboken community development agency official. "This is very scary." Other residents throughout town voiced similar concerns.

"All indications are this fire is arson," said Hoboken Fire Chief James Houn at the fire scene yesterday afternoon. "The intensity and extent of the fire denote something must be amiss."

Houn also said the location of the fire — in the second story hallway instead of in an apartment — and the fact that it spread throughout the whole building within a matter of minutes also indicated arson.

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Hoboken firemen lower the body of one of the victims of yesterday's fatal fire to the street.

## Hoboken school board:

### 13 more layoffs

By JANET SLATER  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The board of education here has notified 13 more employees that the board will not renew their positions, bringing to 57 the number of employees either laid off or facing a reduced salary because of "economic constraints," according to board President Robert Wendelken.

The employees consist of non-tenured administrative personnel, teachers, and clerks. Non-tenured personnel have held their present position for less than two years.

While some of the 13 just named will be laid off, others will suffer a loss of title and a cut in pay, said Wendelken. "Most of the employees are teachers who have taken on other positions such as a coordinator. They will continue to work, but not in their promoted positions," he said.

On April 27, the board terminated 44 employees because of budget cuts. The additional 13 names were added at an emergency meeting called by the board last Friday in order to meet a contractual deadline that said personnel must be notified of layoffs by April 30.

## Arson almost a way of life

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suspected. Once again people are dead. But the residents of this Mile Square City have seen it all before — bodies being pulled out of a charred building, mothers crying, children dying.

They have seen it all before but they have not gotten used to it. The reaction of onlookers at the fire scene yesterday ranged from shock to sorrow to anger.

Nearby, Rafael Cabrera looked at the charred remains of 153 14th St., the building next to the Pinter Hotel, which also suffered extensive damage because of the fire.

Cabrera and six relatives had lived in that building since 1976. They are now homeless. But at least they are alive.

"That fire was horrible," he said. "When I got out of the building, I heard the screams and saw the people jumping out of the

windows. It was unbelievable. Thank God, we're alive."

Cabrera said that he and his family will stay with relatives in North Bergen until they can find a new home. But they will not return to Hoboken.

"I won't come back here," he said. "The rents keep getting higher. Poor people can't live here anymore. And there are the fires."

Victor Molina, who has lived in Hoboken for 20 years, looked at the still-smoking ruins of the hotel and shook his head.

"Somebody has to do something," he said. "This can't go on. People keep dying — women and children. It's sick."

Others in the crowd of onlookers nodded in agreement. Some called for a federal investigation. Others feared that their homes would be the next to be consumed by fire.

## Hoboken council trims tax hike, layoffs

By ROY KAHN  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—After haggling over the city budget for a month, the City Council has managed to cut its proposed tax increase by \$12 and reduce the number of layoffs needed.

At a special meeting of the council last night, a revised version of the 1982 budget was introduced, reflecting a reduction of \$1.3 million in the amount to be raised by local taxes. While no confirmations were available, there were indications that layoffs of city workers, once expected to exceed 100, would now total only 50.

A new school budget was introduced as well, cut by \$900,000 from its original

version. The school board had requested a \$6 increase on its present tax rate, but as a result of the cuts, the increase has been reduced to \$4.

Edwin Chius, city business administrator, said the city tax rate will jump from \$138 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$149 by the time the budget is finally adopted.

The council, meeting in closed session since April, had been challenged by Mayor Steve Cappelletto to cut his budget proposal, which calls for a \$28 tax rate increase, to one requiring a \$10 increase or less. He suggested that the city drastically reduce the municipal employee rolls — a thought council members considered but ultimately discarded.

Of the cuts released last night, only \$340,000 were cuts in municipal expenditures. The remaining \$1 million was not saved but found by raising the city water utility and revising calculations on anticipated revenues, Chius said.

Chius said the council "took" \$440,000, which the water utility had built up as a surplus to handle cash flow problems and emergencies, and placed it in the general revenue fund. He said the move was legal, but predicted that it could result in cash problems if the utility encounters an emergency in the coming year.

Council President Walter Cramer refused to comment on any aspect of the revised budget, saying he would wait until

the public hearing set for May 19 at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

Other money used to offset the tax increase included \$270,000 from a property sale that was completed after Jan. 1 and had not been included in the original budget and an additional \$60,000 in payments in lieu of taxes, which the city learned last week it will be getting from the state.

The council also revised its calculations on the amount of tax money it expects to collect, which helped to realize another \$170,000.

Chius said the budget does not include money for police or fire department raises, which are likely to be part of new contracts now being negotiated.

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THE JERSEY JOURNAL, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1982

## Quick decisions speed victims to burn center

By Judith Locantore

Donald Bernesky was helicoptered to New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center's burn unit.

Elizabeth Garcia was helicoptered to St. Barnabas Hospital's burn unit in Livingston.

Maria Colon was transported by ambulance to Hackensack Hospital's burn unit.

How was it determined that these victims of the fire that ravaged a Hoboken residential hotel needed special care — care that they could not get at the local hospital?

Through the Emergency Burn Victims System.

All of the victims of the Hoboken fire yesterday were immediately taken to St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken to receive immediate lifesaving attention.

Physicians there determined that three of the victims were badly burned and needed the care that is administered by a team of highly trained specialists at any one of a number of burn units throughout northern New Jersey and New York.

Instead of telephoning each of the hospitals where such care units are located, the attending physician at St. Mary only had to call the National Burn Victims Foundation.

A conference call was set up so that the attending physician could inform the expert of the patient's exact condition, query the expert on any immediate steps that must be taken and prepare the patient for the transport.

"Our goal is to get the patients to the burn unit that can handle their case best and is closest to their home," Harry Gaynor, president and chairman of the foundation, stated.

"Until the foundation was founded, patients would have to be transported to Texas or California or wherever the physi-

cians happened to know there was a experienced burn unit."

Gaynor founded the foundation and set up its communications network in 1976.

"Until then the state had no central network," Gaynor said, "there was no system for treating these patients."

Gaynor classified burns as the most "traumatic, painful" wounds of all.

"Burns assault the largest organ of the body — the skin —" Gaynor said, "and victims need their families and much support to recover from these wounds," he added.

The foundation not only helps burn victims in the crucial seconds following a disaster, but assists with crisis intervention.

Physicians perform cosmetic operations and psychologists and social workers provide the necessary help in readjusting, all paid for by the foundation, which exists on contributions and volunteerism.

In fact, the helicopters often used by the foundation to transport victims, when not those of the state police, are those of private businesses throughout the state that offer their services.

Gaynor said his organization has been in Hudson County whenever there has been a fire.

His staff will return in September to talk with teachers and students of the Hoboken public school that Frankie Rodriguez, who was badly burned in a December Hoboken fire that killed 11 persons also, will attend.

"He is going to need a lot of support," Gaynor said, "and we want to make sure that he gets it from everyone. You know the expression 'Kids can be cruel.'"

One poem written by an 8-year-old girl, that Gaynor keeps near his desk at the East Orange foundation office, he says sums up the trauma a burn victim suffers in readjusting to life again. She says:

"If you cannot see inside, I might have just as well died."

## Witnesses call fire response late

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Interviews with witnesses and other concerned persons yesterday indicated considerable dissatisfaction with the fire department's response to Friday's fatal fire at Pinter's Hotel, which claimed 12 lives.

Persons who said they witnessed the fire, including some who watched the flames from across the street, said the fire trucks were the last emergency vehicles to arrive on the scene despite being housed only two blocks away from 151 14th St.

Residents of the building were jumping out of windows and dropping their children to the sidewalk to escape the flames as the first firefighters arrived at the scene.

Hudson County Prosecutor Harold J. Ruvaldt

Jr. has labeled the fire arson, and his investigation is continuing.

One of those dissatisfied with the rescue effort is an anonymous caller who identified himself as a firefighter. He claimed that more lives could have been saved if the arriving truck and ladder company had included four firefighters and a captain rather than just the two firefighters and one captain who responded to the scene of the tragedy.

Fire Chief James Houn, in a telephone interview, acknowledged yesterday that there had been a delay. But he said that delay was caused when residents in the area failed to report the fire to his department immediately.

When asked about the understaffing of the first arriving truck company, Houn initially would say only that 24 firefighters had responded

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to the fire. After checking department records, Houn acknowledged that the first arriving engine was short one man that night with only two men and one captain. He added that the second piece of fire apparatus to arrive had three men and a captain.

Houn denied that the complement of only three men on one truck hampered rescue efforts.

Persons who said they witnessed the fire and who asked that their names be withheld claimed that there was an untimely delay in the fire department's response to the fire.

Those witnesses claimed that the Weehawken ambulance, which had to come from 12 blocks away, was on the scene administering first aid "minutes before" the first fire truck arrived.

Houn said the ambulance crew probably received the emergency call before the fire department did.

# Who torched hotel, killing 12?

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Houn said a five gallon aluminum can was recovered from the second floor hall and said some residents reported the hotel had smelled of kerosene.

But by late yesterday afternoon, Detective Commander Capt. Patrick Donatacci said a state police laboratory test showed no signs of kerosene. "It was probably a garbage can," said Donatacci.

Donatacci said that police had no suspects or possible motives.

Earlier in the day Hoboken police, along with investigators from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, were investigating the account of hotel manager Pat Franklin.

Ms. Franklin said she was trying to close the bottom floor bar, at 1:20 a.m. when a man threw a bottle at her and then slashed her arm with a knife because she refused to let him in for a drink.

Ms. Franklin received 12 sutures on her arm in St. Mary Hospital after the incident.

Mrs. Barbara Pinter, one of the hotel's owners, also said there was a "fight" between a woman, who had been asked to leave the hotel by Saturday and one of her neighbors earlier in the day. Authorities were investigating that angle too.

Donatacci said what was baffling was that the hotel front door locked automatically when someone entered the building, but there were no signs of forced entry.

Flames and thick smoke had trapped 10 of the dead in their single-room apartments and another two persons died when they leaped from upper floors, authorities said. Fire officials said flames were roaring out of the building when they arrived.

Chief Houn said residents were hanging out the windows when firemen arrived at the scene after pedestrians spotted flames coming out of the building and a number of children were tossed out windows into the arms of police and neighbors.

Police Officer James Mancuso, one of the first on the scene, ran to the front of the building and caught a two-year-old child who was dropped from the second floor.

"I didn't know what I did,"



Victor, left and Luz Virginia Lopez, right, and their children, from left, Roy, 12, Eileen, 15, Jacqueline, 13 and Jose 2, who were left homeless in the Hoboken fire with only the clothes on their backs, enter the Holiday Inn Jersey City, for temporary housing.

said Mancuso. "I just held out my arms and caught the baby and that was it."

One baby thrown out the window was caught by a cabbie who lived across the street and another was caught by another neighbor. But authorities said at least one infant thrown out the window died.

Manuel Serrano and his wife, Janet who climbed down a fire escape clutching their 3-month-old baby, recalled the screams of Mrs. Serrano's relatives trapped in a room next to their third-floor apartment.

"They were screaming 'Help me, Help me!'" she said. Dead were her mother, brother, step-father and nephew.

Carman Tirado hugged her 8-year-old son as she recalled how narrowly she and her children had escaped death.

"My 12-year-old daughter had gotten up to get another blanket because she was cold," said Mrs. Tirado. A few seconds later she smelled smoke and woke me up. But we couldn't make it out through the front hallway because the flames were so intense. We managed to go

down through the back fire escape. If my daughter hadn't woke up, we would probably be all dead."

Electrical Inspector Paul Marozza said lives could have been saved if the hotel, which had 12 apartments, had electronic smoke detectors in the hallways as required by a state law. Marozza said the hotel did have battery units in the rooms but said apparently some of them did not go off.

William Connolly, acting director of the state Division of Housing said the Pinters' had been fined \$1,000 on Thursday for not installing the electronic detector system in the hallway.

Connolly disputed Marozza's statement that the hallway detector system would have saved residents lives.

"I doubt any technology could have saved lives,"

Mrs. Pinter claimed she had been trying to have an electronic detector system installed for months but she said electricians failed to show up for appointments to give price estimates.

"There were a lot of people who didn't like us (her and manager Pat Franklin) because we kicked them out because they would use drugs in the bar," she said. "I kept on telling them no drugs in the bar."

The Pinters' Hotel bar had its license suspended for 72 days effective last Dec. 24 by the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission in Newark. A copy of the order, which was obtained by The Jersey Journal, stated that Mrs. Pinter's husband, Andrew, who has a criminal record, was allowed to tend bar in violation of ABC orders.

In addition, the order states that Pinter had a hidden interest in the bar, which Mrs. Pinter, the listed owner, did not state, there was no liquor license displayed in the bar and Mrs. Pinter had used improper bookkeeping methods.

According to the order Mrs. Pinter had pleaded no contest to the charges. The bar was reopened last March.

Mrs. Pinter had said her husband, who is 73, had some minor criminal charge leveled against him when he was a young man.

She said she did not know what the charge was. She would not go into detail on the other charges.

The Pinter Hotel had a for sale sign from the DeRuggiero Real Estate Agency in Union City. Mrs. Pinter, however, said the sign had been on the hotel for two years and no one had been interested in meeting her purchase price of \$200,000.

"I and my husband decided two years ago that we've had enough of the hotel business," she said. "But we haven't been able to sell it."

Mrs. Pinter said the hotel was insured for \$125,000.

Red Cross officials said they were housing at least 30 displaced persons in area motels.

Meanwhile, Al Arezzo, Hoboken's chief building inspector, said the roof of the building had collapsed and the whole building except for the first floor must be torn down.

City building officials had said if the Pinters didn't hire a crane operator today they would hire a contractor to tear it down.

Arezzo said the adjacent building at 153 14th St. only suffered minor damage and should be able to be rehhabited.

Meanwhile, Hudson County Prosecutor Harold Ruvoldt Jr. announced autopsies on all the victims were supposed to be done today by the state medical examiners office in Newark.

He also said an arson awareness training project for police and firemen is being set up under a State Law Enforcement Planning Agency (SLEPA) grant. Ruvoldt announced, and efforts are being made to obtain more computerized "economic information," in cooperation with business and insurance companies, to highlight properties which might be targets for arson.

"There has been a disproportionate number (of arson fires) in Hoboken," the prosecutor observed. The new data-storing information would show buildings most likely to be arson targets, and putting a "spotlight" on such places would serve as a deterrent to setting them afire, he concluded.

# Crane demolishes site of tragic fire

By BILL ALPERT  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The jaws of the crane ripped timber from the burnt skeleton of 151 14th St. like a scavenger tearing carrion.

Across the street, the people prayed.

Yellow Caterpillar tractors crawling over the heap of rubble that was a residential hotel house before a fire killed 12 persons there Friday morning.

A crowd of nuns, ministers, neighbors, and street kids singing hymns — the sights are now familiar here.

The fire had ripped through the four-story brick structure about 4:20 a.m., sending Pinter Hotel's \$80-a-week tenants crying to their windows, from which some jumped — and lived. By the time 39 Hoboken firefighters put the blaze out, it had killed six children, two teenagers and four adults from four families.

Hudson County Prosecutor Harold J. Ruvoldt Jr. said yesterday that tests showed the fire was started by an arsonist. Traces of accelerants were found going up the stairwell from the second story to the third, he said.

Twenty-seven Hoboken residents have now died in suspicious fires since October.

Demolition of the hotel began Saturday, a day after the fire, as the crew of A. Ambrosio & Sons Construction Co. of Jersey City started razing the ruined building. By noon yesterday, all that remained was about 15 feet of the back and side walls.

The ground shuddered when the container trucks pulled away with their cargoes. "Our Business is Booming," said slogans on the fenders.

Puffing cigars, the demolition crew worked rapidly on the remains of the hotel. They loaded the splintered wood and twisted cables into the casketlike containers with the easy efficiency of long experience.

The water from the hoses they used to wash down their trucks flowed with the ashes past the feet of a prayer group assembled in the Exxon station across 14th Street.

About 50 people had gathered for the prayer vigil organized by the Hoboken Housing Coalition. The coalition has held prayer vigils at the site of every fatal blaze since that of Oct. 12.

"Oh God, our help in ages past," they sang.

their voices rising over the throbbing engine of the crane. "Our shelter from the stormy blast." As the members of several Hoboken congregations bowed their heads humbly in prayer, the teeth of the crane ripped the charred skin of the hotel from the walls of the neighboring building.

The clergy began to speak, through a bullhorn. There were priests from St. Joseph's and St. Anne's, and their colleagues from St. Matthews-Trinity and St. John's Lutheran Church.

The members of the Ambrosio work crew shut off their engines and paused, waiting with gruff deference. One crew member turning over the shards with the toe of his boot, another wandering over the rubble to pick out valuable pieces of copper piping.

"More people have died as a result of arson in the last five years here than have probably died in New York City or in Jersey City," said Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss of the Church of the Holy Innocents, in a rapid rush of anger. He added: "The leadership of this city refuses to face the possibility of arson as part of the life of this city."

"The incredible fear that runs through the people of low income in this city, who are scared, scared to death as to what will happen to them."

The crowd grew. Teenagers turned off their cassette players. Old men wandered over from the doors of cafes.

"The people who bear the burden of this tragedy are the children," said Sister Norberta of St. Joseph's.

She took a cardboard box and passed it around, taking a collection for the burial of the dead members of the four families. A gust of wind blew over a whiff of the ashes.

The service ended.

The crew revved up the tractors again. A redcapped worker tossed more metal tubing onto a heap on a flatbed truck.

"Excuse me, please," shouted a policeman to the dispersing prayer group. "Would you please move to the end of the block so that the construction crew can continue working?"

The ground again shuddered under the bulldozers.

## Apathy on part of Hoboken police

With the recent occurrences of death-by-fire in Hoboken, I've decided to write this letter. To state the obvious, fire is no laughing matter. Yet, it seems that a lax view is taken by at least part of the community.

Only one month ago while walking down Adams Street in Hoboken, about midnight, I witnessed an older man pull a false alarm. Following him five blocks, I saw him enter a one-family house. I then stopped several persons, asking them to call the police while I watched the house. None wanted to get involved.

Proceeding two more blocks to a fire station, I asked to have the

police called. After one-half hour they arrived. The officers and I then went to this one-family home where we were told that there was no one there who met the description of the older man.

The officers told me that they would report the incident and that the detectives would probably contact me. I've called the police department and the incident was not reported, nor did the detectives call.

With this response, it is no wonder that some people won't bother assisting the law officers. The next time I'll think twice.

John J. McKenna  
Hoboken

## The dead and injured

Hoboken police released the following tentative list of persons who died in yesterday's fire:

Anahilda Perez, 48, and her daughter, Olga Garcia, 22, and Luz Delia Garcia, 17. Two children of Luz Delia Garcia — Jorge Negron, 1, and Erica Negron, three weeks — also died, as did Katelin Torres, four months, daughter of Olga Garcia.

The other five victims were Juan Serrano, 32, his son, Charles Serrano, 3, Francisca Vasquez, 42, Ismael Vasquez, 15, Xavier Jolon, 4, and Angel Luis Perez, 8.

A spokeswoman for St. Mary Hospital said that five of the fire victims were taken to the hospital and pronounced dead on arrival, while the others were pronounced dead at the scene.

In addition, the St. Mary Hospital spokeswoman said that the persons injured in the fire were transported by helicopter to centers for treatment of burns and trauma.

They are: Donald Brunesty, 39, who was taken to the Cornell Medical Center in New York; Elizabeth Garcia, 15, who was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston; and Maria Colon, 20, who was taken to Hackensack Hospital.

Two others injured in the blaze are being treated at St. Mary Hospital.

They are: Santos Sepulveda, 29, who is in guarded condition in the intensive care unit after suffering from smoke inhalation and multiple fractures; and Willy Colon, 2, who is in stable condition in the pediatrics ward after suffering minor burns.

Two Hoboken firefighters are being treated at St. Mary Hospital: Gerald Costante, 30, who is in stable condition, and Salvatore Dorso, 39, also in stable condition. Both firemen suffered smoke inhalation. In addition, authorities said four residents of the hotel were treated for minor smoke injuries.

## Cops see no link between hotel fire and other blazes, but community activists say it's a plot by landlords

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken police see no connection between Friday's fire at the Pinter Hotel — which took the lives of 12 women and children — and the previous suspicious blazes that have struck the city since October.

Meanwhile, community leaders have scheduled a demonstration for May 15, to protest what they claim to be a conspiracy to drive the poor out of the city.

And in Jersey City, a youth charged in the arson murder of four children in last Friday night's blaze in their Pearsall Avenue home in the city's Greenville section is in the Hudson County Youth House, pending a further appearance tomorrow in juvenile court.

The youth, whose father owns the two-family house where the fire killed four children living on the upper floor, surrendered to North Bergen police Sunday while carrying a copy of Saturday's

Jersey Journal containing an account of the fatal fire.

His stepmother, with whom he lives in the Jersey City Heights, accompanied him, police said.

"There is no indication that the fire was related to the previous fires," said Hoboken Police Capt. Patrick Donatacci, who is heading

Related stories on Page 2.

the investigation into the blaze. "But we're not closing the door on anything."

Hudson County Prosecutor Harold Ruvoldt, who is working with Hoboken police in their investigation, has classified as arson the general-alarm blaze that also injured nine persons and left 40 others homeless.

The fire brought to 27 the number of persons who have died in suspicious fires in Hoboken in the last seven months. A total of 55 city residents have

died in nine major fires since 1978.

Juan Garcia, director of CUNA (Citizens United for New Action), said that protesters will meet at 151 14th St. — the site of the blaze — on May 15 and march to the locations of the previous suspicious fires.

Garcia and other community leaders claim that the string of arson fires is a plot by city landlords to drive the poor out of Hoboken, and increase property values.

However, Donatacci said that there is little likelihood that arson-for-profit was the motive for the Pinter Hotel fire.

"That hotel was a big money-maker," he explained, adding that the building's landlords collected more than \$3,000 in rents every month. "As for the 'For Sale' sign that was hanging on the building, that had been there for the last two years."

## Activists charge arson plot

Continued from Page 1  
Donatacci said that every available police detective is working on the case — interviewing survivors of the tragedy, questioning witnesses, and "following every lead."

Meanwhile, as demolition crews yesterday continued to level the burned-out building, there were also these developments:

Garcia said that community groups want to know why a safety net was not used by firefighters to catch tenants who leaped out of the burning building early Friday morning.

Citizens' groups are also calling once again for a municipal smoke detector law, following

the discovery that alarms had not been installed in the hotel's hallways.

Several Hoboken firefighters charge that manpower shortages left them short-handed to handle the blaze.

Regarding the safety net controversy, Fire Chief James Houn said that fire departments no longer use nets to catch persons trapped in a building building, because "they aren't safe for people jumping from a great height," and because "you need at least 10 firemen to hold the net."

But Garcia insists that safety nets are necessary, and said that a collection would be taken up to purchase the nets for the fire department if the city refuses to supply them.

"They should use any method to save lives," he said, pointing out that two persons died during the fire after leaping out of windows.

In regard to the demand for a municipal smoke detector law, Mayor Steve Cappelletto said that the city cannot pass a local smoke alarm ordinance as long as there is a possibility of the city being held liable for damages in the event that smoke detectors aren't installed.

Although Superior Court Judge Thomas O'Brien recently ruled that Hoboken is not legally liable for damages suffered in a tenement fire three years ago, that decision is being appealed, according to Cappelletto. Pending that appeal, the city will not act on a local smoke detector law.

Finally, regarding the claim that the fire department was ill-equipped to handle the blaze because of manpower shortages, Cappelletto said, "we're doing the best we can with the people we have."

"I'd like to hire more firemen, but the money just isn't there," he added.



Wreckers raise the remains of a hotel at 151 14th St., Hoboken, where 12 died in a fire on Friday.

## Accelerant used in Hoboken fire

# Prosecutor says arson took 12 lives

By BILL ALPERT  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The fire which killed 12 in a 14th Street hotel Friday, one of them a month-old infant, was started by arson, said Hudson County Prosecutor Harold J. Ruvoletti Jr. yesterday.

"An accelerant was used," said Ruvoletti of the blaze which broke out in the four-story Pinter's Hotel around 4:23 a.m. "We have confirmed it to be arson."

Ruvoletti said analysis of materials from the charred brick structure indicated that an accelerant — that is, a flammable substance such as gasoline — had been spilled on the stairs leading from the second to the

third story. He said there was also no indication that entry into the building had been forcible.

"We are actively continuing the investigation," he said. "A number of people are in the field right now."

By yesterday afternoon, demolition crews had nearly leveled the burnt building. Anti-arson activists, such as Ron Hine of the Hoboken Housing Coalition, noted that rapid demolition also followed the city's other large fires and questioned whether such rapid demolition might hinder later investigation.

"They are destroying the evidence," said Hine, who is the full-time director of the North Flatbush Arson Research Project in Brooklyn, N.Y. "If they end up

arresting someone and have not documented the cause and origin of the fire, they could get torn apart in court."

Ruvoletti said investigators had received sufficient materials to complete the investigation. The cranes were called in quickly, he said, because the tottering remnants of the building were even a danger to investigators.

Six engines and 39 firefighters battled the blaze for an hour before they quelled it. Twenty-four firefighters were on duty when the alarm sounded, and the others soon joined them. Police at the scene said that the

first engines to arrive appeared to have only three men each.

Firefighters yesterday said that department reports listed the full complement as having arrived at the blaze. They said, however, that manpower attrition did leave them with "not really enough" firefighters.

"I don't think we can get much smaller," said one firefighter. The city government is considering a budget that would require layoffs of 100 employees, many from the fire, police and public works departments.

A fire department member pointed out that the See ARSON, Page 5

## ARSON

Continued from Page 1  
The investigation of the Pinter's fire, and the one last October, which took the lives of 11 persons, is being conducted by local police and the county prosecutor's office. The State Police are also involved in the recent one.

## Guarini asks federal fire probe

Continued from Page 1

The local group that requested the federal probe also wants an investigation of major fires recently in Jersey City and North Hudson, according to organization leaders Theresa Lugo, Rafael Jimenez, Marlene Lao and Mike Collins.

No specifics were mentioned during a press conference yesterday at St. Boniface Church, Jersey City.

The group is planning a mass rally at Jersey City's City Hall from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday to protest what they call the lack of fair housing for low and moderate income families.

Some 14 speakers are expected to address the crowd on housing and vacancy decontrol issues, as well as suspected arson to uproot the poor, Collins said.

smoke detector system in the building's hallways.

Seven of the victims, all members of one family, will be buried in Puerto Rico. They are Anna Hilda Torres, 43, Olga Garcia, 22, Luz Delia Garcia, 18, Angel Luis Perez, 10, Jorge Alejandro Negron, 1½, Catherine Torres, 5 months, and Erica Negron, 1 month. Funeraria Rivera in North Bergen is in charge of the arrangements.

## Hoboken wants sidewalk cafes fenced

With an increase in restaurant sidewalk cafes, the Hoboken City Council has decided to regulate them.

An ordinance introduced last night would have all sidewalk cafes separated by fences or other partitions from sidewalk traffic.

The council also introduced an ordinance to allow florists to display flowers and plants on in front of their shops.

The issue created a controversy last year as shoppers and merchants alike complained that cafes along Washington

Street disrupted pedestrian traffic.

The measures introduced last night are designed to head off any controversy. Under the ordinance, sidewalk cafes must keep the tables within a partition as well as meet all city health and building code regulations.

The restaurant must also first negotiate and sign a renewable annual contract with the mayor and city council before it opens the cafe, according to statutes.

Concerning the florist ordinance, Council President

Walter Cramer said it was introduced in order to exempt the florists from the city's regulations against selling merchandise on the sidewalks. According to Cramer, several florists had placed bouquets and other floral arrangements just outside their doors and had been issued summonses.

Under this ordinance, these florists will be exempted from city regulations, though their displays are only limited to no more than three feet from their storefront.

In other business, the council

agreed to allow the city LaFera Contracting Co. to post only a \$200,000 performance bond on its \$1.2 million contract with the city to pick up and cart garbage. In return for allowing the company to post only the \$200,000 bond rather than a bond for the full amount of the contract as required, the company has agreed to reduce the cost of the contract to the city for \$15,000.

According to Cramer and other councilmen, this type of arrangement has been agreed to in previous years with LaFera.

## Hoboken residents demand fire protection

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken Housing Coalition is calling on Mayor Steve Cappelletto to establish a comprehensive program to prevent deadly fires and improve arson investigations.

At a meeting with Cappelletto, the Housing Coalition — which represents a number of community groups — called for a "new, coordinated action on the part of the administration" to stop the "deaths and dislocation due to fires."

Among those attending the meeting were Sister Norberta, a leader of the "Por La Gente" (For the People) tenants' group; Helen Manogue, chairman of the Hoboken Environment Committee, and Hugh Hothorn of the League of Hoboken Homeowners.

The meeting was called to express the community's concern about Friday's fire at Pinter's Hotel, which killed 13 persons, injured nine, and left 40 persons homeless. That blaze brought to 28 the number of residents who have died as the result of suspicious fires in the past seven months.

Specifically, the Housing Coalition is calling for the following:

• The establishment of a task force — which would include the mayor, housing inspectors, the health and welfare department, and the police and fire departments — to handle fire prevention and detection.

• A citywide education program on how to prevent fires, how to report a fire, and how to get out of a burning building.

See RESIDENTS — Page 10.

## Activists ask repeal of decontrol

Hoboken community activists, who are concerned about Friday's arson fire at Pinter's Hotel, are calling once again for a repeal of the city's rent vacancy decontrol law.

The activists claim that the vacancy decontrol law, passed last summer, gives landlords a "material incentive" for driving tenants out of a building, through "whatever means possible."

"Once the tenants are out of a building, the rents go up," said Thomas Soto, a leader of the New Jersey All People's Congress. "The arsons in Hoboken began when vacancy decontrol was passed."

A total of 27 persons have died in suspicious fires in the city over the last seven months, including 13 persons at Pinter's Hotel.

But Hoboken police see no connection between Friday's blaze and the previous fires.

In addition, city officials have said that there is no connection between vacancy decontrol and the streak of suspicious fires.

They claim that the decontrol measure gives landlords the power to raise rents only when a tenant voluntarily vacates his apartment, not when a tenant is forced out.

Nevertheless, community

leaders are expected to renew their call for a repeal of the controversial decontrol law at tonight's City Council meeting, at 7 at City Hall.

Also at the meeting, the city is expected to amend the city's zoning board of adjustment ordinance to provide for alternate members to the zoning board.

The alternate would replace members of the board who are unable to attend a particular meeting, or who must disqualify themselves from voting on a particular issue because of a possible conflict-of-interest.

There are nine members on the zoning board. Six members

are needed in order to make up a quorum at a meeting.

In addition, the council is scheduled to discuss closing a section of Shore Road (also known as Frank Sinatra Drive) during weekends from May to October.

In past years, Shore Road has always been closed to traffic during the summer months to allow children to use the thoroughfare for bike-riding and other activities.

However, the Maxwell House Coffee Co. recently opened a new entrance on Shore Road, leading to speculation that the road may not be closed this summer.

## Fear economy endangers Hoboken

By Thomas Rojas

Are budget cuts endangering the safety of Hoboken residents?

In the wake of Friday's tragic fire at Pinter's Hotel, some residents are wondering whether cutbacks in manpower reduced the effectiveness of the fire department in battling the

blaze, which killed 12 women and children.

City officials have denied that charge. But now comes the accusation that Hoboken's police cars are old, unsafe, and incapable of meeting the city's needs.

According to Patrolman Thomas Meehan, president of the

Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association, a wheel fell off a police car during a chase last week.

Although no one was injured, Meehan claims that the incident illustrates the need for new police cars.

"Some of the cars we have are five years old, and some couldn't even pass inspection," he said. "With the wear and tear that police cars take, they should be replaced every two years. The cars we've got now aren't safe."

Public Safety Director James Giordano confirmed that the department hasn't purchased a new car in the last three years, but denied that the cars in use aren't safe.

"We wouldn't put a car out on the street if there were any danger," he said. "Most of the cars are still in pretty good shape."

Giordano said that in years

past, police cars were periodically rested. But now, because of budget cuts, most cars are in use 24 hours a day.

"I would like to replace the whole fleet of cars every two years," he said. "But with the budget the way it is, we're going to have to make do with what we have."

Mayor Steve Cappelletto admitted that budget cuts have reduced the manpower and equipment in the police and fire departments, but added, "we're doing the best we can under the circumstances."

The mayor explained that many city homeowners will have to give up their homes if the city's tax rate increases drastically.

He said that he and the City Council are "considering every possible way" of reducing the 1982 municipal budget.

## Residents demand fire protection

Continued from Page 1

• An improved fire prevention program in the schools.

• Improved housing inspection by the state and frequent follow-up inspections of multi-family buildings with housing violations.

• An evaluation of fire fighting equipment to ensure that all the equipment is operable and to determine if additional equipment (such as safety nets or air bags) is needed.

• The hiring of additional arson investigators for the fire department. The coalition also suggests that the city ask neighboring municipalities for help in arson investigations.

• The creation of a Fire Victim Trauma Treatment Center at St. Mary Hospital.

• Additional information from the Red Cross on the services that the agency provides for fire victims. The coalition also asks that the Red Cross work with local clergy to provide on-site counseling for fire victims and bereaved families.

Cappelletto said that all of the group's suggestions would be studied and taken into consideration. He added that he will contact officials in New Haven, Conn., which has established a fire prevention task force similar

to the one recommended by the housing coalition.

Mrs. Manogue said that the group would meet with Cappelletto again "at the end of May" to discuss the progress of the proposals.

## Hoboken school budget compromise reached

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken City Council and the Board of Education have worked out a compromise in their dispute over cuts in the school budget.

The school board has agreed to make additional reductions of \$357,000 in its proposed 1982-83 measure. The board had previously reduced the measure, which had been rejected by the Board of School Estimate, by \$520,000.

The City Council for its part has agreed to back a \$2 million bond issue to repair all city schools.

The council had reportedly been seeking about \$680,000 in additional cuts in the school budget, which had several school officials considering appealing the cuts to the state commissioner of education.

However, after a series of

meetings between the council and the school board, it was mutually agreed that the proposed budget would be reduced by an additional \$357,000. That means that the school board must cut its original \$21.7 million budget by a total of \$577,000.

At the same time, the council has agreed to support the \$2 million bond issue for school repairs. The school board had originally asked for a \$9 million bond issue, but that was also negotiated downward.

School board member James Farina said that the anticipated cuts will probably mean additional layoffs.

A total of 57 non-tenured teachers and administrators have been issued termination notices thus far. However, a number of non-tenured administrators have tenure as teachers, and can return to those positions.

## Garbage ordinance asked

Hoboken Public Works Director William Van Wie is calling for a city ordinance that would require homeowners and storeowners to remove all garbage from the roadways in front of their homes or businesses.

Van Wie said that the proposed amendment to city litter law would require that property owners clear the area in front of their property from the curb to 18 inches into the roadway.

Currently, property owners are only required to sweep the sidewalk in front of the property.

"Many people sweep their garbage out to the curb and leave it there," said Van Wie.

"When it rains, the garbage goes into the catch basins and clogs the sewers."

Van Wie notified the City Council and the Law Department of the proposed ordinance, which is modeled after a New York City law.

"I want the ordinance to carry a substantial fine," he said. "Without a fine, the law would be useless. We have to make an effort to clean up the city."

# Heroes in Hoboken fire nominated for award

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

WEEHAWKEN—In the aftermath of the fatal 14th Street hotel fire last week that killed 13, the Weehawken and Hoboken volunteer ambulance squads have nominated five of their members as heroes for administering first aid while their lives were in danger.

The squads have recommended that the New Jersey State First Aid Council award citations to Michael Lisa, Edward Fitzsimmons, and

Wayne Garrison of the Hoboken squad and Mike Duffy and Frank Walters of the Weehawken squad.

"These volunteers were working on people who had jumped out of windows onto the sidewalk," Jeff Welz, a spokesman for the Weehawken squad, said. "As they were working, people were still jumping from windows, landing on the sidewalk just a few feet from where they were rendering first aid. Even though they realized they could have been seriously injured by the people jumping out windows, they continued to render first aid."

continued to render first aid.

"The normal thing would have been for them to think of their own safety first, and when bodies started dropping two feet away, to just get out of the way," he continued. "We're going to recommend them for the highest honor from our state organization."

Welz said a mutual aid agreement, adopted by the Weehawken and Hoboken squads two weeks ago, enabled the independent squads to provide first aid to the fire victims as well as cover the town.

"Our people were working from 4:30 a.m. until all the bodies had been removed at 11:30 a.m.," he said.

Besides administering first aid, the squads transported victims to area hospitals.

Welz added that volunteer ambulance squads from Union City, North Bergen, and Secaucus and the police ambulance from West New York also helped at the fire scene.

Welz did not say when a decision by the state organization was expected.

## Hoboken looks to purchase

### of 'air bags'

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello says that the city is considering purchasing "air bags" to catch persons who leap out of burning buildings.

Meanwhile, local community groups have called a press conference for today to discuss plans for a protest march on Saturday to demand increased fire protection.

In the wake of the April 30 fire at Pinter's Hotel — which claimed 13 lives — Hoboken residents have criticized the fire department for not using safety nets to catch persons who leaped out of the building's windows.

Two persons died after jumping out of windows.

But Fire Chief James Houn said that the fire department has not used safety nets in years because they are unsafe.

"The nets aren't reliable when people jump from a great height," he explained. "Also, you need to have at least 10 men holding the net."

But Cappiello said that the city is considering using inflatable "air bags" to catch persons trapped in burning buildings, as an alternative to safety nets.

"I've asked Chief Houn to talk to New York fire officials about the pros and cons of air bags," he said. "We're looking into the possibility of purchasing air bags in the future."

Meanwhile, several activist groups — including CUNA (Citizens United for New Action), a Hispanic youth counseling group, and the New Jersey All People's Congress — have scheduled the press conference today at 151 14th St., the site of the Pinter's Hotel blaze.

The protestors are scheduled to march Saturday to the sites of the recent suspicious fires in the city — which have claimed 28 lives in the past seven months — beginning at 1 p.m.

In a related development, fire officials are investigating the fire that gutted the Bamboo & Rarran Works' factory at 901 Jefferson St. early Saturday morning.

Fire officials have not yet determined a cause for the blaze, in which one firefighter suffered a rib injury. No other injuries were reported.



Poet James Ruggia reads to children from Hoboken's Brandt School at a recent poetry workshop at the Unicorn Bookstore. Teacher Angela Grimaldi is seated at the upper right.

## Magazine features poems by students

"When I see my mother, I see the sky. / When I see the sky, I see God."

"I love a rainy day. / All the rushing pools; and all the shiny drops of liquid. / Oh, I love the rain."

Those poems recently appeared in "Ferro-Botanica," a magazine published in Hoboken, which features poetry, drawings, and works of prose by local contributors.

But, what makes these poems particularly interesting, is that they were written by students in teacher Angela Grimaldi's third-grade English class at Hoboken's Brandt School.

In fact, some 300 poems and drawings by Ms. Grimaldi's budding Whitmans and Picassos appear in the magazine.

According to Ms. Grimaldi, her students' literary debut came about quite by accident.

"I've always had my third-graders do a lot of writing," she explains. "I try to encourage them to express their innermost feelings by writing little poems and thoughts, and sometimes we publish their work in the class newsletter."

One day, she continued, poet James Ruggia, who is the editor of "Ferro-Botanica," visited her class to conduct a poetry workshop.

Ruggia was so impressed with the children's poems that he offered to publish them in his magazine. Ms. Grimaldi quickly agreed.

"These children are very bright and imaginative," she says. "You just need to give a little push to their imagination and they will blossom."

Recently, the children read their poetry and participated in another workshop with Ruggia at Hoboken's Unicorn bookstore-cafe. While at the bookstore, one enthusiastic student bought a book of 47 poems and read all of them that night.

"The important thing is to give the children an appreciation of the beauty of the written word," says Ms. Grimaldi. "Many of them come from broken homes, so we try to make learning as pleasurable as possible. We try to make them aware of the beautiful things around them."

## Cappiello calls special meeting on budget cuts

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has called a special meeting of the City Council on Monday to draft a reduced 1982 municipal budget and approve a revised school budget.

Cappiello said that the council will meet in closed session at 8:30 p.m. Monday to discuss the municipal and school budgets.

That will be followed, at 8 p.m., by a public meeting at which the council is expected to amend the proposed 1982 municipal budget which projects an increase in the tax rate of \$28 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

In recent weeks, Cappiello and the council have held a series of budget-cutting work sessions in order to reduce the original \$20.3 million budget by about \$1.5 million.

At Monday's meeting, the council is expected to adopt an amended budget that projects an increase in the tax rate of about \$10.

According to Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the amended budget will then be sent to the state Division of Local Government for approval. A public hearing on the amended budget will be held on May 19 at 7 p.m.

The fate of about 100 city employees may depend on the council's decisions Monday night.

Cappiello has said that the number of city workers who are terminated will be determined by the budget figure that the council agrees upon.

The mayor has scheduled a meeting with his department directors for 11 a.m. Tuesday to discuss the number of municipal employees that will be laid off. He has said that as many as 100 city workers may be terminated.

See HOBOKEN — Page 10.

## Hoboken budgets

Continued from Page 1

According to sources, 45-day layoff notices for about 40 Civil Service workers will take effect on Wednesday, while layoff notices for all other city workers take effect the following week.

In addition to the layoffs, Cappiello is expected to impose a salary and hiring freeze, cut-backs in overtime payments, reductions in rank, and a reduction of the work week during the summer.

As for the proposed 1982-83 school budget, the council is expected to approve a revised measure that is \$877,000 lower than the original \$21.7 budget.

The Board of Education has issued dismissal notices to 57 non-tenured teachers, administrators and other personnel in an effort to trim the school budget, which originally called for about \$5.7 million to be raised by local taxation.

## Hoboken wants state anti-fire task force

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has asked the state to appoint a special task force to conduct strict follow-up inspections of multi-family buildings in the city with life-threatening housing violations.

Cappiello said that he is calling on the state Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Housing Inspection to establish a special team, headed by a deputy attorney general, which will concentrate on Hoboken, where suspicious fires have claimed 28 lives in the past seven months.

The mayor added that he would like the state team to concentrate on "large, multi-family buildings," where landlords have failed to install smoke detectors, or provide adequate fire escapes.

The proposed state task force would issue stiff fines to landlords who do not abate the violations, and would conduct frequent follow-up inspections to insure that the violations are corrected, it was added.

In the wake of the April 30 fire at Pinter's Hotel, which killed 13 persons, Hoboken residents have demanded increased fire protection.

Cappiello has said that plans are in the works for improving fire prevention and detection through a coordinated program involving all city agencies.

Meanwhile, Hoboken police continue to investigate the Pinter's Hotel blaze, which has been classified as arson by the Hudson County prosecutor's office.

Arson investigators said that the building's landlords had failed to provide electronic smoke detectors in the hallways, as mandated by state law.

Several local community groups have scheduled a protest march for Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m. The groups are expected to march to the sites of the recent suspicious fires in the city to protest what they claim is a lack of protection by the administration.

## Hoboken suing hospital for water bill

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken City Council has asked the city's legal department to file suit against St. Mary Hospital to collect about \$100,000 in unpaid water bills owed the city.

Meanwhile, Councilman E. Norman Wilson is accusing the city administration of "dragging its feet" in collecting back monies.

But Mayor Steve Cappiello insists that the administration is putting pressure on all property owners who are in arrears on water bills.

Regarding St. Mary Hospital, Cappiello confirmed that the hospital owes the city about \$100,000 in unpaid water bills, dating back several months.

The mayor said that the city has repeatedly tried to collect the unpaid bills, but the hospital continues to be negligent. He added that the city

may have to sue for payment of the water bills, as the council has recommended.

Charles Wade, vice president of finance and fiscal affairs for the hospital, said, "if they are suing us, we certainly aren't aware of it." He had no further comment about the unpaid water bill.

But Wilson contends that St. Mary's unpaid debt is only part of the problem.

"The administration has constantly been lax in collecting back monies," he said. "You would think with the current budget crisis that the administration would try to collect every penny due the city, but they're dragging their feet."

Wilson cited one apartment building, at 819 Park Ave., which owes the city \$2,300 in back water bills. He said that the building's owners — the Park Avenue Corp. — last paid their water bill in October, 1980.

See WATER—Page B1.

## Water bill

Continued from Page 1

But Cappiello said that Revenue and Finance Director Bernard Scrivani is pressuring the Park Avenue Corp. to pay the monies owed the city. He added that the city will place a tax lien on the property if the owner does not pay the bills soon.

"We are trying our best to collect all monies due the city," said the mayor.

## Rare films to be shown at Hoboken celebration

Two special showings of rare films and photographs about Hoboken will take place this week as part of Hoboken Celebration '82.

Tomorrow marks the opening of "Personal Views of Hoboken," an exhibition of photographs and written recollections of the waterfront city prior to 1940.

The exhibition, funded in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, will be on display at the Celebration Center, Second

and River streets, through May 26.

Immediately following the opening reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., there will be a lecture and workshop on "Discovering Your Family History," conducted by Barbara Irwin of the New Jersey Historical Society.

On Thursday, at 8 p.m., "Home Movies and Historical Views of Hoboken" will be on view at St. Mathew's Church auditorium, 57 Eighth St.

The program will include home movies by Hoboken resi-

dents that date back to the 1830s, and a rare newsreel by pioneer filmmaker Thomas Edison of a prohibition parade that erupts into a fight.

There will also be live musical accompaniment by pianist Gerald de Mann and singer Mario Doria, both of Hoboken.

Celebration '82, a three-month festival of artistic and historical events held all over the city, is a project of the Hoboken Cultural Council. All events in the celebration are free to the public.

## Hoboken to start program to prevent fires

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has begun to take steps to establish a coordinated city-wide program to prevent fatal fires and improve arson investigation.

Cappiello said that he has begun discussions with housing code enforcement officials, police, fire and health and welfare officials in an effort to set up a comprehensive fire prevention and detection program.

A group called the Hoboken Housing Coalition — representing a number of community groups — called for an improved fire prevention program at a recent meeting with the mayor.

The housing coalition members — including Helen

Manogue of the Hoboken Environment Committee and Hugh Hothem of the League of Hoboken Homeowners — expressed their concern over last week's suspicious fire at Pinter's Hotel, which killed 13 persons.

The group also demanded stricter code enforcement, an evaluation of the city's fire-fighting equipment, and an improved fire prevention program in the schools.

Cappiello said that all of the proposals are being discussed, adding that he was particularly concerned about improving housing code enforcement.

The mayor also said that he would meet with Fire Chief James Houn to discuss the possi-

ble need for additional fire-fighting equipment, such as safety nets or air bags to catch persons trapped in burning buildings.

Cappiello also said that he will discuss with Hudson County Prosecutor Harold Ruvoldt the Arson Awareness Project that is being developed by the prosecutor's office.

Under the planned system, housing, tax, police and fire information would be fed into a computer to determine buildings that are most likely to be arson targets.

Meanwhile, the Hoboken and Weehawken volunteer ambulance squads have nominated five of their members for citations for

their work during last Friday's tragic general-alarm blaze.

The squads have recommended that the state First Aid Council award citations to Michael Lisa, Edward Fitzsimmons and Wayne Garrison of the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and Mike Duffy and Frank Walters of the Weehawken ambulance squad.

In a related development, Elizabeth Garcia, who suffered severe burns in the Pinter's Hotel fire, has been transferred from the burn treatment unit at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston to a regular room. However, she is still listed in critical condition.

## Head Start takes a year at a time

The Hoboken HOPES Head Start program — which provides educational, nutritional, health and social services to 120 children — is taking things "one year at a time."

Recently, the program received a \$240,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which insures that the program will be able to operate for another year.

The grant was greatly appreciated by E. Norman Wilson, executive director of HOPES (Hoboken Organization against Poverty and Economic Stress), who feared that federal budget

cuts could jeopardize the program.

"We're pleased that we won't have to cut services or let go of any staff," he said. "But we don't know how much money is going to be available next year. We're just taking things one year at a time."

The Head Start program recently held a multi-cultural show at the Multi-Service Center, featuring youngsters from the program who danced and put on a fashion show.

Proceeds from the event went into Head Start's parents' fund, which regularly organizes special events for the children.

## Martha B. Stevens Sunday planned at Holy Innocents in Hoboken

Martha Bayard Stevens Sunday, in honor of the 151st birthday of the foundress of the parish and in conjunction with Hoboken Celebration '82, will be observed this weekend at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Episcopal, Sixth and Willow Streets, Hoboken.

Born in Princeton, May 15, 1831, Mrs. Stevens died Easter eve, April 1, 1899.

The church, a national landmark, was placed in the national register of historic sites in July, 1977 and a few months earlier in

the New Jersey register.

The church was instituted on April 7, 1872, as a Sunday School mission, while the current building was under construction. The church as it stands today was consecrated on Aug. 27, 1874. It was built as a memorial to Julia Stevens, who died at the age of 7, while vacationing in Rome, Italy, with her parents, Martha and Edwin Stevens, founder of Stevens Institute.

In recognition of the day, the 10 a.m. worship hour will be followed by a coffee hour and

reception. Beginning at noon, an open house will be held at the church, featuring tours of the building, its artifacts and furnishings. At 4 p.m., a concert by "Pipes and Quills" will take place as part of the Hoboken Celebration '82.

Arrangements for Martha Bayard Stevens Day were made by the Church of the Innocents vestry, under the direction of Jane Trombley, junior warden, Peggy Stamford and Jo Uhde-Lacovara.

In addition to founding the

Church of the Holy Innocents, Mrs. Stevens contributed to every church then in Hoboken, regardless of creed.

She also donated land for several parks, including Church Square Park, as well as grounds for St. Mary Hospital. She aided financially in building the original hospital.

Mrs. Stevens was instrumental in the founding of the Hoboken Evening School for Adult Industrial Education and Martha Institute, both no longer functioning.



Church of the Holy Innocents, Sixth and Willow Streets, Hoboken, founded in 1872 by Martha Bayard Stevens.

## Hoboken Council sets tax rate at \$148 per \$1,000

The Hoboken City Council last night proposed cuts in the 1982 municipal budget to reduce the amount to be raised from taxes by \$1.3 million and set the tax rate at \$148 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Before last night's vote, the amount to be raised by taxation was to be approximately \$8 million. The proposed cuts made the amount \$6.7 million.

Before the cuts, the municipal tax rate would have been approximately \$167. The proposed tax rate of \$148 is \$10 more than the 1981 rate of \$138.

The cuts proposed by the council include a \$400,000 cut in the taxes to be raised to support the 1982-1983 school budget. The school tax had been set at \$5,248,795 and the amendment proposed by the council would reduce the amount to \$4,848,183.

The public hearing and final vote on the budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 19 at City Hall.

Other change proposed by the council were an increase in general revenue from \$12,210,655 to \$13,060,710. Total appropriations were reduced from \$20,367,824 to \$19,843,856.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he was disturbed by the methods the council used to pare down the budget. He was particularly concerned about some \$440,000 taken from water utilities to reduce the local property tax bite.

"If the water utility doesn't support itself this year, that money is going to have to come

from general revenues," he said. "Let's just hope we don't have any water emergencies."

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the cuts may still mean layoffs for 50 city workers. Cappiello said the budget as amended by the council makes "no provision for salary increases and they will have to cut heads (order layoffs) to meet them."

Chius said the council action "is not fiscally sound, but the planning isn't sound. It is not conducive to a stable tax rate in 1983."

The amended budget now has to be sent to the state Division of Local Government Services for approval.

Cappiello is scheduled to meet today with municipal department directors to discuss the number of employees who may have to lose their jobs as a result of the cuts.

## Fears for summer recreation plans due to layoffs

Hoboken Recreation Director James Farino fears that the city's summer recreation program for youngsters may be eliminated because of anticipated layoffs of municipal workers.

"Whenever there are budget cuts, the recreation programs get hit hard," said Farino, who is also health and welfare director. "I know that the city has to keep essential services going, but it's going to be hard on the kids."

Farino explained that the city usually runs softball and basketball games, field trips, and arts and crafts activities for youngsters during the summer months.

However, with about 50 Civil Service workers expected to receive pink slips next week when 45-day layoff notices take effect, the summer recreation program may be scrapped.

In addition, Farino said that budget cuts may force him to reduce the number of workers

who clean and look after the city's parks.

"Right now, I've got eight men looking after three parks," he said. "But, with the layoffs, I may be down to three men. Unless the people cooperate, the parks are going to be filthy this summer."

Other department directors expressed similar concerns about the impending layoffs.

"I'm hoping to get about 30 kids from the CETA summer youth program to help clean the lots and streets over the summer," said Public Works Director William Van Wie. "As for next fall, we're going to try to maintain services with the amount of people we've got."

The Hoboken City Council recently reduced the proposed 1982 municipal budget by about \$1.3 million. Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that about 50 municipal employees will be laid off because of the budget cuts.

## Tied to sex crime

### Suspect jailed

By WILFREDO FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

The case of a Hoboken man accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 9-year-old girl was sent to a Hudson County grand jury yesterday, and the suspect was held in lieu of \$25,000 bail in the Hudson County Jail in Jersey City.

Gil Garcia, 43, of 360 Marshall Drive, Hoboken, was arraigned before Central Judicial Preprocessing Court Judge Edward Zampella yesterday. The victim, a resident of the Heights section of Jersey City whose name was withheld, was abducted around 2 p.m. May 1 in the area between Franklin Street and New York Avenue here.

Garcia is accused of enticing the girl into his 1966 Cadillac and raping her at the foot of Franklin Street, where the road meets Paterson Plank Road.

Garcia was arrested on Thursday when the girl was with relatives on Monroe Street in Hoboken and recognized the car and the driver. Hoboken police arrested Garcia and turned him over to the Jersey City police.

He was charged with aggravated sexual assault and abduction.

## View layoffs in Hoboken departments

Now that the Hoboken City Council has reduced the proposed 1982 municipal budget by \$1.3 million, city officials are trying to decide which municipal departments will be hardest hit by layoffs.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that about 50 municipal employees will be laid off on May 19, because of the budget cuts made by the council at a special session Monday night.

Chius, Mayor Steve Cappiello, and the department directors are holding a series of meetings this week to discuss the impending layoffs.

Although 45-day layoff notices to some Civil Service workers were to have taken effect today, Chius said that it was decided to wait until May 19 — when layoff notices to most city workers come due — to begin the terminations.

The business administrator said that the city is also considering several other cost-saving measures, including a salary and

hiring freeze, reductions in rank, cutbacks in overtime payments, and a reduction of the work week during the summer.

At Monday's special meeting, the council set the city's tax rate for 1982 at \$148 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, an increase of about \$10 over last year. The original \$20.3 million budget had projected an increase in the tax rate of \$29 over the 1981 rate of \$138.

One of the methods used by the council to reduce the budget was to take about \$440,000 from the city water utility and place it in the general revenue fund.

Cappiello said that he was disturbed about that move, explaining that the city could face cash flow problems if there is a water emergency this year.

The amended budget now has to be sent to the state Division of Local Government Services for approval. A public hearing and final vote on the budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 19, at City Hall.

## Hoboken fears next arson blaze

By Thomas Rojas

In the aftermath of the recent arson fire at Pinter's Hotel in Hoboken — in which 13 women and children were killed — residents are wondering "which building will be next?"

In the past seven months, suspicious fires in (Hoboken) have claimed 28 lives, including those of 15 children. And the residents of the Mile-Square City will tell you that they are afraid.

"The people here can't sleep at night because they are afraid that their building may be next," says Victor Molina, who has lived in Hoboken for 20 years. "If you had children, wouldn't you be afraid?"

Molina, who helped collect more than \$1,300 for families left homeless by the Pinter's Hotel blaze, believes that any one of a row of dilapidated apartment

buildings next to the burned-out hotel on 14th Street could be a likely target for arson.

"All of those buildings are firetraps," he says. "They are filled with dangerous violations, but the city won't do anything about them."

Molina yesterday took a Jersey Journal reporter inside one building local residents are particularly concerned about: a five-story tenement at 161 14th St.

Molina pointed out that there are no smoke detectors inside the apartments or in the hallways, and indicated garbage cans that are kept inside the building where they can easily catch fire.

But tenants of the building — which is owned by the Severino Real Estate Co. — are especially disturbed about the basement, which is filled with wood, mattresses, discarded furniture, even

dead birds. "If anyone throws a match into that basement, the whole building will go up," said Molina, who added that he had notified Mayor Steve Cappiello of the violations, but has received no response.

However, Cappiello said yesterday that he is aware of the problems, and has referred the matter to the city's housing department.

The mayor added that the tenants of the building have been granted a permit to put a garbage container out on the street in order to clean the basement out.

He also reiterated that the city is working with state authorities in an intensified effort to inspect all multiple dwelling units in the city.

Meanwhile, Molina said that he is forming an organization of

local Hispanic residents who will get together to discuss the arson problem.

"Some of the people are talking about patrolling the streets at night to protect against arson," he added.

Molina, like many other local residents, insists that the rash of arson fires in Hoboken is a plot by landlords to drive poor tenants out of the city so that the vacated buildings can be converted into high-rent condominiums.

But Cappiello said that the city's legal department is studying a proposed ordinance which would make it illegal to convert buildings to condominiums after they have been vacated by fire.

"The law department is concerned about the constitutionality of such a law," he said. "But we're trying to put some kind of restraints on landlords."

## U.S. probe of fires sought

By Thomas Rojas

A coalition of Hoboken citizens' groups is calling for a federal investigation of the rash of arson fires that has claimed the lives of 28 residents in the last seven months.

The coalition held a press conference yesterday in front of the demolished ruins of Pinter's Hotel at 151 14th St. — where a general-alarm blaze killed 13 women and children on April 30 — to announce plans for a "March Against Fires" on Saturday.

Tom Soto of the New Jersey All People's Congress, one of the organizers of the march, said that protesters will meet at 102 12th St. — the site of a blaze that killed 11 persons last October — at 1 p.m., and then march to the sites of other recent arson fires in order to demand increased fire protection for Hoboken residents.

At yesterday's press conference, activists made the following demands:

- A full federal investigation of the arson fires.

- A repeal of the city's rent vacancy decontrol law, which they claim gives a "material incentive" for landlords to drive out tenants "through whatever means possible."

- The immediate passage of a municipal smoke detector law.

- A city-built shelter for fire victims.

- Stiff prosecution of landlords who violate rent registration laws.

- Improved fire-fighting equipment, including safety nets and "air bags" to catch persons who leap out of burning buildings.

- Increase nighttime police patrols of buildings and neighborhoods likely to be targets of arson.

"The fires have created an atmosphere of fear in this city," said Soto, who claims that the

rash of suspicious fires is part of a plot by landlords and "real estate interests" to drive the poor out of the city and increase property values.

"The main thing we want is a repeal of vacancy decontrol," he continued. "Once you remove the material incentive for arson-for-profit, the fires will stop."

Yesterday's rally was attended by several Hoboken residents — most of them Hispanic — who held signs that read, "Hoboken Renaissance Means Arson" and "Emergency Housing for Fire Victims."

"I'm afraid that my building will be the next to catch fire," said Zonaida Negron of 163 14th St., who lost seven relatives and friends in the Pinter's Hotel fire. "If you were Hispanic and poor in this city, wouldn't you be afraid?"

Mayor Steve Cappiello could not be reached for comment yesterday, but he has said in the

past that there is no link between rent vacancy decontrol and the arson fires.

Cappiello has also said that the city cannot pass a local smoke detector law because it might be held liable for damages if alarms are not installed.

As for shelter for fire victims, the mayor has said that there is no city housing available for a shelter, adding that the Red Cross has done a good job of housing fire victims.

Regarding fire-fighting equipment, the city is reportedly considering purchasing air bags in the future.

Among the groups organizing Saturday's "March Against Fires" are the New Jersey All People's Congress, a statewide activist organization; CUNA (Citizens United for New Action), a local Hispanic youth counseling agency, and the Emergency Coalition to Save Rent Control in Hoboken.

## 2 arrested in newspaper thefts

By JANET SLATER  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN — The arrest Sunday morning of two brothers charged with stealing bundles of newspapers from storefronts was part of an investigation of a problem that has been occurring throughout Hudson County, police officials said yesterday.

"We've had small-scale incidents before, but nothing this organized," said Lt. Frank Turso.

Turso said night crew detectives had begun staking out certain stores after receiving calls "up to three times a week" concerning stolen newspapers.

He said other police departments in the county had received similar reports.

In Sunday's incident, David and Gary Amichiarico, both 33, both of Jersey City, were arrested at 6:42 a.m. and charged with six counts of receiving stolen property. They were released from the Hoboken Jail the same day.

Police officials believe the newspapers were going to be delivered to stores outside the city whose owners had agreed to sell the stolen merchandise.

## Bayonne man to be ordained in Hoboken

As a child growing up in Bayonne, Gregory Dragon dreamed of becoming a priest.

Today, his dream will come true. At around 10 a.m. Brother Gregory Dragon, 32, of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, will become the first priest ever ordained in St. Ann's Church in Hoboken.

Ordinarily, priests are ordained at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark. But Brother Greg — as he is known to everyone — asked Archbishop Peter Gerety for special permission to be ordained at St. Ann's, where he has taken his "deacon internship" for the past year.

"I have tremendous love for the people of Hoboken," explains Brother Greg. "And I feel that witnessing a priest being ordained encourages people to go into the religious life. I'm very grateful to Archbishop Gerety for giving me this opportunity."

Born in Bayonne, Brother Greg attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel grammar school. Later, he attended Seton Hall Prep in South Orange, and Seton Hall University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in the classics in 1971.

In 1975, he joined the Capuchins, an order devoted to St. Francis of Assisi, and became a brother a year later.

For the past year, during his deacon internship, he has supervised all youth activities at St. Ann's. He has also performed several baptisms and marriages, in preparation for the priesthood. Brother Greg's family still lives in Bayonne, where they are actively involved in the Catholic Church. His sister is a Felician nun in Linden.

He will celebrate his first Mass on May 23, at 2 p.m., at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Bayonne. "This year marks the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis," says Brother Greg. "That makes this an especially happy occasion for me."

## Hoboken residents march against fire

By Thomas Rojas

Several hundred Hoboken residents are expected to participate in a "March Against Fires" today, beginning at 1 p.m.

The march, to protest the suspicious fires in the city that have claimed 28 lives in the past seven months, will begin at 102 12th St., where 11 persons died in a fire last October.

The protesters will then march to the sites of the other recent fatal fires, including 151 14th St., where a general-alarm blaze at Pinter's Hotel April 30 killed 13 women and children. The demonstration will conclude with a rally in front of City Hall.

A similar rally, held last November in

response to the 12th Street fire, drew about 400 persons.

The organizers of today's march — including the New Jersey All People's Congress, a statewide activist group; CUNA (Citizens United for New Action), a local Hispanic youth counseling agency, and the Emergency Coalition to Save Rent Control in Hoboken — are hoping for an even bigger turnout.

Tom Soto of the All People's Congress said that today's protesters will make the following demands:

- A federal investigation of the arson fires.
- A repeal of the city's rent vacancy decontrol law, which they claim gives landlords a

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## Hoboken

Continued from Page 1 5/15/82  
financial incentive to drive out tenants.

- The immediate passage of a municipal smoke detector law.
- A city-built shelter for fire victims.

- Improved fire-fighting equipment.

- Increased nighttime police patrols of buildings and neighborhoods likely to be targets of arson.

# An electrical fixture

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken has undergone many changes over the past 60 years, but one thing has always remained the same.

Since 1922, "Doc" Izzo's Electrical Appliances store has been a fixture on Washington Street.

And the popular store is still going strong. Although Anthony "Doc" Izzo — who opened the business — died in 1965, his son, Anthony Jr., and widow, Jean, have kept the shop running.

How has the store remained successful for so long?

"We install and service everything we sell," explains Anthony Izzo. "Also, we've kept up with all of the changes in equipment. Whenever something new came out, Pop wanted to know about it."

According to Izzo, his father received his nickname, "Doc," during World War I, when he served in the Army signal corps, and was a wireless operator.

"As a wireless operator, he was also in charge of using the first aid kit," recounts Izzo. "So, they started to call him 'Doc.' Later, as a radio builder, he used to carry a black doctor's satchel with radio tubes and parts. So the nickname stuck."

When he returned to Hoboken after the war, "Doc" put his expanded knowledge of radio to good use. He started as a radio builder in the days when crystal sets and tube radios were experimental hobbies.

Soon, he was operating a radio shop from the back of a cigar store on Washington Street, between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

In 1922, "Doc" opened his first business, at 824 Washington St., selling brand-name radios and musical instruments.

As time progressed and technology made new advances, "Doc" kept up with all the changes.

When kitchen iceboxes, washing machines and home heating equipment became popular, "Doc's" store supplied them. As radios became more advanced, "Doc" provided all the latest equipment.

In 1941, he moved the store to its present location, 700 Washington St., where it has become something of a Hoboken landmark.

As a child, Anthony Jr. would often help around the shop and watch his father at work.

Later, he followed in his father's footsteps by serving in the Army signal corps. Soon after graduating from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, he took over the family business.

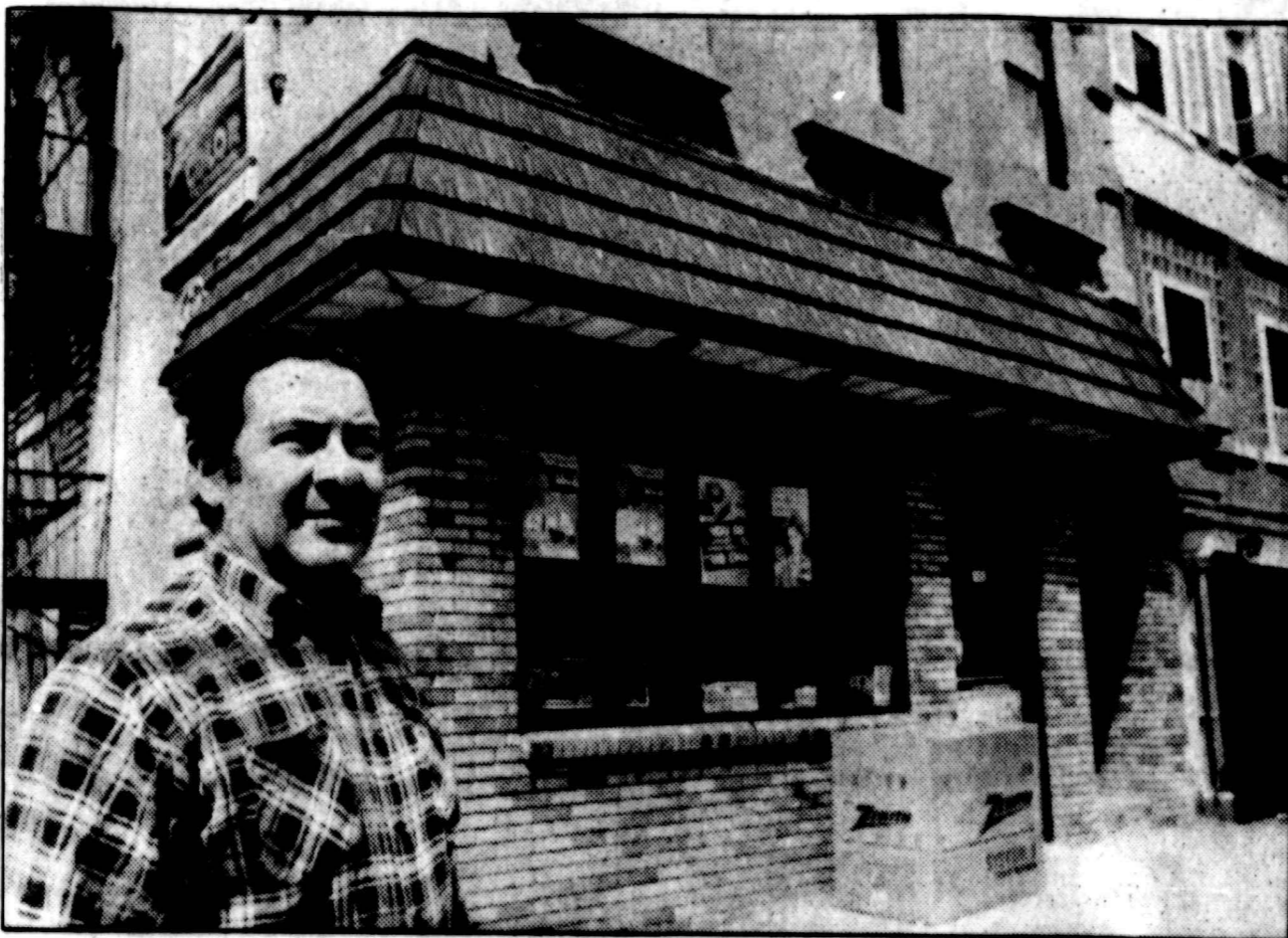
Although Izzo's Appliance Store prides itself on keeping up with the changing times, one thing about the shop hasn't changed.

For years, a 36-inch-high plaster RCA dog has occupied a space in the center of Izzo's store.

"That's one of the original RCA dogs," says Anthony Izzo. "A lot of people have offered to buy it, but it's sort of a trademark."



"Doc" Izzo's Appliance Store in Hoboken as it looked 40 years ago, above, and as it appears today (below). Anthony Izzo is pictured in front of the current store.



## Cappiello vows he'll 'beef up arson alert'

Hoboken police will increase patrols of buildings and neighborhoods that may be targets of arson.

At a meeting yesterday, Mayor Steve Cappiello ordered police officials to intensify efforts to prevent future arsons in the city, where suspicious fires have claimed 28 lives in the past seven months.

"We are going to beef up our arson alert," said Cappiello. "The police have been instructed to concentrate on areas where arson is likely to happen and to be alert for anyone who may look suspicious."

The mayor said that additional plain-clothes policemen have been assigned to the "arson alert" detail. They will patrol the city primarily at night, when most of the recent arsons have occurred, and will concentrate on large, multi-family buildings.

In addition, Cappiello said that the fire department is improving its fire prevention and

detection program. Fire Chief James Houn explained that the department is intensifying its education program in the schools, in which children are taught how they can prevent fire in their homes and how they can escape from a burning building.

He added that the city's six "senior citizen inspectors" have increased their inspections of senior centers and high-rise apartment complexes. The seniors point out potential fire hazards to tenants.

"We want the public to be aware that we haven't forgotten about the tragic fires," said Cappiello. "We're doing all we can to prevent fire in the future."

Last Saturday, more than 200 Hoboken residents participated in a "March Against Fires" to protest the rash of arson-related deaths. The most recent suspicious blaze — at Pinter's Hotel April 30 — killed 13 women and children.

## \$10 increase seen in Hoboken tax rate

The Hoboken City Council will hold a public hearing tonight on the proposed 1982 municipal budget, which projects an increase in the tax rate of \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Meanwhile, at least 30 municipal employees are expected to be laid off today, because of recent budget cuts.

At a special meeting last week, the council reduced the original \$20.3 million budget — which projected a \$28 increase in the tax rate — by about \$1.3 million.

One of the methods used by the council to reduce the budget was to transfer about \$440,000 from the city water utility and place it in the general revenue fund.

City officials have expressed reservations about that move,

saying that the city could face cash flow problems if there is a water emergency this year.

Hoboken residents will get their chance to praise or criticize the proposed budget — which has been sent to the state Division of Local Government for approval — at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Meanwhile, city officials say that as many as 50 city workers will be laid off because of the budget cuts. At least 30 employees are expected to be terminated today, when 45-day layoff notices come due.

Also at tonight's meeting, a second reading and final vote is scheduled on a proposed ordinance that would require all sidewalk cafes to be separated by fences or other partitions from sidewalk traffic.

## Man, 43, indicted in rape of girl, 9

A 43-year-old man accused of kidnapping and raping a 9-year-old Jersey City girl was indicted yesterday by a Hudson County grand jury.

The defendant, Gil Garcia of 306 Marshall Drive, Hoboken, was charged with two counts of kidnapping and two counts of aggravated sexual assault in the abduction and rape of the girl, whose name was not released. The incident took place May 1 around 2 p.m., police said.

The girl, a resident of the Heights section of Jersey City, told police that a man took her to "a place with lots of weeds and airplanes landed," police said.

The Jersey City Medical Center treated her afterward for vaginal lacerations.

Police said the girl became separated from her mother and brother while they were walking to Hoboken on May 1. In the area around Franklin Street and New York Avenue, a man driving a white 1968 Cadillac with a black top, approached her and told her he was a friend of her mother's, police said.

## Hoboken cops won't drive 'unsafe' cars

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken police say that they will refuse to drive city police cars if the vehicles do not pass inspection by the end of the month.

"Most of the cars either haven't passed inspection, or haven't been inspected at all," said Thomas Meehan, president of the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association.

"If we see cars out on the street that haven't

passed inspection, we ticket them. But these are the kind of cars we have to drive."

Meehan said that policemen will refuse to drive radio cars — and will only patrol the city on foot — beginning in June, if all of the cars haven't passed inspection by the end of the month.

"We aren't going to drive unsafe cars," he added.

See COPS—Page 15.

## Cops won't drive 'unsafe' cars

Continued from Page 1

But Public Safety Director James Giordano said that all of the radio cars will be inspected soon.

"We would have had the cars inspected sooner, but we don't have the manpower to send men out to get the cars inspected," he explained. "But all of the cars are going to be inspected."

Giordano also disputed

Meehan's claim that the cars are unsafe, adding, "I could understand the men refusing to drive the cars if they were in dilapidated condition, but the cars in pretty good shape."

Giordano reiterated that he would like to replace the entire fleet of radio cars, but budget cuts have prevented the purchase of new vehicles.

# Angry Hobokenites demand action on arson

By WILLIAM BOLE  
Special to The Dispatch

HOBOKEN—Rallying at the site of the April 30 rooming house fire on 14th Street here, local residents called upon the city to take specific actions against what they termed the "alarming rate" of suspicious fires that have "murdered" 56 persons in the past four years.

Some of the 75 demonstrators had lived in the rooming house before it was gutted by the fire less than two weeks ago. Thirteen people died in that blaze. The demonstrators carried posters that read, "Stop Arson, Repeal Vacancy Decontrol Law, Approve Smoke Detector Law," and "Emergency Housing for Fire Victims."

The rally was sponsored by Citizens United for New Action, a Hoboken group founded in 1974, and the Hoboken chapter of the All People's Congress, a national group founded last year in response to the Reagan Administration's budget cuts.

"The mayor laughs at us when we tell him we're being murdered by the fires and by the landlords," said Tom Soto, head of the Hoboken chapter of All People's Congress. The city hasn't even spoken out against the fires. They say we're setting them ourselves, that we're burning ourselves," he said.

Soto charged that the recent fires in Hoboken have been set by landlords who want to "get rid of" low-income tenants and convert the buildings into high-rent condominiums. He referred to these as "arson-for-profit" fires.

He said the city can curtail the spread of these fires by "repealing the vacancy decontrol law" passed in Hoboken in July. The ordinance allows landlords to raise rents after the buildings have been burned. Through these fires, Soto alleged, landlords have been able to start construction on condominiums.

"While a material incentive remains for the landlords to make money on fires, the fires will continue, and more people will die," Soto said.

Soto cited the recent fires that gutted the American Hotel on River Street and an apartment building on 12th Street as examples of instances in which "buildings had already been sold to be turned into condominiums."

Mayor Steve Cappiello denied the charges, saying the city has taken "decisive action" against the fire problem. He said the city has joined with state housing departments in inspect-

ing "all of the dwelling units" in Hoboken, and that it has started a "training program in schools to alert people to fire hazards."

The mayor added that the city is also studying legislation that would make it illegal to convert buildings to condominiums after they have been "burned down." The purpose of this law would be to discourage landlords from setting fires in order to get rid of low-income tenants and construct high-rent units.

Some residents expressed fear that their buildings were also in danger of falling to arson. "No one knows who's next, or whether we'll be living next week," said Victor Rodriguez, a member of CUNA.

Soto said the local residents also "want a strong, local" ordinance requiring that all apartment buildings install smoke alarms and detectors.

Although the state already has such a law, Soto said it has been largely ignored because "the city has no ordinance enforcing the law." He said such a law would "place the responsibility of enforcement on the city government."

He pointed out that the owner of the 14th Street rooming house had been fined \$1,000 by the state for not installing a smoke alarm.

Soto continued, "The city must also provide shelter for displaced victims" of fires.

The demonstrators cried upon the state and

federal governments to investigate the 14th Street fire and other recent fires.

They said they believed the fires and the displacement of large numbers of Hispanics in Hoboken have been caused by Hoboken's "gentrification," in which old and run-down buildings have been converted into expensive, middle-class housing.

The demonstrators said that on Saturday at 1 p.m. they will hold a march in protest of what they see as the city's weak response to the fires. The march will start at 12th and Washington streets.



Photo by Chuck Zoeller

TOM SOTO, head of the local chapter of All People's Congress, leads demonstration at site of the fatal Pinter's Hotel fire.

## Hoboken offered help on 'Tele-Guia'

A recently-developed system that helps Spanish-speaking people communicate information about fires and other emergencies may be used in Hoboken.

Carlos Vega, Hispanic aide to West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino, is offering to help Hoboken officials set up a "Tele-Guia" communications system similar to the one he introduced

in West New York about a year ago.

According to Vega, "Tele-Guia" (Tele-Guide) was devised to help Spanish-speaking persons communicate in an emergency situation.

Under the system, Hispanic residents are provided with a chart that lists certain key words and phrases — such as "fire," "murder," "help," and "I live

alone" — which are necessary to express information about an emergency.

Alongside each word and phrase, there is a Spanish translation, as well as a phonetic transcript which makes it possible for the person to communicate over the phone in English. Fire and police officials are also provided with copies of

the chart, to aid them in taking down information.

The goal of the system, says Vega, is to help a Hispanic express the nature of the emergency, his name, and his address in a short time.

"In an emergency situation, Hispanics have two problems — the emergency itself, and the language barrier," he explained.

"This system gives people more confidence to communicate in a critical situation. That could mean the difference between life and death."

Vega said that "Tele-Guia" might prove very helpful in Hoboken, where fires have claimed 28 lives — most of them Hispanic — in the past seven months.

"It's not the whole answer, but I'm sure it would help the Hispanic people of Hoboken," he added.

Hoboken Mayor Steven Cappiello said that he would be "very happy" to discuss the "Tele-Guia" system, and would like to set up a meeting with Vega in the near future.

## The Madonna returns to its old spot

By Thomas Rojas 8/5/82

The Madonna has returned to Hoboken. The beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin that had stood in the front yard of Sal and Antoinette Dell Aquila's Bloomfield Street home for some 21 years, until it was smashed by vandals last December has been fully repaired.

And Hoboken residents, who would regularly leave flowers for the 39-inch-tall statue, are happy to see that the Madonna is back.

"Everyone is sending flowers to welcome her back," said the Dell Aquilas, daughter, Grace Van Ingen, who, along with her brother, Dominic, had purchased the statue as a gift to her parents

for their 25th wedding anniversary about 21 years ago.

One night last December, vandals climbed over the fence surrounding the cherished statue and smashed it into three pieces. The vandals were never caught.

But Mrs. Van Ingen and her husband recently repaired the broken statue, as a Mother's Day present to Mrs. Dell Aquila, who was thrilled with the gift.

"We put a steel rod through the statue and repainted it," said Mrs. Van Ingen. "The yard was empty without her. But she looks beautiful now."

And, if the many flowers surrounding the reborn Madonna reany indication, most Hobokenites seem to agree.



Grace Van Ingen of Hoboken places flowers on the fully-repaired statue of the Blessed Virgin that was destroyed by vandals last December. Many of the flowers are gifts from Hoboken residents.

## Hottendorf elected school board head

Otto Hottendorf has been elected president of the Hoboken Board of Education, replacing Robert Wendelken.

The move was made at Monday night's reorganization meeting, at which John Pope was re-elected vice president.

According to school sources, Hottendorf was a compromise candidate, who was elected after intense debate between members supporting Wendelken and those who support Pope.

Wendelken had come under fire from several board members, as well as local activists, who objected to the appointment of several members of his family to positions in the school system.

Both Hottendorf and Pope will serve one-year terms.

Also at Monday's meeting, Bernard Scrivani, who is the city's director of revenue and

finance, was appointed custodian of school monies, an unsalaried position.

In addition, the school board scheduled a special meeting on Monday at 8 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

## Hoboken arson fear voiced

A group of Hoboken residents, who claim that they are terrified of being burned out of their buildings, say they will hold the city administration responsible for any future "arsons, tragedies or displacements" in their neighborhood.

In a letter to Mayor Steve Cappiello, the residents of the area bounded by Park Avenue to Bloomfield Street and Observer Highway to First Street express their "terrible fear" that the neighborhood is a potential target for arson.

The tenants insist that "all the signs conducive to arson and displacement" are apparent in the area.

The letter is signed by Juan Garcia, director of Citizens United for New Action, a local Hispanic counseling agency, and by the residents of the area.

Cappiello said that city administrators, police and firemen are "always on the alert" about areas that may be potential targets of arson. The mayor has taken several

steps in recent weeks to improve fire prevention in the city, by increasing police patrols of potential arson areas, intensifying housing inspection and code enforcement, and improving fire awareness programs in the schools.

But Garcia and other local activities claim that the administration has done little to prevent the arson deaths in the city. A total of 28 residents have died as the result of suspicious fires in the past seven months.

## Group may go to court to get overtime records

A Hoboken civic group is threatening to go to court if the city refuses to release information about overtime payments to municipal employees.

The Anthony Russo Civic Association recently asked the Hoboken city clerk's office to release a breakdown of the overtime payments to workers at the city sewerage plant between May 1, 1978 and May 1 of this year.

Russo, who is coordinator for special education for the Hoboken school system, contends that a major reason for the city financial problems is the "excessive" payment of overtime to city workers, particularly employees at the sewerage plant.

But City Clerk Anthony Amoroso informed Russo that his request was being studied by the city's legal department to determine if the release of the overtime information would violate the federal privacy act.

"If the legal department okays it, then they are free to look at the records," said Amoroso.

However, Russo claims that the administration is purposely withholding public information

that it considers embarrassing. "The administration knows that the overtime records will show how they have misspent money and created these financial problems," he charged. "I think they are going to wait until after the city budget is passed before releasing the information."

Russo said that he will consult with his group's attorney and, if necessary, take the administration to court if the records aren't released soon.

But Amoroso insists that the city is only concerned about protecting the rights of municipal workers that are guaranteed by federal law.

The proposed 1982 municipal budget projects an increase in the tax rate of \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The measure has been sent to the state Division of Local Government Services for approval.

## Watch out for phony CETA fundraiser

By Thomas Rojas 8/5/82

Hoboken residents are being warned about a con man who has been trying to raise funds for a bike-a-thon, while falsely identifying himself as a CETA worker.

Councilman Thomas Kennedy said that the con man has been collecting funds in the uptown area for the "MD (muscular dystrophy) Bike-A-Thon," and has been showing residents a CETA identification card.

Kennedy said that he was informed about the con artist by local residents, who wondered whether the bike-a-thon was being endorsed by CETA, the federal job program.

Descriptions from residents have led Kennedy to suspect that the con man is a former CETA worker who was fired about a year ago.

"The police department has been given a description of the man, and they're looking for him," said Kennedy. "But we want people to know that this man has no authorization from CETA and they shouldn't give him any money."

## New political unit begun in Hoboken

There is a new political group in Hoboken.

The Hoboken Committee for Responsible Government, as the new organization is called, hopes to field a full slate of candidates in next year's City Council elections.

Steve Block, chairman of the committee, said that the group is "angry" about rising rents, rising taxes, declining city services, the lack of housing code enforcement, the poor quality of public school education, and the threat of arson.

Block, who is a member of the city's Board of Education, added that the political group op-

poses the proposed change in the city's form of government, from the current mayor-council form to a five-member commission.

Several council members are supporting the government change, arguing that it would save costs and improve the quality of government.

But Block contends that the commission form is "a discredited form of municipal government abandoned almost 30 years ago."

"The real reason elected officials want to return to the commission is because it will be easier for them to retain control of the city," he said.

## Bluecoats may file grievance

Hoboken police and firemen are expected to file a grievance and may stage "job actions" should the city council continue to defer \$123,600 in clothing allowances from this year's budget.

The allowances have been cut as part of almost \$1.4 million in tax savings which were introduced last week. These allowances, which total about \$600 per man, are to be paid on July 1, but City Council President Walter Cramer said the city wants to defer their payment until Jan. 1 when it will be part of next year's budget.

"We do not accept it," said Thomas Meehan, president of the city's Policemen's Benevolent Association at the public hearing on the savings last night. "You people think you can go right ahead without negotiating with us. Let me tell you that if there is no allowance we will file a grievance on this matter and win it back."

We have to maintain what we have," Michael Bavaro, representing the firemen's union, said. Bavaro warned the council of unspecified "job actions" that the police and firemen may conduct if the allowances are not paid.

To Meehan, the loss of the allowances, which are part of the contract between the public safety employees and the city, is the same as a salary cut. However, Cramer explained the allowances were deferred so that they do every summer — clean-up police and fire officers would have to be doing city parks and lots.

Hoboken Municipal Employees Association President Jude Fitzgibbons had complained that CETA summer youth employment workers were taking jobs away from city employees, who are being laid off because of financial difficulties.

## Cappiello says CETA youth won't fill vacated jobs

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello says that the city will not use greater numbers of CETA summer youth employment workers to compensate for the layoff of 58 municipal employees.

"It wouldn't be fair to city workers if their jobs were performed by CETA people," said Cappiello. "We have no plans to take on additional CETA help. They will be doing the same work plain the allowances were deferred so that they do every summer — clean-up police and fire officers would have to be doing city parks and lots."

Hoboken Municipal Employees Association President Jude Fitzgibbons had complained that CETA summer youth

employment workers were taking jobs away from city employees, who are being laid off because of financial difficulties.

But Cappiello insists that the city will not use any more CETA help than usual this summer.

## Cappiello denies 'secret' meeting

By Thomas Rojas 8/5/82

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello yesterday denied that he held a secret meeting with members of the Board of Education at which he tried to pressure the board into re-electing Robert Wendelken as president.

"No meeting was held," said the mayor. "I may have had some casual conversations with school board members, but that kind of thing goes on all the time."

Administration critic Thomas Vezzetti claims that Cappiello held a secret meeting with school board members prior to last week's reorganization session.

At the alleged meeting, according to Vezzetti, Cappiello tried to persuade the board to re-elect Wendelken, who was nevertheless replaced as president by Otto Hottendorf.

Vezzetti charges that the alleged secret meeting violated the state Sunshine Act, and says that he will file a complaint with the Hudson County prosecutor's office.

But Cappiello called Vezzetti's charges "totally unfounded."

"I talk to members of the school board and the City Council all the time," he added. "There's nothing underhanded about it."

## Cappiello in 'secret' school board session?

By Thomas Rojas 8/5/82

Did Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello try to pressure members of the Board of Education to re-elect Robert Wendelken as board president?

Thomas Vezzetti, a frequent critic of the administration, says that he will meet with Hudson County Prosecutor Harold Ruvoldt Jr. tomorrow to discuss a meeting that Cappiello allegedly had with members of the school board prior to last week's reorganization meeting.

Cappiello could not be reached for comment. Vezzetti claims that the mayor tried to pressure the board into re-electing Wendelken, who was nevertheless replaced as president by Otto Hottendorf.

He contends that the meeting violated the federal Sunshine Act, and says that he will file a formal complaint with the prosecutor's office. Vezzetti charged that Cappiello met behind closed doors with six of the seven school board members.

## Claim mayor failed in Wendelken 'push'

Continued from Page 1 8/5/82

members prior to the annual reorganization meeting. The only board member who did not meet with the mayor was Steve Block, he added.

One school board member, who asked not to be identified, admitted that the secret meeting took place, and that Cappiello tried — unsuccessfully — to persuade the board to back Wendelken.

"Wendelken's defeat proves that the mayor doesn't have as much control over the school

board as he would like to have," added the source.

Wendelken had been privately criticized by several school board members for the appointment of members of his family to school positions, as well as the hiring of City Council President Walter Cramer as business administrator.

But Wendelken argues that all school appointments must be approved by a majority of the board.

"My record speaks for itself," he added.

## City won't press charges in payroll embezzling

Hoboken officials will not press criminal charges against a payroll department employee who defrauded the city because the worker has voluntarily resigned and has offered to return the missing money.

According to City Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the employee embezzled the money by advancing vacation pay for several weeks. A City Hall source said that the missing amount was "in the area of \$3,000."

Although the city has launched an internal investigation into the matter, Chius said that he doubts that any other city employees were involved.

"We're fairly sure that it was an isolated incident," he said. "We've begun the investigation as a precautionary measure, but hopefully there won't be any more problems."

Chius said that the city has decided against filing criminal charges because the employee has voluntarily resigned, and has offered to reimburse the city for the missing money.

"Luckily, we found out what was happening promptly," he added. "That's why you have comptrollers, treasurers and auditors — to keep an eye on things. But the most important thing you need is honest employees."

## 2 Hoboken sessions to discuss cost cuts

Both the Hoboken Board of Education and the City Council will hold special meetings tonight to discuss methods of cutting costs.

The school board meeting will be open to the public, while the council will meet in closed session.

Recently, the school board reduced its original \$21.7 million budget by about \$900,000. The cuts had been ordered by the Board of School Estimate and the city council.

Because of the reductions, school board issued dismissals to 57 non-tenured

teachers and administrators. However, a number of non-tenured administrators have tenure as teachers, and can return to those positions.

At tonight's meeting, at 8 a.m. at the Administrative Building, the board is expected to consider additional layoffs of teachers. In addition, the board is expected to discuss consolidating some administrative positions and eliminating others.

The board is also expected to consider a proposal to close the Leinhardt School, and then sell the school building in order to raise funds.

Meanwhile, the council will

meet with Business Administrator Edwin Chius at 8 p.m. to discuss further cost-saving measures.

Thus far, the administration has laid off 58 non-uniformed employees, because of reductions of more than \$1.3 million in the proposed 1982 municipal budget.

Chius and the council are expected to discuss cost-saving proposals that include a reduction of the work week during the summer and major cutbacks in overtime payments.

The proposed city budget has been sent to the state Division of Local Government Services for approval.

## Hoboken probes for payroll fraud

By Randolph Diamond 8/5/82

Hoboken has launched its own internal investigation as well as asking its auditor to conduct his own probe into a possible embezzlement scheme involving employees in the city's payroll department.

Edwin Chius, Hoboken's business ad-

ministrator, confirmed today reports that had been circulating throughout city hall that the investigations were in progress into a possible embezzlement scheme.

Chius said one payroll department employee has resigned. He said if the employee had not resigned, the person would have been suspended for not following normal payroll procedures.

Chius said "there is almost definitely money missing from the payroll department," but added he could not say how much at this time. Another source, however, said the missing amount is believed to be "in the area of \$3,000."

Chius said the city payroll "for at least the last two years" is being reviewed as part of the investigation.

# Defiance



Photo by Chuck Zeiler

FROM HER APARTMENT at 806 Willow Ave., Hoboken, Hilaria Maldonado glares at contractors working outside.

## Woman clings to her home

By WILFREDO FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—For the last three years, Hilaria Maldonado has watched her apartment on Eighth Street and Willow Avenue here deteriorate, and on Tuesday, her home literally crumbled around her.

Although her one-bedroom apartment in the building at 806 Willow Ave. was badly in need of paint and often lacked heat and running water, Maldonado said that for \$93 a month, it was the only place she could call home for the last eight years.

On Tuesday, a portion of the ceiling in the room that serves as her living room, dining room and bedroom collapsed, sending the elderly woman to the hospital suffering from bruises and scrapes on her head and face.

Maldonado's plight is complicated by the fact that she is the sole occupant of record in the row of buildings targeted for rehabilitation, and that she was given an eviction notice almost three years ago which she admits she ignored.

The buildings at 800, 802, 804, 806 and 808 Willow Ave.

will be renovated as subsidized low-income housing, funded through private financing and a U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department grant.

The last of the 70 families that once occupied the five buildings were relocated three months ago.

Maldonado says she has been unable to find an affordable apartment, despite searches throughout Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City and Weehawken.

While Maldonado is listed as the sole occupant of the apartment, she shares her tiny, cramped apartment with her son, her daughter, who is nine months pregnant, and her daughter's two children. Her daughter, Luz Sanchez, said both she and her mother receive welfare. Maldonado said she also receives about \$53 a month from the city. They have not paid rent for the last year.

The only way the family can afford to get by, they said, is by living together and pooling their resources.

The building developers, T&M Contracting Co. Inc. of Hoboken, said Maldonado's plight is mostly self-inflicted. Philip J. Seriale, head of the rehabilitation project, said he has "bent himself out of shape" trying to help Maldonado.

Continued on Page 9 "Defiance"

## DEFIANCE

Continued from Page 1

"They can't find another apartment because they won't find anything to suit their needs," Seriale said. "We told her to go to a real estate agent and we would pay the fee. We haven't said anything about her not paying the rent for the last year."

Seriale said he also overlooked the fact that Maldonado is sharing her apartment with at least five other people.

Seriale also said that the Union City Housing Authority had found an apartment for Maldonado, but that she turned it down. This could not be confirmed yesterday.

"She can't go on living here," he said. "There is no light, no gas or anything. We've got to start construction when we finish emptying out the buildings. This area should have been fenced in a long time ago. We haven't done that because I'm just afraid — God forbid — something happens and these poor people can't get out."

Maldonado denied that she was offered an apartment. She admitted, though, that she filed an application with the Hoboken Housing Authority.

"No one will rent an apartment to us either, because we are Hispanic," Maldonado said. "I have had a headache since the ceiling fell on top of me. We have to go to our friend's house to take a bath and we can't cook here. I don't know what we are going to do."

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said, "It's a sad situation. I can't understand why she did not

do something about this sooner."

Cappiello said he believed Maldonado recently was offered an apartment at 71 Willow Ave., but that the woman had not taken it. Maldonado could not be reached last night for comment.

Maldonado is under no immediate threat of eviction. She said she realized she would have to move eventually, "but what do you want me to do... go live on the streets until they finish?"

The 70 families that moved out will be given first choice of the rehabilitated apartments once they are completed and will be able to move back in, Seriale said. Seriale said the apartments should be completed by the beginning of next year.

But that arrangement may not help Maldonado and her family. Kathy Keo, a spokeswoman for the HUD regional office in Newark, said that under HUD regulations, it was doubtful that Maldonado would be allowed to move into a renovated apartment large enough to accommodate her entire family.

"It seems as if she (Maldonado) is entitled to a one-bedroom apartment," Keo said. "Her children will have to fill out an application for an apartment on their own and that will not be given priority."

The arrangement may not help many of the other displaced families either.

Juan Garcia, executive director of Citizens United for New Action, a local civic activist group, noted that there will be 16 fewer apartments available: the original 70 apartments will be transformed into 54 apartments, including 10 three-bedroom apartments, 15 two-bedroom apartments, 10 one-bedroom apartments and 16 studio apartments.

## Tenants group wants break for elderly

By Thomas Rojas

A Hoboken tenants' group is circulating a petition calling on city officials to amend the local rent control law in order to exempt senior citizens from rent increases for capital improvements or substantial rehabilitation.

"Por La Gente" (For the People), the tenants' organization headed by Sister Norberta of St. Francis Church, is calling on Mayor Steve Cappiello and the City Council to amend the city's controversial rent control or-

dinance, which was passed last summer.

The proposed amendment would exempt persons 62 or older who "have federally-taxable income at or below the poverty level as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau" from rent increases for capital improvements or substantial rehabilitation.

The substantial rehabilitation

clause enables landlords to renovate their property at a cost equal to 100 percent of the market value of the building, then pass the cost increase on to the tenants in the form of higher rents.

Cappiello said that he has received a request for the rent law amendment from the tenants' group. He added that the proposed amendment has been turned over to the city's legal department for study.

## As Hoboken Gentrifies, Fires Kill

By Jean Forest

Hoboken, 10 minutes by PATH train from Manhattan, is an old town, only one square mile in size. But Hoboken has caught its neighbor's spreading disease, gentrification — the upgrading of neighborhoods — and is beginning to show not only the benefits of urban renewal but also several frightening symptoms. The most insidious is suspected arson.

Gentrification in Manhattan and Hoboken had its idealistic beginnings in the 1960's as predominantly young people moved into townhouses and, through their combined efforts and those of neighborhood developers and landlords, renovated the properties.

In Manhattan, landlords and developers took over such areas as the Upper West Side, Chelsea and SoHo, and turned the original ideal into the fast-profit turnover we know too well. They have driven away not only young people but also working- and middle-class families, artists, members of minorities and the elderly from these areas and into worse tenements and less-accessible neighborhoods.

Hoboken has become something of a refuge for working people, students, struggling artists, the elderly and certain minority members for whom living in Manhattan is out of the question. The town is a quaint mixture of railroad flats, brownstones and tenements interspersed with small businesses and light industry.

Hoboken had its beginnings as one of several reception areas for the waves of 19th and 20th century immigrants. Of late, word has gotten around that it is relatively safe, an easy commute, and that its housing is still within reach of working people's income. This reputation has been both a blessing and a curse. Some desirable renovation and population growth has occurred, but gentrification blight is beginning to strangle both the tenants and small homeowners who cannot afford Manhattan-style rents and the property taxes that come with the need for increased municipal services.

In the last seven months, five fires have taken the lives of 28 people — 14 of them children — in Hoboken. Fire

inspectors say that they suspect arson in all five. All the buildings involved were designated to be sold as condominiums. Why arson? Toward what end? No one has yet been arrested for arson.

On May 15, in the second protest march within a year, the town's tenants' organizations called for a Federal investigation of the fires. A representative of the tenants' groups said at that time that if the victims had been rich people, the National Guard would have been called to Hoboken.

The second characteristic of gentrification is failure to enforce laws protecting tenants' rights. Mayor Steve Cappiello and the City Council at first resisted enacting a smoke-detector law and, after doing so, have not effectively enforced it. They readily passed a vacancy-decontrol law that amounts to an incentive for landlords to try to get rid of old tenants and charge rents that sometimes are 50 percent higher to new tenants. The press has reported that more than 40 percent of Hoboken's landlords are violating this law by not registering their base rents, as the law requires. Many landlords are skyrocketing rents far beyond the 25 percent limit. Not one landlord has been prosecuted.

Along with the apparent arson and lack of law enforcement, the third effect of gentrification is renovation of supposedly substandard dwellings, which is creating havoc for many longtime Hoboken residents. At a recent City Council meeting, an elderly, crippled man presented a document he had just received from his landlord stating that his bathroom and kitchen were to be renovated and that the heating and hot water systems in the building would be replaced. This would result in his rent being raised from \$175 to \$500 a month. Guess who probably will be evicted?

Some groups are of the opinion that gentrification and the so-called Hoboken Renaissance are an economic conspiracy involving big landlords, real estate agencies and contractors and New York City banks.

Obviously, some changes are inevitable in Hoboken. It is prime real estate. However, the existing community of working people, the elderly and the poor need to be protected from arbitrary, callous actions of those who stand to profit from changes but accept no responsibility for the effects of such changes on the lives of community residents. Hoboken residents have become pawns in a contagious game called greed that does not necessarily bring progress.

Consider the consequences of gentrification in crime-ridden Manhattan, which is almost devoid of the stable influences of working- and middle-class families and is polarized between extreme wealth and poverty.

Jean Forest is a part-time writer who has lived in Hoboken for eight months. She works in Manhattan for Non-Traditional Employment for Women, a New York City program to place women in blue-collar jobs.

HERE IS some of the cast of "Hoboken Dreams."

## Hoboken Dreams and memories

"Hoboken Dreams" is a musical revue in five acts that spans 50 years of the music that Hoboken loved best. Based on a concept by Angelo Valente, president of the Young People's Action Organization (YPAO), the play was developed by local composers, Robert Albrecht and Joel Horwitz. The cast is made up entirely of young people from Hoboken and represents the premiere work of the newly formed Hoboken Theatrical Ensemble. "Hoboken Dreams" will be presented one time only Saturday at Rue Demarest School, 4th and Garden Streets, Hoboken, beginning at 8 p.m. The play is being offered in conjunction with the Hoboken Celebration '82 and admission is free to the public.

Imagine yourself in a time warp, the year is 1933 and you have just entered one of the vaudeville theaters that once lined the streets of Hoboken. On stage you find two old time comedians (played by local entertainers Roger Cox and Tom Bennett) as they introduce amateur acts similar to the ones performed 50 years ago.

Act two takes us back to the 1940's and the 40's, of course, was the age of radio. For all you bobby-soxers, who could never forget the debut performance before national audience on the Original Major Bowes of our own Hoboken Four, featuring, of course, Ole Blue Eyes himself, Francis Albert Sinatra. Sinatra croons the title song for the play.

"Hoboken Dreams" written especially for the performance by Robert Albrecht. In the 1950's, shake rattle and roll, grease and do-wops came to Hoboken. Everyone remembers hanging out at Gold's, Jeanette's and Umland's Ice Cream Parlors listening to Elvis, Dion and the Belmonts, the Duprees, Paul Anka, and all the other stars of the rock and roll era. Hoboken street corners were alive with the sound of acapella groups dreaming of being discovered and reliving the Sinatra story.

The 1960's started off innocently enough but by the end of the decade families and friends were divided over ideological issues such as war in Viet Nam, race and other problematic areas that disrupted the entire nation. Out of

this diversity came a rich music which reflected these elements of change and the Age of Aquarius erupted within our nation. A moped-top group from Liverpool, England sent Hoboken screaming while the sounds of Motown kept the dance floors jumping.

The final act takes us up to the present day. During the 1970's disco and salsa captivated the musical energies of Hoboken youth as Hoboken moved into a period of change. Joel Horwitz's original tune, "Jumping on the Bandwagon," expressed the problems of a small town suddenly confronted with the influx of newcomers. Can Hoboken remain Hoboken or will it be transformed into a suburb for wealthy Manhattanites? The play ends on an optimistic note with the entire cast coming together in a performance of the popular Broadway melody, "Tomorrow." It is this belief that the young people of the city of Hoboken can create a better tomorrow that has been the inspirational force behind "Hoboken Dreams."

## Help!

Before it closed, Camp Tamaqua, associated with the Hoboken-North Hudson YMCA, was home for 160 underprivileged youngsters for 10 weeks every summer.

It closed about five years ago as an early casualty of austerity budgeting.

Now a group calling itself the Camp Tamaqua Alumni Association wants to reopen it, but the cost of sending so many youngsters has risen nearly 70 percent — from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

The would-be reopeners have set themselves a modest goal of day camping during the week and limited sleep camping on weekends for 100 youngsters.

Besides the alumni association, scout troops, senior citizen groups and the Hoboken High School football team are interested in using the camp on weekends.

Clearly, this is another case of the need for private sector assistance in maintaining a social service with the public purse can no longer support in the era of the Reaganomic tight money squeeze.

With the summer just around the corner, it is a service which deserves generous support by both individuals and corporate enterprises. The place to contact for those wishing to help is: The Camp Tamaqua Alumni Association, 911 Garden St., Hoboken.

## Hoboken won't end builders' tax breaks

The Hoboken City Council soundly defeated a move last night to impose a moratorium on tax abatements for property developers.

The resolution proposed by Councilman Nunzio Malfetti sparked a long and spirited debate before failing by a vote of 7-to-2. Councilman E. Norman Wilson cast the other affirmative vote.

The resolution sought to "declare a public policy banning all future tax abatements on all property in the city for one year after the completion and utilization of the revaluation of all property."

Section 8 housing subsidy buildings for the poor and elderly would have been exempt. Malfetti said the council had already given too many abatements to the developers. "We have to stop here."

Hugh Hothem of the League of Hoboken Home Owners supported the resolution by arguing that abatements had forced the tax rate to increase and created

high rents. He said individual homeowners were not given abatements as the large developers are.

Activist Thomas Vezetti warned the council that the abatements they had granted would "come back to haunt them."

The opposition argued that they did not need the resolution and could decide when an amendment was called for on a case-by-case basis. Wilson said he would offer a "more palatable" version of the resolution at the next council meeting.

In other business, the council voted final passage to an ordinance that raised the fee for pinball machines and arcade games from \$15 a year to \$250 a year.

Edward Silverstein, president of the North Jersey Amusement Association, criticized the council action. He said he would confer with other members of the association to determine if the ordinance should be challenged in court.

# Hoboken tenants fear more fires

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Tenants from the Observer Highway area, fearing their neighborhood may be soon a target for arson, have petitioned the city for special protection.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he has alerted all of the agencies involved in his special arson alert program — the police, the fire department and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office — to their fears.

Juan Garcia, the executive director of Citizens United for New Action, the city's only Hispanic counseling agency, forwarded the petitions to the mayor.

His letter warned: "(We) by way of this communication, wish to let the mayor and the city administration know of the terrible fear which exists amongst everyone residing within the above-mentioned area."

## Hold Cappiello responsible

The letter continued, "All the signs conducive to arson and displacement are prevalent. Therefore we hold the city of Hoboken, through its administrators, responsible for any further tragedies or displacements occurring as a result of the dangerous situation we are living under."

"I've instructed our people to contact Garcia to determine if he has information that might be helpful to us," Cappiello said yesterday.

This letter is the third letter sent by Garcia to city officials warning of the alleged fears of tenants.

The first letter was in April about 109 Clinton St. Twenty-four days later, there was a fire there.

Garcia also sent a letter on May 5 detailing the problems of a Hilaria Maldonado of 806 Willow Ave. On Tuesday, a portion of the ceiling of that building fell on her.

Cappiello refuted the charge that the city was been setting the atmosphere for arson with its emphasis on a housing renaissance.

"I don't know what they mean by creating an atmosphere. We are continually trying to improve the quality of life of people who live in substandard housing. Any time you have people come in and propose to rehabilitate, we are very happy to see people do this," the veteran mayor said.

Garcia said the petition, which was signed by about 70 residents from eight buildings in the area, will also be given to various state agencies, including the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Community Affairs (which oversees housing enforcement), and the Department of the Public Advocate. He also said a copy was sent to Rep. Frank J. Guarini, a Jersey City Democrat who represents the 14th District.

## Vandals rip out rubber matting at Elysian Park

Hoboken officials are looking for the vandals responsible for ripping up and stealing part of the rubber matting in the playground at Elysian Park.

Recreation Director James Farina said that vandals recently stole about 15 square pieces of the rubber matting under the playground equipment at the playground, at 11th and Hudson streets.

He said about 200 pieces were installed in the playground — at a cost of \$20,000 — to protect children who fell off playground equipment.

"Sometimes, kids rip up the mats and throw them to another part of the park," said Farina. "But now vandals are taking the mats. It isn't fair to the children who use the playground."

Farina said that anyone with information about who might have taken the mats is urged to contact the Health and Welfare Department at City Hall.

## Frankie slips in and out of Hoboken

By Thomas Rojas

They say you can't go home again. But that's just what Frank Sinatra did last Monday when he returned to Hoboken for the first time in 30 years, to visit his godfather.

And, according to Frank Garrick, Sinatra's 85-year-old godfather, the legendary performer may pay another visit very soon.

Garrick, who resides on 13th Street, says that he received a "surprise visit" from his famous godson at around 4 p.m. Monday.

"I hadn't seen him in quite a while, so it was kind of a tense moment," he recalled. "But he grabbed me and said, 'Let me look at you.' After that, we talked for about two hours."

In a godfather-to-godson chat, Garrick encouraged Sinatra to come back to Hoboken, which he has avoided for some 30 years, even though he was born there 67 years ago.

"I said, 'You're doing wrong by not coming back,'" said Garrick. "But he said he's going to come back soon."

Garrick explained that Sinatra and five companions were able to get in and out of Hoboken without anyone knowing about the rare visit.

"Most of the time, the streets are crowded with people," he noted. "But on Monday, the streets were empty, so nobody noticed this big limousine pull up."

Garrick, who worked for the old Jersey Observer newspaper for 49 years, explained that he was an old friend of Sinatra's father, Martin, who was a fire captain.

He calls himself one of Sinatra's biggest fans, and says that he has kept in touch with "Ol' Blue Eyes" throughout the years.

"He calls me very often," added Garrick, whose son is a lieutenant in the Hoboken police department.

Garrick said Sinatra may visit his hometown again next month, when he is appearing in nearby Atlantic City.

"He said he would try to drop by soon," he said. "He'll be back. I'm sure of it."



## Assails job programs

Jude Fitzgibbons, president of the Hoboken Municipal Employees Association, charges that "workfare" and CETA summer youth employment programs are taking jobs away from city workers.

"How can the city justify using workfare and CETA workers when municipal employees are being 'laid off,'" asked Fitzgibbons. "A great injustice is being done to city workers and their families."

A total of 58 non-uniformed municipal employees have been terminated, because of budget cuts. No police or firemen have been laid off.

To make up for the loss of manpower, the city has been making use of the Reagan Administration's "workfare" programs, in which welfare recipients work for about 35 hours each month, cleaning parks and public buildings.

In addition, the city is reportedly considering using greater numbers of CETA summer youth employment workers this summer, to perform odd jobs throughout the city.

But Fitzgibbons insists that those jobs should be performed by the municipal employees who have been laid off.

"I'm going to consult with the union's attorney to determine what our next course of action will be," he said. "One thing is for sure, we are going to remember this during the next election."

But city officials argue that the layoffs were necessary in order to prevent a greater increase in the city's tax rate. The proposed 1982 municipal budget projects a tax increase of \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

## Hoboken jobs program expanding statewide

By WILLIAM BOLE  
Special to The Dispatch

A program that officials say has helped keep jobs and manufacturing companies in Hoboken is "going statewide," officials involved in economic development said yesterday.

The program, called the Urban Job Retention Task Force, is made up of volunteers who survey manufacturing companies on problems that may be pressing them to leave their current locations. The task force is a project of the Make New Jersey Work Roundtable, which was created three years ago by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, a group with 13,000 members across the state.

According to John P. Spinnanger, director of the task force and mayor of Pompton Lakes, the volunteers range from Chamber of Commerce members and school administrators to clergymen — "anyone interested in keeping his or her community sound."

Throughout 1980, 22 Hoboken volunteers conducted two-hour interviews with 83 of Hoboken's 111 manufacturers. They reported their findings to the task force, which a year ago handed the Hoboken mayor's office a report on some of the problems facing particular manufacturing companies.

The mayor's office said that it has been meeting with the manufacturers who expressed interest in leaving Hoboken, and has convinced most of them to stay.

Spinnanger said the names of the companies are confidential, which he said is one reason why the executives concerned were willing to give out information about their companies.

In short, Spinnanger said, the manufacturers in Hoboken now have the feeling that "the government and people at high levels are concerned about their problems." This, he said, has kept jobs in Hoboken. Of the 11 percent of the Hoboken manufacturers who expressed a desire to leave Hoboken, he said, "nearly all of them" have decided against doing so.

"Now that we've done it in Hoboken," he said, "we're going statewide with it."

Hoboken and Trenton were the pilot cities for the project, and 30 volunteers are currently surveying the 300 manufacturers in Elizabeth, he said.

In addition, Spinnanger said, the task force will hold a workshop in Burlington on May 27 to instruct officials and citizens there on how to start a task force program.

It recently held workshops in Passaic and Mercer counties, he noted, and by the spring of next year, will have reached every county in New Jersey.

"The concept is so simple," Spinnanger said, "and so important. We want the mayors of even smaller communities to be aware of the existing economic base that they have, and how to keep it."

According to the Hoboken volunteers, the reasons frequently given by the manufacturers for wanting to leave were lack of the space needed for business expansion and the need for skilled, dependable personnel in larger numbers than were available in the Mile Square City.

"This surprised me," said volunteer Art Guido, an employee of New Jersey Bell. "The governor (Thomas H. Kean) is always saying that high taxes are the problem. But only 2-to-3 percent of the companies said taxes were the main problem."

The findings on the problems of the manufacturers are significant, Guido said, because these are problems that the local governments can help solve.

In one typical case that the volunteers cited, for example, a company that said it needed to leave because of space problems was alerted to the availability of city-owned property in the city, and the company stayed.

Mayme Jurkat, a Hoboken volunteer and administrator at Stevens Tech, said some manufacturers were "frustrated" by "small problems."

She said that one company she surveyed, for example, was losing "money and time" because local residents were parking their cars in front of the loading dock entrance. She notified the city, she said, and

the administration placed no-parking signs in front of the dock and handed out tickets to drivers who ignored the signs.

Steve Cappiello, mayor of Hoboken, said the task force volunteers have enabled the city to inform concerns that want to leave about "the many services and options available to them." These include, he said, Hoboken's Community Development Program, from which companies can acquire help in financing business expansion.

Guido said the task force and volunteers chose to focus on manufacturing because it employs more people in New Jersey than any other industry, even though it has been shrinking. He added that the industry employs the largest number of recent high school graduates, which he said is important in light of the high rate of unemployment among young people.

Between 1970 and 1978, according to Spinnanger, Hoboken and Trenton lost about 9 percent of their manufacturing bases.

Peggy E. Grosso, a spokeswoman for the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, noted that business has always been reluctant to cooperate with "public-private" partnership programs sponsored by government agencies. "This program has been successful because it is run by volunteers in the private sector," she said.

Concentrating on the problems of particular companies is crucial, Spinnanger asserted, because losing "one midsize company has serious ripple effects."

When one company employing 100 people moves, he declared, it triggers the loss of another 500 jobs in local stores that depend on the business that the manufacturing employees bring.

Spinnanger asserted that mayors and other public officials should study the benefits of the task force approach before taking drastic actions to help businesses, such as instituting enterprise zones. "This is a concept endorsed by the Reagan administration which would slash taxes and regulations in certain depressed areas."

## Board rescinds layoff notices

The Hoboken Board of Education last night rescinded the layoff notices sent to a dozen school administrators last week. The layoffs would have become effective July 1, as the school board girded for budget cutbacks that would have required staff reductions.

Trustee Steve Block had the resolution amended to include the layoff notices sent to all school personnel who are tenured in any position. There was no figure given for this category.

The school board in other business, was told by a parent that a local rumor predicted the closing and selling of the Leinkauf School to a private developer this summer.

Board President Otto Hottendorf said the building will not be sold this summer. Block successfully backed a resolution which will move the board's June 8 meeting to the Leinkauf School where a public hearing on the school's future will be held.

Parents have been concerned that the Leinkauf School students will be transferred next fall to the David E. Rue School, which is in the midst of renovations.

Block claims Applied Housing, Inc. is interested in buying the Leinkauf School and converting it into housing. Hottendorf said the firm has not made any formal inquiries about the property.

The board accepted the resignation of Robert Palmeri from his job as basketball coach. He will remain as a teacher. Palmeri's resignation was apparently prompted by his earning a spot in the Weehawken

Township Committee runoff election next month.

By a 5-to-2 vote, the board granted City Councilman Louis Francione's request for an additional year of employment as supervisor of maintenance. The

board refused to reinstate Enrico Siano as assistant internal auditor by a 4-to-3 vote.

The board passed a resolution seeking \$2 million from the Board of School Estimate for rehabilitation work at the schools.

## Display art of 6 women

"Hoboken Women Artists," a group show featuring the work of six local artists, will be on display beginning Sunday at the Hoboken Celebration '82 Center, Pier A Building, Second and River streets, Hoboken.

The free exhibit will have a grand opening from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, and will run until June 28. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m., Friday from 1 to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

The artists participating are Tina Ehlin, Robin Feld, Dina Gerasia, Alison Foster, Bonnie Cooper and Joanne Connelly.

## Hoboken lays off 58 city workers

By Thomas Rojas

The budget-cutting ax has fallen on 58 Hoboken municipal employees.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that 41 full-time and 17 part-time city workers have been laid off because of reductions in the proposed 1982 municipal budget.

The health and welfare and public works departments were hardest hit by the terminations, with about 35 workers receiving pink slips in the two departments. No police or firemen have been laid off.

Chius said that most of the layoffs took effect yesterday, when 45-day notices came due. Other terminations will take effect by the end of the month. Earlier, about 15 temporary

municipal employees were let go.

He said the layoffs were necessary because the City Council recently reduced the original \$20.3 million budget by more than \$1.3 million.

Meanwhile, one of the methods used by the council to reduce the budget has drawn sharp criticism from city employees.

The city's police, fire and municipal employee unions have threatened to file a grievance or stage job actions unless the council pays the union members \$123,600 in clothing allowances due on July 1.

The council wants to defer payment of the clothing allowance until Jan. 1, when it will be part of next year's budget.

Council President Walter Cramer explained at Wednesday

night's meeting that the allowance is being deferred as an alternative to laying off police and firemen.

But city union representatives claim that they weren't informed of the delay until it was announced at a recent council meeting. In addition, they say that the deferment is the same as a salary cut, which violates union contracts.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said that the council will meet with union representatives on Monday to try to reach a solution to the problem.

"The council felt that it would be far better to defer payment than to lay off more employees," said Ranieri. "I'm sure we'll be able to work things out with the unions."

## 32 lose bids for higher pay due to U.S. service

The Hoboken Board of Education has won an appellate division decision involving the claims of 32 board employees for retroactive higher pay because of their military service.

The state Board of Education had granted the claims in an initial judgment but the Appellate Division of Superior Court yesterday reversed that decision.

The appeals court denied all such claims for periods prior to six years before June 18, 1977, when the petition for the claims was filed.

The appeals court sent all the

claims for less than six years prior to the filing of the claims petition back to the state education commissioner for a decision.

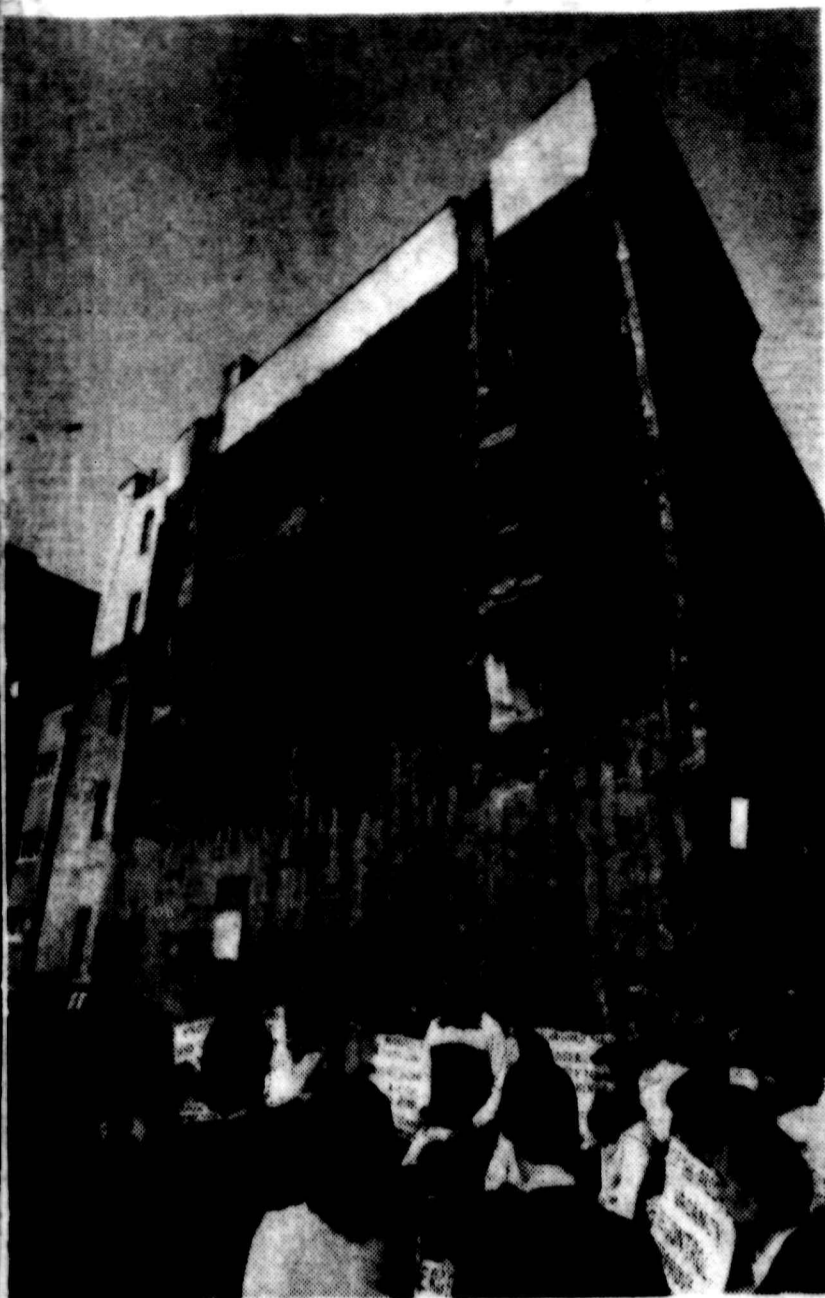
Seven other petitioners, besides the 32, had their claims sent to the state education commissioner previously by the state board of education. The appeals court reaffirmed that move but barred the commissioner from granting claims for periods of more than six years prior to the initial filing.

The case involves the difference between the salary each

petitioner received and what he would have received if given credit for military service. The court decision yesterday did not put a dollar amount on the costs involved.

**SINATRA DISPLAY** - Mrs. Terry Sasso, Acting Director of the Hoboken Public Library, stands near the Frank Sinatra Memorial Section holding the photograph that the famous singer sent her this past week with the inscription, "For Terry, Love Frank Sinatra". Mrs. Sasso was instrumental in starting the Sinatra Section and has been communicating with the Sinatra California Office to obtain materials for the Library. Mrs. Sasso, although she has never met Sinatra, lived for many years across the street from the old firehouse where Marty Sinatra, his father, worked as a fireman. Photo by Bernice Federman.

# Angry Hobokenites demand action on arson



TOM SOTO, head of the local chapter of All People's Congress, leads demonstration at site of the fatal Pinter's Hotel fire.

By WILLIAM BOLE  
Special to The Dispatch

HOBOKEN—Rallying at the site of the April 30 rooming house fire on 14th Street here, local residents called upon the city to take specific actions against what they termed the "alarming rate" of suspicious fires that have "murdered" 56 persons in the past four years.

Some of the 75 demonstrators had lived in the rooming house before it was gutted by the fire less than two weeks ago. Thirteen people died in that blaze. The demonstrators carried posters that read, "Stop Arson, Repeal Vacancy Decontrol Law, Approve Smoke Detector Law," and "Emergency Housing for Fire Victims."

The rally was sponsored by Citizens United for New Action, a Hoboken group founded in 1974, and the Hoboken chapter of the All People's Congress, a national group founded last year in response to the Reagan Administration's budget cuts.

"The mayor laughs at us when we tell him we're being murdered by the fires and by the landlords," said Tom Soto, head of the Hoboken chapter of All People's Congress. The city hasn't even spoken out against the fires. They say we're setting them ourselves, that we're burning ourselves," he said.

Soto charged that the recent fires in Hoboken have been set by landlords who want to "get rid of" low-income tenants and convert the buildings into high-rent condominiums. He referred to these as "arson-for-profit" fires.

He said the city can curtail the spread of these fires by "repealing the vacancy decontrol law" passed in Hoboken in July. The ordinance allows landlords to raise rents after the buildings have been burned. Through these fires, Soto alleged, landlords have been able to start construction on condominiums.

"While a material incentive remains for the landlords to make money on fires, the fires will continue, and more people will die," Soto said.

Soto cited the recent fires that gutted the American Hotel on River Street and an apartment building on 12th Street as examples of instances in which "buildings have already been sold to be turned into condominiums."

Mayor Steve Cappelletto denied the charges, saying the city has taken "decisive action" against the fire problem. He said the city has joined with state housing departments in inspect-

ing "all of the dwelling units" in Hoboken, and that it has started a "training program in schools to alert people to fire hazards."

The mayor added that the city is also studying legislation that would make it illegal to convert buildings to condominiums after they have been "burned down." The purpose of this law would be to discourage landlords from setting fires in order to get rid of low-income tenants and construct high-rent units.

Some residents expressed fear that their buildings were also in danger of falling to arson. "No one knows who's next, or whether we'll be living next week," said Victor Rodriguez, a member of CUNA.

Soto said the local residents also "want a strong, local" ordinance requiring that all apartment buildings install smoke alarms and detectors.

Although the state already has such a law, Soto said it has been largely ignored because "the city has no ordinance enforcing the law." He said such a law would "place the responsibility of enforcement on the city government."

He pointed out that the owner of the 14th Street rooming house had been fined \$1,000 by the state for not installing a smoke alarm.

Soto continued, "The city must also provide shelter for displaced victims" of fires.

The demonstrators called upon the state and

federal governments to investigate the 14th Street fire and other recent fires.

They said they believed the fires and the displacement of large numbers of Hispanics in Hoboken have been caused by Hoboken's "gentrification," in which old and run-down buildings have been converted into expensive, middle-class housing.

The demonstrators said that on Saturday at 1 p.m., they will hold a march in protest of what they see as the city's weak response to the fires. The march will start at 12th and Washington streets.

## Hoboken cops seek dead man's kin

HOBOKEN—Police are trying to locate the relatives of a 71-year-old man who was found dead in his room on May 26 in the Hotel Victor on Hudson Place.

The man, Walter Ryscoski, had been living in the hotel since November. He previously lived in the American Hotel, which was closed after a fire on Nov. 21 in which two people were killed.

Ryscoski's body is at the William L. Field Funeral Home. A spokeswoman for the funeral home said he is believed to have died of natural causes. He reportedly had a history of heart trouble.

Anyone with information is asked to call 11 James Peck of the Missing Persons Bureau at 420-2100.

## Ex-employee seeks back pay

A former Hoboken public works employee, who resigned after being charged with stealing city property, claims that the city owes him about \$2,000 in back pay. A departmental hearing on the employee's claim is scheduled to be held today.

Anthony Ocello, who several years ago was a maintenance repair worker under then-Public Works Director Andrew Amato, was arrested and charged with stealing city glue paper and tar in April of 1980.

According to Ocello, he was suspended

from his job for several months, then reinstated, then he took a leave of absence. He finally resigned in October of 1981.

Ocello was cleared of the charges against him in state Superior Court last February. Now, he claims that Hoboken owes him about \$2,000 in back pay he did not receive while suspended.

A departmental hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. today in the offices of Public Works Director William Van Wie, who replaced Amato as director about a year ago.

## State rejects Hoboken's budget cut

By Thomas Rojas

The state Division of Local Government Services has rejected a method used by the Hoboken City Council to reduce the proposed 1982 municipal budget.

The council had wanted to defer payment of \$123,600 in clothing allowances to city employees due on July 1 for six months, when it would be part of next year's budget, as an alter-

native to laying off policemen and firemen.

A total of 58 non-uniformed city workers have been laid off because of budget cuts.

However, according to City Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the state rejected the plan, claiming that it would have violated the city's contract with police, fire and municipal employee unions.

Chius said that the council

has agreed to return the clothing allowance payment to this year's budget, and to discuss alternative methods of reducing the budget.

"The council may make cuts in other areas, or they may raise the tax rate," he said.

The proposed 1982 municipal

budget projects an increase in the city's tax rate of about \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The council reduced the original \$20.3 million budget — which called for a \$28 increase in the tax rate — by about \$1.3 million.

## Film, dance events will hail Hoboken

Two special film and dance events will take place in Hoboken today as part of Hoboken Celebration '82.

"Shot in Hoboken," a presentation of films and commercials made in the waterfront city, will be held at the Rue-Demarest School, at Fourth and Garden streets, at 8 p.m.

Historian Elena Testa will present background material tracing Hoboken's role in films from the silent era to the present.

In addition, the feature film "Voices," a recently-released romantic drama which includes many exterior scenes shot in Hoboken in 1978, will be screened.

At 5 p.m., "Jacob's Ladder," an original outdoor dance piece, will be performed in front of City Hall by the Toni Smith dance company.

Celebration '82, a project of the Hoboken Cultural Council, is a three-month long festival of artistic and historical events, held all over the city. All of the events are free to the public.

"Endymion Dance," a three-character play by Hoboken resident Seamus McGraw, will be performed at 8:15 p.m. next Thursday through June 12 at the Celebration Center in the Port Authority Pier Building.

Women Artists of Hoboken will display work in handpainted silks and cottons, leaded and stained glass, photography, printmaking, pottery and clothing at the Celebration Center, Room 212, June 13 to 21.

The hours for the exhibition will be 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 1 to 6 p.m. Friday and noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

## As Hoboken Gentrifies, Fires Kill

By Jean Forest

Hoboken, 10 minutes by PATH train from Manhattan, is an old town, only one square mile in size. But Hoboken has caught its neighbor's spreading disease, gentrification — the upgrading of neighborhoods — and is beginning to shed not only the benefits of urban renewal but also several frightening symptoms. The most insidious is suspected arson.

Gentrification in Manhattan and Hoboken had its idealistic beginnings in the 1960's as predominantly young people moved into tenements and, through their combined efforts and those of neighborhood developers and landlords, renovated the properties.

In Manhattan, landlords and developers took over such areas as the Upper West Side, Chelsea, and SoHo, and turned the original ideal into the fast-profit turnover real estate too well. They have driven away not only young people but also working- and middle-class families, artists, members of minorities and the elderly from these areas and into worse tenements and less-accessible neighborhoods.

Hoboken has become something of a refuge for working people, students, struggling artists, the elderly and certain minority members for whom living in Manhattan is out of the question. The town is a quaint mixture of railroad flats, brownstones and tenements interspersed with small businesses and light industry.

Hoboken had its beginnings as one of several reception areas for the waves of 19th and 20th century immigrants. Of late, word has gotten around that it is relatively safe, an easy commute, and that its housing is still within reach of working people's income. This reputation has been both a blessing and a curse. Some desirable renovation and population growth has occurred, but gentrification blight is beginning to strangle both the tenants and small homeowners who cannot afford Manhattan-style rents and the property taxes that come with the need for increased municipal services.

In the last seven months, five fires have taken the lives of 28 people — 18 of them children — in Hoboken. Fire

inspectors say that they suspect arson in all five. All the buildings involved were designated to be sold as condominiums. Why arson? Toward what end? No one has yet been arrested for arson.

On May 15, in the second of a series of marches within a year, the town's "ants" organizations called for a general investigation of the fires. A representative of the tenants' groups said that time that if the victims had been rich people, the National Guard would have been called to Hoboken.

The second characteristic of gentrification is failure to enforce laws protecting tenants' rights. Mayor Steve Cappelletto and the City Council at first resisted enacting a smoke-detector law and, after doing so, have not effectively enforced it. They readily passed a vacancy-decontrol law that amounts to an incentive for landlords to try to get rid of old tenants and charge rent that sometimes are 35 percent higher to new tenants. The press has reported that more than 40 percent of Hoboken's landlords are violating this law by not registering their base rents, as the law requires. Many landlords are skyrocketing rents far beyond the 5 percent limit. Not one landlord has been prosecuted.

Along with the apparent arson and lack of law enforcement, the third effect of gentrification is renovation of supposedly substandard dwellings, which is creating havoc for many longtime Hoboken residents. At a recent City Council meeting, an elderly, crippled man presented a document he had just received from his landlord stating that his bathroom and kitchen were to be renovated and that the heating and hot water systems in the building would be replaced. This would result in his rent's being raised from \$175 to \$250 a month. Guess who probably will be evicted?

Tenants' groups are of the opinion that gentrification and the so-called Hoboken Renaissance are an economic conspiracy involving big landlords, real estate agencies and contractors and New York City banks.

Obviously, some changes are inevitable in Hoboken. It is prime real estate. However, the existing community of working people, the elderly and the poor need to be protected from arbitrary, callous actions of those who stand to profit from changes but accept no responsibility for the effects of such changes on the lives of community residents. Hoboken residents have become pawns in a contagious game called greed that does not necessarily bring progress.

Consider the consequences of gentrification in crime-ridden Manhattan, which is almost devoid of the stable influences of working- and middle-class families and is polarized between extreme wealth and poverty.

Jean Forest is a part-time writer who has lived in Hoboken for eight months. She works in Manhattan for Non-Traditional Employment for Women, a New York City program to place women in blue-collar jobs.

## Frio balks at Caliguire's Authority post

Carmen F. Frio, who was appointed executive director of the Hoboken Housing Authority last month, to succeed the retiring John Caliguire, has declined the post.

Thaddeus J. Zielonka, acting executive director of the body, said that the Authority will discuss naming a new director at tomorrow's regular meeting, at 6 p.m. at the Authority's headquarters, 400 Harrison St. Caliguire retired on June 1, after serving on the Authority for 28 years, the last seven as executive director. Frio, a former comptroller for the Authority, had been selected to replace Caliguire, but declined the post, according to Zielonka.

Zielonka said that the Authority will review candidates for the post at tomorrow's meeting, and may name a new executive director then, or at the next scheduled meeting.

## Ancient Leinkauf School to close

By JANET SLATER  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A resolution to close the 74-year-old Sadie Leinkauf School was passed 5-1 by the board of education at its meeting last night. The closing is part of a plan to redistrict the city's school system.

The resolution to close the school, located at the corner of Seventh and Adams streets, was passed over the angry protests of more than 100 parents and members of the public who attended the meeting. Board member Stephen Block voted against the resolution.

Under the redistricting plan, the city will be divided into three school zones, each with two elementary schools. Parents will be able to send their children to either school in their zone as long as the attendance of both the schools remains balanced, said Assistant Superintendent of Schools Francis McGorty. The city is now divided

into six zones, and children attend whichever school is in their zone.

The parents who attended last night's meeting apparently were angry at the board for not consulting them before making their decision. A letter by the Parents, Teachers, and Students Organization read at last night's meeting stated, "The public has been unduly left out of the (decision-making) process. The decision has apparently been made prior to tonight's public hearing."

The group also submitted a petition signed by parents who are against the closing of the school.

The 492 pupils who now attend Leinkauf will have to transfer to schools in the other zones. About 200 other children in other schools will also have to transfer under the new districting.

McGorty said overcrowding will be avoided by the reopening of the David Rue School. This structure has been closed since 1977 for renovations to the roof, plumbing and

heating systems. The work on the building, which is expected to cost about \$1.5 million, is expected to be completed by September, according to McGorty.

McGorty said that, if the Rue School is not ready for the opening of the new school year in September, the students assigned to Rue

would be placed as a class in rooms at the Demarest School until the work is completed.

The future of the Leinkauf building is still in doubt. Although there has been talk of converting the site into a condominium complex, board members would neither confirm nor deny this rumor.

## Hoboken 'anarchy'

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The next mayoral election is at least a year off, but Mayor Steve Cappelletto says charges from Councilman E. Norman Wilson that he can no longer govern the city effectively are just campaign rhetoric.

In a tersely worded press statement released Wednesday, Wilson said the way Cappelletto is running the city is not "leadership but anarchy" because of "a slow-motion, no-motion administration which is floundering from crisis to crisis while burdening its citizens with one of the biggest tax rates in the state."

Although his term is not up until 1985, Cappelletto has stated on several occasions that he probably will step down next year and seek higher office.

Wilson's statement charged the mayor with not exercising leadership to protect residents from displacement, saying, "The Renaissance in Hoboken, while rejuvenating the physical part of the city, is on the other hand killing the soul by large-scale displacement of its citizens."

Wilson asserts that Cappelletto had a \$28 tax increase in 1981 (it was actually \$26, to the present \$132 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation) and again in 1982 submitted a budget calling for another \$28 increase "indicating neither he or his administrators made any attempts to trim expenditures, plan for the future or increase productivity."

Cappelletto has stated his willingness to work with the City Council to keep the budget down, and the actual increase in the tax rate is expected to be less than \$28. Wilson's diatribe continued, "The school system is in turmoil, with patronage, nepotism and cronyism running rampant. Faculty morale is low and politics takes priority over education."

The mayor dismissed the charges yesterday, saying, "He wrote to you (the press), not to me. He must be kicking off his 1983 campaign."

Cappelletto added, "I will be very happy to sit down with Norman Wilson and try to effectuate the best remedies for any deficiencies that he cites."

"He has to give us some specifics here. There's nothing here to back up his charges," the mayor said.

## Circus Arts Center leaving Hoboken for Jersey City

The Circus Arts Center, a training school for performers, will be moving to the Majestic Theater in Jersey City.

The school, now located in Hoboken, is expected next week to sign a lease for space in the theater, according to the owners of the Majestic.

Albert Stinchcomb, co-owner of the theater, said the circus school was attracted by the 80-foot space above the stage area. He said it is considered ideal for training trapeze and high-wire acts.

The Jersey City Planning Board yesterday gave its approval to having the circus school relocate here.

Stinchcomb said the circus school will use part of the theater for about four years while renovations continue on other parts of the building.

Complete renovation of the Majestic is expected to take five more years, with its opening to coincide with the structure's 80th anniversary, in 1987.

The process of cleaning out the Majestic has now been completed. Stinchcomb said it took 18 months and \$140,000 to demolish unneeded interior portions and cart away the debris. Prior to its purchase by Stinchcomb's firm, the last use of the Majestic was as a popcorn manufacturing center for a theater chain.

See CIRCUS — Page 2.

## Circus Arts Center moving

Continued from Page 1

But during its heyday, he said live circus acts often performed at the theater.

Plans for its full restoration as a multi-use arts center will be completed in one more year, he said.

In other action at yesterday's planning board meeting, conditional site plan approval was given for construction of a 24-unit motel on Tonnele Avenue,

between Beach Street and Manhattan Avenue.

The board denied permission for another developer to erect a sign which would extend six feet out over the Central Avenue sidewalk.

Developer Neil Piro, a former Jersey City official, said the board's action threatens chances of getting a Dunkin' Donuts franchise in a new building on Central Avenue.

## Board to resume long hearing

The Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment tonight will continue a marathon public hearing on the proposed construction of a supermarket in the uptown area.

Hoboken Manufacturers, the owners of property at 10th and Washington streets, are seeking variance to sell the land to the

Pathmark supermarket chain. Opponents of the plan say that the supermarket would create traffic problems in the area.

The public hearing on the controversial issue began two months ago. Tonight's meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 at City Hall.

# They specialize in belly laughs

By Peter La Villa

You've heard of a coffee break, a tea break and a lunch break, but did you ever hear of a laugh break?

People in New York have and a Hoboken actor is responsible for it.

He's David Babcock and he's starring in a zany comedy revue called "Serious Bizness" and believe it or not it caters to a lunchtime audience.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Babcock is joined by three fellow actors at the American Place Theatre on West 46th Street entertaining the lunch crowd.

Adding to the uniqueness is the opportunity for the audience to bring lunch into the theater and eat it while the actors perform.

According to Babcock, the comedy revue is not an improvisational performance but rather a play written by the four of the actors. He likens it to the Month Python Show or Saturday Night Live.

"We do not ask the audience to participate," he said. "We just expect them to sit back and enjoy lunch as we entertain them. They love it and so do we."

It costs \$3.50 to get into the theater and the show lasts just under an hour. The theater is air conditioned, he said, and seats 75.

Babcock is new to Hoboken. He moved there from New York last November and says he's sorry he didn't make the move sooner.

"I love Hoboken," he commented. "It's got everything, including nice people. I lived in New York for five years and it's like living in a vacuum."

The actor is originally from Woodstock, Ill., and like many performers, made the switch to New York in search of fame and fortune.

His goal is to write a comedy and direct it off-Broadway. He just completed a directorial chore for the popular comedy High Heeled Women, which recently closed.

He just completed writing a comedy called "Big Deal" and now is looking for a producer.

His troupe just received good news. Instead of closing after the four weeks are up, the producer has informed him that the plans have been changed.

"The response from the public has been so overwhelming that we've been asked to stay and perform indefinitely," Babcock said. "We've performed all over New York for the past four years as Serious Bizness and we've never encountered anything like this. It's great."

He admits that playing to a lunch audience is rough. He said he prefers the evening crowd because theater-goers usually have a drink or two under their belts and appear more receptive to comedy.

He said he also enjoys sleeping late in the morning but performing to the lunch crowd means he has to get up early.



David Babcock, left, of Hoboken, is joined by fellow performers in a revue called "Serious Bizness" during a performance for the lunch crowd. Winnie Holzman is lying across the cart as Don Perman and Jill Larson chime in.

## Association to host tour of Hoboken

The recently-formed Hoboken Industry and Business Association will take officials of Newburg, N.Y., on a tour of the city Monday.

Richard Bozzone, Sr., a director of the business group, said that Mayor Joan Shapiro and other officials of Newburg — a waterfront city that is very similar to Hoboken — will arrive at around 10 a.m. Monday.

Joseph Caporino, president of the group, said that the purpose of the tour is "to establish a rapport with officials from other cities who would like to see what

is happening in Hoboken." Caporino explained that Newburg is geographically similar to Hoboken, but has a smaller population. He said that the city, like Hoboken, has a diminishing tax base which it is trying to remedy.

The meeting will be, we feel, a fruitful exchange of ideas from which both groups will emerge with a broader perspective in regards to urban affairs," he said. He added that Mayor Steve Cappiello will be asked to accompany the visitors on the tour.

## Visions of Innocents exhibit books, art, poetry by children

For the past several months, poet James Ruggia, artist Mark Rogers, and photographer Sharon Guynup have been conducting workshops for second-to-fifth graders at Hoboken elementary schools.

Now, the three Hoboken artists have assembled a collection of poems, short stories and drawings by 200 of the school children into a book called "More Places Forever."

The book will be introduced on Sunday, at 3 p.m. at the Hoboken Celebration '82 Center, Pier A Building, Second and River streets.

Many of the youngsters will be on hand, to read selections from their poetry. The children's works will be part of an exhibit called "Visions of Innocents,"

which will be on display at the Celebration Center through June 20.

"All of the kids are really excited," says Ms. Guynup. "I think it's good for them to see their work published and get this kind of reinforcement."

Ms. Guynup says that she and her fellow artists were "very much impressed" by the quality of the children's work.

"The work is just incredible," she raves. "We were really surprised by the freshness and originality of their poems and artwork. It was a very rewarding experience for all of us."

Ms. Guynup added that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is footing the bill for publication of 1,250 copies of "More Places Forever."

## Wants bluecoats 'to join hands'

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello is asking the city's police and fire departments to support his proposal to consolidate the two departments by creating public safety officers, who would perform the duties of both policemen and firemen.

At an awards ceremony yesterday honoring several of the city's police and firemen, Cappiello said that he would meet with police and fire unions to seek their cooperation in implementing the long-discussed plan.

"We have got to join hands to protect life, limb and property," he told the assembled police and

firemen. "We've got to seek new ways to provide public safety. This may mean that firemen will occasionally make arrests, while a policeman may drag a fire hose."

The mayor reminded the uniformed workers that the city is "faced with severe economic problems," and implied that the public safety officer system would help cut cost.

The public safety officer concept has drawn strong criticism in the past from local police and fire unions, who claim that the system would endanger the

safety of residents. They also fear that the planned program will create layoffs by consolidating the two departments.

But Cappiello insists that the proposed system would improve the delivery of services to the city, in addition to saving money.

Meanwhile, at yesterday's awards ceremony, Police Sgts. James Behrens and John Howe received the city's highest award — the Medal of Honor — for their arrest of two gunmen following an attempted armed robbery and a shootout at the Clam Broth House restaurant last summer.

The two policemen also received commendations for the arrest of a suspect believed to be responsible for the murder of Eugenio Sigario at his Garden Street home last year.

Patrolmen Harry HJunkin, Richard Lynsky and Paul Dimartino, Sgt. Martin Kiely, and Detectives Ernest Mack and Fred Ferrante received citations for their work in the attempted bombing of a meat packing firm last February.

Commendations were also awarded to seven other policemen and four firefighters.

## School budget OK — at last

The Hoboken school district finally has an approved budget for the 1982-1983 school year — one considerably cut down from what was first introduced three months ago.

The city's Board of School Estimate unanimously approved the approximately \$21.3 million budget last night. This figure is nearly \$1.3 million less than the budget introduced to the school estimate board in March.

At that time, the board turned down the budget and ordered the board of education to

make cuts to reduce the budget's size.

Last night's meeting was largely a formality since agreement had been reached between school and municipal officers.

According to Mayor Steve Cappiello, the main point of the agreement had the board agreeing to the cuts proposed by the council in return for the council's underwriting of a \$2 million bond issue by the board to continue renovations at all the schools in the district.

Of the \$1.3 million, \$885,612 were reductions in municipal tax revenues. The remainder being monies cut from the state education budget according to Anthony Curko, school board internal auditor.

The board had reduced the budget by laying off employees and by closing the Leinikau Elementary School, Curko said.

The \$2 million bond issue will be used largely to make the buildings weather-tight and to complete needed repairs on the

heating systems at the schools.

In other business, the board approved the school board's request to transfer \$400,000 from the current expense portion of the budget to capital outlay in order to complete rehabilitation work on David E. Rue School.

Curko explained this meant taking the \$400,000 from the board's surplus account for the Rue School work. He said this leaves about \$300,000 in the surplus account, which he said was adequate.

## Bd of Ed to act on closing school to help cut costs

The Hoboken Board of Education is expected tonight to decide whether to close the Leinikau School and sell the building to a private developer.

The school board will meet at 8 p.m. at the Leinikau School, located at Seventh and Jefferson streets, to discuss the proposal.

The board is considering the move in order to cut costs. The City Council recently ordered reduction of almost \$800,000 in the original \$21.7 million 1982-83 school budget. Those cuts have forced the layoff of about 45 non-tenured teachers and administrators.

School board trustee James Farina said that the more than

600 students currently enrolled in the Leinikau School would be redistricted to the Wallace and Brandt schools, if the closing is approved.

The board's next move would be to have the Leinikau School building appraised. Farina said that the building could probably be sold for as much as \$200,000.

Board members have said that the city will have an overabundance of school buildings for its dwindling student population when renovation of the Rue School is completed by the fall or January at the latest. They argue that the school system would not suffer if the Leinikau School were closed.

## Cappiello opposes tax abatement moratorium plan

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello says that he opposes the proposed moratorium on tax abatements for property developers in the city.

"Tax abatements induce business and industry to come into the city," said Cappiello. "If we don't grant tax abatements, how are we going to provide housing for the poor and the elderly? What do I say to the people who come to me looking for apartments?"

A resolution, proposed by City Councilman Nunzio Malfetti, which would have imposed a one-year moratorium on tax abatements, was defeated by the council last week by a 7-2 vote.

The resolution sought to "declare a public policy banning all future tax abatements on all property in the city for one year after the completion and utilization of the revaluation of all property." Section 8 housing for the poor and elderly would have

been exempt from the moratorium.

Although the resolution was defeated, Councilman E. Norman Wilson, who supported the Malfetti proposal, said that he is drafting a revised version of the resolution, which would require that the city establish a strict policy for granting abatements in the future, and mandate that a public hearing be held before any abatements are granted.

"I just want to make sure that the council is extremely careful in granting abatements in the future," said Wilson. "The city is in a position now where we can get more favorable terms on abatements. We can be more selective in the future."

But Cappiello insists that tax abatements are "the only way" to persuade developers to come to the city.

"It's good business," said the mayor. "I'd like to know what the alternatives are."

## Hoboken won't end builders' tax breaks

The Hoboken City Council soundly defeated a move last night to impose a moratorium on tax abatements for property developers.

The resolution proposed by Councilman Nunzio Malfetti sparked a long and spirited debate before failing by a vote of 7-2. Councilman E. Norman Wilson cast the other affirmative vote.

The resolution sought to "declare a public policy banning all future tax abatements on all property in the city for one year after the completion and utilization of the revaluation of all property."

Section 8 housing subsidy buildings for the poor and elderly would have been exempt. Malfetti said the council had already given too many abatements to the developers. "We have to stop here."

Hugh Hothorn of the League of Hoboken Home Owners supported the resolution by arguing that abatements had forced the tax rate to increase and created

high rents. He said individual homeowners were not given abatements as the large developers are.

Activist Thomas Vesetti warned the council that the abatements they had granted would "come back to haunt them."

The opposition argued that they did not need the resolution and could decide when an abatement was called for on a case-by-case basis. Wilson said he would offer a "more palatable" version of the resolution at the next council meeting.

In other business, the council voted final passage to an ordinance that raised the fee for pinball machines and arcade games from \$15 a year to \$250 a year.

Edward Silverstein, president of the North Jersey Amusements Association, criticized the council action. He said he would confer with other members of the association to determine if the ordinance should be challenged in court.

## 'Waterfront' revisited

By Thomas Rojas

"I coulda been a contender." As any film buff knows, those famous words were spoken by Marlon Brando, as ex-boxer Terry Malloy, in the classic 1954 movie "On the Waterfront."

And, as any Hobokenite knows, that much-admired study of corruption on the docks was filmed right on the streets and piers of the Mile-Square city.

On Thursday, at 8 p.m., a special screening of "On the Waterfront" will take place at Pier C on River Street, where much of the movie was originally shot.

After the screening, former longshoreman "Tony Mike" DiVincenzo, who reportedly inspired Brando's memorable portrayal of Malloy, the dockhand who fights union corruption, will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the waterfront's past.

In addition, Joe Cappuluti, a present-day longshoreman, will discuss how the waterfront has changed since the movie was filmed.

"On the Waterfront," which won three Academy Awards, was directed by Elia Kazan, and also stars Eva Marie Saint, Lee J. Cobb and Karl Malden.

Admission to the screening is free. The event is part of Hoboken Celebration '82, which is a project of the Hoboken Cultural Council.

## Public forum on Hoboken tonight

"Historic Hoboken: Where Do We Go From Here?," a public forum on the future of the waterfront city, will take place tonight, at 8, at the Celebration '82 Center, located at Second and River streets.

The evening will feature a panel debate

and public discussion on issues — such as housing a gentrification — affecting Hoboken's future. Panelists will include Joseph Barry, director of Applied Housing, and Tom Newman of the First Ward Block Association.

The forum will follow up last week's panel discussion, "Renaissance for Whom? Ideas and Issues of Change," which dealt with the Hoboken Renaissance.

Tonight's event will conclude the series "Historic Hoboken: An Awakening."

## Council ready to OK school budget

The Hoboken City Council is expected to give final approval to the 1982-83 school budget at tonight's council meeting at 7 at City Hall.

Last week, the city's Board of School Estimate unanimously approved the \$21.3 million budget, which is about \$1.3 million less than the original budget introduced in March. The school estimate board had turned down the original budget and ordered

extensive cuts. In return to the Board of Education for making the reduction, the council has agreed to underwrite a \$2 million bond issue to renovate the city's schools.

Now that the school estimate board has approved the school budget, only the Council's final approval is necessary for the budget to become official. That approval, which is only a formality, should come

tonight. Also at tonight's meeting, the council is scheduled to accept bids for pistol range facilities for the police department.



SHE'S ALIVE — Elizabeth Garcia, the lone member of her family to escape the disastrous Pinter Hotel fire in Hoboken last year, is continuing her recovery from burns and multiple fractures at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston. Comforting Miss Garcia is Mariene Golden of the hospital's social service department.

# Wilson says Capiello 'flounders'

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken Councilman E. Norman Wilson charges that Mayor Steve Capiello's administration has pushed the city to the brink of "chaos" by "floundering from crisis to crisis."

In a statement released yesterday, Wilson claims that Capiello has lost the confidence of the public and questions whether the mayor can "effectively govern the city of Hoboken any longer."

Wilson is calling on the mayor to "pay more attention" to the city's problems, and less attention to his duties as chairman of the Hudson County Board of Freeholders.

"Hoboken is being neglected," he said. "They need a mayor who is committed to their needs."

Capiello could not be reached for comment yesterday. However, he has said in the past that he is capable of fulfilling the duties of both mayor and

freeholder chairman.

In his statement, Wilson accuses the administration of failing to establish a long-range plan for dealing with the city's financial problems.

"A review of the past 12 months indicates the city is in chaos," the statement reads. "In 1981, the administration burdened the people with a \$28 tax increase, and again in 1982 submitted a budget calling for another \$28 increase."

The mayor's original 1982 municipal budget was later trimmed by about \$1.3 million, with the projected increase in the tax rate cut to \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

In addition, Wilson makes the following charges:

The Hoboken school system is "in turmoil," with "patronage, nepotism and cronyism running rampant." He adds that "faculty morale is low and politics takes priority over education."

The Hoboken "Renaissance" has succeeded in "rejuvenating the physical part of the city"

while "killing the soul by large-scale displacement of its citizens."

"The people have lost confidence in a slow motion-no motion administration which is

floundering from crisis to crisis while burdening its citizens with one of the biggest tax rates in the state," the statement concludes. "This is not leadership, but anarchy."

## Hoboken piers nearer to sale

By FRANCES BURNS  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The city is one step closer to acquiring Piers A, B and C, which have been off the tax rolls since 1917.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., that would let the city buy the piers from the federal government was passed unanimously by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and sent to the full Senate yesterday.

A similar bill sponsored by Rep. Frank J. Guarini, D-Hudson, passed the House of Representatives 336-43 in March.

Under Bradley's bill, the General Services Administration would negotiate a price for the piers with the city, starting with the fair market value of the property and taking into account the financial condition of the city. The length of time the piers have been off the tax rolls, the services the city has had to provide, and the condition of the piers. Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., reportedly insisted on the provision that negotiations start with fair market value.

Guarini's bill said that the piers would be sold to the city at below their market value. The Senate and House must resolve the difference in language in conference before the bill becomes law.

"I have no trouble with the new language," Guarini said yesterday. He said he expects the bill to pass the Senate with no problems.

"This will mean the beginning of the revitalization of the waterfront. It will create jobs and the tax rates Hoboken so sorely needs," Guarini added.

"It makes no sense to continue to allow this property to remain idle — providing no economic benefit to the federal government, the City of Hoboken, or the people of New Jersey," Bradley said yesterday. "Transferring ownership of the piers to Hoboken will open up new opportunities for the kinds of renovation and economic development that are so badly needed there, and in many other older urban areas of the country as well."

The piers have been used only sporadically since about 1968. Mayor Steve Capiello said last night. After World War II they were refurbished and used as a break-bulk center which became obsolete with the rise of container shipping. Pier B was badly damaged in 1980 by a fire, and Capiello said in his opinion, it is almost beyond repair.

The area involved in the transfer is about 50 acres. Since Hoboken's area is only a square mile, this is a sizable addition to the city.

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## Say half of Hoboken piers to be torn down

Within two years, Hoboken will see almost half its piers torn down and removed, including every pier owned by the city under a harbor clean-up program initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The project, titled Harbor Drift Removal Project, will remove all piers that are considered decayed and corroded on the waterfront — including the city's Fifth and Sixth street piers and the Steven's Institute of Technology landing, according to Thomas Ahern, of the city's Community Development Agency.

Ahern told an audience last night at the Hoboken Environmental Committee meeting

that the project, which was started in 1976, could begin actual work this January with completion expected within a year from that date.

No final figure has been set for the cost of the project, though it is expected to cost several million dollars. Ahern said the two-thirds of the costs are to be borne by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the remainder by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Its purpose, Ahern said, was to remove the piers and any other materials that could drop debris into waterways. He said Hoboken would be the third area in the

state affected by the project, following Liberty State Park in Jersey City and Port Newark in Elizabeth.

Among the piers expected to be removed is 300 feet of dock from the Erie-Lackawanna train station at the south end of the city; the Fifth and Sixth street docks; the Stevens landing; one of four docks at the Union Drydock repair facility; and the former Todd Shipyard facility, which is now owned by the city.

Ahern said this would mean that the city would lose its municipal piers, but added that to rehabilitate them for development would be too expensive. He said to repair the Fifth Street pier has been estimated to cost at least \$1.5 million.

Ahern also said the state has plans to build a short fishing pier at the site of the Fifth and Sixth street docks, which are now used to cast off from.

In other business, the committee listened to a presentation from Leo Genese, director of the Camp Tanaguan Alumni Association, which is trying to re-open a summer camp for youngsters that was closed by the YMCA about five years ago. The committee asked to give the association \$50 and ask for pledges from its members.

## Hoboken rejoices down by the river

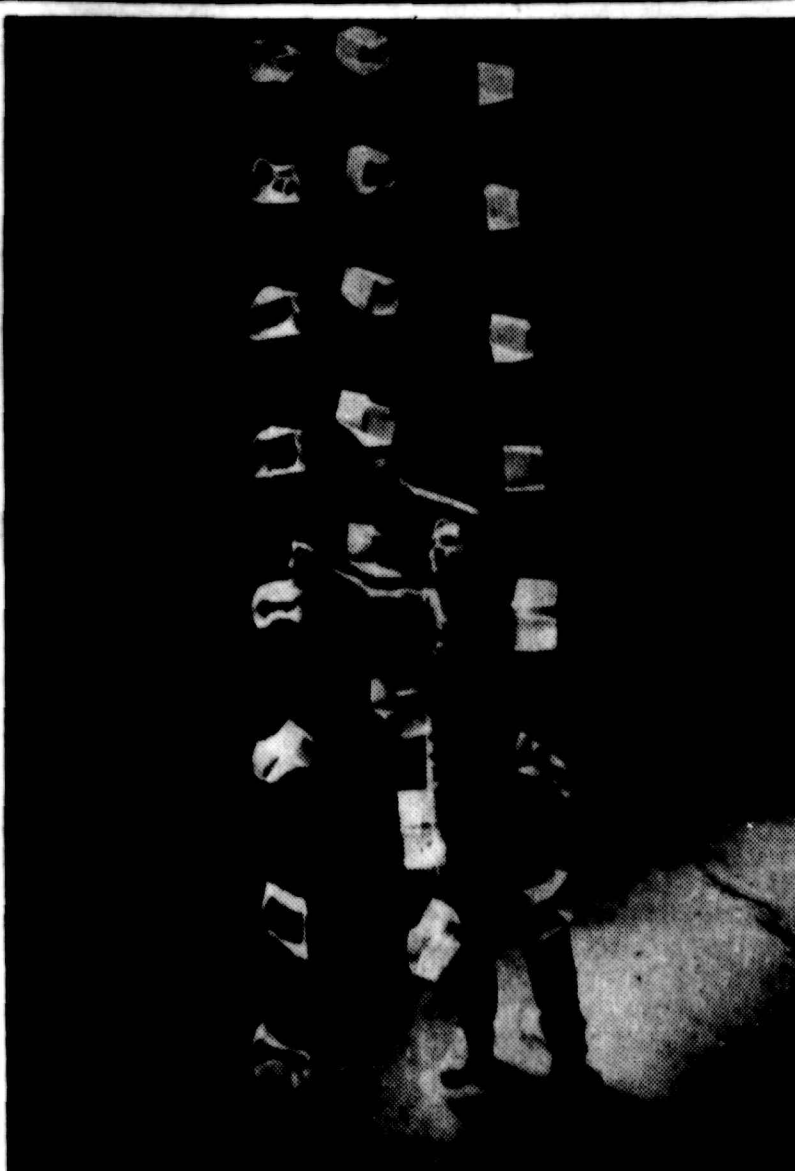


Photo by Bill Beyer

THOSE OBJECTS SEEM to be floating in the air, but they're part of an artwork suspended by string by Eileen Hoffman of Hoboken, as Kathleen Caputo, coordinator of visual arts for Hoboken Celebration '82, finds out.

## Celebration '82 ending

By MIGUEL TERSY  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Piers C and 5 will be the site of a two-day waterfront festival marking the end of the three-month Hoboken Celebration '82.

More than 200 events celebrating the city and surrounding area's artistic, historical and cultural resources have been presented throughout the festival, said Laurie Eabiano, director of the Hoboken Cultural Council.

The weekend festival will begin with a parade of youngsters tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. One group will start from Hoboken High School, while another group will assemble at the Multi-Service Center, said Lucy Holland, assistant HCC director.

The youngsters, led by a band of volunteers with homemade musical instruments, will join together at Church Square Park at the corner of 5th and Garden streets, said Holland. A float will lead them to Pier C, she added.

The float is the set of the play "We Met In Transit," an original musical presented by Theater from the Other Side, Holland said.

Pier C tomorrow will also see dance pieces, poetry readings and two new wave rock bands. Conspiracy of Equals and the Social Climbers, which will end the evening's events.

On Sunday, the public will be treated to dance, poetry and music on Pier 5. At Pier C, fashion, dance and theater performances are scheduled. The new wave rock band, The Individuals, will top off the evening.

On both days, there will be painting exhibitions, as well as sculpture, photograph and historical displays. Festival hours are 11 a.m. to midnight tomorrow Saturday, and 11 a.m. to dusk on Sunday. A fireworks display Sunday evening will signal the end of Hoboken Celebration '82.

Holland said HCC does not have any plans for Hoboken Celebration '83. She said the council will instead conduct long-lasting, permanent cultural programs. Celebration '82 was an introduction to the arts compliments of the Hoboken Cultural Center and the city of Hoboken, Holland said.

"The festival will go on rain or shine. In case of rain we will move (everything) to Pier C," she said.

## Hoboken rent board plans special meetings

The Hoboken Rent Leveling and Stabilization Board will hold two special meetings this month, in addition to their regular monthly meeting.

Tomorrow, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, the rent board will hold

a special meeting to consider a hardship rent increase application for a building at 819-821 Washington St.

On June 22, also at 7:30 p.m., the rent board will hold its regular meeting, and will consider rent reduction applications

for buildings at 900 Garden St. and 1208-1210 Washington St.

On June 26, at 7:30 p.m., the board will hold a special meeting to consider a capital improvement rent increase application at 535-537 Bloomfield St.

## Festival finale is grand

By JANET SLATER  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Sunny skies, sea gulls dipping for food by the piers, a cool breeze blowing off the water. The Hoboken waterfront yesterday resembled a day at the beach — minus the beach. To compensate, there was a spectacular view of the New York skyline, and a full schedule of entertainment from dawn to dusk, as a final tribute to Hoboken Celebration '82.

The three-month-long arts festival ended yesterday on Pier C in grand style. Inside the old ship terminal, art exhibits including panel drawings, photography, needlework, and sculpture were on display. One of the largest exhibits was a four-tiered painting titled "100 Screaming Women" by Rich Martin and Rob Meyberg, which

featured 100 squares, each containing the same simple painting of a woman's face contorted with anger.

Unusual exhibits like suspended rocks and cellophane squares created illusions as the sunlight shined on them, and left many viewers with quizzical faces.

The real fun was on the outside pier, though, even if people did have to step over old railroad ties and piles of rocks to get there.

On one end, food vendors sold a variety of ethnic foods to the variety of ethnic people who walked passed their carts. In the middle were puppet shows, coloring tables, and a play area with hundreds of small logs which children used to build houses and airplanes and anything

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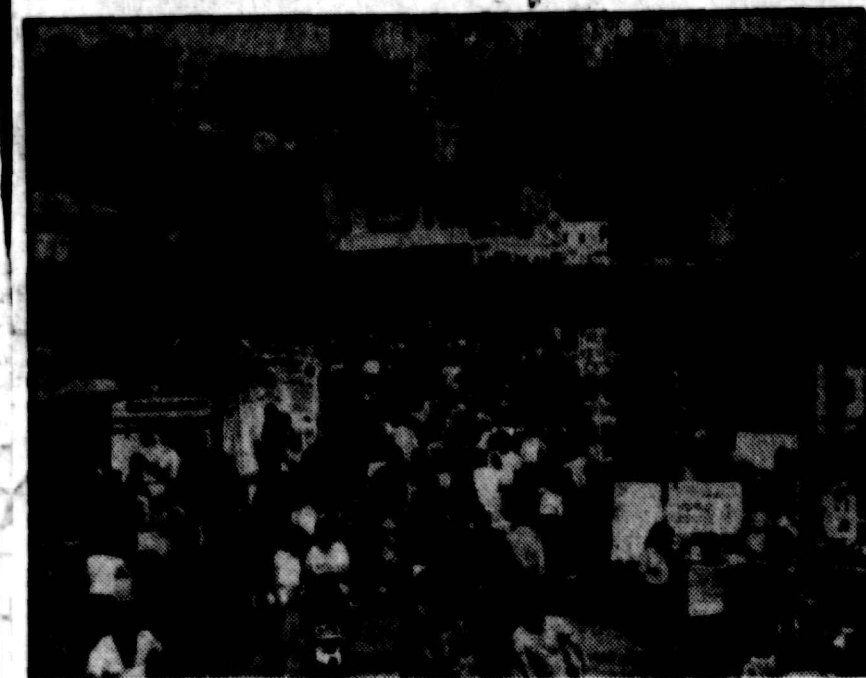


Photo by Chuck Zoeller

THE HOBOKEN PIERS are jammed with vendors, displays and happy people yesterday.



Photo by Chuck Zoeller

DWARFED BY Manhattan, Greg Kennedy, 5, was one of many children creating sculptures on the pier yesterday at the cultural arts festival, Hoboken Celebration '82.

## Hoboken workers may sue against residency rule

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken Municipal Employees Association may challenge in court a city ordinance requiring non-uniformed municipal workers to live in the city.

"Municipal workers in Hoboken make an average salary of \$13,000 a year and pay about \$300 a month in rent," said Jude Fitzgibbons, president of the union local. "Plus they have to support their families. It's unfair to force them to live in this city when they might be able to find a cheaper apartment in other cities."

Fitzgibbons said that the union is considering going to court to overturn the city law mandating that city workers reside in Hoboken.

According to City Attorney Thomas Gaffly, city law says that all municipal workers must live in the city. However, state law allows policemen, firemen and teachers to reside outside of the municipality in which they work.

"Why do non-uniformed employees have to live in the city, when police and firemen and teachers can live wherever they want?" asked Fitzgibbons.

## To plan program for basic skills

The Basic Skills Improvement Program of the Hoboken Board of Education will hold a special public meeting tomorrow, at 10 a.m. at 1115 Clinton St., to plan the program for the 1982-83 school year.

According to Linda Erbe, coordinator of the program, the Basic Skills Improvement Program provides remedial instruction in reading and mathematics to students in grades one through 12. It receives federal and state monies.

Ms. Erbe said that she is currently applying for federal and state aid for the coming school year. She urged parents and other Hoboken residents to come to the meeting to express their views on improving the Basic Skills program.

## Will vote on bonds for school repairs

Hoboken Mayor Steve Capiello has called a special meeting of the City Council for next Monday to vote on an ordinance to issue \$2 million in school bonds for repairs in city schools.

The Board of Education claims that the bond issue is needed in order to finance repairs at the Brandt, Kealy, Wallace, Calabro and Connors elementary schools, and at Demarest Junior High School.

The recent state evaluation of the Hoboken school district had recommended that repair work on the schools begin immediately. The evaluation cited problems ranging from a leaky roof at the Brandt School to a

lack of exit signs at the Kealy School.

The City Council had earlier agreed to underwrite the bond issue, in return for the school board agreeing to reduce the proposed 1982-83 school budget by more than \$1 million.

School board members say the bond issue will be used primarily to make the school buildings weather-tight and to complete needed repairs on the heating systems at the schools.

Next Monday's special council meeting is scheduled for 12 p.m. at City Hall. Meanwhile, the school board will hold a public caucus at 8 p.m. tomorrow, at 1115 Clinton St., to discuss personnel matters.

## Hoboken historical series ending

HOBOKEN—As the last event in a 10-part historical series during Hoboken Celebration '82, the Hoboken Cultural Council will present "Historic Hoboken: Where Do We Go From Here?" on June 16th at 8 p.m. in the Celebration Center, Room 218. River and Second Streets, Hoboken.

The Wednesday evening program will look at local options and actions for the city of Hoboken in the context of its future in the metropolitan area. Using the same format as last week's presentation which focused on the effects of the city's current revitalization titled "Renaissance For Whom? Ideas and Issues of Change," it will be comprised of a panel debate

and public discussion on the topic.

Panelists include Joseph Barry, director of Hoboken's Applied Housing; Carlisle Towhery, of the Regional Plan Association; and Tom Newman of the First Ward Block Association. All area residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

The series was made possible by an \$11,000 grant from New Jersey Committee for the Humanities. For a weekly listing of celebration events, before the celebration ends June 20th, call the special hotline number: 420-2017.

Continued from Page 1

else their imaginations fancied. At the other end, musicians played continuous music, performing everything from rock to flute solos for the listeners lounging on the pier.

"It's just one of those laid back days," said Dale Riley who was at the pier with her husband and two children.

"I like walking out my front door and walking

into a cultural festival with all the different foods and the roller skaters, and all the people going by," said Steve Robb, who recently moved here from Wisconsin.

Mildred Williams, of Passaic, said she comes to the waterfront every time there is a festival. "They should really clean this place up. There's so much you can do with it," she said.

Suz Clarke agreed: "It's such a fabulous place to have a party."

# Waterfront Festival last of Celebration '82 events

By Thomas Rojas

This coming weekend, Hoboken's waterfront will come alive with the sights and sounds of music, theater, poetry, dance, painting, sculpture and photography.

The two-day Waterfront Festival on Pier C and Pier 5, which will feature more than 50 artistic events, will mark the end of Hoboken Celebration '82.

Laurie Fabiano, director of the Hoboken Cultural Council, which has organized Celebration '82, says that the Waterfront Festival will be the culminating event of the three-month celebration, which has presented more than 200 artistic and historical events all over the Mile-Square City.

The festivities will begin at 9:30 Saturday morning, when a parade of colorfully-costumed Hoboken teenagers will march through the city to the music of the Brazilian band, Pe De Boi, on their way to the piers, where the day's activities will begin at 11 a.m.

At the piers, two stages will resound with continuous performances of all kinds of events, including: "We Met in Transit," an original musical by Theater from the Other Side; a jazz performance by the group "Free Agent," and Jane Setteducato's dance piece, "The Ultimate Street Dance."

In addition, there will be exhibitions of painting, sculpture and photography, historical displays, as well as food and refresh-

ments. Festival hours are 11 a.m. to midnight on Saturday.

On Sunday, when the festival will run from 11 a.m. until dusk, highlights will include: "Chiaroscuro," a fashion show; Carol Page's dance piece, "Secret Places;" and performances by the musical groups "Urban Gentry," "Streetlights" and "The Individuals."

A spectacular fireworks display, beginning at around 9 p.m. Sunday, will cap off the Waterfront Festival and signal the end of Hoboken Celebration '82.

Persons interested in volunteering their services for the festival should contact the Celebration '82 Center, Pier A Building, Second and River streets.



Contractors for the Hoboken Construction Co., donating their time and energy to build a stage for the upcoming waterfront festival are from left, Ralph Schell, James Sarullo and Gerard Schell.

## Meeting to be about parking

Hoboken's parking problems will be the subject of a discussion today between Joseph Hottendorf, director of the city's Parking Authority, and the recently-formed Hoboken Industry and Business Association.

Hottendorf is scheduled to speak to the businessmen's group at noon today at the Clam Broth House restaurant, 38 Newark St. Joseph Caporino, president of the business organization, said that the meeting was called in order to discuss parking and traffic, which he considers "the heartblood of Hoboken."

Hottendorf said that he will inform the businessmen about a 1980 agreement between the city administration and the Parking Authority, which he claims the city has not honored.

According to Hottendorf, the city agreed in 1980 to turn over \$65,000 a year to the Parking Authority to establish a capital improvement account, with the funds to be used to build parking lots in congested uptown areas.

However, the administration has not honored that agreement on the advice of the city's legal department, which insists that the city cannot allocate funds unless they are earmarked for a specific purpose. The city claims that the Parking Authority could use the capital improvement account for any purpose it chooses.

# Arson aftermath

## Social worker sees human toll on Hoboken's fire victims

By CHUCK SUTTON  
Staff Writer

LIVINGSTON—Harlene Golden has come to know a lot about the Hoboken fires and the trauma that surrounds them.

At her job as the social worker at the St. Barnabas Medical Center's Burn Center here, she has met the children, the victims of two major fires and their families.

She worked with Paulie Rodriguez, 6, and Frankie Rodriguez, 4, survivors of the Oct. 25 fire at 102 12th St. that took 11 lives. She also worked with Gladys Garcia and her family, all of whom suffered burns and were left homeless by that fire.

Her patient now is 15-year-old Elizabeth Garcia (no relation), who jumped from the third-floor window of the Pinter Hotel and survived the April 30 fire that took the lives of seven members of her family, including her mother.

Golden says that as a social worker her efforts have been frustrated with what she describes as an

atmosphere of non-cooperation on the part of Hoboken's city and school officials toward helping the victim families.

She says this atmosphere in Hoboken has added to the trauma of the victims, especially the children.

"I called and spoke to school officials, because both Paulie and Elizabeth will be returning to school in September. We wanted to offer them help in setting up programs to prepare the school for accepting them. They told us no," Golden said.

When Paulie goes back to school, Golden explains, he will have to wear an elastic suit. He has graft scars and is missing several fingers. Elizabeth will have to use a wheelchair. Golden says acceptance can be difficult for both teachers and other students, unless they are prepared.

Golden said the hospital's burn prevention program and the National Burn Victim Foundation of Orange were willing to help in the school's fire-prevention program at no cost.

They also were prepared, she said, to help relieve

some of the tension created by the rash of fires that have taken 26 lives, mostly children, in nine months.

When contacted, Daniel Binetti, director of special education, said he was surprised that any public school official would reject the offer of services. "I would welcome any suggestion she has, with her expertise on the subject," he said.

It is not the first time Golden has faced obstacles in helping Hoboken fire victims.

When Gladys Garcia, 34, was released from the hospital, she and her family had no place to live. Golden attempted to help Garcia find housing by contacting Mayor Steve Cappelletto. She said the mayor was not helpful in finding housing for the fire victim and her children.

After meeting with several community groups last November, Cappelletto did promise to help Garcia. City officials offered Garcia a three-room apartment, which she refused. She said it was too small for her family and impractical for her son, who had broken his leg escaping the Oct. 25 fire, according to Golden.

"Hoboken should respond more to the needs of these people. If there is a lack of resources, at least there should be an attitude of caring," Golden said.

Cappelletto has contended on many occasions that the city is doing all it can to help the victims, and is willing to accept any assistance from outside agencies. State, federal and county agencies have been called in to assist in the investigation, but few social service agencies have been brought in to help the victims, Golden said.

Golden recounts the nightmares of Elizabeth watching her mother unable to reach the fireman's ladder, falling to her death.

"People have told her the fire department was late in getting there, that the firemen had the ladder up there wrong and her mother couldn't reach it," Golden said.

She warned, "Think of the anger being generated. People are going to get back. They've watched people burn, then say to themselves, 'They don't care if I burn.' They are going to get back."

## School panel ending year in Hoboken

The Hoboken Board of Education will hold its annual end-of-year meeting tonight, at 8 at the Administration Building, to adopt the final 1982-83 school budget.

The school board recently reduced the original \$21.7 million school budget by about \$1.3 million, as demanded by the City Council.

Because of the reductions, termination notices were issued to about 45 non-tenured teachers and administrators. In addition, the board has decided to close the Leinkauf School, sell the building, and redistrict the school's 492 students.

In return for the cutbacks, the City Council for its part has agreed to underwrite a \$2 million bond issue for repairs to the schools.

Also at tonight's meeting, the school board is expected to approve the list of graduates, and take care of any unfinished business for the 1981-82 school year, according to a board spokesman.



Photo by Ted Beavell

THREE HOBOKEN ENTREPRENEURS, Chris Powell, Emilio DiZelfalo and Mike Kilmer, hold up samples of their work.

## A card for every occasion

By ALINA TUGEND  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Move over, Snoopy. Watch out, Ziggy and Garfield. Here come the Dustballs.

For if three enterprising 12-year-old students from the Calabro and Hudson school here have their way, Dustballs will be the new cartoon character of the 1980s.

Starting modestly with homemade cards, which cost 50 cents apiece, they hope to move on to T-shirts, mugs, calendars—in fact to fulfill the American dream of having their creation on every chest in the country. (The cards used to sell for a quarter, but the printing ate up that entire sum.)

Chris Powell, Emilio DiZelfalo and Mike Kilmer have been printing Dustball cards since December. On any occasion, for any celebration, they will be glad to whip one out in their office, which also doubles as Emilio's home.

The Dustball motif does not simply consist of one character, but of a whole population of Dustballs that live in walls.

They look like hairy balls with legs, arms and expressive eyes. The women Dustballs can be distinguished from the men because they shave their legs and sometimes wear bows in their hair.

See CARDS, Page 7

## Hoboken tax increase less steep than feared

By WILFREDO FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—After months of wrangling, the City Council yesterday unanimously approved a \$20.3 million budget that calls for an increase in the municipal tax rate of \$9.29 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The tax rate now stands at \$147.33 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The owner of property assessed at \$30,000, who now is paying \$4,419 in taxes, can expect to pay \$4,419.

The increase is about one-third of what city officials originally predicted would be a \$28 tax hike. Initially, it was anticipated 100 city workers would be laid off but budget belt-tightening resulted in half of the anticipated municipal firings.

The tax rate, however, will not be final until the county sets its tax rate. City officials say any adjustments the county may make would probably only amount to about a 30 cents either way.

The City Council met in more than a dozen sessions since March, working through 5 percent budget caps and appropriations that called for more than \$8.5 million to be raised by municipal taxes.

When it was all over and the budget ax had fallen for what appears to be the last time, 58 municipal employees, the majority of them temporary employees, had been laid off and the amount to be raised by taxation had been reduced to \$6.6 million.

"It was a job well-done—real team effort. The department of public safety was left un-

The increase is about one third of the \$28 tax hike city officials originally predicted

touched. We hope to call some of the people laid off back sometime in the future," said Councilman Robert A. Ranieri.

The budget was amended to include a \$68,000 clothing allowance for the police department and \$15,000 for civilian employees. Council President Walter S. Cramer said the city had hoped to have the unions forgo the allowance for the time being, but it was eventually paid.

Cramer blamed the increase on a shrinking tax base and a decrease in aid from the federal government.

Cramer also said that more than 200 city employees have been let go since 1973, when the figure reached 704.

In other matters, the council adopted an ordinance that will issue \$2 million in school bonds to repair six of the city's seven schools.

The board of education requested the funds for repairs such as weatherstripping, paint and heating repairs at Joseph F. Brandt, Daniel S. Kealey, Salvatore J. Calabro, Thomas G. Connors, Sadie F. Leinkauf and Wallace schools and Hoboken High School.

## Leinkauf parents to push bid to keep school open

Parents of children in the soon-to-close Leinkauf School in Hoboken will hold a meeting tonight to discuss future plans to protest the closing.

The parents want the city's Board of Education to reverse its decision to close Leinkauf at the end of this month, sell the building to a private developer and redistrict the school's 492 students to other city schools.

The parents claim that the move will create overcrowding in the remaining schools and endanger children who will have to walk greater distances to school.

"I'm very shaken by all of this," said parent Margaret Finnegan, whose 11-year-old

daughter attends Leinkauf. "Come September, my daughter is going to have to walk nine blocks to the Brandt School, or 11 blocks to the Wallace School. I'm afraid she's going to get hurt."

Mrs. Finnegan predicted that the Leinkauf closing will create "havoc and overcrowding" next fall.

But Schools Superintendent George Maier argues that overcrowding will be avoided by re-opening the now-closed Rue School, which is undergoing renovations. He also claims that no child will have to walk "more than a few blocks to school," because of redistricting.

President Otto Hottendorf Keinkauf is being closed primarily because of more than \$1 million in budget cuts. The board claims that \$400,000 can be saved by closing the school.

At tonight's meeting of the Leinkauf Parents, Teachers and Students Organization, parents are expected to discuss future demonstrations and letter-writing campaigns to call on the school board to keep the school open.

Last week, the parents picketed in front of the administration building on Clinton Street. Tonight's PTO meeting will begin at 6:30 at the Leinkauf School.

## Van Wie rules no back pay for Ocello

Hoboken Public Works Director William Van Wie has decided that a former public works employee, who was seeking back pay withheld when he was suspended two years ago after being charged with stealing city property, is not entitled to it.

At a departmental hearing, Van Wie decided that the city was justified in suspending Anthony Ocello for 67 working days from April 18 to June 23, 1980.

Ocello, who worked as a maintenance repair worker under then-Public Works Director Andrew Amato, was arrested and charged with stealing city glue paper and tar in April, 1980. Also arrested in the case was Amato's son, Andrew Jr.

Shortly after his arrest, Ocello was suspended, then reinstated, then he took a leave of absence. He finally resigned in October, 1981.

Ocello was cleared of the charge against him in state Superior Court last February. The charges against Amato Jr. were also dropped, after he entered a pre-trial program.

Ocello had claimed that the city owed him about \$2,000 in back pay withheld during his suspension, and had requested a departmental hearing on the claim. But Van Wie, who replaced Amato as director about a year ago, ruled that the suspension was justified, and that Ocello had no claim to back salary.

In a related development, a departmental hearing on the case of a suspended public works employee who allegedly struck his foreman has been postponed until Monday at 10 a.m.

Employee Nicholas Totaro is being charged with insubordination for allegedly punching his foreman, John Wallington, over a disagreement. Totaro has been suspended for 30 days, and faces further suspension, or loss of his job, if found guilty.

## CARDS

Continued from Page 1

Dustballs don't mate like humans, nor do they divide like amoebas. They sort of spontaneously generate, wherever dust likes to collect.

Most importantly, they are dusty, but not dirty.

The boys would, for a start, like to make millions from their Dustball characters.

"I mean, even when Charles Schulz

began, he didn't know he'd be a millionaire," DiZelfalo said.

The boys have already produced several hundred of the cards and made perhaps \$80 in profit. However, this summer they hope to really get down to business by selling some to the local stores.

"Right now all our business is by word-of-mouth," Powell said. "Any time the kids at school want a card, they ask for Dustball cards."

Although they get a little help with the

printing from DiZelfalo's mother, who is a commercial artist, all three are the joint creative force behind the business.

This summer, they plan to work as hard as needed to get their business off the ground and make Dustballs a household word.

"We want big business," DiZelfalo explained, smiling for the photographer. Then, turning to his partners, he hissed, "Hey, hold the cards up. This is good advertisement."

## A soccer star grows in Hoboken

By George Korolows

World Cup soccer is THE big sport story around much of the globe these days, although coverage of this major event is rather low-keyed in the United States.

Part of the reason for this — chauvinistic as it might appear — is because the United States is not a contender in the competition. We are literally years behind the South Americans and Europeans in soccer.

That is sure to change within the next decade or so as American youth soccer programs continue to grow in popularity and help develop players with the skills needed in the world-wide competition.

**MANY AMERICAN** youngsters are following the results of this year's World Cup tourney in Spain, watching the brief film clips on television and, perhaps, dreaming that one day they will be playing World Cup soccer.

One such lad is nine-year-old Vito Gigante of Hoboken, whose ambition is to play for the United States national team in the World Cup. And Vito has a good chance of making his dream come true.

Although born in Hoboken, Gigante moved to the town of Mola DiBari in central Italy at the age of two when his family returned to the land of their forefathers. And as in most European countries, when young Vito started to play organized sports it wasn't Little League, but soccer.

**SO IT WASN'T** surprising that when the Gigante family returned to Hoboken in 1980, Vito joined the year-old Hoboken Jaycees Soccer League and knew quite a bit more about soccer than his fellow Americans in the league.

That season, Gigante scored a league-leading 38 goals and helped lead his Lions squad to the Division VI championship. This season, Vito is again moving the loop's top scorers, drilling 17



Vito Gigante

goals and helping his Aztecs teammates take second place in Division V.

Gigante, who will be advancing to the fourth grade at Hoboken's Leinkauf School in the fall, is not only a scoring whiz but a fine all-around player, much like Italy's gift to the North

American Soccer League — Giorgio Chinaglia.

During the Hoboken Jaycees Soccer League's skills competition this season, Vito not only took top honors in juggling, shooting and dribbling in Division V, he also beat out all competitors in both Division IV and Division VI.

## Merge Hoboken fire companies

The Hoboken Fire Department will be consolidating two engine companies during the summer in an effort to cut costs.

But the president of the city's firefighters union claims that the move will endanger the safety of Hoboken residents.

Fire Chief James Houn announced that Engine Company No. 1, which operates out of the firehouse on Observer Highway and Newark Street, will be consolidated with Engine Company No. 1, stationed at Eighth and Clinton streets.

The combined engine companies — which Houn said will have a complement of four to five men, including an officer — will be headquartered at the Clinton Street firehouse. The move will take effect tomorrow and last through Sept. 13.

Houn explained that he is making the move in order to reduce costs and insure that all firehouses are fully-manned during the summer months, when

many firefighters go on vacation. "I'm consolidating the two companies so that all of our equipment will be properly manned," he said. "We will be better off with fully-manned companies than under-manned companies."

However, Firefighter Michael Bavero, president of Local 1078 of the International Association of Firefighters, claims that the companies are being merged so that the city will not have to pay overtime to firemen who fill in for vacationing co-workers.

"The city doesn't want to pay overtime or hire new men, so they're doing this," he said. "But by cutting costs, they are cutting the protection for the people. With all of the fires in the city, we can't afford to have an engine company close down."

But Houn insists that the merging of the engine companies will not decrease fire protection. "The city will be adequately protected this summer," he said.

## Hoboken OKs budget with \$9.29 tax raise

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken City Council yesterday adopted a 1982 municipal budget that raises the city's tax rate by \$9.29 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The total municipal budget is \$19,856,101, with \$6,611,912 to be raised by local taxation. The tax increase brings the city's tax rate to \$147.33.

Also at yesterday's special meeting, the council voted to issue \$2 million in school bonds for repair to the city's public schools.

The adoption of the budget brings to an end months of discussion and debate as Mayor Steve Cappiello and the council struggled to reduce an original budget that projected an increase in the tax rate of \$28 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

That original municipal budget — which Cappiello introduced to the council last March — was for \$20.3 million, with \$8.1 million to be raised by local taxation.

In the weeks that followed, the council trimmed the budget by about \$1.3 million, primarily by laying off 58 non-uniformed city employees and transferring about \$440,000 from the city water utility into the general revenue fund.

In addition, the council tried to defer payment of \$80,000 in clothing allowances to city employees for six months, when the payment would be part of

next year's budget.

However, that proposed move was rejected by the state Division of Local Government Services.

Prior to yesterday's final vote on the budget, the council amended the budget to include payment of the clothing allowance, as demanded by the state. The council then passed the \$19.8 million budget unanimously.

Cappiello attributed the jump in the tax rate to increased costs, reduced federal and state aid, and a loss of ratables.

The municipal budget in 1981 was about \$19.4 million. Taxes rose some \$26 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, to about \$138 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Meanwhile, the \$2 million bond issue also passed by a unanimous vote — slated for repairs at the Brandt, Kealey, Wallace,

Calabro and Connors elementary schools, and at Demarest Junior High School.

The Board of Education plans to use the bond to make the school buildings weather-tight and to complete necessary repairs on the heating systems of the schools.

Councilman Nunzio Malfetti, who is employed as a longshoreman, could not attend yesterday's 12 p.m. meeting.

Malfetti had charged that four council members — Walter Cramer, Anthony Romano, Louis Francone and Thomas Kennedy — should be disqualified from voting on the school bond issue because they have ties to the Board of Education. But the four denied that any conflict of interest existed.

Malfetti could not be reached for comment yesterday.

## Final budget vote slated for Monday

Hoboken should finally have a 1982 municipal budget on Monday.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi announced that the City Council will vote on a final budget at a special meeting on Monday, at 12 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Steve Cappiello had previously called a special council meeting for Monday to vote on an ordinance to issue \$2 million in school bonds for repairs in city schools. However, Chiusi said that the purpose of the meeting will be amended to include passage of the budget, in addition to the school bond issue.

Chiusi added that the budget will have to be revised, prior to the final vote, to include the payment of \$123,000 in clothing allowances to city employees. The council had wanted to

defer payment of the clothing allowance for six months, when it would be part of next year's budget, but the state Division of Local Government Services rejected the proposed move.

Chiusi said that adding the clothing allowance payment to the municipal budget will probably mean a slight jump in the anticipated increase in the tax rate.

He said that the budget will produce an increase in the city's tax rate of between \$8 and \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The current tax rate is \$138 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Previously, the council reduced the original \$20.3 million budget by about \$1.3 million. Because of those cuts, about 58 city employees have been laid off.

## Hoboken tax rate to increase about \$10

Hoboken's tax rate is expected to increase by about \$10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation when the City Council today adopts a 1982 municipal budget.

Mayor Steve Cappiello has called a special meeting of the council for noon at City Hall to vote on the final budget. In addition, the council is expected to pass a resolution to issue \$2 million in school bonds for repairs to city schools.

The municipal budget adopted today is expected to be about \$1.3 million less than the original \$20.3 million budget introduced by Cappiello last March.

Cappiello and the council trimmed the budget primarily by laying off 58 non-uniformed city employees and transferring

about \$440,000 from the city water utility into the general revenue fund.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi said that the new budget will mean an increase in the tax rate of "between \$8 and \$10" per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The city's tax rate is currently \$138 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The \$2 million school bond issue is slated for repairs at the Brandt, Kealey, Wallace, Calabro and Connors elementary schools, and at Demarest Junior High School.

The Board of Education plans to use the bonds primarily to make the school buildings weather-tight and to complete needed repairs on the heating system at the schools.

## 'Message' to vandals gets through, mats recovered

The protective rubber matting that had been ripped out and stolen from the Elysian Park playground in Hoboken has been returned.

Recreation Director James Farina said that police received an anonymous phone call Wednesday night telling them where the matting could be picked up. When police drove to the spot, the missing matting was there.

"I talked to some kids at the

park, who told me they saw a group of teenagers rip up the mats and take them, so they could use the mats for weight-lifting," explained Farina.

"I told the kids to tell the vandals that if they didn't return the mats within a week, they'd be arrested. I guess the message got through."

Last week, vandals had stolen about 15 pieces of the rubber matting under the playground equipment at the Elysian Park

playground, at 10th and Hudson streets. The mats had been installed to protect children who fall off playground equipment.

Farina said that vandalism of the matting is a recurrent problem.

"I'm going to contact the contractor that installed the mats to see if they can come up with a way of installing them so they can't be taken in the future," he added.

## Public asked to help keep parks clean

By Thomas Rojas

Hoboken Health and Welfare Director James Farina is asking the public to help clean and protect the city's parks this summer, to offset cutbacks in manpower.

Farina explained that, because of layoffs, he currently has only two maintenance men to look after the city's six parks. Before the layoffs, eight workers were assigned to the parks.

"If the public doesn't cooperate, the parks are going to be filthy this summer," he said. "The people have to clean up after themselves and report any acts of vandalism."

One Hoboken resident and parent, who asked not to be identified, complained that the city's parks are always filled with garbage, and populated by teenagers who drink liquor, smoke marijuana and ride their bicycles at high speeds.

"The parks aren't safe for young children anymore," said

the parent. "And you never see any police or city employees walking around keeping an eye on things."

But Farina said that budget cuts are going to make it increasingly difficult to maintain the parks in good condition.

"I may be able to hire some people on a part-time basis to look after the parks on weekends," he said. "But there isn't much I can do. The public is going to have to help out."

On a related matter, Farina, who is also recreation director, said that the city should be able to run a full recreation program for teenagers this summer, despite the budget cuts.

He explained that, with the help of volunteer and CETA workers, the recreation department should provide a full slate of softball and basketball games, field trips and arts and crafts activities for Hoboken youngsters this summer.

## State praises Hoboken

By Thomas Rojas

The much-criticized Hoboken school system has been praised by the state Department of Education for making "outstanding progress toward the attainment of local goals, objectives and standards."

In the annual state evaluation of the Hoboken school district, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Gustav Ruh commends the school administration for providing "strong educational leadership."

Some of the specific areas commended by the state Department of Education include the following:

- The school system's Basic Improvement Program, which concentrates on the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic.

- The Bilingual and ESL (English as a Second Language) Program in the elementary schools.

- The development and implementation of the Family Life Program from kindergarten to high school.

- The implementation of Career Awareness programs and activities throughout the school system.

- The development

of the Hoboken Writing Curriculum at the elementary level.

- The participation of parents in all areas of program improvement and curriculum development.

The state recommends repair work on the Brandt, Kealey, Calabro, Leinkauf

and Connors Elementary Schools. Some of the suggested improvements will be part of a \$2 million renovation program which will soon begin. That program will include the closing of the Leinkauf School, and the reopening of the Rue School.

## Hoboken PBA files gripe over conditions

By Thomas Rojas

The Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association has filed a grievance over alleged "unsanitary" and "hazardous" conditions in police headquarters.

PBA President Thomas Meehan claims that the entrance to police headquarters does not prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the building, creating a "dangerous condition" for policemen. He also insists that repairs are needed in lavatory facilities and locker rooms.

Meehan said that an arbitrator from the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) will inspect police headquarters today.

According to the grievance, which was submitted to Public Safety Director James Giordano's office on March 2, the PBA is making the following demands:

- Locks with buzzer releases should be installed on the Newark Street entrance to police headquarters.

- A new entrance to the Auto Squad should be built, so that residents visiting the squad will not have to pass restricted areas.

- The bathroom should be repaired and a lock should be placed on the door to prevent unauthorized personnel from using the facilities.

- Toilet facilities should be installed in the holding pen so that criminals will not have to use the police lavatory.

- The rear locker room, which Meehan claims "looks like a medieval dungeon," should be repaired.

Meehan said that the PBA had insisted that the repairs be made within 30 days of the filing of the grievance. He claims that the city has made little effort to correct the problems, forcing the union to call an arbitrator.

"Bad maintenance and security isn't only unsafe, it also creates a morale problem for the men," he said. "But the city obviously doesn't care."

However, Public Works Director William Van Wie, who is responsible for the maintenance of city-owned property, said that repair work on police headquarters has been slowed because of layoffs and budget cuts.

"I'm doing what I can, but I can only do so much because of the layoffs and the lack of money," he explained. "I'm trying to cooperate but it's going to take time."

Van Wie added that he "has every intention" of installing new toilet facilities in police headquarters as soon as possible.

Hoboken police headquarters is located in the basement of City Hall.

## Hoboken battle on tax abatement continues to grow

The controversy in Hoboken over the movement by two City Council members to restrict the granting of tax abatements continues to grow.

Councilman E. Norman Wilson, who is calling for abatement restrictions along with Councilman Nunzio Malfetti, claims that about 60 percent of the property in the city is either tax abated or tax exempt, causing great hardship for homeowners who own the remaining 40 percent of city property.

"Hoboken consists of about \$250 million in properties," said Wilson. "Of this amount, about \$100 million are tax exempt, and another \$50 million are tax abated, leaving about \$100 million as ratables, which bear the full burden of taxation."

Wilson said he is drafting a resolution which would require that the city adopt a strict policy for granting abatements to property developers in the future, and mandate that a public hearing be held before any abatements are granted.

"My position is that Hoboken need no longer bargain from a position of weakness with potential developers but from a position of strength and seek better financial terms," he said. "Hoboken must put a halt to the

giveaways and seek higher in-lieu-of tax payments and shorter time periods for abatements."

Wilson charges that many of the tax abatements granted by the city will be in effect for 40 years, meaning that private homeowners will continue to bear a heavy tax burden in the future, unless the tax abatement trend is reversed.

But Mayor Steve Cappiello argues that the terms for granting tax abatements — including the length of the abatements — are set by the federal government.

The mayor contends that abatements are "the only way" to induce business and industry to come into the city, and provide housing for the poor and the elderly.

"Most of the senior citizens projects in the city are tax abated," he said. "Does Mr. Wilson want to put those people out?"

Cappiello also disputes that charge that 60 percent of all property in the city is tax exempt or tax abated, claiming that the actual figure is "much smaller."

He added, however, that "about 20 percent of the property in any developed area" is tax exempt, including churches, parks, playgrounds and veterans' halls.

## Hoboken firemen cited for rescue of child

Two Hoboken firefighters have been awarded the city's Medal of Honor for their heroism in rescuing a child who was trapped on a fire escape during a blaze at 88 Garden St. last October.

Firemen Anthony Valls and Haywood Blakely received the city's highest award at a recent ceremony at City Hall.

Fire Chief James Houn praised the men for their bravery in rescuing the child "at considerable risk to their lives."

In addition, first-class citations have been awarded to firefighters Vincent Guasta and Joseph LaBruno for their efforts in rescuing survivors of the Oct. 24 blaze at 102 12th St., in which 11 persons were killed.

## Hoboken board turns down rent boost bid

After some 20 hours of public hearings, the Hoboken Rent Leveling and Stabilization Board has rejected an application for a hardship rent increase at buildings at 819-821 Washington St.

By a vote of 5-to-1, the rent board voted Tuesday night to deny the application — by the landlords, J & E Associates, Limited — to raise rents in the buildings by about \$70. Board member Michael Flanagan cast the only dissenting vote.

According to Thalia Doukas, a spokeswoman for the tenants, Tuesday's special meeting was the third hearing on the rent increase application.

She said that the tenants were

first notified of the planned increase last March 1. Rents in the buildings range from \$250 to \$500 per month.

Ms. Doukas reported that tenants were "very pleased and surprised" at the rent board's decision, but they are afraid that the landlords will not correct existing violations in the buildings, in reprisal for the rejection of the increase application.

She explained that the buildings have "several outstanding violations," including exposed copper heating pipes and faulty electrical wiring. She said that the tenants would report the violations if they are not abated.

The buildings' landlords could not be reached for comment.

## Hudson's top speller in top third of country

By A. Elizabeth Foley

WASHINGTON — Karen LaTrenda Powell of Hoboken is the 36th best speller in the United States.

She was among the first of the National Spelling Bee contestants to offer her best wishes to Molly Dieveney of Denver on her victory yesterday as the nation's number one speller at the Capitol Hilton here.

Karen, defeated in the fifth round yesterday, became the 91st speller to be eliminated from the record-breaking contest. Her downfall was the word "commensurate."

At first fearful after leaving the stage in the Presidential Ballroom, scene of two days of intensive spelling by a total of 126 boys and girls, the Hudson champion regained her poise. Other spellers, their parents and escorts offered her their congratulations.

As the 36th best, the Connors

School 8th grader is in the top one third of contestants. When viewed from the angle that some 8½ million students competed in local bees to represent their regions the rank takes on special significance.

"At first I felt I had let everyone down," Karen said, "but I really did try my best."

"Hearing two pronunciations of the word, really got me turned around," she said. She said there were many of the latter round words that would have given her trouble.

"Whoever heard of kudzu, typhology, echthipsis or luminophor?"

The 55th national championship was won after 546 words were spelled in the 11th round, Uma Rao of Pittsburgh, who was born in India, entered the final spell-down against Molly Uma misspelled "contretemps" which was then corrected by Molly who topped it with the simple winning

word "psoriasis." Molly, 12, is in the sixth grade.

After an afternoon of sightseeing at Mount Vernon and Alexandria, Va., Karen and the other spellers rushed back to the Capitol Hilton to watch themselves on television. Laughter was heard emanating from many of the rooms as the now-relaxed spellers viewed themselves on the screen. One news segment showed Karen.

At tonight's banquet Karen will be wearing a brand new party dress presented to her by the Com-Bin-Nations Club of Jersey City. The club, through the courtesy of Izetter McDuffy, honored Karen as an up and coming young black woman and specifically as Hudson County's spelling champion.

Following the presentation of checks to all spellers James H. Wagner, Nation Spelling Bee executive director, will officially bring Bee Week to a close.

## They'll march to end celebration

By Thomas Rojas

Dozens of colorfully-costumed Hoboken teenagers will parade through the streets of the city Saturday to lead residents to

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CELEBRATION  
On Page 20.

the two-day Waterfront Festival which marks the end of Hoboken Celebration '82.

Lucy Holland, assistant director of the Hoboken Cultural Council, which has sponsored Celebration '82, said that the youngsters will begin marching at 9:15 Saturday morning, from two different points in the city.

The "Northern Route" will begin at Hoboken High School, at Ninth and Clinton streets, and march through the northwestern part of the city. The "Southern Route" will begin at the Multi-Service Center, Second and Grand streets, and wind through southwestern Hoboken.

Each group will be led by a

band and organized by the Young People's Parade Task Force, a volunteer group of Hoboken teens.

Both routes will meet at Church Square Park, at Fifth and Garden streets, at around 10:15 a.m., where they will be joined by the Brazilian Percussion band, Pei De Boi.

Then, the parade will continue to Pier 5 and Pier C, where there will be continuous performances of all kinds of artistic events all weekend long, at no charge to the public.

Ms. Holland said that

teenagers' groups wishing to participate in the parade should contact the Celebration '82 Center, Pier A Building.

She added that participants in the parade are encouraged to wear "colorful and festive dress — costumes, face make-up, masks and crazy garb of their own invention."

The Waterfront Festival will be the concluding event of Hoboken Celebration '82, which has presented more than 200 artistic and historical events all over the city during the past three months.

## Celebration '82 to end with bang, not a whimper

Hoboken Celebration '82 will end with a bang today and tomorrow.

The three-month celebration, which has presented more than 200 artistic and historical events all over the city, concludes with a two-day Waterfront Festival, featuring performances of music, theater and dance, film screenings, and exhibitions of painting, sculpture and photography.

The festivities will begin with a parade through the city by colorfully-dressed Hoboken teenagers at 9:30 a.m. today, and end with a spectacular fireworks show tomorrow, at dusk.

In between, there will be more than 50 events — many of them occurring simultaneously — as well as food and refreshments, according to Laurie Fabiano, director of the Hoboken Cultural Council, which has sponsored Celebration '82.

Here are some of the latest additions to the events planned for the Waterfront Festival:

A 3,000-pound steel sculpture, made at the Bethlehem Steel shipyards by sculptor Barry Blair, will be unveiled.

The Puerto Rican dance group Los Caribanos will perform.

"We Met in Transit," an original musical, will be presented by the Theater from the Other Side on a specially-constructed ferry boat set.

Skateboard performers "Earth Surf" will demonstrate their skill.

"Chiaroscuro," a fashion show by Italian designer Donatella Sirtori, will be presented. In addition, the Hoboken Modeling Club will present two fashion shows.

Hours of the Waterfront Festival are 11 a.m. to midnight today, 11 a.m. to dusk tomorrow.

All of the events in the Festival are free.

## 'Sesame Street' aids kids

"Sesame Street" came to Hoboken High School yesterday.

The Children's Television Workshop, which produces the popular educational television series, yesterday conducted a workshop at the high school to train adults on how to teach preschool children about fire safety.

The workshop, part of a national program funded by the U.S. Fire Administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, uses techniques from the "Sesame Street" series to show adults how they can teach children what to do in the event of a fire emergency.

Among the techniques shown

were: sketches using hand puppets of Muppet characters, fire safety exercises, games, riddles, poems and two songs — "Stop, Drop and Roll" and "Cool Water" — which teach children how to react if they burn themselves or if their clothes catch fire.

Art Guidry, CTW program director, pointed out that, while children under five make up only 7 percent of the population, they account for 17 percent of the deaths by fire.

"We are hopeful that many young lives will be saved because of the workshops," he added. Yesterday's workshop was

sponsored by United Child Services, a coalition of child-oriented organizations in Hoboken, the Board of Education, the Hoboken Housing Coalition, the fire department, and Mayor Steve Capriello's office.

In attendance were public and parochial school teachers, parents, and representatives from local day care centers and health centers.

"With all of the fires that have taken place in Hoboken, we felt that this workshop would be a valuable service," said Gerard Costa, one of the organizers of the event.

## Russo 'sorry for' DeFino

West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino will only hear the words "I'm sorry" from Hoboken civic leader Anthony Russo when Russo expresses his pity for a "greedy man."

"I'm sorry for him, for a man who can take so much from the county taxpayers and give so little in return. That's a mark of greed," Russo said.

In a letter to the editor of The Jersey Journal,

DeFino had demanded an apology from Russo who has alleged DeFino's position as surrogate of Hudson County is a "no show" job.

Russo, who said DeFino's letter "sounded like a political advertisement," stands by his charge that DeFino works fewer than 20 hours a week as county surrogate, a \$30,000 a year job.

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Continued from Page 1

"All other public employees put in a week's work for a week's salary. Why is it different for him?" Russo said.

"I apologize for him to each individual taxpayer in the county," he said.

Russo added that he challenges and welcomes DeFino to bring a libel suit against him because "it would be impossible for him to make the statements he made in the newspaper in a court of law without perjuring himself."

DeFino had noted in his letter that, as a political figure, he is unable to bring a libel suit against

Russo for his "scurrilous attacks" unless he is able to prove malicious intent.

A political ally of Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann, Russo said his charges were not politically motivated as DeFino suggested and that he represents

"a group of middle class, professional and non-professional, old Hoboken families."

Russo's request for an investigation into DeFino's position points up the ever-deepening rift between North and South Hudson leaders.

## DeFino demands apology

West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino has demanded an apology from Anthony Russo, a Hoboken civic leader, who alleged DeFino's position as surrogate of Hudson County, is a "no show" job. Efforts to reach Russo for his comment were unavailing.

In a letter to the editor of The Jersey Journal, DeFino said:

"Recently articles have appeared in the Hudson Dispatch and The Jersey Journal concerning a request by a dissident Hoboken political group, concerning, among other items, my performance as surrogate of Hudson County."

"For the record, I was appointed surrogate of Hudson County in 1974 by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne. I was elected to the position of surrogate in January

of 1975. Due to the fact that I ran for the position of mayor while surrogate, under a then existing statute Judge Thomas S. O'Brien held that I had forfeited the office. In effect, the court held that I could run for the position of surrogate while mayor, but I could not run for the position of mayor while surrogate."

"Since the court had held that I could run for surrogate while mayor, I did so and was re-elected in 1976."

"The Legislature of this state then passed a law which made it permissible for a surrogate to run for another political office. In 1978, another suit was filed challenging my right as surrogate

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Continued from Page 1

which was eventually decided in my favor under the new law which had been passed by the Legislature."

"Political attempts to remove me," he continued, "from this office are, therefore, old news. However, I resent very much the allegations of 'no show' and, if it were not for the fact that I am fully cognizant a public official cannot claim libel as readily as an ordinary citizen, I would file suit against the people who have made this claim in your papers in the last few days."

"Recently a judge in this county, in sentencing an individual, commented on the difficulty in inducing young, honest, decent citizens to run for public office. My reputation throughout this county is well known, and I must advise you that my family, my friends, and myself are outraged at these comments."

"Anyone who knows Tony DeFino knows that he works 24 hours a day. I see people in my home at all hours; I answer the telephone personally; I call back as many people as possible; I am available in the mayor's office. I am not down in Florida receiving a paycheck."

"I cannot emphasize how much I resent the accusations leveled against me. I perform the duties of the office; that is what is required of me. Nothing in the law Title 2A states that the sur-

rogate must sit in Jersey City eight hours a day.

"I must advise Mr. Russo, although I do not know him and never met him, that I can ascribe nothing other than political motivation to his conduct and I demand from him on behalf of myself and my family, especially my wife and children and my ailing father and mother, who are over 80 years old, an apology. They are proud people who believe honor and reputation are worth more than all the money in the world and so do I."

"Therefore, this scurrilous attack is an attack upon the name of DeFino and the honor of my family."

"I only wish that the Supreme Court of the United States had not ruled that a political figure is precluded from bringing a libel action absent showing of malice because of his exposure to the public. This type of conduct is so difficult to deal with, and many times in attempting to defend yourself you create a greater problem. This is why an attorney says to his client a defense in libel aids in its publication."

In conclusion DeFino said, "The office of the surrogate in Hudson County is run as efficiently as any other surrogate's office and has been so for the past eight years."

"Again, I demand an apology."

## Kennedy denies DeFino rap link

Hoboken Councilman Thomas Kennedy says that he has "no connection whatsoever" to a local citizen's group that has charged that West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino's position as county surrogate is a "no show" job.

Kennedy denied having any ties to the newly-formed group,

called Hoboken Taxpayers for Better Government, which is calling for an investigation into DeFino's duties as surrogate.

Last week, Anthony Russo, a spokesman for the group, strongly criticized DeFino's performance as surrogate, and also criticized the Hudson County freeholders' appointment of Kearny Councilman Daniel San-

some as county clerk — an appointment that was later vetoed by Edward Clark, county executive.

Russo suggested that Freeholder Chairman Steve Capriello, who is mayor of Hoboken, should have recommended someone from Hoboken — such as Kennedy — for the post. But Kennedy said that he has

no ties to the new group, and has never been approached by any of its members.

In addition, Kennedy said that he believes that DeFino has been doing a "great job" as surrogate, and has contacted DeFino's office to assure the West New York mayor that he is satisfied with his performance in the position.

## CETA kids to help clean 'jungle'

Hoboken's 11th Street islands — which Councilman E. Norman Wilson has called a "Jungle Habitat" — should be cleaned up and trimmed in the near future.

Health and Welfare Director James Farina said that the clean-up of the four islands will begin next week, with the help of CETA summer youth employment workers.

Farina, who is also recreation director, explained that maintenance of the islands has been held up because of city-wide layoffs and budget cuts.

"With all of the layoffs, I haven't had the men to keep the parks clean," he said. "But with the CETA kids coming in, I'm going to put them to work on the parks. As soon as the parks are cleaned up, we'll get to work on the islands."

Farina added that the city's Community Development Agency is also helping to trim and maintain the weed-infested islands, with the aid of CETA workers.

Wilson had charged that the 11th Street islands have become a "Jungle Habitat"

because of the city's neglect. He called on the city to delegate responsibility for maintaining the islands to the public works department or the health and welfare department.

But Farina said he would be willing to take on the job.

"If I can get the money, I'd like to hire about 12 part-time workers to clean the parks and the islands," he said.

## Board of Health ups license fees

The Hoboken Board of Health has increased license fees for health-related businesses and occupations.

At a special meeting Tuesday night, the health board voted to amend the city's 1959 public health and sanitation ordinance which set local licensing fees.

The board approved a revised set of license rates which will expire on Dec. 31 of each year. The largest increase approved was in the license fees for supermarkets, which have been raised

to \$500.

Other revised fees include: eating and drinking establishments, \$25, retail bakery, \$35, barber, \$25, retail grocery, \$35, mobile restaurants, \$100, and dog license, \$8.

City officials say that the increases were needed because of rising costs, cuts in state and federal aid, and losses of rates.

The changes will go into effect 20 days from the passage of the amended ordinance.

## Hoboken workers threaten arbitration

The Hoboken Municipal Employees Association is threatening to file with the state for an arbitrator in its contract talks with the city, unless the city agrees to resume the stalled negotiations immediately.

But Mayor Steve Capriello said that he will set up a meeting with the 200-member union local as soon as possible.

Jude Fitzgibbons, president of the MEA, said that the city last met with the union in December.

"The city has not negotiated in good faith," he charged. "They have met with the other unions, but not with us. We are the ones who were hurt the most by the budget crisis, and now we're being ignored at the bargaining table."

Fitzgibbons explained that most of the 58 city workers recently laid off because of budget cuts were members of the Municipal

Employees Association.

"We would like to sit down with the city and talk about rehiring some of the workers who were laid off, as well as negotiating a 1982 contract," he said. "If the city doesn't meet with us soon, we will file for arbitration with PERC" (the state Public Relations Commission).

However, Capriello said that he would instruct Business Administrator Edwin Chius to set up a meeting with the union in the near future.

"There shouldn't be any problem in setting up a meeting," said the mayor.

The Municipal Employees Association has been working without a contract since January, under the terms of their 1981 agreements with the city. The city's police and fire unions are also negotiating 1982 agreements.

## Summer rec program will begin next week

The Hoboken Recreation Department's summer program for teenagers is scheduled to begin next week.

Mary Ellen Gallo, who is coordinating the program, said that activities being offered to local youths this summer include swimming, basketball, volleyball and weightlifting.

Activities will be held at Hoboken High School on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

evenings, from 6:30 till 9:30. The program is open to teenagers between 15 and 18 years of age.

Registration for the summer recreation program is being held at the Hoboken High School gymnasium through Friday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ms. Gallo said that the program can accommodate up to about 150 teens. The program will run through Aug. 12.

## A matter of law and water

By BARBARA DEMICK  
Staff Writer

Sitting in an unruly stack in on a small table in the back of the Hudson County Clerk's Office are sheets of aerial photographs, maps, diagrams and tissue overlays.

While even professional title searchers and attorneys are not quite sure what to make of the baffling array of material, it is of keen interest because it may contain the key to who owns millions of dollars of land around the county.

The maps and diagrams were filed May 27 in county clerks' offices around the state by the state Department of Environmental Protection as a result of the constitutional amendment passed in November that calls on the state to stake its claims within a year to all properties washed over by tides before 1941, but not since then, or

forever give up its rights to them.

The state's claim dates back to English Common Law, which gave the sovereign the right to the rivers, oceans, and surrounding property. Since before the Revolution, the state has had the right to claim all lands ever washed by tides.

In all, the 713 maps adopted by an obscure 12-member advisory group, the Tidelands Resource Council, revealed an estimated 1,000 square miles of property the state could claim.

The release of the maps struck like a lightning bolt in many parts of the state, especially at the Shore, where thousands of property owners realized they might not have clear title to their homes and businesses.

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## Water crisis cost Hoboken 'almost \$100,000,' says Chius

By Thomas Rojas

The recent water emergency cost Hoboken "almost \$100,000," according to City Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Chius said that the money was spent in the following areas: overtime payments to city workers, who distributed bottled water and performed other necessary tasks; a 24-hour tie-in to the Hackensack Water Co., which supplied the city with emergency water; and the rental of two 6,000-gallon water trucks, which were available in case of a major fire.

In addition, the city equipped fire engines with additional supplies of hose, in case water had to be siphoned from the

Hudson River to battle a fire. Moreover, overtime had to be paid to municipal workers who repaired a small water main break in the city during the emergency.

"We might have saved a little money by not renting the water trucks or buying the extra hose, but we had to be prepared for any emergency," said Chius. There were no fires in the city during the water shortage.

Chius explained that the funds to meet the water emergency would ordinarily come from the city's water utility. However, the City Council recently transferred about \$440,000 from the water utility to the general revenue fund, in order to reduce the 1982 municipal budget.

"This is the kind of thing we were afraid

of when the council transferred the water utility money," said Chius. "In terms of cash flow, we can afford the water emergency. But budget-wise, I don't know yet."

Chius added that the council may have to order an emergency budget appropriation to defray the costs of the water crisis.

The water emergency was caused by a break in the aqueduct from the Boonton Reservoir in Morris County, which supplies water to Jersey City, Hoboken and Lyndhurst purchase water from Jersey City.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Capriello said that he plans to meet with Jersey City officials to discuss receiving credit for water not supplied during the shortage.

## Old law, new wealth at stake in tidelands

Continued from Page 1

In Jersey City, alarm briefly swept through the well-kept suburban Country Village community, built in 1960 on a marshy track off Newark Bay. The panic rapidly evaporated when residents were reassured that the title to their homes was settled with the state when the property was developed.

"We were swamped with calls after the maps were approved," says John R. Weingart, acting director of the state's division of coastal resources. "But it was sort of a non-event and I think people realized that and stopped calling."

Another DEP official adds, "It is not that all of a sudden we are taking people's property, like people think."

What the new maps show, he explained, is simply what land is considered "tideland," but not which of the lands have already been granted by the state to other private or public owners. And, while last year's referendum requires the state to show its claims within one year, it does not require property-owners without clear title to cough up money for the state in that time period.

The dust has settled a bit in the last month, but a few problems remain. In Hudson County, for example, they are popping up in a few unexpected places.

In the meadowlands, where riparian rights have been a pressing issue since the start of development there, maps have been on file since 1976. The November referendum has little effect because land-filling did not begin to any extent until after 1941, so the state keeps its tidal claims whether the area is mapped or not.

The Hudson River waterfront had been developed by the railroads since the 19th Century. While the state's maps reveal a long, narrow strip along the river from Bayonne to North Bergen as tideland, DEP officials and appraisers say forthcoming maps will show that most of those grants were settled years ago.

Where the problems will arise to some extent, is in the many low-lying lands in between, properties where there are few

still alive who remember the small streams and inlets that snaked through many sites in Hudson County.

The entire city of Hoboken, with the exception of Castle Point, is built on low-lying land at the foot of the cliffs, and on old maps the entire western section of the city is laced with small streams.

The downtown sections of Hoboken, around Jefferson, Monroe and Madison streets have been lined for the past 50 years with tenement apartments, but, the state's claims maps for Hoboken show many streambeds now filled in under that area, which may make it subject to state claim.

How great a problem, this could be is not yet clear. According to Hoboken City Clerk Anthony Amoroso, "The streambeds are definitely there on the maps, but its so hard to read them we can't figure out exactly where they are."

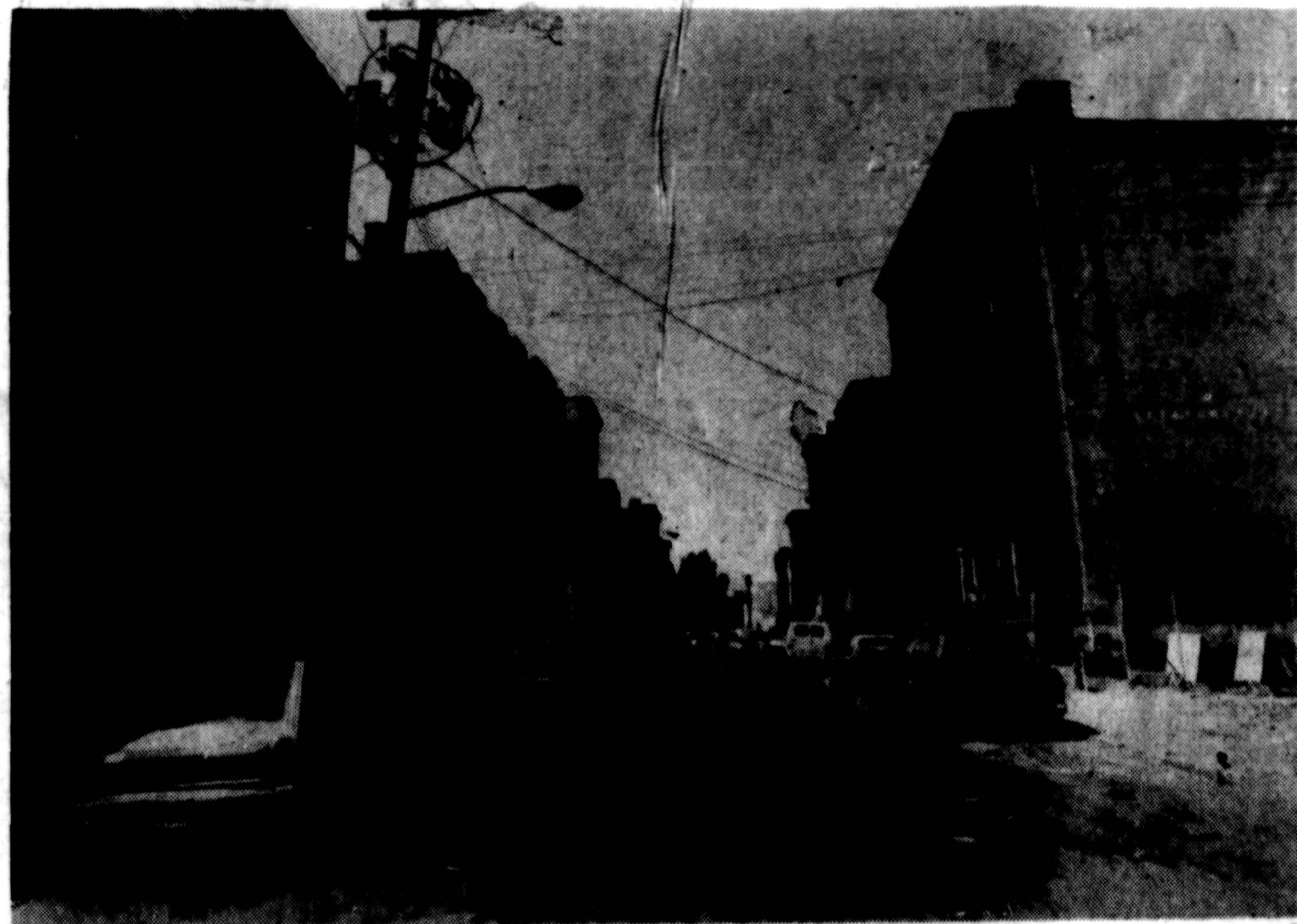
The DEP has promised to send a representative to help him pin down the areas in questions, he says, but so far has been tied up with the more pressing problems of the Shore areas.

"If anybody can figure it out, I wish they'd tell me," adds City Attorney Lawrence Florio. "When I was a kid a lot of the area way back there was a swamp, but whether the state gave developers grants or not I don't know."

William Stack, a Hoboken realtor who has handled many riparian cases in the city, estimates that if the state starts pressing its claims as many about 50 or 60 property-owners may have problems if they do not have title insurance. But, he says it is more likely that with the referendum and new maps, the issue of claims will continue to arise only when property owners try to sell.

"It has always been that way. People don't run into this until they try to sell their land and find out they don't have clear title. The banks won't give you a mortgage unless the title is clear, and so they have to be settled," he says.

Like others, Stack predicts that most problems will arise from old streambeds and inlets. "On the Hudson River, years ago the owners bought the riparian rights and



Buildings at Madison and Third streets in Hoboken stand on what used to be tidal lands.

they've been using the land for years. But, around the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers there are extremely low-lying lands and they've only been used recently on a limited basis."

In Secaucus and low-lying areas of North Bergen, property-owners have been grappling with the state's riparian claims for the past 10 years. Hartz Mountain last year had to swap a piece of upland with the state in order to develop the marshes, and many

Secaucus homeowners have also been forced to lease or purchase their land from the state.

In North Bergen, potential trouble has arisen for homeowners near Westside Avenue and 69th Street. According to the DEP, the recently filed claims maps identified a stream filled in before 1918 that did not appear in earlier maps. The new claim may effect a dozen homes east of Westside Avenue.

Township Administrator Michael Polletta says he has reviewed the maps, but has yet to identify the homes on them. He said he and other officials have not taken much action on the new maps because it does not seem that any of the disputed property is claimed by the township.

The maps seem to have drawn the most attention in Jersey City, where a small, battery of attorneys, engineers, and development staffers are trying to clear up claims that could prevent future development.

Earlier this year, the city retained Princeton attorney John R. Weigel, one of the state's leading experts in riparian claims, to clear the title to 11 acres of state-claimed property under Roosevelt Stadium, where the city hopes to have a large residential development built.

The 1930s-era stadium, it turns out, was built almost entirely on landfill and it seems that then-Mayor Frank Hague, longtime boss of the Hudson County Democratic machine, had little respect for the state's riparian rights.

"Hague said it was a whole lot of nonsense and took the area by right of conquest," says Jersey City Corporation Counsel Matthew Burns. "But it's not done like that these days."

Among the problems Jersey City is now faced with in its efforts to develop the site are the landfill fees never paid in the past. In addition to acquiring the land from the state, the DEP is requiring the city to pay a percentage of the 1930s value of the fill — a demand that has raised several tricky problems.

Burns said the stadium's builder, Jim Mitchell, died about four years ago and left no records of how much fill was put down. In an effort to calculate the amount of fill test borings have recently begun test borings on the site and researching old maps to determine what lies underneath.

Burns, who urged Mayor Gerald McCann to endorse the November referendum, says he hopes to see most of the state's claims in Jersey City cleared up within the next

few years so that potential development projects will not be tied up in litigation.

On the eastern waterfront, Caven Point is another area subject to riparian claims where the city has expressed an interest in seeing a mixed-use commercial and residential development built. Along the Morris Canal, dozens of streambeds jutting into the uplands appear on the state's maps, and claims to them may or may not have been settled.

Further up the river on the northern waterfront, where the Glimcher Co. of Ohio is proposing a \$2 billion redevelopment project, there is still a slight possibility that the state may press some claims.

Former Mayor Thomas F.X. Smith says he is not even sure if the city has a clear title to City Hall, located just a few blocks from the Hudson near Exchange Place. "I believe all this land is riparian and has never been settled, but I don't think it really matters," he said.

"Too much is made of this sort of thing. People get overly alarmed about it," he added.

Assemblyman Robert Janiszewski, D-Hudson, disagrees. He says, "The county is bordered by 40 miles of waterfront. We are literally surrounded by water. All of this may or may not be a potential time-bomb for purposes of residential or economic development."

The process of clearing up riparian claims involves the cumbersome process of assessing the "fair-market" value of property in question and having the transfer processed through the TRC.

Says one assessor experienced in Hudson County work, Jack Seymour, "It's very tricky. If you're waiting in line, with your hat in your hand and you want to build something, you'll pay anything, and that's not fair market value."

But Seymour says it is still too early to see what the impact of November's referendum will be. Whether it will lead this state to press its riparian claims depends largely on the actions of the Legislature. Several legislators from South Jersey have proposed an amendment to last year's referendum which would let the Legislature establish a fee schedule for transfer of the grants with nominal flat fees for small homeowners.

Says Weingart, "A lot of the rush of calls is dying down and I think the feeling of panic is going away."

But one assessor says, "People are pretty sensitive when you've been paying taxes on property for years and are told they don't own it."

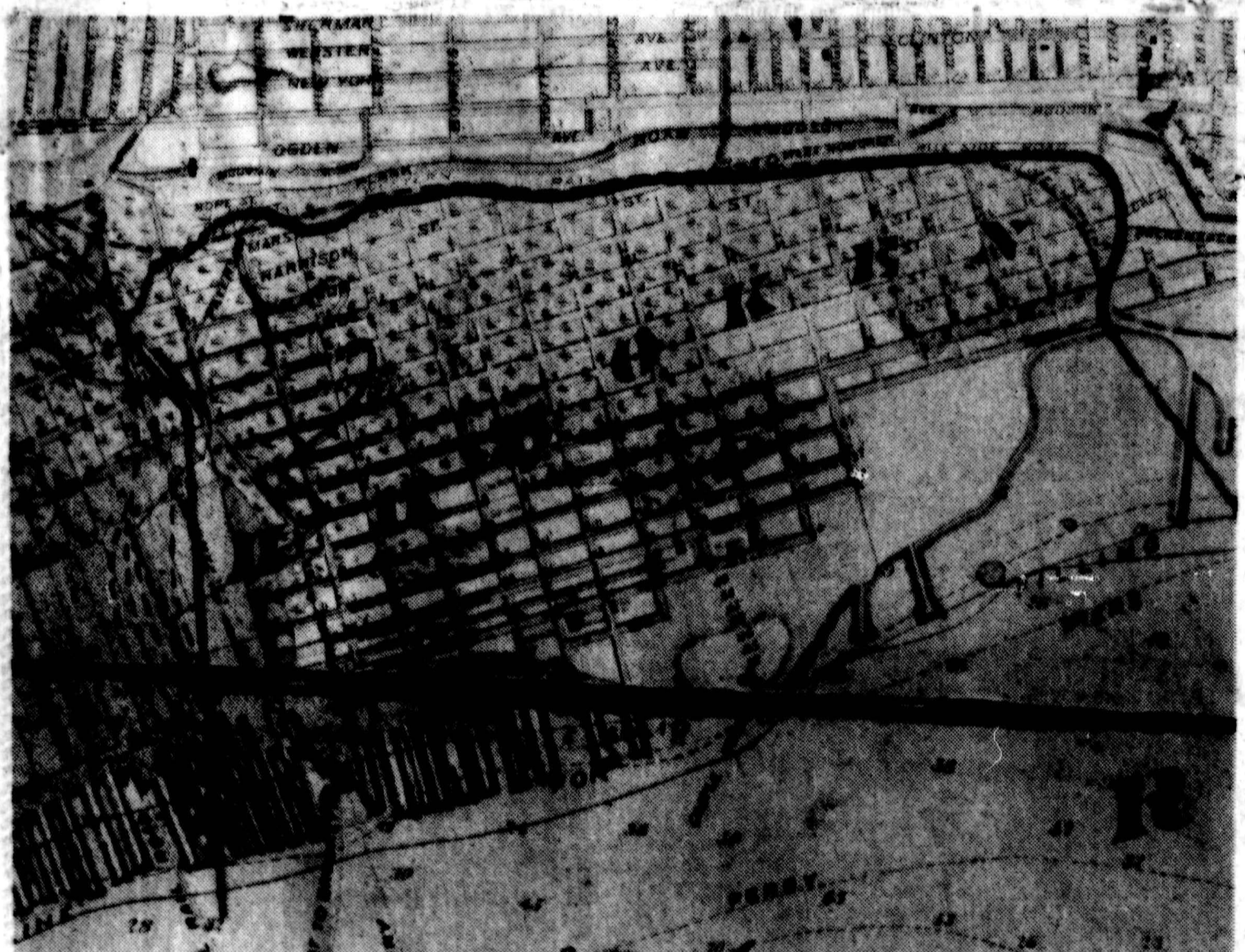
## US Testing stock bought by Swiss firm

By WILLFREDO FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

City in 1980 until yesterday was a private shareholder-held corporation run by about 800 employees and management staff nationwide.

Schwartz said there will be no change in management or personnel as a result of the takeover, which he described as a "friendly" takeover between two century-old companies.

U.S. Testing paid the city \$80 million in 1980 for the takeover of the 2,300 testing labs in the United States. The laboratory, established in New York



An 1889 map of Hoboken shows waterways since filled in.

## Law's murky depths clarified

By BILL ALPERT  
Staff Writer

At a recent meeting, local officials explored the eddies and ripples of state riparian land laws with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

On the invitation of Assemblyman Robert C. Janiszewski, D-Hudson, the state officials charged with mapping the myriad stretches of state-claimed tidelands presented their traveling seminar Friday in the freeholders chambers in the Hudson County Administration Building in Jersey City.

Janiszewski said he hoped the session would eliminate some of the confusion that has surrounded riparian rights since the voters passed a constitutional amendment last year requiring the state to map its claim to lands washed by tides before 1941, and not since, or renounce the claim. Riparian land — the land below the average high tide mark — traditionally belonged to the state. The amendment gave the state until November of this year to map its

claims. "The history of this issue is actually a long and complicated process going back 200 years," said John Weingart, head of DEP's coastal resources division. "The king of England gifted all lands formerly flowed by the tides to the states. All revenue from those lands must go to public schools."

"The state is not going to evict anyone," he said. "But when people want to sell their property and do a title search, they may see there's a cloud on it. They would then settle with the state."

Landowners could appeal a state claim at any time, with no statute of limitations.

Roland Yunghans, head of the mapping project, told how he spent "half his life" in the Bergen County Courthouse testifying in challenges to the state's mapping efforts. The data used in the maps goes as far back as the 1830s, he said. Some federal surveys performed under President Thomas Jefferson, Yunghans said, produced maps as

accurate as those produced today.

Under present law, noted the state officials, the state must sell tidelands at nearly market value. Assemblyman Raymond Lesniak, D-Union, appeared and spoke about a bill he has introduced in the Legislature that would let the state sell lands to those innocently occupying them for nominal sums. The proposal, if it passes, will be a put on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Local officials examined some sample maps after the discussions. Hudson County Freeholder Samuel D. Kaye looked with alarm over a map of central Jersey City.

"Look at the way it snakes all the way through the city!" he said of an ancient streambed that wound down from the Holland Tunnel. "It runs right through the buildings of the Montgomery Gateway Project and the Medical Center parking lot."

"We did our homework," said Yunghans with a small smile. "You shouldn't have done it so well," said Kaye.



Photo by Chuck Zoeller

MICHAEL O'KEEFE, deputy Hudson County clerk, displays a map of waterfront property that may fall under the state's riparian claims.

## Hoboken officials planning re-opening of Rue School

Hoboken public schools are closed for the summer, but school officials are busy making plans for the anticipated re-opening of the Rue School in September.

The superintendent of schools, George Meier, said renovations on the Rue School, closed for more than three years, are expected to be completed in time for the fall school semester.

He explained that school officials are discussing possible transfers of teachers and other personnel into the Rue School so that they would be prepared for the planned re-opening.

"I am going to request a special meeting of the board of education for next month to make a final decision on personnel transfers," said Meier. But first, we have

# Board to hear Pathmark case

HOBOKEN—In City Hall tonight, opponents of a plan to convert 3.7 acres of former railroad property into a Pathmark supermarket will carry their fight to the board of adjustment.

Little of the testimony, if any, is expected to be new or innovative. The topic is already two years old and has been in and out of Hudson County Superior Court at least once, with more court challenges, some predict, probably on the way. The board meets at 7:30 tonight.

Developers, represented by Seymour Heller, vice-president of Hoboken Shores Properties Inc., say the 50,000-square-foot facility will bring the city \$150,000 a year in taxes and create about 225 new jobs.

Opponents of the development who have appeared at past board meetings have said the supermarket will aggravate traffic congestion and eventually force most of the smaller grocery stores in the city out of business.

Board President Frank Cameron admits that the development debate, which has been heard intermittently since July 1980, has created a backlog in other zoning business. The case has been at the top of the board's agenda since April.

The city currently has four major supermarkets — a Shop-Rite, two Foodtowns and an A&P.

The plan calls for the creation of the Pathmark, as well as expanding some of the roads between 14th and 15th streets off Washington Street, and has parking spaces for more than 300 cars, according to Heller.

The land is zoned for light industrial use, which forces the developers to apply for a zoning variance if they intend to build a commercial establishment, such as the Pathmark.

It was in seeking the variance that the problems first arose.

On July 28, 1980, according to a brief sub-

mitted in support of the zoning application. Hoboken Shores Properties Inc. filed an application before the Hoboken Planning Board.

On Sept. 9, 1980, the developers were asked to outline the plan in more detail.

On Oct. 8, 1980, a formal public hearing was held.

On Oct. 14, 1980, the plan was submitted analyzing street alignment and property exchange.

The developers bought all outstanding shares of stock of the Hoboken Manufacturers Railroad Co., previous owners of the property. Heller said he did not know how much the property had cost the company because it involved the purchase of a corporation and not a lump sum payment.

On May 6, 1981, 10 months after the application was received, the planning board "dismissed without prejudice" the application, on the grounds the board did not have jurisdiction and referred the case to the zoning board.

The zoning board rejected the application on Sept. 3, 1981. A Hudson County Superior Court judge reversed the decision on the grounds that the board "did not have true and accurate records" of the testimony, referring to the transcripts of the previous meetings.

Cameron expects a decision by the board of adjustment within two weeks.

"It has been over 20 years since any commercial or industrial development has been built in that city without tax abatements," Heller said yesterday.

Heller maintains city residents were anxious to have a "new, clean and shiny supermarket" in the city.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto said he could not comment on the development because the case was still being heard.

# Brick building a bargain for Hoboken residents

A three-family, four-story brick building is being made available to moderate or low-income Hoboken residents.

The Hoboken First Ward Block Association, in cooperation with the city's Community Development Agency, is offering for sale a building at 210 Second St., with the condition that the buyer rent the two upstairs apartments to low-income tenants.

"This represents the only opportunity for a moderately-income person to buy a home in Hoboken," said Thomas Newman, president of the block association. "The Hobokenite who can't afford today's housing prices or today's rent will have the chance to buy this home."

Newman explained that 210 Second St. is one of three buildings purchased by the block association with state

Neighborhood Preservation program monies. The buildings are being resold to local residents with the agreement that the buyers reserve apartments for low-income tenants.

He said that the project is part of an "anti-displacement" program by the block association and the CDA to prevent low-income families from leaving the city because of escalating rents.

Newman said that potential buyers of the property must meet the following conditions:

The buyer must agree to participate for 15 years in the federal "Moderate Rehab Section 8" rent subsidy program. Rents will be established by the CDA according to Section 8 fair market rents.

The buyer must purchase the property "as is," but under contract with the block association to renovate the building.

At closing, the buyer will pay

the block association \$15,000 and will take title to the property. Simultaneously, the buyer will execute mortgage contracts for \$85,000 to complete renovation of the property.

The buyer must agree to reside on the property for a minimum of five years.

Newman added that the block association will also consider the number of years a person has lived in Hoboken, whether a person belongs to a minority group, whether a person is a first-time home-buyer, and whether a person resides in the first and in selecting a buyer.

Applications may be obtained from Daniel Valente at the Multi-Service Center, located at Second and Grand streets, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m., or on Saturdays from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.

# Hoboken won't see much sweeping

Because of budget cuts, Hoboken now employs only 10 street cleaners, as compared to more than 40 just two years ago, according to Public Works Director William Van Wie.

"We need the public's cooperation more than ever if we're going to keep the streets clean," he said. "We're doing the best we can, but it isn't easy."

Van Wie said that Hoboken today employs fewer street cleaners than it has in the last 50 years. To help make up for the reduction in manpower, the city is cracking down on residents who violate municipal litter laws.

"Our sanitation inspector is handing out summonses to people who put garbage out on the wrong day, leave it in front of someone

else's building, or put it next to fire hydrants," said Van Wie.

"Those violations carry fines of \$50 and up."

Van Wie added that six garbage violators have been fined in the past week.

The violations have to stop," he said. "People have to realize that they are responsible for keeping the city clean."

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius added that the city will consider hiring part-time street cleaners in the future to help compensate for the loss of manpower.

"Part-time help is the direction we have to go in," he said. "The money for hiring fulltime workers just isn't there."

# Says loss of job due to politics

Thomas Vezzetti of Hoboken, a frequent critic of Mayor Steve Cappelletto, claims that he was laid off from his city job because of politics.

But Cappelletto says the layoff was an austerity move.

Vezzetti, who worked as a security guard at a municipal garage, was one of 58 city workers recently laid off by the administration, reportedly because of budget cuts. But he

charges that he was terminated because of his criticisms of Cappelletto.

"I'd like to know why I was the only employee in the public safety department to be let go," said Vezzetti, who is expected to run for a seat on the City Council next May.

Vezzetti added that he will file a complaint about the layoff with the city's Municipal Employees Association.

However, Cappelletto denied Vezzetti's charges, insisting that his termination was a matter of economics, not politics.

"We had to let many workers go because of the budget," he said.

Vezzetti has long denounced the Cappelletto administration, frequently raising questions during

the City Council and Board of Education meetings.

Most recently, Vezzetti accused Cappelletto of holding a "secret meeting" with members of the school board prior to the election of Otto Hotteendorf as board president. But Cappelletto denied that any secret meeting took place.

# 'Hoboken showing effects of layoffs'

By Thomas Rojas

Jude Fitzgibbons, president of the Hoboken Municipal Employees Association, says that the city is failing to deliver essential services to residents because of the recent layoff of 58 city workers.

"The layoffs have begun to seriously affect services," he charged. "The streets are dirty and so are the parks. Even the maintenance of City Hall has suffered."

Fitzgibbons is calling on Mayor Steve Cappelletto to rehire at least some of the 58 city workers — who were laid off in May because of budget cuts — before services deteriorate any further.

"The city needs those men back," he said. "Hoboken has old buildings, old parks, old streets

and old water mains. There just aren't enough workers to look after them."

But Cappelletto said that the city will only rehire laid-off workers as openings develop through retirement and attrition.

"We have to keep providing essential services about we also have to stay within our budget," said the mayor.

Cappelletto said the city was forced to terminate the 58 municipal workers in order to avert a greater increase in the city's tax rate. The recently-passed 1982 municipal budget raised the tax rate by \$9.29 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Fitzgibbons said that the Municipal Employees Association may contest the layoffs in court unless the mayor agrees to rehire the workers.

# Fund cut hits patients' crafts program

St. Mary Hospital's 3-year-old Craft Cart Program will continue without the guiding hand of one of its pioneers due to budget cuts by the government.

Henry Henning came from HOPES (Hoboken Organization Against Poverty and Economic Stress) to the Hoboken hospital's crafts-for-patients program, sponsored by the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary, in 1979. Under his leadership, teen groups volunteered to visit patients and teach them how to take commonplace items like yarn, twine, sticks, straws, nails, salt, sand, buttons and rope and turn them into artful and useful articles.

The patients found working with crafts fun — a creative outlet and a countermand to inertia. It helped to divert their attention from constant thought of personal problems to objective interests. Craft kits, designed to be done in bed, stimulated the morale of patients who spent long periods in the hospital and gave them and the teenagers an opportunity to develop initiative, responsibility and self-esteem.

Henning would meet with the occupational therapist, Susan Wallace, who was also with the program from its start, on a regular basis to problem-solve and plan. His low-keyed instruction in supervising and assigning the teen volunteers in preparation of the kits and contact with the patients was as creative as his handiwork, say hospital spokesmen.

The program pioneers and young volunteers held a party recently in Henning's honor in the room where they worked together, preparing the cart for trips within the hospital. HOPES director Norman Wilson attended and gave high tribute to Henning and his efforts. The hospital auxiliary presented him with a plaque commemorating his service and work performed.



HENRY HENNING receives a plaque from fellow pioneers of the Craft Cart Program Susan Wallace, occupational therapist at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, and Ann Accetta, the hospital auxiliary's vice president.

# Hoboken hires 2 to beef up inspections

Hoboken has hired two housing inspectors with state funds provided to beef up the city's housing inspection program.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto announced that two housing inspectors have been hired with special funds provided by the state Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Housing Inspection.

He explained that the state allocated the funds to help improve the city's housing inspection and code enforcement operations.

Cappelletto had called on the state to beef up housing inspection in the city following the April 30 fire at Pinter's Hotel which claimed 13 lives.

City business administrator Edwin Chius said that the state monies were used to rehire one housing inspector who had been

laid off because of budget cuts. In addition, a building department employee who had been terminated has been rehired as a housing inspector.

In the wake of the Pinter's Hotel tragedy, Cappelletto has taken several steps to strengthen the city's fire prevention program.

In addition to improving housing inspection, the mayor has intensified fire prevention programs in the schools and begun an "arson alert" program, in which police and fire officials are concentrating on preventing future fatal blazes.

Moreover, the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Administration has begun an investigation into the recent rash of arson fires in the city. A federal arson team has set up headquarters in Hoboken City Hall.

# Hoboken must update sewage plant

By Thomas Rojas

Federal and state environmental officials have ordered Hoboken to install new sewage treatment machinery at the city sewage plant.

At a meeting Thursday, Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto, Business Administrator Edwin Chius, Public Works Director William Van Wie, Roy Haack, supervisor of the sewage plant, and city engineers discussed the sewage problem with Steve Stedlak and Peter Lynch and the state Department of Environmental Protection and Charles Biuno of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Cappelletto, the environmental officials instructed the city to install in the sewage plant machinery which will convert sewage sludge into a dry material that is environmentally safe

and can be easily trucked to a dumping site or incinerated.

Cappelletto said that the proposed machinery would cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million to install, but the city would receive full or partial reimbursement from the state.

"This will require hiring an engineer, issuing bonds and studying the availability of machinery," he said. "But the state is cracking down on every city on this sludge problem."

Cappelletto said that the state set no deadline for installation of the new system, but asked for a weekly report on the city's progress.

He added that Hoboken may have to revise its sewage treatment contracts with Union City and

See HOBOKEN — Page 4.

# 3 sentenced for torching supermarket

Three men, two of them first offenders, who pleaded guilty to arson in the burning of a Hoboken supermarket, have been sentenced to seven years State Prison terms by Superior Court Judge Lawrence Bilder, who observed it was fortunate that no one was killed in the blaze.

Wilfredo La Luz, 19, of Jersey City, and Thomas Santos, 22, of Hoboken, both first offenders, will not be eligible for parole consideration until they have served 2½ years while a co-defendant, Robert Sanchez Jr., 19, of Hoboken, must serve 3 years before coming eligible.

Robert Romero, 22, of Hoboken, another defendant, will be sentenced later.

Defense lawyers asked the judge for leniency for the trio. He imposed the 7-year prison terms by considering the crime as a second-degree, one instead of first degree which would entail stiffer sentences.

The court considered some "mitigating circumstances" in

imposing the sentences, obviously referring to a statement by Asst. Prosecutor Anthony Pepe that all three cooperated with the state in testifying against the supermarket's owner, Julio Vargas of Brooklyn, convicted June 24 of arson and conspiracy to commit arson and awaiting sentencing Sept. 16 by Judge Robert Cavanaugh.

Judge Bilder reminded the trio that not only the lives of the public, but those of firemen are jeopardized at any type of fire, including those deliberately set.

During Vargas' trial, there was testimony that the owner told Santos, who owed him \$500, that he could wipe out the debt by getting someone to set fire to his supermarket at Third and Jackson streets. Santos hired La Luz, Sanchez and Romero to set fire to gasoline poured through holes on the roof of the supermarket early last Dec. 7 and giving them \$650 to split, it was charged. The building was severely damaged.

# Hoboken has 'arson alert'

By Thomas Rojas

Last week in Hoboken, as has happened so often in the past, a "suspicious" fire engulfed a tenement building, driving poor families out into the street. But this time, there was a big difference.

This time, no one was killed. Thursday night's fire at 153 First St. was noteworthy for two reasons: first, police arrested a man suspected of setting the fire only four hours after the blaze was brought under control.

But, more important, the blaze produced no fatalities or serious injuries. And, in a city where arson has claimed 28 lives in the past 10 months, that's news.

What made the difference this time?

"Because of the increased concern over

the arsons, we have been taking extra precautions," said Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

The mayor explained that, in recent weeks, he has placed an "arson alert" on buildings that are potential targets of arson.

Because of several previous fires at 153 First St., Cappelletto ordered police to make periodic patrols of the building, and board up several empty apartments where a fire could be set.

In addition, the city's fire department was instructed to conduct "pre-fire planning" in the building, to make preparations for fighting a fire in the building and evacuating tenants.

Deputy Fire Chief Raymond Sheehan explained that the fire department regularly

conducts pre-fire planning in buildings where firefighting may be difficult because of the building's height or the narrowness of the street.

"The idea is to make sure that every man and every piece of equipment is assigned a specific position," he said. "Also, we plan the best way to evacuate the tenants. At 153 First St., we knew we would have to keep the front of the building clear for evacuation."

Sheehan added that the fire department can't conduct pre-fire planning at every building in the city, but "if fire keeps recurring in a building, we'll formulate a plan."

Fire Chief James Houn said that the pre-fire planning played a large role in the safe evacuation of all of the building's tenants.