

Locals stage their own 'Greatest Show on Earth'

Hoboken kiddies play circus

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Although none of the 4-year-olds at the Hoboken Day Care Center can put a finger on just who Phineas T. Barnum was, it hasn't stopped them from staging their own version of Barnum's famed three-ring Greatest Show on Earth.

A cast of 28 youngsters was running through a brisk set of last-minute rehearsals yesterday morning for the Big 4 Circus—a one-ring extravaganza in the heart of Hoboken that would have made Barnum himself proud.

The idea for the Big 4 Circus was sparked by a trip in December across the Hudson River to see the Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center. The tots had a good time, but told their teachers they thought they could do better.

And after three weeks of rehearsals, the children and their teachers insist, they may have done just that.

The Grand Street center was abuzz yesterday morning with six acrobats, 10 tightrope walkers, four clowns, five elephants, two lions, three jugglers and one cocky ringmaster.

Tightrope walkers sauntered daringly across a 6-inch high tightrope. Jugglers juggled with such enthusiasm as to risk injury to themselves and bystanders. And lions with heads of brown paper bags jumped through hoops under the whip and direction of the ringmaster, Hector Mojica.

But it hasn't been all fun and games. There also was a battery of auditions to determine whether a child had more aptitude for the part of an elephant, lion or tightrope walker.

"The auditions were... a little intense," said the day care center director, Roberta Bisignano, with a smile.

"The original ringmaster, Alex, got cold feet and decided he wanted to be a clown instead, with his girlfriend, Connie," Bisignano said.

Alex looked content yesterday morning as he followed Connie into the ring. And Hector has assumed the role of ringmaster with few difficulties, and apparently no hesitation.

"This is my circus," said the diminutive ringmaster, who mistook P.T. Barnum for E.T. Barnum.

"These are my animals, my clowns," he said, pointing to the ring with his baton—a piece of cardboard that previously served as the center of a roll of paper towels.

And under the ringmaster's orders, the cast hustled into the dressing room, wrapping up its final rehearsal before the start of the two-day engagement of their circus.

The troupe planned to perform today for the 20 teachers at the day care center.

But the real test is expected tomorrow, when the Big 4 Circus is scheduled to host its most demanding audience—the parents.



RINGMASTER Hector Mojica opens the show at the Hoboken Day Care Center's Big 4 Circus.



THE CLOWNS show their stuff for the photographer. From left to right, Hector Alieca, Thomas Ortiz, Rosette Ladson and Connie DePalma.



Tightrope walker Joann Nunez is one of the stars of the Big 4 Circus.

Photos by Ted Boswell

THE HOBOKEN WATERFRONT

Committee calls for leasing piers

By Rick Toches

The Hoboken Mayor's Waterfront Advisory Committee made recommendations yesterday to the City Council at a special meeting calling for the leasing rather than the sale of waterfront property, saying it was more advantageous to the city.

But the five-page report failed to address such crucial issues as transportation and parking impacts and housing and social impacts on the area.

The report's recommendations were compiled and developed through the city's October and November public hearings, as well as tours and discussions with interested parties.

In the committee recommendations, it found

leasing more advantageous to the city and urged that after acquisition of the property by Hoboken from the federal government the property not be sold but leased.

The committee also recommends that a professional adviser handle the property's leases, sub-leases and revenue sharing schedules.

Public access and recreation have been a source of concern to the citizens and the committee. The Hoboken Environmental Committee recommended that the project have continuous public access available along the river's edge.

It also recommended adequate space in the development be provided for a recreational area.

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Committee calls for leasing piers

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with sight-seeing and seating areas on the river to view the Manhattan skyline.

The committee recommended that jobs from the project be directed toward Hoboken residents and include an apprentice training program during construction.

Also addressed and recommended was that existing Hoboken retail businesses have preference in obtaining space in the development and it also advised that the amount of space available to commercial tenants be limited so as not to adversely affect existing merchants in the traditional shopping areas of Washington and First streets.

As for architectural designs for the project, the committee found that the Port Authority should work with the mayor, city council and members of the Planning Board, along with itself, to develop designs for the site. These designs, it added, should be developed to integrate with the existing surrounding land uses and buildings.

The committee also recommended a subcommittee of the Mayor's Waterfront Advisory Committee be actively involved in the financial

negotiations for the purchase of the federal piers.

The committee heard several times during the public meetings that a permanent waterfront commission with varying degrees of power be created, but this was omitted from the report because the committee determined that it was an inappropriate body to recommend such action.

The special council meeting was held yesterday at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Steve Block, a member of the Hoboken Board of Education and the Hoboken Citizens Waterfront Coalition, criticized the early starting time.

"It's another outrage that the city council held the meeting at 4:30 in the afternoon to insure that most Hoboken citizens could not attend," Block said. "After 16 months, over 24 private meetings and comments by 67 citizens at two public hearings, the public had the right to expect more from the committee than vague recommendations."

Block added that with the exception of the recommendation to lease rather than to sell property, most of the critical issues such as the impact of the project on the city's citizens and its potential hidden costs to the city were not examined.

Survey gives nod to angle parking

By James Kopchans

Hoboken businessmen are calling for angle parking along the entire length of Washington Street as one way of improving the parking situation in the city, according to a survey by the Hoboken Industry and Business Association.

The survey also listed 11 intersections in the city, called the most dangerous traffic sections because of problems concerning traffic lights or the lack of them.

Richard T. Bozzone, a spokesman for HIBA, said the group will soon appoint a traffic and parking force to research and recommend suggestions which will "improve the conditions affecting everyone who uses the streets of Hoboken."

The results of the survey follow closely an announcement by the city's parking authority that it is considering leasing on-street parking areas to city residents as one way to cut down on commuter traffic into the city and guarantees spaces for city residents.

"Business persons have suggested that Washington Street parking be configured so as to accommodate angle parking which would hopefully provide additional parking slots along the city's main thoroughfare," Bozzone said.

At present, cars park at an angle on Washington Street only north of Ninth Street. Cars parallel park south of Ninth Street.

Bozzone said he would discuss the matter soon with city officials, especially Public Safety Director James Giordano, in order to find other ways to help the problem.

The intersections considered the most hazardous by HIBA members were, according to Bozzone: 11th and Bloomfield Streets; First and River Streets; Hudson Place and River Street; Newark and Henderson Streets; Newark and Hudson Streets; 16th Street and Willow Avenue; 14th Street and Park Avenue; Fourth Street and Willow Avenue; Washington and Newark Streets; Third and Washington Streets; and along Sinatra Drive (the cars crossing over lines).

Fiore sees steady Hoboken growth

By James Kopchans

The "gold rush" days of property buying in Hoboken may be over, but a steady growth is still seen in the future, according to Ray Fiore, president of the city's board of realtors.

"While we have an abundance of buyers, it's just not the 'gold rush' like it appeared to be six or seven years ago, when everybody wanted to come in," Fiore explained.

"Frankly, the prices have escalated. What seemed to be a wonderful buy in 1976 may not be that wonderful buy today. It may just be a comparable buy today," Fiore said.

Still, Fiore said he felt this would be a good thing in the long run. "We are attracting a stable, steady level of buying now," he said, explaining that this means the city will be experiencing a full revival of all its neighborhoods in the future, rather than the choice areas that attracted the buyers in the mid-1970s.

Nothing would give Fiore greater satisfaction. A Hoboken resident all his life, Fiore has been actively

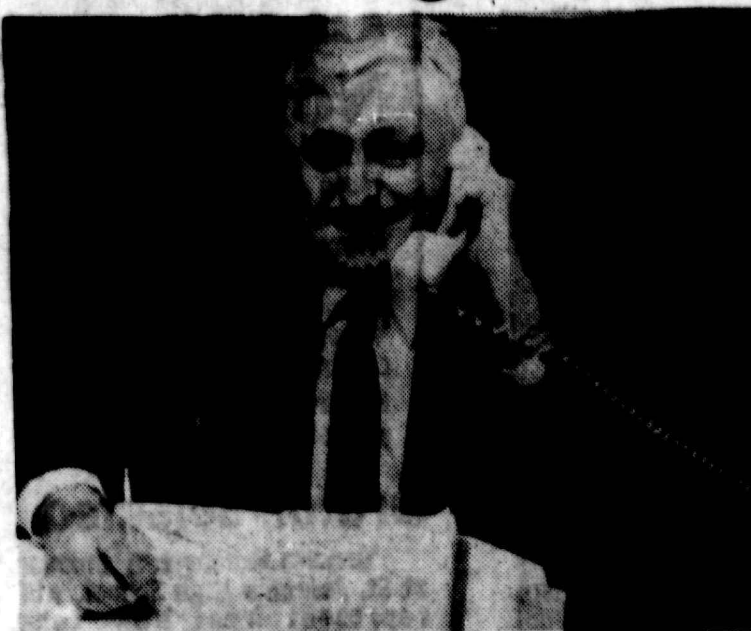
involved in the "renaissance" that the city underwent during the mid-1970s, when high rents in Manhattan drove many New Yorkers into the city to take advantage of the lower rents and property prices.

For Hoboken it meant the renovation of many of the city's prettier brownstones which had been slowly deteriorating in condition for years before that. It also meant a new, younger class of professionals would start taking an interest in the city and improving it.

However, the competition among buyers for the property in the city drove up the prices for rents and property. Fiore said, "I believe the spiraling growth that took place before is a little diminished now. It will continue to diminish in the future," Fiore said.

For the fourth consecutive year, the city's board of realtors chose Fiore as their leader. The election came at the board's Christmas party.

Fiore said realtors in the city are still waiting for more information about two subjects that most likely



Ray Fiore, president of the Hoboken Board of Realtors, answers the telephone at his office on Washington Street. Fiore was elected for the fourth consecutive one-year term as president in December.

will affect property values in the coming years.

The most immediate concern to the city's realtors, Fiore said, is the reassessment of the entire city, which has almost been completed. "We have some concern until we see the repercussions from the new appraisals. I'm only hoping we

can hold the line somewhere.

Of course, everything has to be brought up to even-keel, but we have to be careful that we don't destroy the growth that is taking place here," he said. "I'm hoping for a good, honest assessment with no discrimination."



Felix Sanchez looks at the graffiti on the walls of the Rue School at Third and Garden streets in Hoboken.

That indelible problem, graffiti, plagues schools

The Hoboken public schools have a graffiti problem and school officials are trying to find some solution to it.

The latest paint attack came last week on the David E. Rue School, which has already been sandblasted as part of general renovations to the school. The school has already been hit with the vandalism once before, which still has left a faint imprint on the walls despite efforts to remove the paint.

According to Walter Cramer, school business administrator, the wall-spraying has been a chronic problem among the city's

schools in the past year.

It's become so bad, Cramer said, that he's been trying to find chemicals and other solutions on the market that will either remove the paint or coat the wall to allow the easy removal of the scribbles.

He said he also wanted to contact officials of the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York to find out if they had ways of removing the paint on the city's subway cars.

"I'm experimenting with several ideas," Cramer said. "If anyone knows a way to solve it, I'd like to know it."

Cramer said he has tried to obtain "graffiti-guard" varnish which protects walls from paint spray. The city's parking authority uses such a guard on the walls on their parking lot at 130 Washington St.

However, the product is not made any more, Cramer said, which he discovered when he tried to contact the company.

"Right now we have a machine that blasts the paint off the walls," Cramer said. "But it is very time-consuming and the machine is very heavy to hold. I usually put our strongest man to handle it."

He hopes for police, fire hirings

Although city finance officers have said the outlook did not appear bright for more hirings, Hoboken Public Safety Director James Giordano said he's still hoping that the police and fire departments will be able to hire more men this year.

Last week, Thomas Meehan, president of the city's Police Benevolent Association, released

figures that showed the amount of work in the department had increased, necessitating the hiring of more policemen.

However, Edwin Chius, the city's business administrator, said he did not believe any new hirings would be made this year because of the city's financial condition.

According to Giordano, he

has put in a request for 20 new police hirings as well as requests for 10 new cars.

"I'd like to see the men hired, we could always use extra men," Giordano said. However, he added that he has already spoken to Chius and that he realized it may not be possible to hire anyone this year.

Hoboken firefighters win 11.25% salary hike

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A state arbitrator yesterday awarded city firefighters an 11.25-percent salary increase despite warnings that the city might be forced to lay off municipal workers to meet the union's demands.

State arbitrator Paul G. Kell yesterday released the text of his ruling that granted the 96 firefighters an increase that will, in effect, raise the salary of a rookie firefighter to \$23,000 in 1984, from the present \$20,000.

The firefighters also were awarded a \$1,000 bonus for last year. The ruling did not affect the department's officers.

Kell's ruling was identical to the salary increase

granted last month to the city's 120-man police force. City officials have said further municipal layoffs are a "possibility" when the full impact of both awards is felt in 1984.

"Layoffs always are a possibility," said city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

"I don't expect any hiring in 1983," Chius said, adding that while there will be no formal hiring freeze, "the status quo will be maintained."

During two months of negotiations, city officials offered the firefighters a 6.5-percent salary increase and a \$1,000 bonus for 1982. The city argued that the firefighters "fare very well" in earning about \$6,000 more than the average non-uniformed city employee. But the union demanded the 11.25-percent raise and

a \$2,000 bonus, arguing the city's financial difficulties are not "nearly as severe as the city contends." The union also contended that the salaries and benefits received by the firefighters are "pitifully low" in comparison to those of other departments in Hudson County.

In his award, Kell ruled that the 11.25-percent increase would be paid in two installments spaced six months apart. He said the spacing would soften the impact of the boosts on the city.

"Kell gave Hoboken a fair shake," said attorney Francis X. Hayes, the city's labor negotiator in the case.

Firefighter Michael Bavaro, president of Local 1078 of the International Association of Firefighters, said

yesterday that the ruling was "fair."

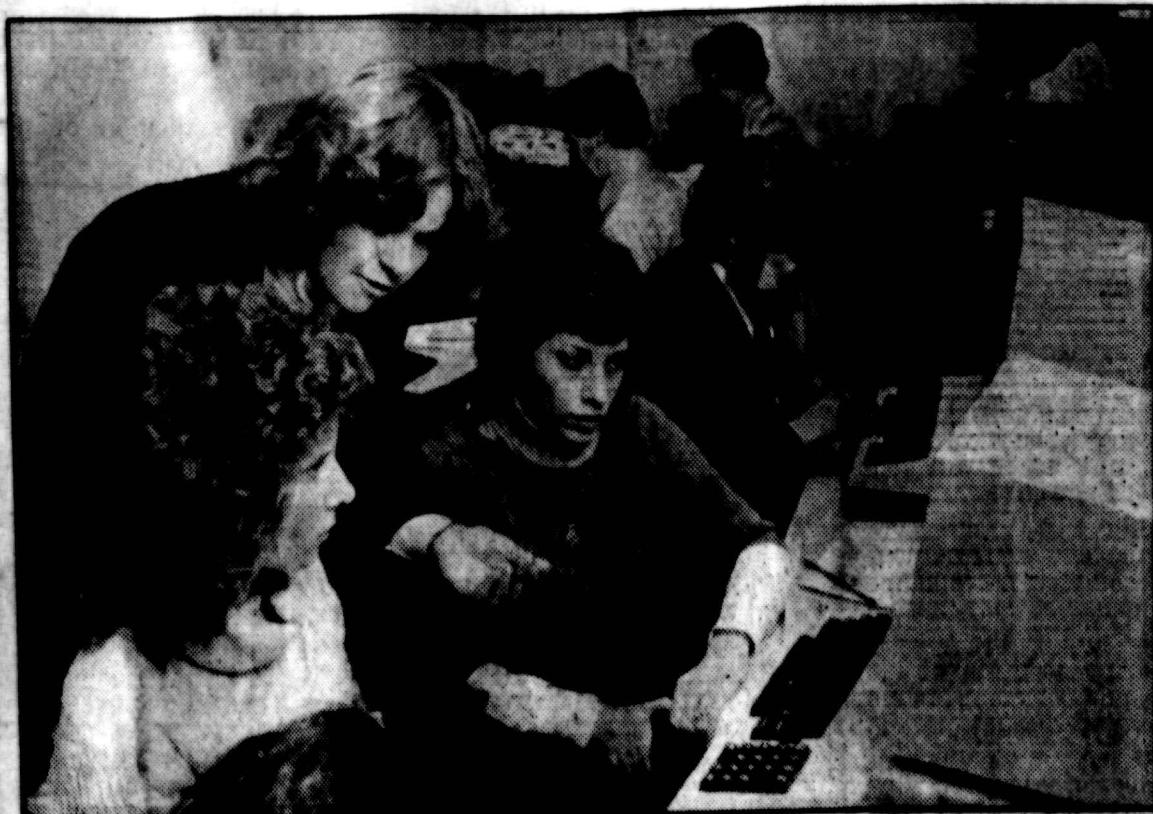
"We understood the plight of the city, but we argued that the plight of the working man still is here, too," Bavaro said.

City officials said yesterday that Kell's ruling would have a great effect on the fate of 56 municipal employees laid off last year. The salary increases granted both the police and firefighters have nearly killed any chance for those workers to be rehired in the near future, they said.

"This definitely is not a bright spot for them," Chius said.

City officials and firefighters will square off on new contract negotiations starting in January 1984, when the firefighter's contract awarded yesterday expires.

In Hoboken, teachers are staying after school



Teachers in Hoboken are taking classes to learn how to teach the use of the computer. Dr. Linnea Welland, standing, shows teachers the intricacies of operating the electronic brains.

By James Kopchains

For once, it's the teachers who are staying after school in Hoboken. This time they're learning how to use computers to help teach their students.

"Computers are now an exciting tool that teachers can use in teaching," Joyce Tyrell, the city's mathematics supervisor, explained. "But like any other tool, teachers have first to learn how to use them properly so they can be used to their best advantage."

Tyrell will be teaching a series of seminars next year to elementary teachers in the district on basic computer use. These seminars will coincide with a new emphasis on computers in the city's elementary schools.

At present, the only teaching-computers are in the city's high school, where computer classes use them in their assignments.

"By the end of the school year, we hope

to have a computer in every elementary school," Mrs. Tyrell said.

Mrs. Tyrell said one seminar has already been completed to show the teachers how to use the computers. That class was taught by Dr. Linnea Welland of the Educational Improvement Center of West Orange, which is preparing programs for the district for educating the students with the help of computers.

The first seminar tried to show teachers how to have the students accept the machine and learn how to perform basic functions on it. "It is a great motivation to the students," Mrs. Tyrell said. "They usually are so eager to get to use them."

She said funding for the computers is expected to come out of a state Title 4 grant next year.

The seminars will consist of four two-hour classes held once a week, Mrs. Tyrell said. Only 16 teachers can join the seminar at one time, she said, because of the limited number of computer terminals available.

Hoboken residents may get parking preference

By James Kopchains

Hoboken parking officials will consider selling long-term parking stickers to city residents in order to cut down on the number of out-of-town commuters taking up parking spaces.

Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the city's parking authority, said he would consult with officials from the state Department of Transportation and the Duncan Meter Co., of Chicago, before bringing such a

proposal to the authority's board of commissioners.

Councilman Anthony Romano suggested the idea in a letter to Richard E. Eversen, chairman of the authority's board of commissioners.

"It appears that because our mass transit system in New Jersey continues to increase its cost and the off-street parking facilities near the PATH trains continue to raise their rates, the parking meter rate in the area has now become a bargain for the

commuters," Romano said.

"By making stickers available, at a nominal cost, to our residents and commercial establishments, while increasing the parking meter rates in the area, we would reduce the number of commuters using our on-street parking facilities without imposing a hardship on our residents."

In doing this, both Romano and Hottendorf said Hoboken would be following an idea being considered in Jersey City for

leasing on-street parking spaces to commuters in an attempt to cut down on the number of commuters using parking.

"There's no doubt there is such a problem in this city," Hottendorf said. "But we have to find out how much this would help by first consulting with experts."

The Duncan Meter Co., which supplies the city with its parking meters, also maintains a staff of traffic study engineers who could give the authority guidance in this situation, Hottendorf said.

Hoboken clergy back tenants rights group

By James Kopchains

The Hoboken Clergy Coalition voted unanimously yesterday to endorse a proposed citywide tenants and homeowners rights group, known as the "Campaign for Housing Justice."

The proposal for the group will go to private, government and religious funding foundations for financial support.

The Rev. George Ligos, who presented the proposal to the coalition, said the campaign would need a budget of \$87,500 for the first year and will rise to about \$95,000 two years later. The

group is expected to start in January of next year and become self-sufficient within five years.

The budget will mostly cover salaries and office staff personnel as well as legal services for tenants and small homeowners.

The vote yesterday was described as a "personal endorsement" by the members of the coalition, Ligos said, and does not constitute official approval from the members' parishes.

The coalition appointed a committee to be headed by the Rev. Paul Hagedorn of St. Matthew's-Trinity Lutheran Church. Other members include

Sister Norberta of St. Joseph's Church; Rev. Ligos, of St. Peter and Paul Church; and the Rev. Barbara Cathey, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hoboken.

Sister Norberta, one of the leaders of the citizens group Por La Gente and a member of the coalition, said the new group will have a full-time organizer to create the organization and recruit members and to raise funds to hire legal help for the city's tenants.

Those most in need of legal help, Sister Norberta said, are the persons caught "in between" — too poor to afford proper legal representation yet earning too much to qualify for legal services.

The organizer will be a crucial element in the first few months of the group.

Besides legal help, the organization will focus on other issues such as housing displacement, arson, gentrification, private and government development and condominium conversion.

In addition, the group will sponsor a community newsletter and education sessions on housing, as well as conduct on-going research on real estate transactions and redevelopment in Hoboken.

Action set to return piers to Hoboken

The U.S. Gen. Services Administration announced today that all of the groundwork necessary to begin an appraisal of the Hoboken piers has been completed.

The agency so advised Hudson County Congressman Frank J. Guarini who championed enabling legislation signed last fall.

The legislation authorized the return of abandoned Piers A, B and C from federal jurisdiction to Hoboken.

The GSA said material is now on its way to Region 1, Office of GSA in Boston, which will contract with an appraiser for information on the piers. "This work began at the end of December and to be completed within the next 30 to 40 days," said Guarini who vowed "to have the process completed by mid-March so Hoboken and GSA can begin negotiations to return the piers to Hoboken as soon as possible."

The Guarini-sponsored law instructs GSA to offer the property to the city of Hoboken for a fee which includes discounts for ratables lost by the city since the government first took over the property in 1917, the condition of the piers, and Hoboken's high unemployment rate.

Assemblyman Gallo won't run again

By Peter R. Weiss

"I'm going to pack it in," said Assemblyman Thomas Gallo of Hoboken, confirming reports that he would not seek another term next year.

"It's time to retire," said the 67-year-old legislator. "My family feels I should devote more time to them."

Gallo said he will also retire next year as secretary to the Hoboken Board of Education. However, he intends to remain as a Hoboken resident.

"I was born there and I'll probably die there," he said.

Gallo has served five terms in the assembly. "I've enjoyed every minute of it," he said.

However, he said it was not really a difficult decision not to seek another term.

"I'm looking forward to retirement," he said. Gallo said he does not plan to influence selection of a replacement.

"I think that's a party decision, including the mayor of our city," he said.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello claimed he has no one in mind right now to run for assembly in the 33rd District.



Thomas Gallo Leaving Assembly

Man taken for ride, then robbed of \$280

HOBOKEN—A 62-year-old Paramus man was robbed of \$280 by two men who abducted him, took him on an hourlong joy ride in his own car and freed him when the man claimed he was becoming ill, police said yesterday.

Richard Lasasso told police he was waiting at a red light at Jackson Street and Paterson Avenue at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, when a man walked over to his car, opened the door and put a knife to his throat.

Lasasso said the man ordered him out of the driver's seat and the man got in and drove to

Ferry and Harrison streets in Jersey City, according to police. A second man was picked up there, police said.

The accomplice pulled a woolen hat over Lasasso's face and he was driven through the streets of Jersey City for another 25 minutes. But when he told the two men he was about to get sick, the car was pulled to a stop at 16th Street and Jersey Avenue, police said.

The two fled with \$80 cash and Lasasso's \$200 wedding band, but left the car behind. Lasasso was not injured, police said. —Bill Gyves

Hoboken eyeing multi-job plan for city staff

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday he is considering training municipal employees to cover other positions in addition to their own to cut down on costs and create a more flexible workforce in the city.

Meanwhile, a court date has been set for March 30 for 19 fired full-time municipal employees who have sued the city, claiming their firing last year was not done "in a lack of good faith."

Also, City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said budget preparations are proceeding smoothly this year and the budget should be ready for introduction to the council on Feb. 17.

Cappiello said he had discussed ways of reorganizing the municipal positions to redistribute the workload among the employees.

"I see nothing wrong with having people know two or three jobs," Cappiello said.

Although no final decision has yet been made, Cappiello said such a situation could save the city money and allow it to put its manpower to its most efficient use.

Cappiello said he would have to discuss it with city union officials before taking any such step.

Meanwhile, Thomas Calligyl, the city's assistant attorney said the case involving the 19 employee will be heard in the state administrative law court in Newark.

He said the employees had filed the suit against the city charging that the city had wrongfully laid them off. At the time of their firings in July, the city said it was doing it to cut the budget.

However, the employees have charged that the city did not have such a problem with the budget and that other alternatives were open to the city.

After school

Some Hoboken teachers are positioning themselves to prepare their students for a brave new world in which apples are not necessarily fruits, and Time's "Man of the Year" turns out to be a thing.

That thing is a computer; an Apple is a popular personal computer.

Because computers are expected to become even more crucial to finding a job in future years, Hoboken is placing a new emphasis on familiarizing elementary school students with computers.

But first, teachers must be trained in the use of computers.

The training will take place in a series of after school seminars for teachers. One seminar has already been held; teachers were instructed in how to get students to accept the machines and perform basic functions on them.

Joyce Tyrell, mathematics supervisor for the city, says computers can be an exciting tool for teachers once they become more familiar with the computers.

"It's a great motivation to the students. They're usually so eager to get them," she says.

If Hoboken elementary school students begin learning about computers, they will have a leg up on their future job search. That alone makes the after school training program worthwhile.

Hoboken PBA wants more cops

The Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association is calling for the hiring of new officers this year to handle an increase in activity, but city officials said yesterday the city's finances won't allow it.

"Now that they've settled all their arbitrations with the unions, we hope they start hiring some police officers," Thomas Meehan, president of the city's PBA, said as he released figures that the union has compiled over the past five years on the amount of work the department performs.

According to the PBA's figures, the department does show a decrease in the number of radio alarms answered in 1982 from 1981, but Meehan pointed out both years are well above the number of alarms answered in 1978 and 1979, when the department had more officers.

The 1982 alarm figure was 33,365, compared to 35,690 in 1981. In 1978, the department answered 25,393 alarms; in 1979, 29,733.

In addition, Meehan said the officers had to ride an estimated 415,500 miles on patrol throughout the year and made 1,484 arrests.

"We've lost over 40 men in the last three and a half years and they haven't hired anybody," Meehan said. "We are hoping they will be putting some new men on the job."

However, Edwin Chius, the city's business administrator, said he did not believe there would be new hirings in the police or fire departments this year due to the city's finances.

"We can't hire any new officers until the city's finances brighten," Chius said. Last year, the city was forced to lay off 58 full and part-time municipal employees (none of whom were from the police and fire departments) to cut the budget.

Hoboken Clergy Coalition best ecumenism

By James Kopchans

The idea first took hold last winter after suspicious fires had left over 20 persons dead and many more homeless last year in Hoboken.

The clergy of the city's churches would come together in prayer services after each deadly fire. For many of them, it was the only time they had met save for social functions.

"We'd all known of the problems the members of our own parishes had," the Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, pastor of the Church of the Holy Innocents, said. "After the fires, we realized they were part of a citywide problem. We began to meet and try to figure out ways to stop

these crises from happening again."

These meetings spawned the Hoboken Clergy Coalition.

"By joining together we can help each other and give our parishioners more opportunities for help," Curtiss, the coalition's president, said.

"If a person in my parish, for instance, has a problem that I can't solve, I may be able to find out if another parish may be able to help. I can call that parish and ask if they can help this person."

For a city of about 42,000 persons, Hoboken has six Roman Catholic parishes and a like number of Protestant churches as well as one synagogue. In addition, the city has an undetermined number of storefront

evangelical churches and missions.

Because the city is only one square mile in area, many of these churches are within an easy stroll from one another. This proximity makes the idea of such a coalition logical, according to Curtiss.

At present, the coalition has about 35 members, of which 15 to 20 are active, Curtiss said. Until this fall, the coalition had been run on an informal basis, but now has an official agenda and officers, he said.

Curtiss credited some of the early organizers with keeping the idea of the coalition alive to this point. Among the organizers, besides Curtiss, were: Rev. Paul Hagedorn, pastor of St. Mat-

thew's Trinity Lutheran Church; Rev. George Lygos, of St. Peter and Paul Church; Rev. Joseph Madden and Sister Norberta, of St. Joseph Church; Rev. Barbara Cathey, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hoboken; Rev. Trifels Felske, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church; and Rabbi Mark Erskowitz, of the United Synagogue of Hoboken (who has since left the synagogue).

At present, the coalition has run a food and clothing bank for poor and homeless families and a "last night of the month" dinner for families on welfare who find it difficult to stretch their incomes until the welfare check arrives on the first of the month.

Meanwhile, Curtiss said the coalition has been preparing grant applications for a community housing organization tentatively titled "Campaign for Housing Justice."

This new organization will help the city's poor tenants and those who cannot qualify for legal aid with legal assistance in housing problems. "Too often, we hear of a person who needs legal help in stopping his landlord from evicting him illegally or harassing him," Curtiss said. "This person needs a lawyer, but he can't afford one."

"Eventually we hope it can be an organization owned by the people using it and supported by its members," Curtiss said. The

grants, Curtiss said, would be used to hire a full-time organizer for the campaign and create a cadre of housing attorneys.

In doing this, the Hoboken coalition will be starting a program similar to one started by a clerical group in the South Bronx, Curtiss said.

Curtiss said the coalition's meetings, which are held once a month, are open to the public. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. on Jan. 12 at the Nicholas House at the Church of the Holy Innocents.

Although the coalition's membership is open only to the clergy, Curtiss said it does welcome any offer of help or support from the public.

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Local 5

Council asks role in port bill

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council yesterday approved a formal request that the Hudson County legislative delegation confer with city officials before voting on any future legislation concerning the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's role in developing the city's waterfront.

The City Council's request apparently stems from a feeling among many officials that recent legislation concerning a proposed \$500 million Hoboken waterfront revitalization project — which eventually died in the New York Legislature — was rushed through the Legislature before the city could adequately review its ramifications.

Councilman E. Norman Wilson, who introduced the resolution calling for the meeting with the delegation, said he was "troubled" by several aspects of the most recent bi-state legislation.

"There are several things we want clarified right now," before new legislation can be reintroduced and considered in the state legislature, Wilson said.

He said the city did not have the power to make the city's state representatives consult with the city. But, he said, the council was confident the representatives would agree to the proposal.

The most recent legislation was "ambiguous" as to whether the City Council would have final

veto over any development proposal, Wilson said, adding that the council will insist on it.

City officials are also concerned that the legislation did not clearly state whether or not the Port Authority would seek a tax abatement for the complex. Wilson said the City Council would strongly oppose a tax break for the waterfront project.

Wilson also said city officials were concerned that any complex of the dimensions mentioned in the Port Authority's proposal would become a city within a city. And, Wilson said, the legislation did not clearly state under whose domain that new "city" would fall — Hoboken's or the Port Authority's.

Council OKs loan for 20 homes

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council yesterday unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the city to lend a developer \$15,000 to help speed up construction of a proposed \$2-million housing project in one of the city's most blighted areas.

The resolution authorized the community development agency to

lend the money to Caparra Home Development Co. to help finance the initial stages of its plan to build 20 two-family homes in the First

Street area. The homes will be developed on four sites bordered by Observer Highway, Newark Street, Adams Street and Grand Street.

The loan will help pay architectural and legal fees incurred while formulating the developer's pro-

posal and application for federal assistance, said Fred Bado Jr., director of the agency.

Despite the council's approval, the entire development hinges on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's approval of Caparra's proposal to build the project. HUD's decision is expected within three months, Bado said.

Bado said that if HUD approves

the proposal, construction could begin within six months.

As outlined in Caparra's proposal, each of the 20 structures would be a two-story, wood-frame structure valued at about \$100,000. The units are proposed for an area described in the city's 1979 master plan as the region most in need of renovation. Nearly 11 percent of the land in the area is vacant, according to the plan.

New taxes give Hudson \$3 million for schools

By Peter Weiss

Hudson County public schools will receive nearly \$3.3 million which can be spent before June 30 as a result of the tax package enacted last week to close the state budget gap.

In addition, Hudson County municipalities

should share at least \$5 million more in local road aid, the county should receive about \$1 million more in welfare aid, and two municipalities should be reimbursed for expenses incurred last summer when a water main broke.

That's the good news portion of the sales and income tax hikes now in effect, according to As-

semblyman Robert Janiszewski of Jersey City, chairman of the appropriations committee.

"Obviously we are not getting something for nothing," said Janiszewski. "The need to increase any taxes was unfortunate, even more so because some of the taxes are directed at lower income levels. But at least we made sure that Hudson County taxpayers are not paying more without getting a lot more in return."

Janiszewski said he and other Democratic leaders were able to restore cuts made in the state budget earlier this year as a condition of voting for new taxes. Those cuts, he noted, had impacted heavily on urban areas.

See NEW TAXES — Page 20.

New taxes give Hudson \$3 million for schools

Continued from Page 1.

Figures compiled by the legislative staff show that Hudson will get the following amounts in additional school aid in the current state fiscal year:

Jersey City, \$1.7 million; East Newark, \$1,000; Harrison, \$28,000; Kearny, \$43,000; North Bergen, \$92,000; Secaucus, \$33,000; Guttenberg, \$9,000; Hoboken, \$326,000; Union City, \$407,000; Weehawken, \$59,000; West New York, \$306,000; Bayonne, \$186,000; county vocational school, \$84,000.

Also restored was \$8 million for local road aid, which the state can use as matching funds to receive \$80 million from the federal government. That will mean a total pool of \$88 million, of which Hudson should easily get at least \$5 million predicted Janiszewski.

He said the county should also receive \$1 million from the \$3.5 million in restored welfare equalization payments by the state.

And Jersey City and Hoboken should receive \$144,000 to pay for last summer's water main break. The break in the Jersey City main, which also supplies Hoboken, caused water to be shut off for four days.

"The governor promised he would help pay for that months ago," said Janiszewski, "but the state didn't have the money. Now that it is raising more revenue, I intend to hold him to that promise."

Janiszewski said Jersey City should receive \$100,000 and Hoboken will get \$44,000.

Janiszewski noted that if the legislature and governor had not enacted new taxes, and the governor's threatened 3 percent cut in this year's state budget went into effect, Hudson County municipalities would have lost nearly \$10 million in all forms of aid and reimbursements before June 30.

The breakdowns are: Jersey City, \$5.3 million; East Newark, \$32,000; Harrison, \$436,000;

Kearny, \$831,000; North Bergen, \$257,000; Secaucus, \$100,000; Guttenberg, \$280,000; Hoboken, \$585,000; Union City, \$644,000; Weehawken, \$125,000; West New York, \$467; Bayonne, \$600,000.

In Jersey City, that alone would have meant an increase in the real estate tax of about \$8 for each \$1,000 assessed value, noted the assemblyman. Hoboken would have had a \$5.60 tax increase and Harrison a \$5 increase to make up for lost funds, while Union City, West New York and Kearny would each have had to raise their taxes by about \$2.50.

He emphasized that the cuts for the 1984 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 1983, would have been even more drastic if no new taxes had yet been enacted by that time.

Janiszewski said Democrats voted reluctantly for the one-cent increase in the sales tax, preferring to shift more of the burden on persons earning more than \$50,000 a year. Their original proposal was to graduate the state income tax to a maximum of 6 percent on those earning \$100,000 a year or more. The final version was to increase it by 1

percent, from 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent, on persons earning \$50,000 a year or more, and to increase the sales tax.

"It was a 'one for one' compromise," said Janiszewski. "A one percent increase in the income tax for a one percent increase in the sales tax."

As the deadline neared for implementation of the governor's 3 percent across-the-board cuts, Janiszewski said pressure mounted for the income tax advocates and those who supported the governor's recommendation to increase the sales tax.

He said the final tax package had the support of groups at both ends of the spectrum. "Conservative anti-tax groups and liberal, labor-oriented groups all accepted the compromise," he said. "Almost everyone realized the drastic effect of the alternative cuts in the state budget."

Janiszewski noted the legislature was able to have certain necessities excluded from sales taxes. Those include paper and soap products and non-prescription medicines.

Hobokenite is robbed of savings

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A city man was robbed of his life savings Monday by three men he says escorted him to a local bank at gunpoint and directed him to withdraw \$29,000 in cash, police said.

Geraldo Felix, 45, who gave his address as 221 Madison St., said three men took him to the Haven Savings and Loan Association around 9 a.m. to make the withdrawal from his savings account, according to Detective Capt. Patrick Donatacci.

The management of the bank, located at 821 Washington St., told Felix he could pick up the money — in \$50 and \$100 bills — later that afternoon. Felix told police he was then taken to the Holiday Inn in North Bergen until around 2:30 p.m., when he returned to the bank to pick up the cash, Donatacci said.

Felix told police he was then driven home and told by the men they would return the money to him when they came back to his apartment at 8 p.m. The men, however, never returned, Donatacci said.

Police were tipped off to the robbery Tuesday when the bank notified detectives that Felix returned and inquired whether the money could be refunded, Donatacci said.

Donatacci described the suspects as Hispanic males, one in his 40s and the others in their 30s. He added the case was still under investigation.

Cappiello catches council off-guard

Anthony DiNicola has been recommended for the job of director of revenue and finance in Hoboken being vacated by retiring Bernard Scrivani.

Several councilmen said after last night's council caucus they knew nothing about DiNicola and that the written recommendation from Mayor Steve Cappiello was not on the agenda and came as a surprise. Cappiello was unavailable for comment.

"I really don't know anything about DiNicola," said Councilman Robert Ranieri.

"The letter recommending him was not on the agenda and it came as a surprise," said Councilman E. Norman Wilson.

"But I may ask whether we still need a director of revenue and finance any longer," Wilson said. "Now that we have a com-

ptroller and treasurer, that job may no longer be needed."

DiNicola was also unavailable for comment. He has served on the city's welfare board and is being recommended for reappointment to that position. Nicholas Feola is also being recommended for reappointment to the welfare board.

One source said DiNicola is a Republican and may have been recommended for the post as a political favor to other Republicans in the city. Before Scrivani was made revenue and finance director, the job was usually held by a Republican, the source said.

The appointment will be on the agenda of the council meeting scheduled for tomorrow night at City Hall.

The council is also expected to adopt a temporary budget at the meeting.

Hoboken crackdown pares welfare costs

Combining an active welfare program with aggressive investigation of welfare applications, the Hoboken Welfare department has been able to cut over \$80,000 in expenses over the past two years.

Welfare Director Robert Drasheff said yesterday his department would only need \$170,000 for costs in this year's budget for welfare. Contrasted with the 1981 cost of about \$250,000, this new figure represents a 30 percent drop.

"No other city in the state of New Jersey can produce such a record of cost control," Drasheff said yesterday in a letter to the city council.

Drasheff has credited the work of his staff seeking out welfare frauds.

In March of 1981, Drasheff said the city had over 1,100 active cases, at a monthly cost of \$123,846 (which includes the state

portion of 75 percent of welfare costs).

Last month, only 344 active cases remained, costing the city and state only \$36,127, Drasheff said.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the city's welfare program has helped to cut costs and shorten the department's rolls.

Theft of \$60 in City Hall stumps cops

HOBOKEN—Police said yesterday they had no solid leads in the theft of \$60 from the violations bureau in City Hall shortly after closing time Wednesday.

The theft was reported Monday by Violations Clerk Marian Roland, who told police she accepted the \$60 as payment for a traffic summons just minutes before the bureau's 4 p.m. closing time, police said.

Police said Roland then placed the money in an unlocked desk drawer. Roland told the other bureau employees where she was placing the money so it could be recorded in the next day's transactions, police said.

Roland and the other employees then left, and the bureau door was locked, police said.

The theft was discovered at 9:35 a.m. Thursday by a bureau employee, Elaine DePinto, as she was closing out the previous day's transactions, police said.

Cappiello will insist P.A. lease land

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said he will insist during negotiations with the Port Authority for the redevelopment of the Hoboken waterfront, that city land be leased rather than sold for the project.

Cappiello said he is in complete agreement with the Mayor's Waterfront Advisory Committee which said the leasing of the land would be more advantageous to the city.

"We have to make sure the city gets the best financial benefits possible from any development project," said the mayor. "Leasing the land would give us the opportunity to charge more for the land as it increases in value."

The Port Authority has proposed a massive development project for the Hoboken waterfront. It includes high rise apartment buildings, a hotel, a marina, restaurants, waterfront shops and office space.

Leinkauf School may be sold

An independent evaluation of the former Sadie Leinkauf School in Hoboken has been completed and may be put up for sale early this year.

Walter Cramer, the school's business administrator, said the evaluation has been completed and a preliminary value set. Cramer said he is waiting for a written report before making recommendations for the

building's sale at the next Board of Education meeting this month.

The school was closed this past summer by the board after receiving reports from school officials that it would be more expensive to renovate the school and keep it in operation. The decision at the time caused protests from parents of Leinkauf students.

Driver dies in Hudson's icy waters

By FRANCES ANN BURNS
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A New York City man drowned yesterday afternoon when he accidentally drove off the end of a pier into the Hudson River, police said.

Florencio Castro, 39, of 2053 McGraw Ave., The Bronx, apparently stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake. He was moving a company car in the parking lot at the Myway Co. on 15th Street around 2:30 p.m.

Two of his fellow workers jumped in and tried to locate the car, police said. Jose Esposito of The Bronx and Jimmy Jackson of Jersey City were treated for exposure at St. Mary Hospital and then released.

A city police officer and firefighter, both licensed scuba divers, located the car too late to save Castro's life. Michael Lisa of the fire department, who lives in the neighborhood, heard about the accident on his scanner. He called Patrolman John Gibarty and the two went to the scene with their diving equipment. They were also treated and released at St. Mary.

Castro was pronounced dead at 4 p.m. after the car was removed from the river, police said. The Coast Guard and the New York City Police Harbor Squad assisted in removing the car from the river with Castro's body still inside.

Police said they were notified of the accident by a nearly hysterical woman caller.

Retrieved too late



HOBOKEN FIREFIGHTERS stand by as a car in which a Bronx, N.Y., man drowned after accidentally driving off a pier is pulled from the Hudson River. Story on Page 9.

Photo by Ted Bevel

Hoboken wants to lend money to developer

The Hoboken City Council will be considering action on Wednesday to advance \$15,000 in "seed money" to the Caparra Homes Development Company to help in the firm's plans to build 20 two-family homes on First Street.

A resolution on the agenda for the Wednesday meeting, which begins at 10 a.m., would authorize the city's Community Development Agency to advance the money to Caparra.

Fred Bado Jr., the CDA director, said Caparra needed the money to pay for architect and legal fees incurred in creating an application for federal assistance. A portion of the money will also be used for soil boring

tests at the site. As planned by Caparra, the homes would be constructed on four separate sites bordered by Observer Highway, Newark Street, Adams Street, and Grand Street.

As outlined in the application to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the homes will be valued at around \$100,000. The homes will be open for sale to families with an annual income of \$25,000, financed with \$10,000 of the owner's money, an \$18,000 Urban Development Grant, and a \$72,000 mortgage.

Part of the proposal would have Caparra loaning the money for the homeowners at a lower in-

terest rate than available in the banks.

Bado said the \$15,000 would be paid to the agency from federal monies if the project is approved by HUD. If it isn't approved, Bado said Caparra had agreed to give CDA all information and plans made by Caparra to help the agency plan another project for the area.

In other business, the council will hold a public hearing and vote on an ordinance amendment allowing sidewalk cafes to extend their tavies up to 8 feet rather than 6 feet onto the sidewalk.

The council will also consider passing a speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour on Sinatra Drive.

Hoboken pushes for a regional sewerage plant

By James Kopchans

Hoboken officials want to meet with officials from Union City, Weehawken and West New York to create a regional plan for sewerage treatment in North Hudson.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the council's water and sewerage committee, said he would ask the council to authorize city officials to meet with the other communities to discuss a regional sewer plan.

"It is only prudent that with the large-scale development being planned for the region that something is done to increase the amount of primary and secondary treatment to meet the expected increase," Ranieri said.

The talks on a regional plan would also include the developers of waterfront projects in Hoboken, Weehawken and West New York.

See HOBOKEN - Page 16.

Hoboken pushes regional sewage treatment plant

Continued from Page 1

This would include officials from the Romulus and Hartz Mountain companies in Weehawken and West New York, and the Port Authority, which wants to partially finance a \$500 million waterfront development in Hoboken.

Ranieri said he has spoken with city officials informally about a regional plan and is trying to arrange a formal meeting with the council on the plan.

"First, we have to know the status of our own sewer system," Ranieri said. "Once we know our situation, we can go to the other communities to discuss how we can help each other."

At present, Weehawken, and Union City use the Hoboken treatment plant for a yearly fee under an agreement between the cities.

"It profits us nothing to spend millions of dollars on pipes

and repairs to the treatment plant without planning it on a regional basis," Ranieri said. "We must prepare for future development."

Ranieri said the plans for a regional sewage system had been proposed for North Hudson by Hoboken officials several years ago. However, all talk of such a plan was ended when the Hudson County Utilities Authority began acquiring each community's facilities for a county-wide sewerage plan.

However, that plan, which was to be 75 percent funded by the federal government collapsed last year when the funding sources dried up.

The collapse, Ranieri said, only makes it more imperative that the North Hudson officials consider forming their own region to provide primary and secondary treatment.

Hoboken raises parking rates for commuters

The Hoboken Parking Authority has approved increasing parking rates at two of its three public garages effective March 1.

Joseph Hottendorf, executive director, said the new rates were necessary because of the "great demand" at the garages from commuters who park there to connect with PATH trains into New York.

"We want to keep some spaces open for the merchants and businesses in the area who need parking for their customers and clients," Hottendorf said. "However, the demand is so much that we have to close the garage early every morning."

Hottendorf said the rates would rise from \$70 to \$80 for unreserved parking and from \$90 to \$100 for reserved parking at Garage B. This garage, containing 810 spaces is closest to the PATH station on Hudson Place and has 99 percent of its spaces rented by commuters, he said.

Also, at Garage D, rates would be increased from \$55 to \$60 for unreserved and \$75 to \$80 for reserved parking, Hottendorf said.

The other Hoboken public garage, which Hottendorf said is almost completely filled with Hoboken residents, will not increase, remaining at \$43 per month.

Hoboken to probe firm's handling of housing units

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A City Council inquiry into alleged improprieties in the operations of Applied Housing Associates, the city's largest holder of subsidized housing units, is scheduled to begin within a week, according to sources.

In October, Councilman Nunzio Malfetti urged the council to investigate charges that Applied Housing was offering its subsidized units to wealthy "out of towners" at the expense of lower-income Hoboken residents.

Councilman E. Norman Wilson, chairman of the council's law committee which will conduct the inquiry, said yesterday that Applied Housing is expected to submit a report by the end of this week defending itself against the accusations.

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PROBE

Continued from Page 1
The report will consist primarily of a breakdown of the number of low-income local residents living in the corporation's units as compared to the number of tenants who might be considered wealthy and come from out of town, Wilson said.

Applied Housing President Joe Barry has labeled Malfetti's request for the inquiry a result of personal differences the councilman has had with the corporation. Barry charges Malfetti "vowed to get even" after Applied Housing rejected five applicants recommended by the councilman for subsidized housing.

Barry has claimed that 87 percent of Applied Housing units are occupied by low-income Hoboken residents while 13 percent are occupied by low-income residents of other areas of Hudson County.

"Very few — probably less than 1 percent" of the residents in Applied Housing units are wealthy, non-county residents, Barry has said.

Federal Housing and Urban Development regulations require that the subsidized units be distributed to residents throughout a given region and not just one municipality, according to Barry.

Welfare burden lessens

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A sharp drop in the number of welfare cases handled by the Hoboken Department of Health and Welfare during the last two years will mean a 30-percent decrease in the welfare costs assumed by the city this year as compared to 1981, city officials predicted yesterday.

The city will allocate \$170,000 from its 1983 budget to cover its 25-percent share of the city's welfare costs, as compared to \$250,000 in 1981 and \$215,000 last year, said Health and Welfare Director Robert Drasheff.

Drasheff attributed the significant cut in the city's welfare burden to tighter program regulations and the fact that large numbers of poor residents have had to leave the city because of the lack of affordable housing.

In March 1981, the city handled 1,100 active welfare cases, at a monthly cash cost of nearly \$124,000. Last month, however, there were only 344 active cases on the city's welfare rolls at a cost of \$36,000, Drasheff said.

Drasheff also said that in comparison, Union City's welfare rolls have doubled and Jersey City's have more than tripled in the last two

See WELFARE, Page 10

Hoboken cleanup off until spring

Originally scheduled for this month, a cleanup and dredging of the Hoboken shoreline by the Army Corps of Engineers now has been delayed until the end of spring.

Thomas Ahern, of the city's Community Development Agency, said the cleanup will have to be delayed while officials of the state Department of Environmental Protection negotiate agreements with private owners of waterfront property.

The DEP is funding one-third of the cost for the clean-up, which will include the demolition of several old and rotting piers, in-

cluding the Fifth and Sixth Street piers.

The cleanup will include the dredging of several areas along the waterfront, which has grown very shallow from an accumulation of silt over the years.

The cleanup will not cost the city any funds and is part of a grand cleanup of the New York harbor.

On Wednesday, the Hoboken Council approved an agreement with the Army Corps allowing them to begin their operations on all city-owned waterfront property.

Hoboken to begin repairs to projects

The Hoboken Housing Authority will take the first steps in a \$7 million modernization program at the city's housing projects at its next meeting on Thursday.

The authority's board of commissioners is scheduled to vote on specifications for roofing work to be done at four of the seven high-rise projects at the Jackson Gardens.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at the authority's offices.

400 Harrison St. Once the specifications are approved, the authority can put out for bids on the roofing repairs, which authority executive director Dominick Gallo characterized as "priority."

The work is the first repair work to be done under a \$7 million modernization grant received by the authority from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development.

Hopes renewed for railroad property revenue

Hoboken and Jersey City have two renewed hopes for getting revenues from their railroad property: state subsidies and local taxation.

Hoboken officials hope the increased sales and income taxes will permit the state to pay \$565,000 in railroad property subsidies as promised.

Jersey City Assemblyman Robert Janiszewski is introducing a bill Monday which would allow both cities to directly tax the freight railroads, something that is currently disallowed by state law.

In past years the state would collect the taxes and reimburse the municipalities. But in 1981, the federal government prohibited the states from taxing railroads.

Janiszewski said the federal government then contended that the subsidies it was paying to the railroads were only going to the state for taxes. In effect, said the federal government, it was paying taxes.

Unfortunately, he said, the change in procedure was never transmitted to the municipalities. The state told

them to anticipate revenues from railroad tax reimbursements in their 1982 budgets.

Last month, Jersey City out it was not getting the \$980,000 in had anticipated, while Hoboken discovered it was out \$450,000.

"It was one of those things which slipped through the cracks," said Janiszewski. "The state never informed the municipalities it was not going to get that money. In fact, I told them just the opposite."

Janiszewski said that because the railroad reimbursements traditionally were paid on Dec. 10, it was far too late in the year to do anything about it in 1982. But the Janiszewski will would allow the money to be collected in full for 1983.

The bill would mainly affect Conrail freight operations, since most other railroads which operated here are bankrupt.

Janiszewski envisions opposition to his proposal from Conrail. "I imagine they'll be somewhat upset," he said. "But if they are operating to make a profit, they should pay taxes. Why should Jersey City and Hoboken subsidize them any further?"

New catch basin to be installed

Answering requests from residents, especially senior citizens, in the uptown Willow Avenue neighborhood, Hoboken public works crews have begun installing a new catch basin in the area.

The crews under the direction of Public Works Director William Van Wie, began excavating yesterday at the southeast corner of 13th Street and Willow Avenue. Van Wie had said the installation should take about a week to complete.

Council President Walter Cramer, who was instrumental in having the catch basin installed,

said the area had been the site of chronic flooding in recent months that made travel difficult for residents.

"It would be very dangerous during the cold weather, because the water pools would freeze," Gramer said. "Sometimes there might be as much as six inches of ice on the ground."

The inspection is used by senior citizens from the nearby Fox Hill Gardens project, Cramer said, and the flooding problems were an additional hardship they had to encounter to shop at a supermarket in the area.

Films for children

The Hoboken Public Library has scheduled series of films for pre-school and school-age children throughout the winter months.

The films for pre-school children will be shown every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., while school-age children can view them on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. All films will be shown at the library, 500 Park Ave.

The pre-school films will be: Jan. 26, All Baba, Dorothy and the A B C's, and Frederick; Feb. 2, Fire Chief Donald; Feb. 9, Fiddle De Dee, Family of N'Gumba; Feb. 16, Mickey's Trailer; Feb. 23, Private Eye Pooch, Popeye: Aladdin and The Wonderful Lamp.

The school-age film schedule is: Jan. 28, J.T.; Feb. 4, Home to Stay; Feb. 11, Operation Annihilate; Feb. 18, Seven Wishes of a Rich Kid; Feb. 25, Special Day; Feb. 25, Incredible Journey.

Consumers were saved \$100,000 in '82

The Hoboken Office of Consumer Affairs saved consumers more than \$100,000 through its efforts last year — and increase of \$11,000 over 1981, according to office estimates.

Audrey Borg, consumer affairs director, said the savings are from a compilation of the amount of refunds and other savings that her office was able to obtain by pressure on commercial firms.

"Most of the time all it takes is a phone call to get action," Mrs. Borg, a 1976 Jersey Journal Woman of Achievement, said. "In the case of truly complicated situations I always go to the top. I find that gets the best results."

She said her office has maintained a 94 percent success rate in handling and resolving complaints.

Fire deaths down

2/22/83 HD

Arson, false alarms in Hoboken down in '82: City report

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The number of suspected arson attempts, suspicious fires and false alarms declined significantly last year, according to a report released yesterday by Fire Chief James Houn.

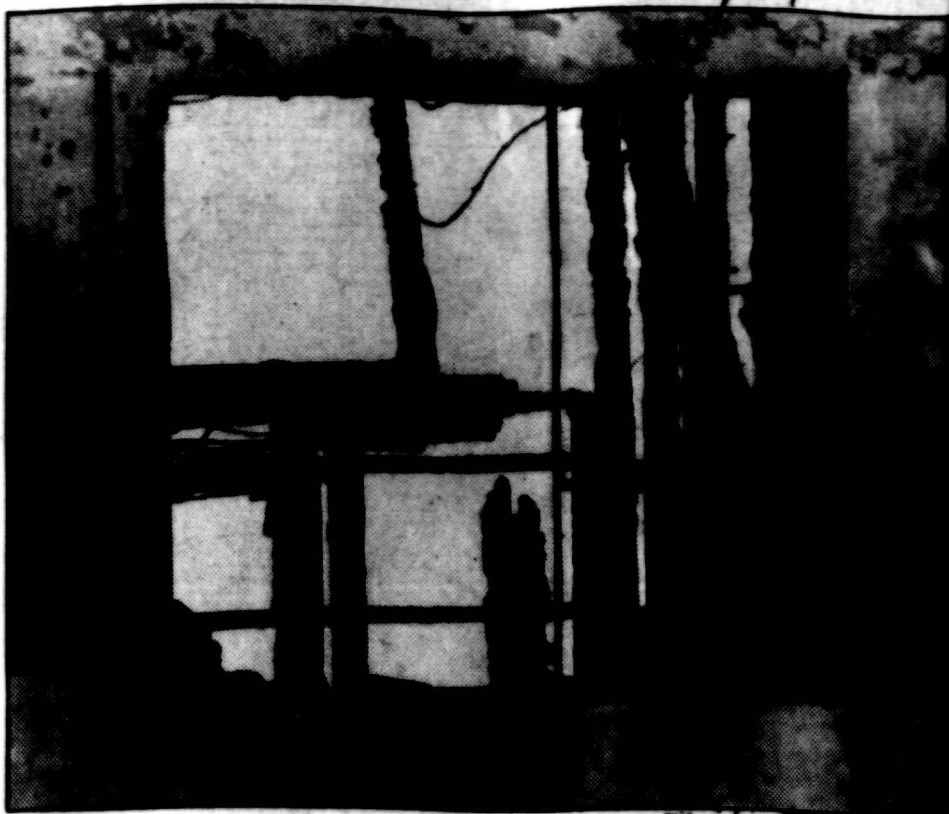
The number of fire-related deaths, however, declined less significantly, with 13 fatalities last year and 15 in 1981, the report said.

"We feel everything is down and things seem to be going very well right now," he said. "But I could hang up the phone right now and we could be rolling to a major fire any minute. You just don't know."

From March 1978 to April of last year, 56 persons perished — many of them young children — in fires. An arson fire to the Pinter Hotel on 14 Street on April 30 claimed 13 lives.

The large number of fatalities caused the city to be termed one of the leading areas in a

See FIRES, Page 7



File photo by Bill Gayer

HOBOKEN FIRE officials say the number of fatal fires in the city have decreased markedly during the past year, but the burnt timbers of a previous fire are a tragic reminder of the past.

THE HOBOKEN WATERFRONT

Businessmen want 'cautious' development

88 1/21/83

Saying it's time for all sides to get together in the waterfront development being planned for Hoboken, a group of city businessmen is calling for the start of "cautious development" at the site.

"We are ready and willing to walk hand in hand with those who want waterfront development," Richard Bozone, spokesman for the Hoboken Industry and Business Association (HIBA), said. "But, it must be clearly established that such cooperation and a spirit of being willing to work together means a two-edged blade."

"Officials and sponsors of such grandiose schemes must be sincere in wanting to work for

projects which can benefit economically those who need jobs and cities which need ratables and taxes."

Plans for the \$500 million development on the city's Port Authority piers are awaiting the passage of enabling legislation in the New York State Legislature that would allow the Port Authority to become involved in the project.

The Port Authority's involvement is considered crucial to the development's success. While the plan awaits legislative action, several officials from the city and the Port Authority have suggested that the time be used to concentrate on all aspects of the plans.

Cops want to fingerprint kids

Hoboken police now want to fingerprint the city's youngsters

to help locate children in case they are abducted or reported missing.

The plan follows a similar one in Union County where police fingerprinted children to give their parents more positive identification in case they disappear. "This is to help the parent so that they have some means of identification wherein in certain areas children are found maybe six, seven or eight years later, and police couldn't identify the child," Public Safety Director James Giordano said.

Giordano said he still has to obtain approval from the city's Board of Education and the administrators of the city's parochial and private schools before starting the program.

Once begun, he said the police will fingerprint children

who have their parents' permission. The fingerprints will be put on a small card which the child will bring home to his parents and could be clipped to his birth certificate.

In case the child does disappear, Giordano said the police could use the fingerprints in their investigation or in identifying children located by investigators.

The program has the support of Mayor Steve Cappelletto and other top officials in the city administration. Cappelletto said he did not see any objections from the school board or other officials.

Giordano said the fingerprinting will only be done on children ranging up to the fifth grade. He said he already had received volunteers from the police department to perform the fingerprinting.

FIRES

Continued from Page 1

nationwide arson-for-profit campaign aimed at displacing poorer tenants in favor of wealthier prospective residents.

Houn claims the department's annual report, along with the fact that there has not been a fatal fire in the city in nine months, indicates that attempts to increase fire safety have been successful.

"If the city was ever unsafe — and we don't think that has ever been the case — then it is clearly improving," he said.

Houn said the department responded to 1,486 alarms last year, as opposed to 1,717 in 1981; there were 188 unnecessary calls compared to 238 in 1981; it received 485 false alarms, a

decrease from 670 in 1981.

Houn declined to release specific figures concerning suspected arson attempts, pending completion of a department investigation for the New Jersey Statewide Arson Network System. He did say, however, that suspicious blazes and arson attempts also declined.

"If there was an arson problem, it is being wrestled with successfully," he said. "But we never felt we had an arson problem. This is a matter of record, and it has been confirmed by the state police and the (Hudson County) prosecutor's office."

"The revenge motive is involved in the clear majority of these fires. But how do you control revenge?" he said.



Photo by Ted Beavell

HOBOKEN FIREFIGHTER Ralph Corrado offers "Dutchess," a Dalmatian, a bone at the city fire station.

Video game ban report awaited by school board

88 1/21/83

Hoboken school officials are awaiting a written report on the effectiveness of a joint effort with parents to keep children away from video games during school hours.

Board of Education Trustee Steve Block sought an overview during last night's public caucus. Video games became an issue in the fall when a large group of parents, primarily from the Wallace School, demanded something be done about students who had become "video truants."

The parents enlisted the aid of some merchants who had the games in their stores to make sure school-age children did not play when it would cause them to be late for class or miss them entirely.

School truancy officers were also assigned to include stores with video arcades in their rounds.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. George R. Maier said last night he recalls there was a "dramatic drop" in truancy and lateness during the initial stages of the effort.

Block said he was requesting the report because, "we need to remain vigilant," to make sure the problem does not recur.

When the board meets in regular session Tuesday evening it will be considering contracting with City Corp. to rent typewriters. The school system had formerly rented from I.B.M., but that firm reports it is abandoning the rental business.

The firm of Pistilli and Italiano, P.A. has informed the school board that it will be able to continue to serve as auditor.

The board will also be considering a request from Dr. Maier for permission to name and develop a Family Life Curricular Committee.

Hoboken scofflaws face crackdown

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The Hoboken traffic violations bureau will begin a new drive next week to force ticket scofflaws to pay their overdue fines.

"As of Jan. 15, we will start mailing out 1,000 warrants a week," Marian Rolands, of the bureau, said, "and that will continue for at least two months."

Mrs. Rolands said the drive was mainly to reduce the backlog of tickets.

"Generally every year we have a scofflaw drive," she said,

"but it doesn't start so early. After two months we will go over those people who have not paid their tickets and report them to the police who will issue an arrest warrant," Mrs. Rolands said.

If the car owners still cannot be located, she said the state motor vehicle division will be alerted and the owner's driving license could be suspended or, in extreme cases, his car could be impounded.

Ranieri favored for Assembly

88 1/21/83

By BILL GYVES
Staff Writer

Hudson County's political odds makers have posted Hoboken City Councilman Robert A. Ranieri as the clear favorite to replace Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo, D-3rd, in the state legislature next year.

But Ranieri, at least publicly, has not yet laid his money down.

Gallo announced Sunday he would not seek a sixth term in the Assembly. Gallo's announcement confirmed reports that he intended to step out of the state's political arena, and fueled reports that Ranieri has already been "promised" Gallo's Assembly seat.

Gallo, 67 and a lifelong Hoboken resident, cited his family as the reason behind his decision to leave the Assembly after 10 years. He said he would spend his new-found spare time with his wife, four children and seven grandchildren.

"I intend to spend the rest of my life in Hoboken," Gallo said. Gallo declined comment on re-

ports that Ranieri was certain to fill his position. He added he would not attempt to influence the selection of his replacement, saying that was a decision to be left to the county's political leaders — including Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

Ranieri also declined comment on both Gallo's announcement and reports that he is a clear favorite to replace the five-term assemblyman.

"As Councilman-at-Large I have enough headaches, for the time being," Ranieri said.

But sources on both sides of the North/South Hudson political rift yesterday said Ranieri has been approached in connection with Gallo's seat after being "promised" the position last year.

"He is (Cappelletto's) pick. I don't think there's anyone else on the political 'in' with the mayor right now who wants it or desires it except for Ranieri," a source close to Cappelletto said yesterday.

"I think the political family in Hudson County knows it's Ranieri," the source said.

'Mario the Mime' back

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"Mario the Mime" is back.

Jersey City resident Mario Riscanevo will be returning to Hoboken next week for a one-night only show.

He'll perform as a solo mime Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Beat'N Path Cafe, 125 Washington St., where he was featured a few months ago.

Since seating in the cafe is limited, it is recommended that persons arrive early.

A mimist since 1974, Riscanevo has been seen with the Kennedy Dancers of Jersey City.

He teaches his craft at The Studio for the Arts, Jersey City's cultural arts center.

In previous years, Riscanevo has toured the metropolitan area with such



Mario Riscanevo in Hoboken

groups as the Kinesis Mime Co. and Mimesis Theater Co.

Hoboken mgn robbed

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HOBOKEN—An employee of Garcia's Confectioners received a not-so-nice birthday present Wednesday — a shotgun barrel slammed across his face during a robbery at the store.

Efrain Pomaes Cruzapo, 39, was robbed of \$220 by two men — one carrying a shotgun — at about 9:15 p.m. Wednesday while he was preparing to lock up the store at 102 Jefferson St. for the night, police said yesterday.

Cruzapo, who lives on Monroe Street, was only slightly injured when the man carrying the shotgun slammed the barrel across his face, police said. Cruzapo refused medical attention.

After the robbery, Cruzapo found Patrolman Charles Kosbab, who was in the area responding to an activated fire alarm, and told him of the incident. A search of the area for the robbers was unsuccessful, police said.

High sewage rate looms for Hoboken

88 1/21/83

A rise in operating costs, coupled with the deteriorating condition of the lines, may mean a higher sewerage bill for Hoboken residents this year.

Both Edwin Chius, the city's business administrator, and Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the council's water and sewerage committee, said yesterday such a rise is probable for this year to meet a \$40,000 deficit in operating costs this year.

Ranieri said his committee will soon meet with Chius and other city officials to go over the sewerage finances to determine how much of an increase will be needed. Also, the committee will discuss a proposal for a \$3 million bond issue to fund repairs on the city's sewerage lines and at its

main pumping station.

"We've already used some of this year's money to pay for it last year," Ranieri said yesterday referring to emergency allocations passed by the council.

According to Ranieri and Chius, the city's sewerage rate is graduated on the basis of water consumption. However, that consumption has been lower than expected this year. As a result the revenue collected has been lower than anticipated.

Meanwhile, the sewerage department ran up a larger bill than expected in overtime as employees worked to repair breaks and collapses in the lines throughout the year.

Meanwhile, Ranieri explained that general utility and equipment costs also have risen.

Landlord issued summons

88 1/21/83

The Hoboken health department has taken action against the landlord of the controversial houses at 223 Madison St. and 327

Monroe St. for failing to provide heat.

The houses are owned by Luis Miele, who, with the help of the tenants from 223 Madison, fought efforts this summer by the city housing officials to evict the tenants and close the building.

James Farina, the city's health director, said he had instructed health officers to check the two buildings yesterday on reports that the tenants had no heat.

Patricia Mitten, the city's

health officer, said she had issued a summons on both buildings and would wait to see that the landlord put heating oil into the buildings' furnaces. She said if he did not do this by last night, she would order the oil and bill it to Miele, under the powers of a city ordinance.

Farina said his office would also seek to have a jail-sentence placed on Miele because of past problems with the building. "We can't have people literally freezing in their house this year."