

\$10.75M office complex OK'd

Hoboken Planning Board gives final approval to project site plan

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Construction of the eight-story office building could begin at 12 Hudson Place the first week of April, according to Michael Ocello, chairman of the planning board.

The final approval comes after months of controversy, and approvals both tentative and conditional.

The Baker family, which is developing the office complex, had been given final site plan approval in October last year on condition that Robert Baker, one of the principals, secure a waterfront development permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection, and a sanitary sewer permit.

On Jan. 28, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Hoboken a \$37,000 grant to help finance the \$10.75 million office complex under the Urban Development Action Grant program.

Under the terms of the permit, Hoboken will lend the \$37,000 in federal funds to the Baker family at a low rate of interest. The eight-story structure, to be built along River Street near the ferry terminal, will contain 90,000 square feet of office space with small retail areas on the first floor, outdoor park and a pedestrian walkway. It will be built of steel and concrete but will have a red brick Victorian facade to match the architecture of the downtown neighborhood.

After the members passed the resolution on the office building, they held a hearing on the city's proposed 1986 master plan review statement. The planning board drafted the review statement with the help of consultant Ralph Seligman, who said he thinks some changes must be made to the master plan. The board is developing the city has been experiencing since the last master plan was adopted in 1979. "We had said in 1979 that there was a sense of change in the city," he said. "Now that change is obvious."

Seligman began his statement with a slide presentation describing general conditions of the city.

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dustrial," he said. "We need an industrial area to provide jobs for people who want to work nearby."

But residents' James Caulfield objected, saying the area presents tremendous possibilities for construction of middle- and low-income housing. "It's better than bringing warehouses to the city," he said.

Seligman disagreed, saying there is recycling activity in the area and public works that make equipment that would make the area unsuitable for residential housing.

Councilman Joseph DeLaFave agreed with Seligman and the idea of an industrial park to provide jobs. But, he said, the employment section has to be incorporated into the planning in order to work.

The statement suggests that residential building heights of more than eight to 10 stories should no longer be allowed in the R-3 district in the southwest corner of the city, Seligman said they have to be changed to the city to help preserve the industrial atmosphere of Hoboken.

Fred Bado, former community development director, said he is concerned about big developments and walls creating a "self-contained environment."

Seligman assured him the master plan will address that revision.

Ocello said the board will hold another meeting on the proposed 1986 master plan review statement that would include input from last night's meeting. He said the review will probably be adopted in April. The review is mandated every six years by state law, and the master plan guides development through regulation.

Hoboken school race down by 2

Two candidates for the Hoboken Board of Education withdrew from the race yesterday, the deadline for changing the ballot before the April 15 election.

Geri Panpoliano and Kevin "Bobo" Toomey requested that their names be removed from the ballot, leaving 11 candidates for three three-year seats.

The remaining candidates are Theresa Ann Arroyo, Perry Belfiore, James Farina, Marguerite Gaspar, Otto Horowitz, Graciella McEwen, Mario Mercedino, and Michael Rossano.

John Pope, Joseph Rafter and Michael Rossano, the three incumbents whose terms expire at the time of the election, are currently board members.

Arroyo and Rafter ran unopposed in the Jan. 14 election. They are running with Rossano as a slate sponsored by the Committee for Quality Education.

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"The reason I am a viable candidate is I had the wisdom 50 years ago to marry a girl named Corvelli," said Toomey. "That's why we can't lose, because of all the senior citizens." He knows all of them by first name, he added, referring to his wife's volunteer work.

Rafter and Farina assailed Vezzetti more directly than they did the rival slate of Lourdes Arroyo, Joseph Rafter and Michael Rossano, who is backed by the mayor. Both said they could win a "street fight."

Farina, introduced to the loudest applause of the evening, recited a list of incidents which he said Vezzetti had locked horns, concluding that "he doesn't have any issues, and all he wants to do is disgrace me."

Prominent in the audience for the event were petitioners to recall Vezzetti, city employees, and at least four City Council members: Steve Cappiello, Robert A. Ranieri, Mary Francone and David Roberts.

Arroyo said the rival ticket "is exactly what we oppose." They are trying to protect their own interests.

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Ranieri and mayor collide over a car

By Rick Tosches

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri is expected tonight to call for an investigation into Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's use of a municipal car when he was involved in an accident Friday in Downtown Jersey City.

Ranieri said he plans to request an investigation into the incident during tonight's City Council meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

According to East District Police reports in Jersey City, Vezzetti was traveling west on Second Street at about 9 a.m. when his car collided at the intersection of Second Street and Jersey Avenue with a car driven by the Rev. Francisco Fuentes of Jersey City.

Police said Fuentes was driving south on Jersey Avenue when the two vehicles collided.

Police described the incident as minor, with damage to both vehicles under \$500. No one was injured, police said.

Ranieri, however, said the municipal car the mayor was driving suffered extensive damage with estimates of \$1,200.

Ranieri said he was calling for the probe to obtain information about the mishap. "I am now requesting some basic information as far as our (the city's) liability," Ranieri said.

He said he would seek answers about the city's insurance coverage, the total cost of damage, if the car "was totally demolished," while also asking the city to submit an accident report to the council.

Ranieri added — Page 18.

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Meanwhile, Vezzetti said he was traveling in a detective's car to Jersey City to investigate the accident. He said the car was not damaged.

"Somebody hit me," he said. "They hit me on the side."

As to Ranieri's charges of his being irresponsible, Vezzetti said, "He's irresponsible. He's the one that's been irresponsible for making an irresponsible statement like that."

The car, meanwhile, has been taken to the municipal garage for repairs, Ranieri said.

New theater group presents Fry's play

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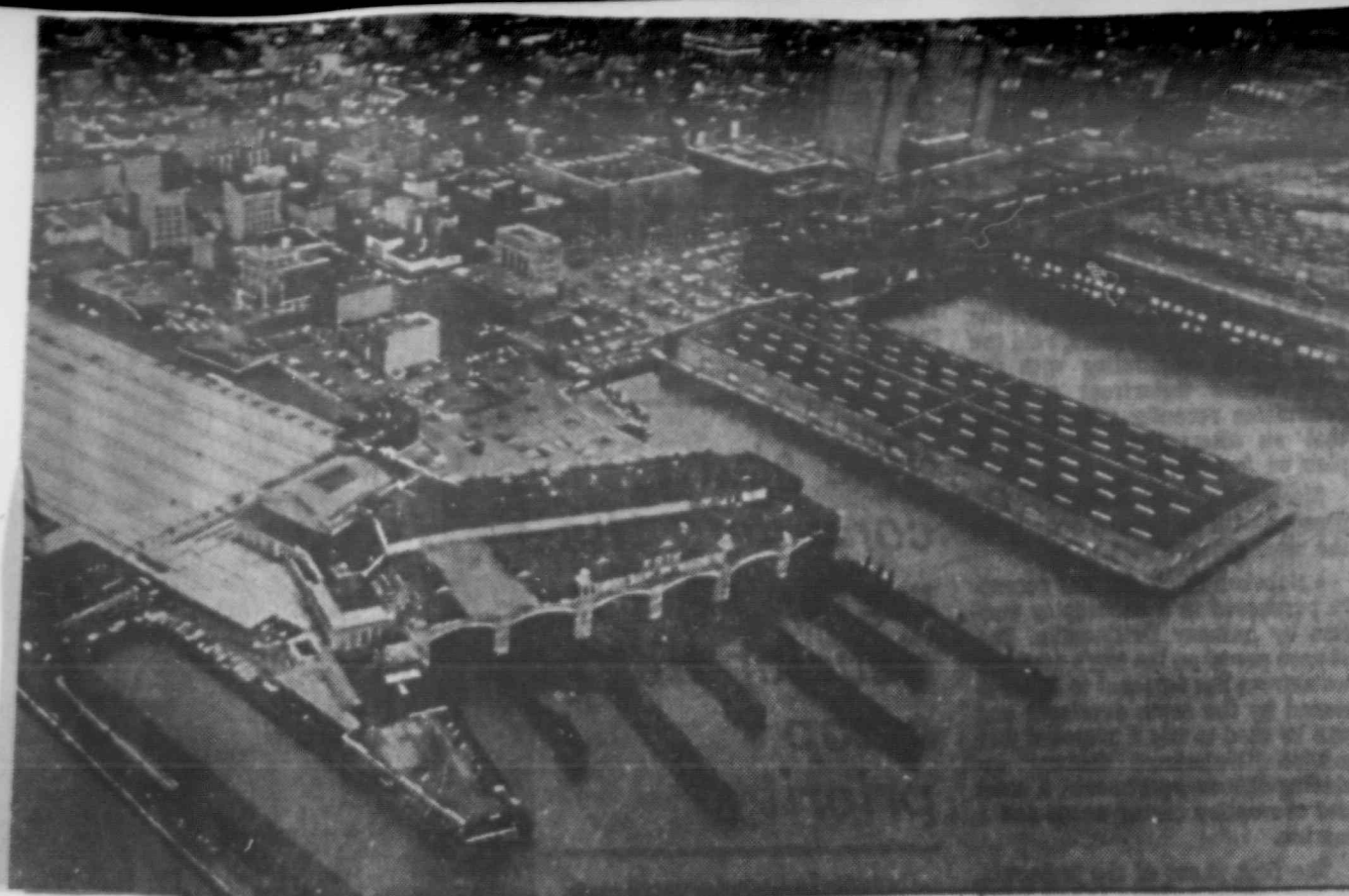


Photo by Gary Higgins

DEVELOPMENT OF the Hoboken waterfront, above, played a key role in the mayoral campaign won by Thomas Vezzetti, right, over incumbent Mayor Steve Capiello, far right.



Union Club Condo proposal beset by snag

By JENNIFER FREY
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Developers who want to convert the landmark Union Club into condominiums unveiled their plans last night, only to run into a snag.

The proposed application for the club property does not meet the requirement for loading bays, said Planning Board Attorney George Pappas. The board will proceed with the hearings but asked the applicants to advertise publicly that a loading variance is mandated. The board suggested the developers amend their application.

The club has been the scene of more weddings, christenings and political feasts than anyone can remember.

Architect James McNeight hailed the club project as one that would enhance the beauty of the neighborhood, lessen existing environmental hazards such as traffic exhaust and vibration and provide more housing without displacing anyone.

Under the application, the club would be turned into a 39-unit moderate to luxury housing complex. Its windows would be opened up, arches would be added to the windows, and the original ornamental cornice would be restored. An additional two-story penthouse and an elaborate roof would top the structure.

The existing building — at 600-602 Hudson St., bounded by Sixth and Court streets — has been closed since December and "is a sore thumb to the neighborhood," said McNeight at the board's meeting.

"The building is a detriment to the neighborhood, because it is a big blank warehouse in the middle of what is the most prestigious part of the city," said McNeight.

McNeight pictured the club as a lavish architectural masterpiece built in 1863 by the then-prominent German community as a palatial social club.

In the mid-1930s, the German owners sold the building to the Union Club, which turned it into the central meeting place in Hoboken, said McNeight.

The renovation would restore the building to its original stature, as well as conform with the zoning for the area.

Joseph Corrado, who lives two houses away from the club, said he has no ax to grind with the developers and would prefer a condominium project to a catering hall for a neighbor. "We knew every Saturday what was on the menu by the smells," he said.

Corrado said he sees the proposed renovation as beautiful, and he is said that if the project does not through, the building either will deteriorate further or be replaced something worse.

Landmark club was site of weddings, christenings and political feasts

The area is zoned for residential use. In order to operate as a catering hall, the club needed conditional approval from the Planning Board.

Although the proposed condominium project would provide only seven parking spaces for a maximum of 85 residents, those few spaces would be seven more than the club provided, said McNeight.

Subject to the board's approving the project, the city Parking Authority said it would rent 32 spaces in its garage a block away from the project for a monthly charge of \$85 per space.

Traffic in the area would be decreased by the conversion, because the catering hall seated 1,000 people, said McNeight.

Catherine Harris of 620 Hudson St. said she does not swallow the architect's testimony. "There are problems with parking now, and it will only get worse," she said.

"No one is going to walk five blocks if they can get a space in front of their house," she added.

Harris lamented the change in the city's character that she said this renovation will bring, saying, "there are too many condominiums in Hoboken," and added, "I had many a good dance there."

Exhaust and vibration from air conditioning also will be lessened considerably by the conversion, said McNeight.

City Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who is also a board member, questioned whether the housing would be affordable for Hoboken residents. The attorney for the residents, James Segreto of this city, said the costly renovation probably would attract professional people.

The building changed hands last spring, when it was purchased for \$1 million by four partners prominent in local politics.

The co-owners are: Helen Macri, then City Council president; Louise DiNicola, whose husband, Anthony, was then director of the Revenue and Finance Department; Martha Romano, the wife of Councilman Anthony H. Romano; and Joseph Lisa, then the council's internal auditor.

City seeks a theme for a flag design

Quiche and cappuccino? History? Official seals?

Whatever speaks to you of Hoboken is what Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's Advisory Committee on Culture and the Arts wants to see in its flag-design contest.

Any resident or former resident — children and adults — may participate in the competition. The deadline is May 1.

The idea for the contest came when students of two city schools wrote City Hall inquiring about the city flag, said Betsy Carpenter, chairman pro tem of the committee. "When our committee heard that the city was obliged to report back that we

had no flag, our committee went into action."

Contestants may submit designs in any medium — charcoal, pen and ink, watercolor, etc. — on paper at least 9-by-12 inches.

Entries should be mailed to: The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Culture and the Arts, City Hall, Hoboken, N.J. 07030. They must be postmarked by May 1.

Tom Settembre, art teacher at Demarest School, is coordinator, Carpenter said.

Winners will be announced June 14, Flag Day, and all entries will be displayed. — Margaret Schmidt

Independents ready to take on Vezzetti

By Blanca M. Quintanilla

Claiming a readiness to fight Mayor Thomas Vezzetti and his administration, the Independents for Hoboken School Board slate announced its candidates last night.

With the music of Bruce Springsteen in the background, James Farina, John Pope and Otto Hottendorf talked and exchanged political jokes with some 100 supporters who gathered at the Clam Broth House on Newark Street to give the three candidates moral support.

The three are seeking election to the school board on the April 11 ballot.

Hottendorf, Pope and Farina pledged unity last night in order to win the school board race. The three incumbents are seeking three three-year terms on the board.

Hottendorf was the first candidate to address the audience. He said, "A house divided in itself cannot stand up. Today, we are united and with unity we are going to win."

Rumors were circulating before Hottendorf was officially announced as one of the candidates that Mario Mercado, now an independent candidate, would join Pope and Farina and the Independents for Hoboken School Board slate.

But Hottendorf denied this last night. He said, "Those who wanted the Vezzetti candidates to win started the rumor. But I was on the ticket from the beginning."

When Farina was asked, he said that negotiations were going on between his ticket and Unidad, a newly formed Hispanic group in the city. Farina said his ticket had been waiting for word from Unidad to

million, which represents a \$5 million increase from last year's budget. Pope claims the cuts in state funding have caused the difference and insisted the new budget does not reflect an increase from last year.

The school board president said the state contributed 65 percent of the total budget last year and Hoboken contributed the other 35 percent. But this year, he said, the state will only contribute 50 percent.

"This issue on the budget is the city's contribution," Pope said. "It doesn't mean you have to raise the taxes. It only means getting the proper taxes for rates."

"But the mayor insists that we can save on the budget by eliminating positions," he said. "I don't agree."

Instead, Pope was highly critical of the mayor and his "campaigning" for the slate he supports. The slate is composed by Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano. All three candidates are sponsored by the Committee for Quality Education.

Rafter and Arroyo were unsuccessful in the January election even though they enjoyed the support of Mayor Vezzetti.

Pope brought up the issue last night. "We'll take them to the streets and we'll teach them a lesson," he warned.

Pope also repeated several times that he wants to see Vezzetti on the street.

Asked if he would participate in a debate, if there is one scheduled before the election, Pope said he would participate and welcome the opportunity.

"It will be a way to tell my side of the story," Pope said. "I'm ready to stand up to criticism and I'm ready to stand up to all of them."

But it was Farina, who is also the city clerk, who was very critical of Vezzetti, and brought out roars from the big room filled with anti-administration and Vezzetti enemies.

"That thing that sits in the mayor's office," he said, "has accused me of slandering him up and down the streets of Hoboken."

"He is the one that's running up and down the city, campaigning for his candidates and using public transportation and on taxpayers' money," Farina said, claiming that Vezzetti doesn't even know the name of his own candidates.

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Instead, Pope was highly critical of the mayor and his "campaigning" for the slate he supports. The slate is composed by Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano. All three candidates are sponsored by the Committee for Quality Education.

Rafter and Arroyo were unsuccessful in the January election even though they enjoyed the support of Mayor Vezzetti.

Pope brought up the issue last night. "We'll take them to the streets and we'll teach them a lesson," he warned.

Pope also repeated several times that he wants to see Vezzetti on the street.

Asked if he would participate in a debate, if there is one scheduled before the election, Pope said he would participate and welcome the opportunity.

"It will be a way to tell my side of the story," Pope said. "I'm ready to stand up to criticism and I'm ready to stand up to all of them."

But it was Farina, who is also the city clerk, who was very critical of Vezzetti, and brought out roars from the big room filled with anti-administration and Vezzetti enemies.

"That thing that sits in the mayor's office," he said, "has accused me of slandering him up and down the streets of Hoboken."

"He is the one that's running up and down the city, campaigning for his candidates and using public transportation and on taxpayers' money," Farina said, claiming that Vezzetti doesn't even know the name of his own candidates.

Farina said he thinks Vezzetti is upset because he plans to call the county prosecutor's office today to say that Vezzetti

Hoboken CDA has 500 unit affordable housing goal

By PETER WEHRWEIN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The beginnings of a new affordable housing plan was shown to the City Council last night, ending four months of inaction on ways to cope with a citywide housing crunch.

A goal of 500 new rental units and moderately priced condominiums is laid out in a six-page report on the 1988 program strategy for the city's Community Development Agency.

would be in the \$300- to \$500-per-month price range. The condominium price range would be \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The CDA report did not give a deadline for construction of the 500 units.

In a separate but related part of the same report, there was a goal mapped out of 75 to 100 new housing units for the elderly. The \$3.3 million to \$5 million cost would be covered by a grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Coleman said that despite federal cutbacks in

Financing plans for construction or renovation of the units will be worked out with five or six local developers, the state Housing Mortgage Finance Agency, the state Department of Community Affairs and the federal Community Development Block Grant program.

CDA Executive Director Michael J. Coleman, who presented his agency's program strategy to the council during a caucus, said he could not name the developers because negotiations are in progress.

According to Coleman, affordable rental units

housing program, money still is available in the program to provide housing for the elderly.

The council took no action on the CDA strategy last night. It has limited powers over the mainly federally funded agency, which has a variety of programs to rebuild the city.

An ambitious affordable housing plan that would have required developers to make a contribution to the city for inexpensive housing was shown to the City Council in September. A public hearing was held in October, but the plan never was acted on by the council.

Reluctant Council OKs Vezzetti's judge

By Rick Toeches

The Hoboken City Council, after tabling the resolution at several prior meetings and after learning last night that any further inaction could force the city's courts to close, finally ratified Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's appointment of Steven Zamrin as municipal judge.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0.

The council was confronted with the dilemma when it was due to vote on a resolution approving the appointment of Ross London as acting municipal court judge. London's term was due to expire today.

Before voting on London's appointment, Council President E. Norman Wilson informed the council of "a legal technicality."

Wilson said a recent ruling handed down by an assignment judge called for the city to first appoint a permanent municipal judge before naming an acting judge. An acting judge sits in the absence of the permanent judge.

"The position we find ourselves in is that if we do not have a permanent judge, we probably couldn't continue operating the municipal court until one is appointed," Wilson said.

Wilson also alluded to recent council meetings where the council members were asked by Vezzetti to participate in recommending candidates for the post, "but then were not allowed to participate."

Wilson said it was for that reason he, along with a majority of council members, could not

previously support Zamrin's appointment and tabled the measure.

"If we do not act tonight, we will in fact close down our court system," Wilson said. "We are forced to vote tonight."

Zamrin fills the unexpired term of the late Judge Peter Giordano which runs through July 1, 1986. Zamrin had previously been the city prosecutor. A new prosecutor has not yet been named.

City law director Sal D'Amelio said he would appoint a successor to Zamrin within "a couple of days." Until then, he will assign someone from the department to handle the duties.

In other business, the council requested Vezzetti to return two public safety department vehicles the mayor's office was

using after he was involved in a minor accident Friday in Downtown Jersey City.

The vote was 7-2, with Vezzetti supporters Councilwoman Helen Cunningham and Councilman Joseph DellaFave voting against it.

According to the resolution, the mayor's use of the two public safety vehicles is in violation of the agreement under which the cars were purchased under the state Safe and Clean Streets Act, which calls for the vehicles to be used by the Public Safety Department.

Cunningham objected to the resolution, calling it "out of order, late and a political move." She also called the resolution "disrespectful of the office of the mayor."

State heeds mayor on office for jobless

The commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Labor has instructed the state Unemployment Insurance Administration to consider the over 1,000 petitions Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti sent the state protesting the possible closing of the city's Unemployment Insurance Office.

Vezzetti yesterday received a letter from Department of Labor Commissioner Charles

Serrano thanking him for his Jan. 30 letter and the petitions.

"I have instructed the Unemployment Insurance administrators to consider these petitions very seriously in their deliberations," Serrano told Vezzetti.

"Let me assure you at this time that no final decision has been made regarding the closing of this facility. I appreciate your concern."



These two storefronts on Washington Street show the two worlds of Hoboken — one the old-time working class, the other the new arrivals from New York City

Hobokenite attends anti-nuke parley

By Jim DeRogatis

A Hoboken resident represented the United States last week at a planning session for the Third International Conference of Nuclear-Free Cities in Perugia, Italy.

Judith Karpova, a member of Nuclear-Free Hoboken and Nuclear-Free America, was one of 60 representatives at the conference from Italy, Greece, Scotland, England, and Spain. She was the lone delegate from

the United States. The session was held to finalize plans for the conference to be held on Oct. 9 to 12 in Perugia. The conference will draw elected officials from nuclear free cities around the world.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti issued a proclamation naming Karpova as the official representative of Hoboken. Karpova extended greetings from the city to Perugia officials and returned with gifts from the

Italians for the mayor and members of the Hoboken City Council. The area is famous for its candle-lighting ceremony. Karpova said. "The town officials gave me several packages of the candles along with booklets explaining the ceremony to present to the mayor and council members."

Among the actions at the planning session was the adoption of July 1 as International Nuclear-Free Zone Day. The

Hoboken City Council passed an ordinance last year naming the city as one of these nuclear-free zones. The city was the 62nd municipality in the nation to adopt such a measure.

Karpova, who paid for the trip to Italy with her own funds, said she found the session "an awesome experience."

"It was fascinating and I'm very glad I went," Karpova said. "It was great to be part of this spirit of international sentiment on the move."

Hoboken seeks ideas for a flag

HOBOKEN—The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Culture and the Arts is asking all current and former residents to help them design a municipal flag.

The committee is sponsoring the Design the Hoboken Flag contest, which is open to anyone drawing or painting in any medium, on paper measuring at least nine by 12 inches. Contestants may enter as many times as they like, but all submissions must be postmarked by May 1.

The idea for the contest was born

after students from two local schools wrote to City Hall inquiring about the existence of a municipal flag.

"When our committee heard that the city was obliged to report back that we had no flag, our committee went into action," said Betsy Carpenter, chairman pro tem of the committee.

Committee member Tom Settembre, a teacher at Demarest School who coordinated the Hoboken Litter Poster Contest, is serving as the chairman of the flag contest.

Settembre said the design of the works and the ideas in each entry will be considered before technical execution to insure that children will be able to compete against adults.

All entries must include the contestant's name, address and phone number, and should be mailed to the committee at City Hall.

The winner of the contest will be announced and all the entries displayed on Flag Day, June 14, Settembre said.

Fireworks expected tonight

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Zoning Board meeting tonight is expected to be an especially heated hearing involving variance applications from the developers of 222 Bloomfield St. and 410 Eighth St.

Meanwhile, vandals apparently smashed a van window in Hoboken over the weekend in what board member Thomas Newman has charged is retaliation for his criticism of several real estate developments.

The Bloomfield Street building, which is being developed by Shumba Inc. of Chatham, has previously been before city agencies. It was denied an easement by the City Council after members of the First Ward Association spoke against the project.

Newman, who is president of the First Ward Block Association, said yesterday that the Zoning Board could vote tonight to have the developers tear down a penthouse that they already installed.

The Eighth Street building, formerly a factory, is before the board for the first time. Plans filed with the city buildings office show 96 residential units in the old factory and an accessory building for parking. The garage would meet the requirement of one spot per unit but would do so by reducing spot size.

The units are designed as duplexes, with eight floors in the building that, according to the plans, now has four floors with very high ceilings.

See FIREWORKS — Page 8.

Continued from Page 1.

Representatives of Shumba could not be reached. Neither could Saul Weinberg, a Hoboken developer who is handling the Eighth Street building.

Attorney Leonard Franco, who is representing both developments, could not be reached despite several telephone calls.

In a related event, Municipal Court Clerk Joan Lisa said a case pending against Newman has been transferred to the Weehawken court.

Construction Code Officer Alfred Arezzo has filed complaints against Newman charging he doesn't have the necessary approvals to operate a cabinet-making shop.

The hearing was scheduled for today in Hoboken court but was transferred because

Newman is a public official, Lisa said.

Newman said yesterday that the attack on his van "could not have been random vandalism."

Newman's van was parked in a lot on Second Street and Park Avenue Sunday night when vandals smashed a window, damage which will cost \$150 to \$200 to repair, Newman said.

Newman, who is an alternate on the Zoning Board and therefore only votes when a regular member is absent, is often the voice of dissent on the board.

Before his appointment late last year, he attended many zoning hearings as a representative of the block association and spoke against projects that, for example, didn't meet the parking requirement of one off-street spot for every housing unit.

Newman said yesterday that he would spend the night in his cabinet-making shop because he feared further problems. Police Chief George Crimmins said he sent a memo to the night officers asking them to check periodically on the property.

Cops take back Vezzetti's car

By Rick Tosches

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's woes involving his use of a city car continue to mount. Yesterday, Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. repossessed the blue Ford Vezzetti had been using. The City Council Wednesday night ruled the mayor's use of the vehicle was a violation since the car was purchased to be used by the Public Safety Department.

Meanwhile, Hoboken Board of Education Trustee James Farina has sent a letter to Hudson County Prosecutor Harold J. Ruvoldt Jr. asking him to investigate Vezzetti's alleged use of a city vehicle to campaign for candidates in the April 15 school board election.

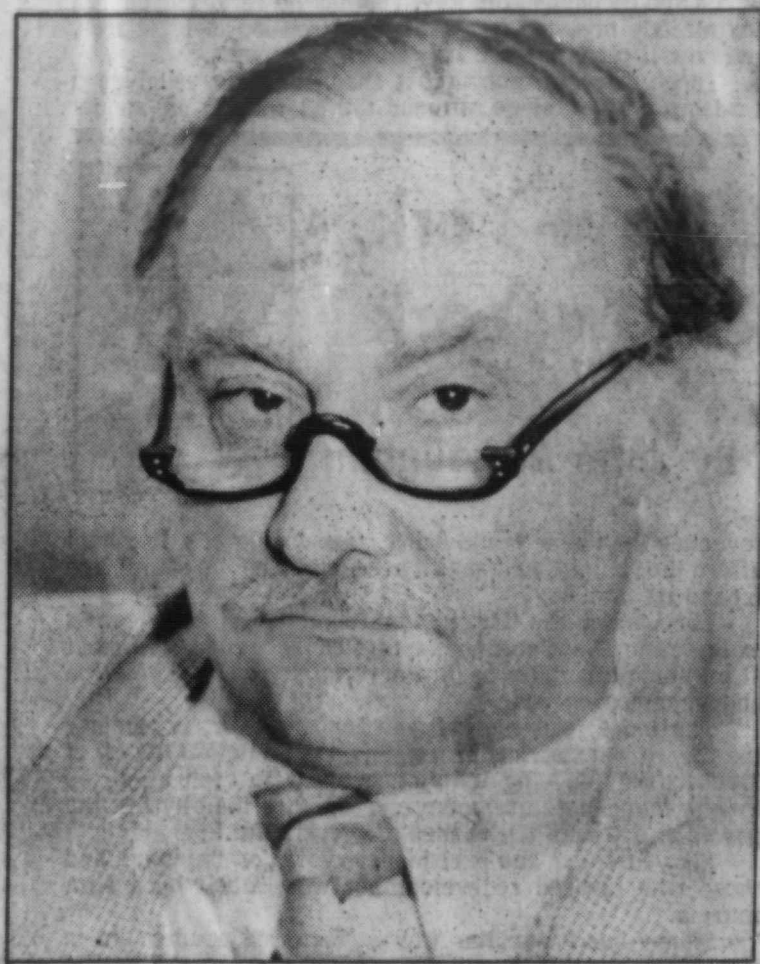
Crimmins repossessed the car after Councilman Robert Ranieri asked that the vehicle be returned when he learned that Vezzetti was involved in a minor auto accident with the car on Feb. 28.

Crimmins said he personally repossessed the vehicle late yesterday afternoon after learning of the council's decision. The car, he said, was parked right outside City Hall when it was reclaimed.

Crimmins said the car was reassigned to the Public Safety Department for further use.

Meanwhile, Vezzetti said, "It was the first time that a mayor has been stripped of a city car. This was done by a council that had allowed (former Mayor Steve) Cappelletti to use a car. It's obstructive."

Vezzetti said the council is singling this issue out "because



Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti. Not exactly a driving force.

it has no other issue against me. They can't question my honesty or integrity."

Vezzetti, who is now without a car, said it would hinder or limit his duties as mayor.

Vezzetti also called the resolution to strip him of his car an attempt by Councilman Robert Ranieri (the resolution's sponsor) to obstruct him.

Vezzetti's problems con-

tinued when Farina, in a letter said that on Saturday he witnessed Vezzetti driving through the city streets with a city-owned unmarked police car campaign with a bullhorn.

Vezzetti has announced his support for three school board hopefuls: Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano. Rafter and Arroyo ran unsuccessfully in the Jan. 14 election.

"I am concerned mainly with the violation of law by the mayor and his illegal use of taxpayers' money in his campaign to get votes for his candidates' ticket," Farina said.

Vezzetti had no comment. Farina said his concerns include the following civil and criminal violations of law: The use of public property by an elected official, the use of public property for the campaigning and canvassing for votes and the recently-adopted code of ethics for municipal officials concerning the private use of public property.

Farina added he was writing the letter because he does not want to jeopardize state funds for next year and the mayor's use of the vehicles puts the city in a liability posture and is an illegal use.

By James Kopchains

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti of Hoboken will urge the Jersey City City Council Thursday to join Hoboken in creating a board to arbitrate border disputes.

Vezzetti said Friday that he wants to speak to the council at its regular meeting on Thursday to find a solution to controversies surrounding common problems between the two cities.

Also at the meeting, the council will consider water supply agreements Jersey City is negotiating with Lyndhurst and Hoboken for the next five years.

Vezzetti said he wanted to ask the council's cooperation ex-

amining the Newport City waterfront development project and troublesome water and sewer lines in the southwestern portion of Hoboken which have been blamed on Jersey City.

The Newport City development which will lie on the Hoboken boundary, has caused friction between the two cities because of fears that the proposed shopping mall will hurt Hoboken stores. Also, Hoboken has been chosen as the site for a major waterfront development by the Port Authority, which will compete with Newport City for housing and businesses.

Vezzetti said a common group, meeting on a regular schedule, could help to smooth over problems and solve them

before they are blown out of proportion.

"I think that our two cities should have some place to go when these situations develop," Vezzetti said.

Thursday's meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the council chambers at City Hall.

The water supply agreement is a continuation of the contracts under which Hoboken and Lyndhurst agree to purchase water from Jersey City's Boonton Reservoir.

The contract between Hoboken and Jersey City would call for a rate of \$734 per million gallons of water daily. Hoboken, under the agreement, would purchase at least 8 million gallons daily.

Filipino congratulates Vezzetti

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti was honored yesterday as apparently the first American official to recognize the election of Corason Aquino, president of the Philippines.

Jersey City resident Paul Tumang, a godson of slain political leader Benigno Aquino's brother, visited Vezzetti to secure a copy of his Feb. 11 letter congratulating Mrs. Aquino.

He is taking the letter on his upcoming visit to Manila, he

said, to try to have it published in a newspaper there.

"He was the first elected American official to recognize Cory Aquino as the duly elected president of the Philippines," Tumang said, noting that Vezzetti's letter was dated four days after the election and more than a week before former President Ferdinand Marcos fled the country.

He also thanked Vezzetti for marching in solidarity with the Philippine people in Washington last week.

"He marched with us and suffered with us in Washington, D.C., during the rally urging President Reagan and Congress to put more pressure on President Marcos to step down," Tumang said.

Vezzetti, who considers his June 11 victory over the political establishment analogous to Aquino's victory, said he is proud to have been the first American official formally to

recognize Aquino and the only mayor in the parade.

Tumang, a genetic engineer, said he visited Vezzetti as an individual, despite his connection with the Aquino family.

He and his wife have lived in Jersey City since 1980 and have many relatives, including five children, in the Philippines.

He is a native of Concepcion, the Filipino town where the Aquinos are from.

Vezzetti OK'd to drive city cars again

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The keys to a city car are back in Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's hands.

The free-wheeling mayor is again using the black 1978 Mercury Marquis driven by his predecessor, Steve Cappelletti. The car, equipped with a police radio, was reconditioned at the city garage and handed over to Vezzetti Tuesday, apparently at his request.

Cappelletti was among the City Council members who, by a 7-2 vote a week earlier, barred Vezzetti from driving the city's unmarked police cars. The council debate focused on Vezzetti's driving record and the rule that restricts the state-funded police cars to public safety use.

Originally bought for Cappelletti, the mayoral Mercury went to the police Narcotics Squad when Vezzetti traded up to an unmarked police car. Other vehicles will be repaired or reassigned to replace the narcotics squad's loss, said Police Chief George Crimmins.

Hoboken prepares for July 4

By Rick Tosches

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti has established the Hoboken Liberty Weekend Task Force to coordinate the city's participation in the July 4th celebration of the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday.

Vezzetti said the task force was established to ensure "a safe and exciting weekend for all Hoboken residents."

Vezzetti called this year's holiday weekend "very special" because of Lady Liberty's centennial celebration.

"We eagerly await the spectacular celebration that will mark the centennial, including

the first 'Operation Sail' since our 1976 bi-centennial," Vezzetti said.

Given Hoboken's close proximity to the statue and the many planned events which will be scheduled, Vezzetti said the task force will see that the city is properly prepared for the weekend.

"In addition to our logistical concerns we want to ensure that Hoboken is a participant in the festivities," the mayor said.

City officials have met with the Port Authority of New York-New Jersey and Operation Sail to discuss Hoboken's role in the weekend. In addition, Police Chief George Crimmins has at-

tended Coast Guard meetings to discuss logistics for the weekend.

The task force will include representatives from all "applicable city departments, including police and fire and representatives from various agencies and committees who will need to be involved in the coordination of the weekend."

Vezzetti has asked that two City Council members serve on the force. He has asked that candidates contact City Clerk James Farina.

Vezzetti added he hopes to convene the first meeting of the force as soon as possible since "time is short."

Dance leader wins grant, but still can't afford city

By Jim DeRogatis

A Hoboken dance company leader was one of the 86 artists selected from almost 700 applicants across the country to receive a coveted \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts recently — that's the good news.

The bad news is that Martha Bowers can no longer afford to live in Hoboken because of skyrocketing rents. "Hoboken used to be a good place for artists, but now it's run by real estate investors who just want to see how much money they can pass around," she said.

Bowers, 32 years old, originally moved to the New York area from Chicago 10 years ago. She lived in a loft on Washington Street in Hoboken for the past six years.

The loft was the home base and rehearsal space for Martha Bowers' Dance/Theater/Etc., a five-person dance company that Bowers described as "in the modern dance family, a blend of dance, theater, comedy, and documentary."

The dance company was forced to move from the Hoboken loft to a space in Brooklyn several months ago. Bowers said her landlords were "squeezed out."

"They found themselves in a situation where they were holding a building that had become very valuable and that they couldn't afford to own," Bowers said.

Bowers said the Washington Street loft never cost her more than \$500 per month. However, she said the current cost of a similar space can be up to \$2,000 per month. She added that loft spaces are becoming increasingly scarce.

"I wanted to stay in New Jersey," Bowers said. "I tried, but it was impossible. All the artists I know in Hoboken have either left or are in the process of leaving."

"It isn't just artists. The real estate boom affects everybody who doesn't have a lot of money," she added.

Bowers said the \$5,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts will be used to fund the

company's tours. The group has performed throughout the country as well as in Denmark and Ireland.

"I had always hoped that I would win the grant," Bowers said. "But I was surprised when it actually happened. It is the sort of thing you apply for every year, but you never think you will actually win."

Bowers' company was chosen by a panel of choreographers who evaluated examples of each applicant's work. The panel awarded a total of \$631,000.

Congressman Frank Guarini, whose office announced the grant, was among those to praise Bowers. "I am very pleased that one of Hudson County's many artists has been selected," he said. He added that he was sad to hear that Bowers has since left the area.

Martha Bowers Dance/Theater/Etc. will be performing on May 30 and 31 and June 1 at the Field, located on Houston Street between Broadway and Mercer Street in Manhattan.

9 of 11 candidates for school board to speak at forum

By Margaret Schmidt

Nine of the 11 candidates for the Hoboken Board of Education are expected to speak tomorrow at a forum sponsored by the Sixth Ward Block Association.

As of Friday, organizer John DePalma had received acceptance letters from: Peter Perry Bellflore, Marguerite Gaspar, Graciella McEwen, Mario Merced, incumbents and running mates John Pope, the board president, and James Farina, and running mates Lourdes Arroyo, Joseph Rafter and Michael Rossano.

Farina may be late, however, because of a conflict

with a special City Council meeting, DePalma explained. Farina is the city clerk.

Candidates Theresa Ann Alfano hadn't responded as of Friday, and incumbent Otto Hotendorf had said he didn't think he would attend, DePalma said.

The forum is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Martha Institute, Sixth Street and Park Avenue.

The candidates will be asked to make five-minute presentations on what issues they see facing the school system and how they plan to solve problems. There will also be a short question-and-answer session.

The candidates have also been invited to a forum on

Wednesday sponsored by the Hoboken Environment Committee and the Hoboken Clergy Coalition.

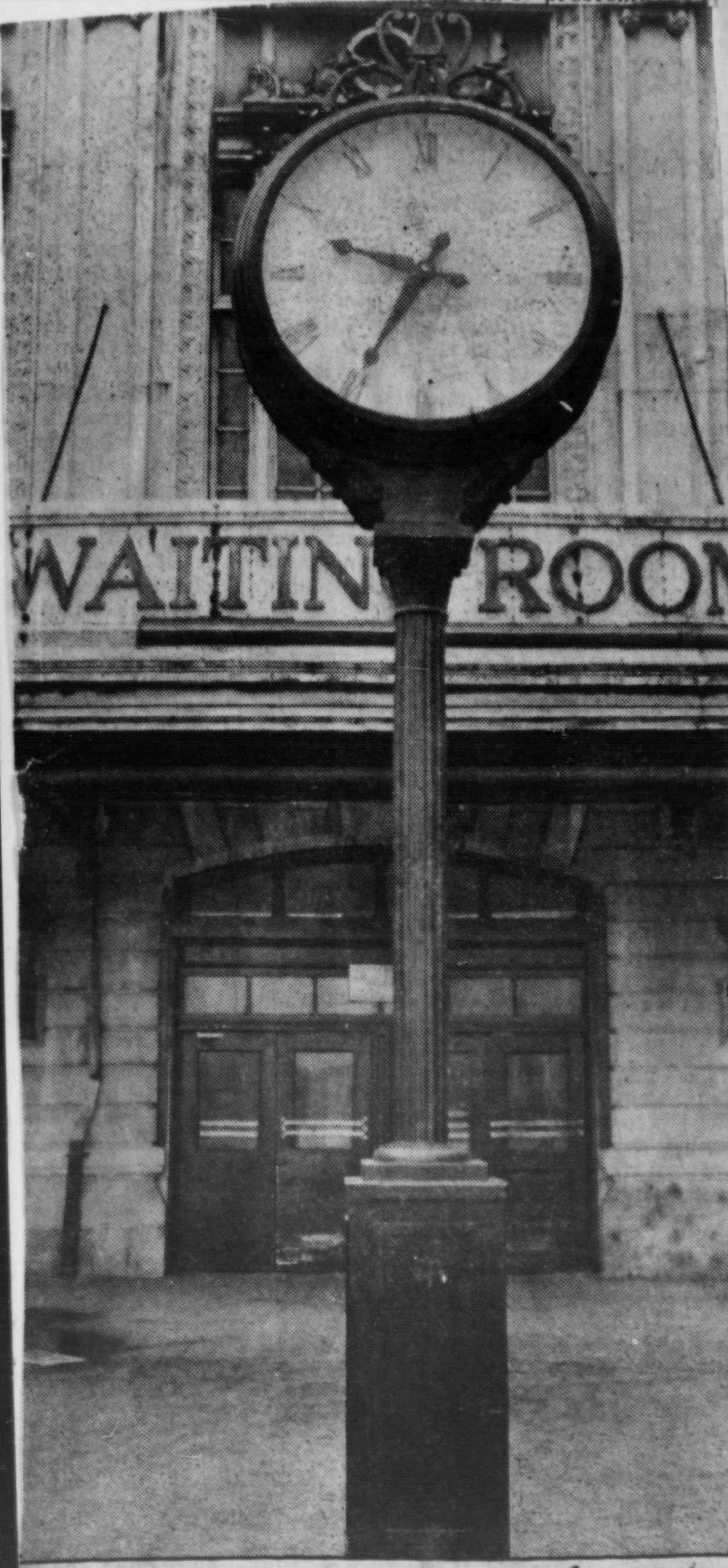
Organizer Helen Manogue, a member of HEC, said that as of Friday she'd received acceptance letters from Arroyo, Rafter, Rossano, and Merced. McEwen had said she wouldn't attend.

No other responses were received, Manogue said.

The forum is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the parish hall of St. Matthew's Church, 53 Eighth St.

The election is April 15.

On the ballot will be the candidates for three three-year terms and the proposed \$25 million 1986-87 schools' budget.



TIME STANDS STILL... —The standup clock at the Erie-Lackawanna Terminal Plaza park in Hoboken is stopped at 9:40. The Community Development Agency, which maintains the plaza, hopes to have the hands moving again soon.

Hoboken may curb length of bus stops

By Margaret Schmidt

Two laws that would open up bus stops for parking in Hoboken will be voted upon this week by the City Council.

The ordinances, proposed by Sixth Ward Councilman David Roberts, would abolish the 105-foot bus zones on Washington Street to add up to three parking spots on each block.

Buses would be allowed to pull into 40-foot "No Parking" areas, Roberts said.

Parking along Washington Street, the city's main shopping area, has become increasingly difficult in recent years. While acknowledging that the measures won't solve the crisis, Roberts has said every additional spot is needed.

The ordinances will be discussed at tonight's 7 p.m. council caucus in City Hall and go to a vote on Wednesday at the regular council meeting.

Also on the agenda this week are full resolutions to hire consultants for the Community Development Agency.

The contracts range from \$1,250 every two weeks for attorney and housing consultant Martin McCarthy to up to \$48,000 for urban planner Ralph Seligman.

Professional services contracts are excluded from the state bidding laws.

In other business, the council must approve the appointments before they can take effect.

See HOBOKEN — Page 8.

Continued from Page 1.

The council will consider two appointments to the municipal ethics board. Mayor Thomas Vezzetti has named Judith Karpova, a member of Hoboken Action for Nuclear Disarmament, and realtor Morgan Cline to one-year terms on the new board. The

Also, Vezzetti will proclaim today, St. Patrick's Day, "A Great Day for the Irish," and March 20 through 26 "Breath of Spring Week."

Office building funding stalled on state level

Developers of a \$10.75 million office building proposed for downtown Hoboken hit another snag this week as state officials put off their decision on financing.

The state Economic Development Authority postponed its decision on tax exempt financing until April 1, said Gerald Baker, one of the principals.

"We expect it to be approved," Baker said. "It's not going to make a hell of a lot of difference whether we break ground April 1 or April 15."

The EDA must approve \$10 million in low-interest industrial revenue bonds before the project

can go forward. It has already granted preliminary approval for the project, which earlier this year secured a \$537,500 federal Urban Development Action Grant for the city.

The Baker family, developers of the 2 Hudson Place property, and the city Community Development Agency had expected EDA to approve a grant final approval at its meeting Wednesday. The authority postponed the application until next month's meeting because of an evaluation spurred by proposed legislation that could reduce its ability to allow tax-exempt financing, Baker said.

Officials of the EDA could not be reached yesterday, although a spokeswoman confirmed that the authority is undergoing an evaluation.

The Bakers have overcome numerous hurdles in their effort to develop an eight-story building for commercial office space. Among the problems it faced were changes in design at the request of the city Planning Board and the Historic District Commission and the necessity of a court order to allow a sewerage hookup despite a state ban on large waterfront projects.

Continued from Page 1.

will issue a list of eligible voters to poll workers and the workers will check off voters' names as they come into the polling place. Rafter and Arroyo had complained that in the January election, voters only had to sign their names in composition books and there was no safeguard against double voting.

The board will prepare 100 sample ballots and post them in public areas, with at least one in the train terminal. Rafter and Arroyo had complained that there was inadequate notice of the election and that it favored the political establishment, as opposed to political newcomers. The board must send the candidates a list of the ballot postings so they can check that they are up.

The board decided against issuing sample ballots to all registered voters, as is done in a municipal election, saying it would be too costly.

At the close of the polls, election officials must tally the votes in public with candidates' challengers present.

The final tabulations in the board secretary's office must be done with an observer for each candidate present. The board reserves the right to eject anyone who becomes unruly or disruptive.

The board must instruct election officers to refrain from any and all partisan political activities while serving as paid poll workers. Rafter and Arroyo had complained that the election workers also acted as challengers for the candidates backed by the board.

The agreement in no way implies the board or its workers engaged in improprieties in the special election on Jan. 14.

Rafter said he still hopes to get the board to extend polling hours. The 2 to 9 p.m. hours, he said, will hurt his campaign because many people would vote before they go to work. He added that a campaign to arrange for those people to receive absentee ballots would be launched.

The April 15 election is the city's first regular school board election since 1978. From 1979 to 1985, the board members were appointed by the mayor.

A November referendum changed the board back to an elected body, and the January election was to expand the board from seven to nine members, the number needed under an elected system.

Every April the city will elect three board members to three-year terms and vote on the schools' budget.

Competing in April are: Rafter, Arroyo and Michael Rossano, on a slate backed by the Committee for Quality Education and Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, and incumbents Otto Hottendorf, James Farina and board President John Pope, on a slate backed by anti-Vezzetti forces.

Also, independent Graciella McEwen, Mario Mercado Jr., Theresa Ann Alfano, Marguerite Gaspar and Peter Perry Belfiore.

See RULES — Page 46.

Rules deal struck for Hoboken election

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Procedures in the April 15 Board of Education election will be modified as a result of a complaint filed by two candidates defeated in the January balloting.

The modifications are spelled out in a consent agreement, reached Wednesday before Judge Sybil Moses of the state Office of Administrative Law in Newark, between the board and candidates Lourdes Arroyo and Joseph Rafter, who are running again after finishing second in races for two separate seats, in the Jan. 14 election.

The agreement specifies that it is not an acknowledgment that improprieties took place during the election.

These changes, as outlined by board President John J. Pope, are to be in effect for the election:

□ Election officials are to issue voter registration lists to poll workers, who will check off voters' names as they cast ballots.

□ The board must post 100 sample ballots throughout the city, including in the PATH station.

□ The board must publish sample ballots in two newspapers.

□ Poll workers must tally votes in public.

□ Each candidate is entitled to have one observer present at the final tally in the board secretary's office.

□ The board must tell election officials to refrain from partisan politicking while serving as paid poll workers.

Under the agreement, Arroyo and Rafter will drop their request for a full hearing on their complaint against the board. They had charged slippish record-keeping, politicking by board officials, and election practices that discriminated against voters who commute to work in New York City.

Rules set for school board vote

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Board of Education and two board candidates have tentatively reached an agreement on election procedures.

A consent agreement, reached yesterday before Administrative Law Judge Sybil Moses in Newark, includes provisions for issuing voter registration lists to poll workers and for posting 100 sample ballots around the city.

The provisions are specifically for the April 15 election, said board attorney James Granello of Little Silver. While there is no obligation for the board to follow the procedures every year, he said, it may consider them for the annual balloting.

The agreement must be signed by candidates Lourdes Arroyo and Joseph Rafter and approved by the school board before it takes effect, Granello said.

Rafter and Arroyo had complained to state Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman that procedures in the Jan. 14 special school board election were too loose and could have resulted in cheating.

Cooperman referred the charges to his legal department, which sent the case to Moses.

Part of the consent agreement is an assurance that Rafter and Arroyo will withdraw their request for an investigation and an acknowledgment that the compromise "in no way" implies the board or any of its workers were guilty of improprieties during the January balloting.

Rafter and Arroyo — who lost the January election but are again seeking terms in April — said they consider the agreement a victory.

Granello, meanwhile, said the points are in areas where the law is relatively clear. "All we were doing," he said, "was articulating the law."

The six points of the consent agreement are:

• Hudson County Elections Superintendent Joseph Brady

Sound and fury but little achieved by Hoboken Council

By Rick Tosches

There was a lot of activity in Hoboken City Hall last night and early this morning, but little in the way of results as the two items which were the main topics of discussion remained unsettled.

Unsettled after a five-hour closed session is the City Council's discussion involving Environmental Services and Facilities Director Peter Alcantara and his department.

Also unsettled is a case before the City Zoning Board of Adjustment involving a variance application for a project at 222 Bloomfield St. Developer Shumba Inc. of Chatham is seeking to convert the building into six condominiums.

The case was adjourned until the board's next meeting on March 25.

On the Alcantara matter, the City Council met in closed session in the City Clerk's office until early this morning before adjourning the matter until a date and time which has yet to be established, according to Council President E. Norman Wilson.

Wilson, who would not divulge specifics of the marathon session, said the council would decide upon a continuation date at Monday night's caucus slated for 7 o'clock in City Hall Council Chambers.

In attendance at the meeting were Alcantara, who met privately with the council, and about a dozen employees of Alcantara's department, each of whom was called in separately for discussion with the council. Meanwhile, Steven Tripp, attorney for Shumba, asked for an adjournment of the Bloomfield Street case before the zoning board because he plans to call several witnesses, including the project's architect.

Shumba is seeking several variances, including one for maximum permitted height of the building. That was the major concern of nearly 40 neighbors who intended to voice their opposition to the project's height, specifically the sixth-floor penthouse which has already been constructed.

The objectors will have a chance to express their opinions when the case resumes later this month.

Peter Addison, the

building's owner, said he decided to decrease the building's density from nine to six units so as to increase the size of the units.

Addison said his structure, with the penthouse, would be the second tallest building on the street at 54 feet, 8.5 feet smaller than the tallest building.

James Higgins, a professional planner who was testifying on behalf of the developers, argued that the neighborhood lacked any prevailing height in its buildings. "There's a roller coaster effect (with the buildings)," he said.

Phillip Elberg, attorney for the objectors, grilled witnesses presented by the developer on a variety of topics.

At one point, he asked Higgins if the board should consider the desires of the objectors. Higgins said that, while he believed the residents had the right to speak, they should "absolutely not" consider their opinions. All that should be considered, he said, is the merit of the case as it pertains to the city's zoning ordinance.

Meanwhile, a case involving the conversion of a factory at 410 Eighth St. into 96 duplex condominiums was also adjourned until March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION — Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, left, Council President E. Norman Wilson Jr., center, and Jimmy Malloy, son of the late Jerry Malloy, the "toastmaster general of New Jersey," take part in unveiling a plaque and his portrait at the Jerry Malloy Youth Center on Jefferson Street. Malloy died Aug. 1.

Star Wars comes to Stevens

By Margaret Schmidt

WASHINGTON — Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken has received a federal contract for a Star Wars research project.

The award, announced yesterday by Rep. Frank Guarini of Jersey City, will be for studies on detecting missiles as early as launching.

The funding is through the Office of Innovative Science and Technology, the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Strategic Defense Initiative, the formal name for Star Wars, President Reagan's hope for military technology that can

spot nuclear missiles and destroy them before they reach the United States.

Stevens is one of approximately 250 American colleges and universities receiving SDI research contracts, officials said. About 3,000 proposals were originally reviewed and about 500 were given further consideration.

The granting of such contracts has caused controversy on campuses throughout the nation as scientists debate the viability and the morality of Star Wars.

Representatives of New Jersey and Hudson County

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Continued from Page 1.

groups opposed to the nuclear arms race spoke out against the program and the Stevens contract yesterday, saying that research into Star Wars technology is part of the race and a step toward "mutual annihilation."

Margot Hammer of the Hudson County Coalition for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze said she is against Star Wars research wherever it is, but having it in Hoboken brings home the point.

"Suddenly," she said, "it brings it very close to home. It's no longer an abstraction."

A spokeswoman for Stevens said the grant will go to sensor research using the principles of heat and isn't related to nuclear development. The study could have applications beyond the Star Wars program, she said.

Guarini, in his prepared announcement, said the research

"may be applicable for national defense."

Stevens Professor Harrison Rowe, the principal investigator on the project team, said the proposal was targeted to SDI research. Stevens had originally submitted a proposal for a three-year program but was asked to submit a revised budget for one year, he said.

His one-year revised budget was for \$100,000, he said, adding that he hasn't yet received notice of what the actual grant will be.

Rowe acknowledged the divergent opinions on Star Wars research, saying, "We live in a democracy." He added that he didn't wish to provoke any problems in Hoboken, which is a "nuclear-free zone" by city ordinance.

Rowe's project is entitled "Radio Imaging of Launch Vehicles and Payloads" and proposes research into the use of radio astronomy to detect missiles being

very pleased at Stevens that he have received national recognition by the award of this grant."

The Stevens project will be "unclassified," officials said, meaning that the research results won't be considered secret.

Michael Immerso, director of the New Jersey Campaign for Nuclear Weapons Freeze, said the group may consider approaching Stevens faculty to get petitions protesting Star Wars contracts.

Such petitions and pledges state that teachers won't participate in the research and have circulated at various campuses, he said.

Professor Gary Goldstein of the Physics Department at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., explained that the pledges bind faculty members but not colleges. Administrators, he said, are unwilling to make blanket statements against any research — even if they disagree with it — because of the larger question of academic freedom.

Some scientists object to all research, he said, while others object only to research into classified, intelligence or direct weapons development projects.

Griskey added: "We are

State sets deadline on board of education report

By Margaret Schmidt

The state commissioner of education has set an April 1 deadline for the county superintendent of schools to report on the Hoboken Board of Education.

The report is at the request of Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezetti, who made several accusations in a letter to Commissioner Saul Cooperman. The mayor received Cooperman's response yesterday.

Cooperman's office has referred the charges to Hudson County Superintendent of Schools Louis Accella, who is to report to Dr. Walter J. McCarroll, assistant commissioner in the division of county and regional services. McCarroll will then report his recommendations to Cooperman, the commissioner's letter said.

Meanwhile, board member James Farina, candidate in the April 15 school board election, said yesterday he will challenge absentee ballots if a large

number come in for employment reasons.

He was responding to candidate Joseph Rafter's contention that the 2 to 9 p.m. polling hours set by the board will exclude many potential voters. People who would vote early in

the morning would, for the most part, be home for the evening voting, he said.

Vezetti's charges basically concerned the board's financial operations. The board has denied any wrongdoing.

Experts fail to see \$2M budget goof

By Richard Rosenberg

The Hoboken Board of Education has three people minding the store: the board secretary, the internal auditor and the business manager. Between them they make \$131,846.

The three people minding the store somehow missed a \$2 million error in the board's books last year — an error equal to 9.8 percent of the board's \$23 million budget.

The error was caught by private auditor Joseph Lisa in his audit of the 1984-1985 school board budget.

He found that the school board had \$2 million more in capital projects revenues than board officials or the prior outside auditor had indicated.

Lisa said the \$2 million came from "a bond sale held in

"For whatever reason it was never picked up before," Lisa said. "Somebody should have picked it up."

"It wasn't that there was \$2 million lost — it's merely a bookkeeping error. It's not like we're out \$2 million," Lisa said.

The Jersey Journal last Wednesday requested the job descriptions of Board Secretary Anthony H. Romano, Internal Auditor Anthony Curko and Business Manager Walter S. Cramer.

Romano's secretary said Wednesday the office was too busy filing the resolutions from Tuesday night's meeting to find the descriptions. There were exactly 43 resolutions at the meeting, according to the agenda.

The several clerks in the office were somehow unable to

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Continued from Page 1.

pull the men's job descriptions by the end of the business day Friday, despite repeated requests made over the telephone and in person.

Although the job descriptions were unavailable, state statutes describe the board secretary's duties.

"The secretary shall be the general accountant of the board and he shall . . . examine and audit all accounts and demands against the board," says N.J.S.A. 18A:17-8.

The same statute says the secretary shall "keep and maintain such accounts of the financial transactions of the district as shall be prescribed by the state board in accordance with the uniform system of bookkeeping . . . including a correct 'etailed account of all the expenditures of school monies in the districts.'"

Board Secretary Romano, the First Ward councilman and ally of former Mayor Steve Capriello, did not return repeated calls for comment about his duties and the audit.

Business Manager Cramer, a former councilman and Capriello ally, also didn't return calls, nor did auditor Curko.

Since the bond sale that generated the \$2 million took place in December 1982, Lisa said it was reasonable to expect the \$2 million to be reflected in the board's books by 1983.

Lisa said he didn't know why the bookkeeping error wasn't caught by somebody before him, and he didn't wish to criticize anybody.

The accountant who signed the 1983-1984 audit of the school board, Frank T. Italiano of Jersey City, said he didn't know anything about the \$2 million error, so he couldn't comment about it.

Lisa's audit noted some other shortcomings in the board's accounting procedures. Among them were:

• The board hasn't kept a record of its general fixed as-

sets, which would include buildings, furniture, vehicles, computers and audio-visual equipment. This means there was no inventory of those items that included their cost. Lisa said there was a rough list of the items that didn't include their cost.

• The board didn't always have documentation to explain how petty cash was spent.

• Many petty cash checks were only signed by one person though board policy calls for two authorized signatures on the checks.

• The treasurer of school monies, Louis Picardo, the city tax collector, didn't keep a record of the board's receipts and disbursements, as he was required to do.

• Several bank accounts were used for the board's special projects, and "as a result of the use of several bank accounts the actual expenditures for the period were not reflected on the board's monthly budget report," Lisa's audit said. Lisa said only one account should be kept for special projects.

• The board had to exercise more care to insure compliance with the state "Public Schools Contracts Law," which requires competitive bidding for items that will cost more than \$7,500 in one year.

Lisa's recommendations for improvement were included in his audit report.

Lisa said the board was taking steps to carry out his recommendations, and it had compiled a written response to them.

The Jersey Journal requested the written response Thursday, but the board was unable to provide it either Thursday or Friday. The board's offices were closed over the weekend.

Lisa, who has said he was interested in running for mayor, said he didn't want the name of his firm, Gerald A. Lisa and Company, published, because he thought the audit was becoming a "political" issue.

Sewage plant pact on agenda

By Rick Tosches

The Hoboken City Council will be asked to vote on a resolution tomorrow night to award a contract to an upstate New York firm to design the city's secondary sewage treatment plant.

Hoboken Director of Environmental Services and Facilities Peter Alicandri will ask the council to hire Lawler, Matusky and Skelly to upgrade the city's sewage treatment facility. Hudson County municipalities are under a man-

date to upgrade systems by July of 1988.

The council met in closed session for nearly an hour with Law Director Sal D'Amelio to discuss the resolution. Alicandri said the hiring of the New York firm would enhance the city's chances of getting grant funding for the \$40 million project.

Alicandri also raised questions about the validity of an agreement the city entered into with Mayo Lynch and Associates of Hoboken to do similar work.

The director said the continuation of the contract with the Hoboken firm could jeopardize the city's chances of gaining funding for the project.

The funding could be jeopardized, he said, since the firm is currently not recognized by the Hudson County Utilities Authority's "pre-qualified list" of consulting firms approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Lawler, Matusky and Skelly is

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It's not a leprechaun, it's Hoboken's Mayor Thomas Vezetti. 3/3-17-86

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on DEP's list, Alicandri said. "They (consulting firms) must be pre-qualified by HCUA and DEP for any chance of funding, to secure grant funds," Alicandri said. "The use of Mayo Lynch would automatically disqualify Hoboken from grant funding."

Alicandri called the resolution hiring Mayo Lynch "sloppy."

"There's no evidence of wrongdoing," he said. "I'd just like to clear this up and give the right consultants to get the funds. We simply want to

resolve the issue, patch it up and proceed."

Alicandri said he is confident Lawler, Matusky and Skelly can do the work "because of its connection with the HCUA. They're a very impressive company. I'm familiar with them. They know the system and they have a good track record. They are qualified by the HCUA."

Alicandri said Mayo Lynch agreed to do the work "at their own risk."

"We have a contract in my mind," he said. Officials from Mayo Lynch could not be reached for comment.

Council impatient to see late budget

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken City Council may get its first glimpse of the 1986 budget next week, several days past the state deadline.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday that he hopes to have a budget on the table next week and blamed delays on late state aid figures and Mayor Thomas Vezetti's insistence that the property tax rate be stabilized.

Anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri, meanwhile, charged that the

delay is due to "disorganization and disharmony" at City Hall and to administrators' fear of revealing a tax hike.

City councils throughout the state were supposed to have budgets introduced by March 14, but delays in state aid figures mean an allowable postponement of introduction, Chius said.

Once a council votes to introduce a budget, it holds workshops and public hearings on it. The mayor proposes a budget, but the council may make changes before approving it.

A budget should be in place by April 20, according to state law, but it appears unlikely the Hoboken budget will be adopted by then. Last year's budget wasn't adopted until July.

The 1985 tax rate was \$162.74 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That represented \$41.58 in county taxes, \$59.17 in state taxes, \$57.40 for municipal taxes and \$4.59 for the Hudson County Area Vocational-Technical School.

See COUNCIL — Page 11.

on streamlining government.

Ranieri said several council members, particularly Council President E. Norman Wilson, had been after Chius and Vezetti to get a budget on the table by the state deadline.

"But," he said, "we have not seen hide nor hair of it." He said he believes the budget will represent increases that will push the tax rate past \$200 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

He noted that Vezetti, now in his first year as mayor, always screamed about the city missing deadlines when he was a councilman and made a campaign promise to have the budget before the council in January.

"This is an instance of a promise ruptured," Ranieri said.

The mayor said he didn't recall having made such a promise but conceded he may

have. The delay, he said, results from a problem in Trenton, not City Hall.

Meanwhile, during last night's council caucus, Ranieri said he urges "strongly" that Vezetti attend tomorrow night's regular meeting to present to the council the budget or "a total and full explanation."

"We are a ship without a pilot," Ranieri said. "We are a city without a budget. Drastic action is necessary."

In a related matter, the council discussed a resolution that would authorize \$2.6 million in temporary budget appropriations for 1986.

Ranieri noted that the \$2.6 million represents about 10 percent of the city's entire budget, enough for six weeks of funds to run the city.

Wilson said the funds would "carry the city for six weeks up until the time for the city to approve a budget."

"If we don't, we can only assume the city cannot conduct business," Wilson said.

When the council asked City Law Director Sal D'Amelio what prerogatives it had to resolve the matter, D'Amelio said, "Short of going to court, you can't force the mayor to submit a budget."

Fire scene may soon be liveable

By Margaret Schmidt

Several Hoboken families may soon be allowed to return to apartments damaged in Monday's three-alarm fire, officials said yesterday.

Of the eight apartments at 261 12th St., five may be uninhabited once relatively minor repairs are done, according to a report by Construction Code Officer Alfred Arezzo.

Meanwhile, fire officials are investigating the cause of the fire that left 28 people homeless and injured two firefighters. Preliminary investigation indicates the fire was accidental, officials said.

The fire destroyed the building's first floor tavern, officials added.

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi of the Fire Prevention Squad said the blaze began in the tavern's kitchen but that its cause was still undetermined. Electrical trouble has been ruled out, he added.

"Something happened in the kitchen," he said. "We'll have to search around for a couple of days to find out what."

He said that drinking by the men in the kitchen when the blaze broke out was complicating the investigation because the men are unclear about what took place.

The fire started around 6:30 p.m. in Adjuntas bar, on the first floor of the five-story building, officials said. Ten

families at 257 12th St. and 11 families at 259 12th St. were temporarily evacuated.

Of the 28 persons living in 261 12th St., 12 adults and two children were still being sheltered by the Jersey City Hoboken chapter of the American Red Cross last night, said executive director Joseph Lecowich. The others had found temporary shelter with family or friends, he said.

Arezzo's report listed five apartments that may be uninhabited soon because repairs are limited to window replacement and similar work.

One apartment wasn't inspected because entry couldn't be gained. Two need plumbing inspections before tenants can go back, and one needs total rehabilitation, the report said.

Tremittedi said that the structure suffered "heavy" smoke damage but that most of the serious fire, water and smoke damage was confined to the first and second floors.

Firefighter Michael Bavaro, 50, of Wayne, was listed in good condition yesterday at St. Mary Hospital, said spokesman Sam Allalouf. Bavaro, who is president of the city's firefighters union, was admitted for treatment of a low back sprain.

Albert Benz, 30, of Hoboken, released from the hospital Monday night after being treated for a sprain of the left thumb, Allalouf said.

Feb. 3 inspection by city officials found more than 100 violations in 257, 259, and 261 12th St., he said, and state officials were expected to return shortly for a reinspection.

The violations included improperly installed smoke detectors. The owners, Palisade Equity Inc. of New York, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In a related development, Hoboken Chief Housing Inspector Jude Fitzgibbons said violations at the building could have caused more serious injuries or possible loss of life had the fire broken out during the night. A

Judges sworn to keep city's courts working

By Margaret Schmidt

Two Hoboken judges were sworn into office yesterday in ceremonies at the old Hudson County Courthouse in Jersey City.

State Superior Court Judge Richard Connors swore in Magistrate Steve Zamrin and Acting Magistrate Ross London. Zamrin will preside over Hoboken's municipal court on a full-time basis while London will fill in for him and also preside over the Thursday night traffic court.

The City Council confirmed the appointments Wednesday night, and the ceremonies had to be held immediately or the court would have had to temporarily close, officials said.

Zamrin, 40, was approved after weeks of battling at the council table. He was Mayor Thomas Vezetti's choice, but anti-administration council members questioned the appointment on various levels. He was approved by a 9-to-0 vote.

Zamrin is to fill the unexpired term of Judge Peter Giordano, who died in November. The term ends July 1.

London, 37, was appointed for a yearlong term ending in March 1987. London has been acting judge since July 1, under a temporary appointment. He has been at the post full-time since Giordano's death.

Zamrin, who was prosecutor for Hoboken from July 15 until yesterday, said he didn't seek either post but was excited to accept the challenges. A new

prosecutor has yet to be appointed.

"I've done a lot of appellate work," Zamrin said, explaining that it leans "to a certain degree on the judicial side" of law.

He heads a small private practice in Hoboken and will decide once he begins work as magistrate how much private work he can still do.

The magistrate presides over the court and is in charge of the court clerk's office and the traffic violations bureau. London opened the night court in Hoboken earlier this year.

He decided to have the special session to help with the backlog of cases and to make court more accessible to people who would like to plead innocent on traffic violations but can't take time off from work to attend morning court.

He heads a "substantial" private practice in Hoboken and told Vezetti he could no longer handle the full-time judgeship because of it.

Zamrin is a native of Philadelphia but was raised in Riverside, a town in South Jersey. He attended Rutgers, New Brunswick, for his undergraduate work, and Rutgers, Camden, for his law degree. He moved to Hoboken in 1977.

London was born in Brooklyn and moved to New Jersey in 1973. His undergraduate degree is from Harvard College, New York, and his law degree is from Rutgers, Newark. He has lived in Hoboken since 1978.

Hoboken must pay Block \$800

By John Petrick

Under a contract drawn up by Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius, Mayor Tom Vezetti's request in July, Block was to be paid a total of up to \$7,500 to produce a written plan no later than September of last year designed to address the shortage of affordable housing in Hoboken and the ongoing displacement of residents.

Block's position was uncontested yesterday, as representatives from the city failed to show up in court. Block contended that the city fell \$800 short of the total \$4,050 owed to him for his work in compiling the study.

Among other things, the contract also stipulates that "an appropriate fee schedule must be negotiated with the consultant which should probably be between \$100 and \$150 per day with a minimum of 60 to 75 days required to complete the affordable housing plan."

Block told the judge that the plan was submitted on Sept. 26 as specified, and asked for payment lower than the contract allowed. The consultant charged \$100 per day for his services, asking for a total of \$4,050 which was \$3,450 less than the \$7,500 he could have received under the contract.

After the plaintiff submitted the contract, the report and purchase orders for payment of services to the court, Callahan agreed that all services were rendered and that the city should pay the remaining \$800.

Officials from the city's law department could not be reached for comment.

The city will have to show valid cause to the court if the judgment is to be set aside, Callahan noted.

"The city's failing to show up shows that there is no legal substance to their position," Block said later. "My only view is that it's strictly a matter of politics and harassment."

Block defended the thoroughness of the report, saying that he convened a panel of experts who met on numerous occasions to research the matter of affordable housing.

Parking Authority adopts report on increased efficiency

By Blanca M. Quintanilla

The Hoboken Parking Authority adopted a report from its operations committee on improving services at the authority's garage.

The operating committee, composed of Commissioners John B. Muciaccia and Donald Pellicano, submitted the report at the Feb. 18 meeting but the commissioners adopted it during a meeting last night.

"We are trying to monitor our operation," Muciaccia said. "We want to be able to police ourselves and to update periodically the different garages."

Pellicano agreed, saying that the authority will be able to run the garages more effectively if it follows the 21-point report submitted by the commission.

With the adoption of the suggestions, the commissioners said they hope to begin implementing the plan immediately.

"The 21-point report will not increase our cost of operation," said Richard Eversen, authority chairman. "In fact, some of these points will help decrease the cost."

Some of the suggestions include:

- That the authority serve as a check and balance on efficiency by rotating the garage managers and cashiers every three months.

- To instruct the managers and assistant managers to implement a daily and weekly schedule to assure the garages are clean. Included in the schedule should be an inspection of the stairwells — with copies of the reports going to the commissioners.

Hoboken to appeal payment to Block

By John Petrick 3-20-86

Hoboken Director of Law Salvatore D'Amelio said yesterday he will attempt to have set aside Tuesday's decision by Judge Kevin Callahan directing the city to complete payment of service fees to Steve Block, who was hired in the summer to compile a report on affordable housing in Hoboken.

D'Amelio said he was "outraged" that the case was not postponed as he had requested, noting that he sent a letter to the court March 13 stating he was required to be in Trenton on the scheduled court date.

The director of law added that he had only received Block's complaint on March 7, and was surprised considering the short notice and the letter explaining his absence.

The judge decided to go on with the proceedings and allowed Block to present his case uncontested. Court clerks attempted to reach legal representatives for the city on Tuesday, but to no avail.

Block argued that the city was illegally withholding \$800 out of the \$4,050 owed to him under the contract which commissioned him to produce a report on more affordable housing for Hoboken.

After Block submitted a copy of the report and the contract to the court, Judge Callahan agreed that he had fulfilled his obligations and ruled that Hoboken was in breach of contract.

D'Amelio said yesterday that there was some important evidence in Hoboken's defense which still needs to be heard.

Block called the city's refusal to pay the remaining \$800 strictly a matter of politics and

Continued from Page 1.

harassment," and that Hoboken's absence Tuesday showed that there was no legal foundation to the action.

D'Amelio contends that the report was inadequate, saying that it contained "many illegalities and inconsistencies." The law director added that the project "was a big waste of time and money, and we felt he had been paid enough."

According to D'Amelio, Block should have consulted with the city's legal department before including certain points within the report. He refused to specify exactly what the report's inconsistencies were in view of the planned appeal.

Judge closes eviction loophole

3/15/86 Dispatch

Landlords must explain future plans

By BETH KUHLES
Staff Writer

Hudson County's chief housing judge yesterday closed a legal loophole under which thousands of local tenants faced eviction, banning properties "permanently retired" from residential use from ever hosting housing units again.

The state's anti-eviction law contains a provision which allows a landlord to vacate a building within six months if he intends to "permanently retire" the building from residential use. But some landlords

have used this provision as a means of getting rid of low-income tenants in order to sell the building later for condominium development.

Tenants also contend that this loophole had been used by unscrupulous landlords to empty buildings of low-income tenants and later to re-lease to higher paying families.

Judge Kevin G. Callahan, the presiding judge in Hudson County Superior Court Special Civil Part in Jersey City, broke new legal

ground yesterday by his ruling that said the reason for "permanently retiring a building for residential purposes" must be spelled out exactly in an eviction notice. That retirement would then remain with the property, even if the land is sold to a new owner.

"The building must be retired permanently and (is) not to be used for residential purposes," Callahan said. The decision grew out of a suit by eight Hoboken families who were being evicted from their

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homes at 127 Madison St. under this provision. The landlord, Hoboken developer Gregg Zimmerman, repeated the legal provision in the July eviction notice, but never specified what he intended to do with the building.

"The judge is graphing requirements that cannot be gleaned from the statute," said Robert C. Matule, a Hoboken attorney representing Zimmerman. Matule said that Zimmerman intends to knock down the building but has not disclosed whether he intends to do anything beyond that.

Matule said he will have to review the judge's written opinion before deciding whether he will appeal.

On the tenants' side of the coin, Maureen C. Schweitzer, an attorney with Hudson County Legal Services, said she was "thrilled" by the decision.

"It is going to help tenants tremendously," Schweitzer said, adding that there are at least 20 other buildings countywide in exactly the same predicament. "It will protect the tenants in development," she said.

Under yesterday's ruling, Zimmerman will be permitted to reinstate the eviction proceedings

within the next six months if he submits a notice of his specific plan for the building to tenants.

Callahan said he reached his decision through a careful reading of the law, a historical review of the housing situation in the county and the intent demonstrated in the legislative actions of the recent past.

Callahan said Hudson County has traditionally been a blue-collar area with a large number of apartments. Now the county is experiencing a rebirth, prompting some to term this "the Gold Coast," and a boom in office building, two-family homes and condominium construction.

"This so-called warehousing — or stockpiling for six months and then returning it to a different (market). This was not the intent of permanently retiring buildings. The statutory intent is clear," Callahan observed.

The judge's decision comes a week after the passage of an Assembly bill which would prohibit putting a vacated building back on the rental, condominium or co-op market for five years. The bill, sponsored by Charles J. Catrillo, R-Jersey City, passed the Assembly 58-2, but has not yet been considered by the state Senate.

Romano resigns; Alicandri is fired

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A veteran city councilman stepped down suddenly last night, in the wake of reports that he lives outside of the ward he had represented.

A second bombshell fell later in the City Council meeting, when the council voted to fire Public Works Director Peter Alicandri and introduced an ordinance that would bring his agency under the control of the Law Department.

At the beginning of last night's meeting, 1st Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano listed his real estate holdings here, saying he wanted to dispel a press report that had him living "somewhere between Monmouth Beach and Weehawken."

Romano told the council his family had outgrown two residences — an apartment and a condominium he maintained in the 1st Ward. Although construction has begun on a new home, also within the ward, a lagging work schedule has forced his family to move to a recently purchased condominium in the 3rd Ward.

Romano said he expected to be living in the new 1st Ward home at 224 Hudson St. in eight or nine months.

But in the meantime, said Romano, a 19-year councilman, he is resigning immediately to join his family in the 3rd Ward condo. "How can you deny your family?" he asked.

Two weeks ago, the council held a closed session to discuss the residency of a council member not named. It was held at the request of Helen Cuning, one of Mayor

1st Ward councilman's address disputed

Thomas F. Vezzetti's two supporters on the nine-member council.

Romano, also secretary to the Board of Education, consistently has voted with the council's anti-administration majority.

The resignation is to become official today, when Romano plans to sign the necessary papers. Speculation on his successor is focusing on Joseph Lisa, the council's former budget adviser.

The vote to oust Alicandri on grounds of "disregard for the best interest of the city" and mismanagement of personnel was 6-2, with Cuning and Joseph DellaFave, the other Vezzetti ally, voting against it.

Neil Mullin, the Hoboken attorney representing Alicandri, termed the vote "retaliation against someone who did not cooperate with a potentially illegal act." Cuning said the firing was based on "trumped up personnel charges that didn't pass out in closed session."

The council has held two closed-door personnel meetings on Alicandri. Two days ago, he disputed the validity of the design contract for a state-mandated improvement on the municipal sewage treatment plant. The firing is to become effective April 2, pending a hearing scheduled for Wednesday.

Hudson cries foul over feds' threat of sewage fines

By Paul Clolery
and Margaret Schmidt

Five Hudson County communities have a federal hammer hanging over their heads to insure that plans for secondary sewage treatment are implemented and that interim steps are taken to control untreated effluents.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday filed its long-threatened suit against Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken, West New York and North Bergen, charging violations of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

But Jersey City, West New York and Hoboken have consent agreements with the state Department of Environmental Protection under which a schedule for compliance with the act was developed. Local officials are crying foul since they thought they had an agreement and are now being slapped from another side.

The municipalities face fines of up to \$10,000 per day if found to be not in compliance.

"What are they trying to do?" asked Jersey City Mayor Anthony Cucci. "Have Hudson County pay off the national debt?"

"It's very ridiculous. The discharge permits are held by the Jersey City Sewerage Authority and the JCSA never received any notice from the feds," said Cucci.

He said Jersey City is in complete compliance with the state DEP consent agreement.

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri, a member of the city's sewage and water subcommittee, said that city also is on schedule. "We are in full compliance in that we have signed and ratified a consent order under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court that holds us harmless so long as we live up to the dates set forth in the order, which we have done," said Ranieri.

West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino said the suit came as "a complete surprise because we are under a consent order. Obviously the EPA moves separate from the DEP."

Bayonne Mayor Dennis Collins said he will immediately review the city's status, but that as far as he knows it has complied with all requests made by the federal government.

He also said there is only one piece of legislation that must be adopted before Bayonne can hook into the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority system. An engineering firm has already been retained for the project, he said.

Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. said he is confident the city will face no fines because it has signed a consent order and is on schedule with the mandated deadlines.

D'Amelio spoke with Reed Newman, the chief attorney in charge of compliance cases for the federal Justice Department in Washington, and was assured that Hoboken only need show up in court with its papers to be cleared, he said.

"In fact," D'Amelio said, "I'm looking forward to going to court so we will have as good a

See HUDSON — Page 8.

Continued from Page 1.

relationship with the EPA as we have with the DEP."

Newman told the Hoboken attorney that the EPA filed the motion papers to resurrect a 1976 case mandating compliance with the Clean Water Act. The intent, D'Amelio related, was "to get other communities off the dime" and to ensure that the state is keeping on top of the various municipalities.

Hudson County Utilities Authority Executive Director Joseph LeFante said the suit was unexpected. "We are in shock. We don't know what's going on and neither does the state," he said.

EPA regional administrator Christopher Daggett said the suit was filed because the state wants to force the municipalities into action.

However, the suit was based on the Hudson County Utility Authority's 1979 plan for the area which had municipalities pumping their effluent to different facilities. When local officials balked at the plan it was revised to have plants constructed in North Bergen, West New York and Hoboken with other municipalities pumping effluent to other facilities. For example, Jersey City will pump to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority in Newark.

But the EPA does not recognize the amended plan

because it has not yet officially been put into the state plan. "We don't recognize changes until they are listed in the state plan," said Daggett. "Obviously we'll reflect those changes (on compliance) as we go through court negotiations," he said.

State DEP spokesman Jim Stables said EPA officials told the DEP on Thursday that the suit would be filed, which caught the state by surprise. "We (the EPA and DEP) agreed they (EPA) would be... the lead agency in this and I guess the thing got in this channel years ago," said Stables.

Officials said that if all of the municipalities are on line with secondary treatment by July 1, 1988 or are nearly completed with construction, fines probably won't be levied.

It appears many of the plans are falling into place, said George Crimmins, comptroller of the Hudson County Utilities Authority.

Crimmins said Jersey City already has received grant approval from the U.S. for the PVSA pipeline and the North Hudson projects can get about \$33 million for the three plants. He said Hoboken would receive about \$14 million of the total \$40 million program. West New York would receive \$6.5 million of a total \$19 million project and North Bergen would receive \$1.6 million of the total \$6 million project.

Council, Alicandri at odds over contract

By Margaret Schmidt

Design work on the Hoboken secondary sewage treatment plant won't begin until the city's director of public works is satisfied that a valid contract is in place.

The director, meanwhile, has come under increased criticism from the City Council, and, some sources said, may face firing.

Director Peter Alicandri said yesterday that he has refused to allow representatives of the Hoboken engineering firm Mayo Lynch and Associates to begin design work because he doesn't believe the firm's contract with the city is valid. He also said he hasn't been authorized to begin paying the firm since no funding for the work is in his budget.

Members of the council and the law department, however, maintain the contract is valid and that all that remains is to pass a resolution authorizing funding. Alicandri considers that "contradictory."

The issue is expected to be the subject of heated debate at tonight's council meeting, 7 p.m., at City Hall. A closed session to discuss Alicandri's job has been scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in what the director calls a "witch hunt."

The contract debate began Monday when Alicandri asked the council to consider hiring the Jersey City firm of Lawler Matusky and Skelly to do the design. He charged that Mayo Lynch's contract was only valid for preliminary work that has already been done.

Alicandri based his argument on a Feb. 20, 1985 council

resolution, which is attached to the Mayo Lynch contract at the city clerk's office.

The resolution stipulates approval of \$42,300 for Mayo Lynch to complete four segments of its contract. It makes no specific mention of the final three segments, which include the design contract at approximately \$2 million, but notes that the contract "is attached hereto and made a part here of."

The contract is signed by officers of Mayo Lynch as well as then-Mayor Steve Cappello, now Third Ward councilman.

Cappello said yesterday that he couldn't comment on the validity of the contract since he isn't an "expert" in the area. He signed the document, he said, after it was reviewed by then-law director Lawrence Florio, who died last summer.

Alicandri, who was ap-

pointed last summer by Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, said his investigation shows the possibility that the contract was signed without being reviewed by the law department.

Current Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. and former Director Fred Woekener, who served from July to December 1985, have said they believe the contract is valid in all its parts.

Meanwhile, the executive director of the Hudson County Utilities Authority, Joseph LeFante, said that the city hasn't yet advised him of a design contract.

"Other than what we read in the newspapers," he said, "we have had no official word from them."

He noted that the city has several important deadlines

coming up soon — by April 1 the city must have a "friendly service agreement" with the HCUA, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection; and by June 30, it must have construction design in place.

The issues, he added, have been discussed and re-discussed with city officials from both the current and previous administrations for several years.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, who was the sponsor of the February 1985 resolution, told reporters yesterday to "stay tuned" for tonight's meeting. He declined to specify his meaning.

The closed session is scheduled to touch both on Alicandri's performance as public works director and on his stopping Mayo Lynch from beginning design work.

Alicandri has said the coun-

cil, the majority of which is opposed to Vezzetti, was like a "lynching party" at last week's closed session on his job. While several accusations were hurled, only one person testified against him, he said.

He and other members of the Vezzetti administration have said they believe the problems stem from Alicandri's efforts to get public works employees to work. They have been used, they said, to having no-show jobs in a "longtime political dumping ground."

While one source said the council might vote on a resolution to fire Alicandri tonight, the city clerk's office said no measure had been presented through yesterday.

The council could fire the mayor appointee if it has six votes — two-thirds of the full council — officials said.

Hoboken DPW chief calls sewerage project pact invalid

Dispatch 3/15/86

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Work on a sewage treatment plant expansion is going forward under the terms of an invalid and needlessly expensive contract, the Department of Public Works director charged yesterday.

Peter Alicandri said at a City Hall news conference that he has "serious questions" about the legality of a contract awarded by the City Council a year ago and reaffirmed in a resolution passed in January, after the changeover in city admin-

istrations.

Alicandri was appointed in September by Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, who had defeated Steve Cappello, now the 3rd Ward councilman, for the mayoralty.

The contract names Mayo, Lynch & Associates, a local engineering firm, as consultants and designers of a sewage plant addition needed to comply with a state mandate to improve treatment standards by 1988.

Although Mayo, Lynch is authorized to act as a consultant, the firm

is forging ahead to the design phase of the project under a section of the contract that is invalid, Alicandri charged. He said the council, in passing resolutions implementing the contract, had neglected to spell out the fees for that work and where they would come from. He furnished a copy of a letter from a private attorney, Richard Lawten, that supported his stand. Alicandri said Lawten had reviewed the contract without fee, as a "concerned citizen."

Earlier yesterday, City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio said the con-

tract is legally binding. D'Amelio did not hold his current post when contract-related documents went before the council.

Alicandri's comments come a week after he was the subject of a closed-door personnel hearing by the council, on which Vezzetti counts only two sure allies among nine members.

Alicandri said he will submit to the council a resolution calling for replacing Mayo, Lynch with Jersey City engineers Lawler, Matusky & Skelly. He said the move would

enable the city to save money by recouping federal funds for construction costs. Alicandri gave no dollar figure, but said federal grants would cover 75 percent of an unspecified portion of the proposed \$40 million project, if so-called innovative technology is used. According to Alicandri, Mayo, Lynch is not on the Hudson County Utility Authority's list of firms certified to design plants using innovative technology.

For a long time, the HCUA has been prodding the city and other

North Hudson municipalities to fall in line behind its regional plan for upgrading sewerage treatment. Alicandri said Lawler, Matusky could be hired for about \$2.5 million. Under the disputed contract, Mayo, Lynch's fees for design work come to 5 percent of construction costs, a figure Alicandri put at \$2 million. The Hoboken firm already has been paid some \$43,000 as a consultant.

Alicandri said a firm for such special professional services could be hired without competitive bidding.

Romano quits, Alicandri fired

By Jim DeRogatis

Councilman Anthony Romano resigned and Director of Environmental Services Peter Alicandri was fired during a long and boisterous meeting of the Hoboken City Council last night.

Romano, who served as first ward councilman for 19 years, resigned his office effective immediately at the outset of the meeting. Opponents have accused him for several weeks of no longer living in the ward. Romano said he is living

Councilman doesn't live in First Ward, Vezzetti's appointee ousted by Council

with his family at 632 Jefferson St. in the city's third ward while waiting for a new house to be built at 224 Hudson St.

The councilman also owns an apartment on Hudson Street and a condominium on Newark Street, both in the First Ward. However, he said he would not

live separately from his family and would rather resign his position.

Romano also serves as the secretary of the Board of Education. Asked if he had future political ambitions, he replied, "Who knows?" "I am happy to have served

for all of these years and I will always be here for the people of Hoboken," Romano said. The councilman made his brief announcement after the Pledge of Allegiance and left immediately afterwards. "I'm going home to be with my family," he said. The city council must ap-

point someone to fill Romano's seat until an election is held in November. Joseph Lisa, an accountant who has conducted public audits for the city, has been mentioned as a possible candidate to fill the vacancy. "I would accept the appointment if it is offered," Lisa said.

"I would welcome the opportunity to serve the people of the first ward."

Another personnel change took place when the council passed a resolution terminating Alicandri's appointment as director of environmental services effective April 2. Alicandri was appointed by Vezzetti last summer.

The resolution was sponsored by Councilman Robert Ranieri. It was passed by a vote of 6 to 2, with Joseph Della Fave

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Romano resignation is official but is not yet made formal

By Margaret Schmidt

Resigning Hoboken First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano has yet to send a formal announcement of his decision to City Clerk James Farina.

Romano, who stepped down at Wednesday's council meeting because he now lives in a different ward, was expected to deliver a letter of resignation yesterday, Farina said. He added that the action is nonetheless official since Romano made the statement at a public meeting and called Farina on it yesterday morning.

The 19-year councilman, whose fourth term expires June 30, 1987, made a brief statement before the start of Wednesday's meeting and then walked out with his council table nameplate tucked under his arm.

Speculation on possible replacements for Romano led to few names yesterday. Mayor

Thomas Vezzetti said he is thinking about a potential replacement but added "that's my secret."

The First Ward is roughly bounded by Observer Highway, Fourth Street, the Hudson River and Bloomfield Street. Among its constituents are the tenants of the two 25-story Marineview Plaza apartment buildings.

The City Council may choose an interim councilman, or could leave the post vacant until the next general election in November, officials said. The remaining eight council members would need a simple majority to select a temporary councilman.

The situation is similar to the appointment of Jorge Aviles to the Journal Square council seat in Jersey City. The council voted Aviles in after the death of Councilman Joseph "Buddy" Brooks. A special election will be held in November.

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and Helen Cunningham voting "no." The council met in closed session last Tuesday and again yesterday afternoon to discuss Alicandri and accusations he made about problems with a contract for a secondary sewage treatment plant awarded to the Hoboken engineering firm of Mayo Lynch and Associates.

Alicandri had refused to allow Mayo Lynch to begin design work on the plant because he said he doesn't believe the firm's contract with the city is valid. He said the contract was valid only for preliminary work which has already been done.

Alicandri based his argument on a Feb. 20, 1985 council resolution, which is attached to the Mayo Lynch contract at the city clerk's office.

The resolution stipulates approval of \$42,300 for Mayo Lynch to complete four segments of its contract. It makes no mention of the final three segments, which include the design work at a cost of approximately \$2 million, but notes that the contract "is attached hereto and made a part here of."

During a lengthy debate, Della Fave and Cunningham defended Alicandri's claims. Ranieri and Law Director Sal D'Amelio, however, maintained that the contract was valid and all that remains is to pass a

resolution authorizing funding.

A resolution proposed by Alicandri to award a contract for the work to the Jersey City firm of Lawler, Matusky and Skelly had been on the agenda but was removed.

Ranieri proposed a resolution "reaffirming" the contract originally approved by the Feb. 20 resolution. The council approved it by a vote of 6 to 2 with Cunningham and Della Fave voting "no."

Council President E. Norman Wilson then read a letter into the record from Joseph Lynch of Mayo Lynch. The letter charges that Alicandri did not allow the firm to have representatives at a Public Works committee meeting; issued an improper stop work order; requested the firm to enter into "a secret agreement" for the removal of liquid sludge with the Ozonics Corporation, and did not allow the firm to inspect the plant.

Wilson said that he would present the letter to the office of the Hudson County prosecutor.

The resolution terminating Alicandri charges that he showed "a total disregard for the City of Hoboken by his inability and lack of desire to manage the personnel in his department" and "further jeopardized the progress of the City of Hoboken in its efforts to provide a secondary sewer treatment plant by frustrating the progress with the State of New Jersey, other municipalities and the municipality's design engineer."

Alicandri will have a public hearing before the council on March 26. Speaking briefly before the council last night, ac-

companied by his lawyer, he objected to not being granted more time to "go through the facts." Earlier, he referred to the council's actions as "a witch hunt."

Ranieri also introduced two ordinances that would dissolve the Department of Environmental Services and put all activities related to public works under the authority of the law director. He requested that the council waive the 30-day waiting period for the ordinances but Cunningham, Della Fave, Wilson, and Pat Pasculli objected.

Cunningham attacked Ranieri for his actions. "You want to be mayor so bad you can taste it and you don't care how you get it," she said. "This is completely out of order and typical of your obstructionist action."

She also charged D'Amelio

with being biased against Alicandri and asked that he be removed from dealing with matters pertaining to the director's firing. Under Ranieri's resolution, D'Amelio would assume Alicandri's duties.

In other business, the council unanimously approved an emergency resolution authorizing temporary appropriations of \$2.5 million until the budget is introduced and approved. The council has already appropriated \$5.5 million.

An ordinance to shorten no parking bus zones was also unanimously approved. The footage gained will be converted into parking spaces.

Joseph Mangino, Judith Karpova, and Morgan Cline were also appointed to the Municipal Ethics Board.

Alicandri may be out, but not down

By Margaret Schmidt

Peter Alicandri isn't leaving quietly.

The Hoboken director of environmental services and facilities, who was fired by the City Council on Wednesday, plans to fight the action in court. He said he will continue to battle a contract the council has reaffirmed but he calls invalid and "less than legal."

Alicandri, the latest in a line of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's appointees to face council criticism, said last night he was meeting with his lawyer, Neil Mullin of Hoboken, and would probably announce his course of action today.

"We're meeting with counsel now to determine what our options are," he said, adding that there's "no question" he will try to have the council vote overturned.

He said he doesn't know what will happen at

Wednesday's scheduled council "hearing" on the ouster.

"He has a right to speak, to state what he thinks is rightfully his," said Councilman Patrick Pasculli when asked about the post-firing hearing. "Whether it changes the opinion of the council, I don't know."

Pasculli intimated that the council might change its mind only if Alicandri recognized the city's contract with Mayo Lynch and Associates, a Hoboken engineering firm that has an agreement to design a secondary sewage treatment plant, a project estimated at \$2 million.

Alicandri, though, reasserted his charges that the contract is invalid because the original council resolution on it didn't specify the design work and because the council has yet to set aside funding for it.

Vezzetti, meanwhile, called

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the council action a blatant power grab. He accused the council of "persecuting" his appointee in an effort to take over duties of the executive branch of government.

The eight-member council voted to fire Alicandri 6-to-2, with Vezzetti supporters Joseph Della Fave and Helen Cunningham opposing the move.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilman Robert Ranieri, needed six votes, two-thirds of the council, to pass because it was an override of a mayoral action.

It said the director "has shown a total disregard for the best interest of the city of Hoboken by his inability and lack of desire to manage the personnel in his department properly, causing demoralization of personnel."

It further charged that Alicandri has "jeopardized the progress of the city... in its efforts to provide a secondary (sewage) treatment plant by frustrating the progress with the state of New Jersey, other municipalities and the municipality's design engineer."

The ouster is effective April 2, subject to the hearing, which is 4 p.m. Wednesday in the council chambers at City Hall.

City administrators, however, believe appeals of the action will keep Alicandri in the \$40,000-a-year job well beyond April 2, even should he eventually lose. Alicandri will foot his own legal bills, they added.

Alicandri was appointed director of environmental services and facilities — an umbrella agency that includes public works, health, welfare, and recreation — in August. The department had an \$8 million budget last year, said Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

The mayoral appointment was then approved by the council.

Other Vezzetti appointments have met with harsh criticism and stalling by the council, which has a majority of anti-administration and independent members. Community Development Director Michael Coleman and Municipal Court Judge Steve Zamrin met the greatest opposition since Vezzetti's July 1 inauguration.

Feds slam Hudson on sewage

Hoboken risks \$10G-a-day fine

By Terence J. Kivian

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department yesterday took Jersey City and four other Hudson County communities into court for discharging sewage into area waterways and requested that each be fined up to \$10,000 a day for violations of the Clean Water Act.

The others named in the case were Hoboken, West New York, Bayonne and North Bergen. Jersey City, Hoboken, and West New York were cited for discharging "excessive pollutants" into the Hudson River. Jersey City is also charged with dumping into the Hackensack River. Bayonne was cited for discharging into the Kill Van vocational education for the Kull.

The suit, developed jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was announced yesterday here by Deputy Attorney General Lowell Jensen and filed at U.S. District Court in Newark. Jensen said

the case was designed to force the municipalities into compliance with Clean Water Act standards.

"I can't believe what I'm hearing," said Jersey City Mayor Anthony Cucci. "All I know is that I signed a consent order."

None of the other mayors could be reached for comment on the federal suit.

All five of the Hudson County towns recently signed a consent order with the state agreeing to upgrade their sewage treatment to the secondary level within the next several years. Until then, the towns can continue dumping their primary treated sewage into the waterways, the agreement says.

The local umbrella agency designated by federal and state environmental officials to oversee the implementation of the order is the Hudson County Utilities Authority.

To comply with the order, Jersey City has contracted to install an interceptor linking the city's sewage collection system to the secondary treatment plant run by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority on the other side of the Hackensack River.

Continued from Page 1.

incident within a six- to eight-week period indicating some type of major problem exists within the department of a major sort."

In an encounter between Mercado, a candidate in the April 15 Board of Education election, and Alicandri in Vezzetti's office, Mercado said he was running as an independent and Alicandri suggested he run with Vezzetti's support. The council was concerned this could have been construed as a political threat even though Mercado isn't under Alicandri's office.

Two men who are part of a movement to create a supervisors union testified that Alicandri had asked them to perform duties not in their Civil Service job descriptions.

Alicandri wasn't given an opportunity to respond to those charges at the hearing but said yesterday that he thinks supervisors should work as well as supervise others working, es-

pecially if the staff is shorthanded on a particular day. The "new" approach, he said, didn't sit well with some employees.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave and Alicandri are quoted several times in the transcript as asking for clarifications of the night's process. At various stages, other officials called the session a "fact-finding mission" or "investigation." Sometimes the word "charges" was used, although it was stressed that the evening wasn't a trial and was to be one of at least two sessions.

Councilman Robert Ranieri objected to part of Della Fave's complaints, saying no one was "confused" about the council's fact-finding purpose.

Alicandri is fighting the ouster.

See TRANSCRIPT — Page 8.

19th-century school keeps itself up to date with industry's needs

By Margaret Schmidt

At the end of the 19th century, Hoboken residents could learn to sew and make clothes at the School for Industrial Education — and they still can today.

The school, housed in an historic building at 506 Park Ave., celebrated its 90th "closing" last night in ceremonies that celebrated both the ways the school has changed and the ways it has remained the same.

The courses have always been designed to help people learn skills that will bring them work, said Patrick Cauffield, president of the school's board of trustees. While the emphasis may have shifted somewhat because children are no longer taught there, the school's purpose is still to help people make money.

"A lot of these people never finished high school," he said of the last night's graduates. They may have had to take jobs before earning their degrees, or they are women who married early and began raising families, he said.

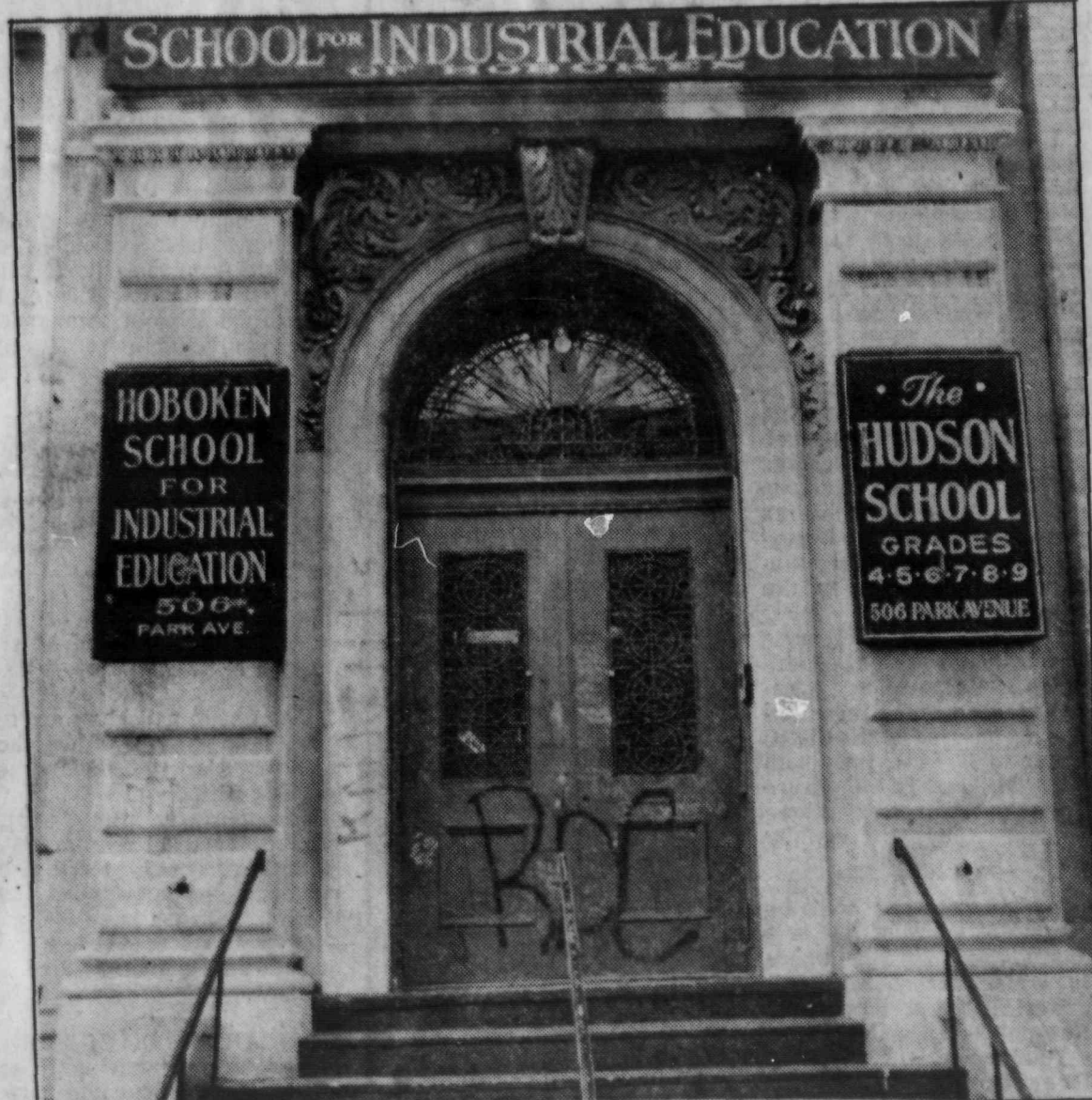
"This is an easy way for them to break into going back to school."

While some of the courses, such as sewing, date to the opening of the school, there is a constant effort to bring in classes that will teach skills that are newly in demand, said Theresa Cilento, school director.

The most recent addition to the school's curriculum is an introductory class in computers, she noted.

While last night was the 90th annual closing, the school dates to June 5, 1888, when Martha Bayard Stevens organized the Industrial Education Association "to promote manual training in the schools of the city," according to a Hoboken history compiled by John J. Heaney.

The school's first home was at the Martin Institute, Sixth Street and Park Avenue, a building named for Mrs. Stevens.



The School for Industrial Education of Hoboken, 506 Park Ave., celebrated its 90th "closing" last night with ceremonies and an exhibit of students' work.

Boys and girls were taught subjects including carpentry, clay modeling, woodcarving, cooking, sewing and many crafts.

When the Public Library, 500 Park Ave., was built, the back of the building was given over to the industrial school, its home since 1897.

Around 1960, the school stopped day classes for children, and only teaches adults in evening classes.

The most popular course today, Cilento said, is

ceramics, which attracts more than 100 potential students.

About 300 people sign up for the free 20-week courses — the only charge is a registration fee recently raised from \$1 to \$3 — and about 150 continue to completion, she said.

The school is funded by the city, with a state matching grant. In 1985, it received \$21,000 from Hoboken and the same from the state. The Hudson School, a private school for talented

youths, shares space and expenses but pays no money to the industrial school, Cilento said.

Last night's festivities included an exhibit of ceramics, art and other students' crafts as well as a fashion show by the dressmaking class. Dr. Steven Seu, director of vocational education for the Kull,

was guest speaker. The suit, developed jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was announced yesterday here by Deputy Attorney General Lowell Jensen and filed at U.S. District Court in Newark. Jensen said

of the suit was part of an effort to carry out EPA's national policy of requiring operators of locally owned sewage systems to meet the compliance deadline.

Each of the Hudson County towns was also charged with failing to operate or maintain its existing treatment facilities properly. In addition, Hoboken was cited for failure to make needed improvements in its system, and Bayonne for having "operational deficiencies."

The suit further asked the court to bar any further hookups in each of the towns until all of them converted to secondary treatment. According to Jersey City officials, the city has already imposed such a moratorium.

It was not immediately clear from court papers how the fines would be levied. In the case of Hoboken, West New York and Jersey City, the suit asked for

Continued from Page 5.
\$10,000 a day for each violation of the Clean Water Act. For Bayonne and North Bergen, it requested \$10,000 a day for "past violations."

In a related move, the North Bergen commissioners introduced an ordinance establishing a sewer moratorium last night that will affect parts of the township which drain into the Woodcliff Treatment Plant.

According to the township attorney, Herbert Klitzner, that

represents 10 percent of the total sewer system and involves roughly the northeastern part of North Bergen. The ordinance also calls for stiff penalties for those who violate the law.

A public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for April 3 at 5 p.m. in Town Hall.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, Klitzner said, has determined that a sewer moratorium should be instituted in North Bergen in connection with extensions at the Woodcliff Plant.

"In other words, no one in this part of town is allowed to put up new hookups," the attorney said.

The plant, now at a primary level, has not yet been upgraded to secondary treatment in accordance with the Clean Water Act.

Extension, the ordinance reads, means any sewer, pipe, line or any other structure for the transport of sewage, which conveys sewage from more than

one separate building or structure, or conveys or will convey 2,000 gallons or more of sewage per day. This includes all new lines from a single building if the building uses more than one sewer line to convey waste to the sewer system.

Those who violate the provisions of the ordinance will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each day, or be imprisoned in the county jail.

Klitzner said the moratorium will continue until the Department of Environmental Protection is satisfied that the effluent from the treatment works does not cause a violation of the applicable Water Quality Standards, or until the department is satisfied that sufficient progress has been made to upgrade the Woodcliff Treatment Plant to secondary levels.

The ordinance will be implemented as soon as it is adopted after holding the public hearing.

Schools put bigger bite on taxpayer

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Board of Education will meet the public tomorrow for a hearing on its proposed 1988-89 budget, which calls for a slight overall increase but double the amount of funding from local property taxes.

The hearing is set for 8 p.m. in the board offices, 1115 Clinton St.

The next step in the budget process will be April 15 when the city votes on it. If the budget is rejected, it will go to the City Council for possible changes and then back to the board.

The school board has introduced a \$24.6 million budget.

While it represents only a \$25,000 increase, the funding sources shift in it from state and federal aid to the city's tax coffers.

Last year the city paid \$5,887,701 for education, but the board has asked for \$11 million in tax revenues for the 1988-89 school year, a move that would increase the tax rate unless the municipal budget is drastically cut.

The change, said board President John Pope, results from a combination of decreased state and federal funding and the city's failure to reassess property to bring in more taxes.

Board critics, particularly

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, charge, however, that poor financial planning coupled with an un-

	1985-86	Proposed 1986-87	Change
Pupils on Roll	4,401	4,400 (est.)	-1
Total Budget	\$24,579,346.65	\$24,604,287.50	+\$24,950.85
Total Salaries	15,536,687.00	15,582,664.00	+\$45,977.00
Teachers' Salaries	7,589,164.00	7,691,926.00	+\$102,762.00
Administration			
Costs	865,950.00	814,177.00	-\$51,773.00
State Aid	14,484,173.66	12,199,401.00	-\$2,284,772.66
Federal Aid	2,085,967.90	1,584,522.00	-\$501,445.90
Revenues			
from Taxes	5,887,701.00	11,000,000.00	+\$5,112,299.00

willingness to cut "unnecessary" jobs led to the increase. Tomorrow's meeting is expected to draw more critics than usual because this is the first budget to go before the voters

Eleven men and women, including three incumbents, are seeking three-year terms.

Pope, one of the candidates, said he expects that at least each of the candidates will speak. "They'd be foolish not to," he said, adding that in campaigning the speakers can then point to their request that the board make giant cuts to prevent a tax hike.

Pope lauded the budget as "relatively flat" in comparison to last year's spending. It keeps the education workforce at about 700, with 283 teachers, despite negotiated salary increases, he noted.

Administration salaries are

down in the budget, due to the retirement of Superintendent of Schools George Maier, whose salary was more than \$70,000 a year. Maier was replaced by Assistant Superintendent Walter Fine, whose former position remains unfilled, Pope said.

Michael Rossano, an investment broker and candidate with the Committee for Quality Education, criticized the budget because of the additional cost to the taxpayer. He also pointed to problems outlined in the board's recent audit, such as petty cash vouchers being improperly authorized and fixed assets be-

See SCHOOLS — Page 7.

SIMMERING CONTROVERSY

A coffee truck started it all

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A coffee truck rolling into the public works garage was the spark that ignited the simmering political, personality and policy conflicts that culminated last week in the firing of Public Works Director Peter Alicandri by the City Council.

Two closed-door council meetings were the prelude to Alicandri's ouster. The second, scheduled just before the meeting at which Alicandri was let go, was to have explored his actions regarding a disputed sewage plant design contract. Alicandri did not attend, saying it violated his right to a public hearing.

The other, held a week earlier, was a five-hour marathon largely devoted to discussing Alicandri's threatened suspension of the man who allowed the coffee truck in, determining who he was and investigating whether the incident had political overtones.

Much of the rest of the 194-page transcript of the March 11 session details procedural wrangling, as Alicandri and the two pro-administration council members who later voted against the firing — Joseph DellaFave and Helen Cunniff — question the hearing's scope and conduct.

In another section, officers of a proposed new public works supervisors' union said Alicandri had assigned management employees to tasks outside of their Civil Service job descriptions.

As to the coffee truck incident, several department workers testified that Alicandri threatened to suspend Police Lt. Mario Mercado, the garage superintendent, for permitting it on the premises. Various speakers put the date of the incident at either Feb. 17, 18 or 19.

Alicandri testified that he did not say he would suspend Mercado, who as a police officer is not under his jurisdiction, but rather that he would suspend whichever "Mario" let the truck in against his orders. Mercado was out of town when the incident occurred, and learned

about it later that day, according to the transcript.

Under questioning, Mercado, a candidate in the April 15 Board of Education election, raised the possibility he may have interpreted the incident as a political threat, since he had heard a rumor he was going to be fired. The transcript indicates Alicandri suggested to Mercado, who is running as an independent, that he "throw in with (Mayor Thomas F.) Vezzetti's forces," but the timing of the conversation is unclear.

The truck incident initially was aired at council meetings by George Guzman, an official of Unidad, the Hispanic social and political group backing Mercado's candidacy. Guzman is employed by HOPES, the city anti-poverty agency, as an aide to E. Norman Wilson Jr., who is also the council president.

City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio has said the material in the transcript is but the tip of an iceberg of complaints against Alicandri.

The following are excerpts from the transcript. The speakers are Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, Alicandri and Councilman Patrick Pasculli.

Ranieri: The heart of this matter, the specific matter, is the question of whether it was your intention to suspend Mario Mercado, (whether) you stated you suspended him, and whether you denied that statement when you were before the City Council.

Alicandri: I did not suspend him, nor did I say I would suspend Mario Mercado.

Ranieri: Did you suspend Mario?

Alicandri: I said show me which Mario and I will suspend him.

Ranieri: For three days.

Alicandri: On the basis of which Mario would have to be somebody other than Mario Mercado on the simple fact that Mario Mercado and I had an agreement on the issue of the catering truck. I had a subsequent conversation with Mario just yesterday, as a matter of fact, where we discussed this and we discussed the issue of the catering

truck, and he indicated to me that he suspended that agreement unilaterally on the basis that his people come in at 6 o'clock in the morning and their coffee break is a legitimate at that time and he said he did neglect to mention it to me.

So I was going on the assumption that we still had the same plan at the time I was there. It was a couple of days ago; we sat down to discuss this thing, and he indicated that he decided that he would like to have the truck there. He felt it was safe now, that our men were mostly out in the street functioning at the time and there was really no large amount of them hanging around there anymore.

Pasculli: Did you at any point in time enter into a conversation with Mario Mercado with reference to the school board election?

Alicandri: Yes, one time in the mayor's office. I don't know the date, but it was in the mayor's office, and it must have been about a week before that incident, I would say approximately.

Pasculli: Could you share the content of that conversation?

Alicandri: He was talking to Tom, saying he was going to run. I had just walked into the office. I wasn't there for a meeting or anything. I just walked in. I was going to see somebody. And he was saying that and I smiled and I said "Great," and I know Mario, his wife's children and mine go to the same school, and I told him, "If you are interested in reforming the school system, why don't you throw in with Tom Vezzetti's forces, let's work together on it." And that was the extent of the conversation.

Pasculli: That interests me. It interests me because you made several statements before the City Council, in the office of the public works director, at public forums that you detach yourself from politics. That statement being made in the mayor's office, the content in which it was made, in my opinion is a political statement. Just let the record show that.

Alicandri: It's a show of political sentiment. Whether it's a political position is another matter altogether.

Planning board hasn't decided about Union Club

By Silvia Ascarelli

The Hoboken Planning Board Friday postponed its decision on the proposed Union Club condominium conversion project after a motion to approve the plan subject to 10 conditions was rejected on a 5-4 vote.

The matter will be discussed at the board's regular meeting April 1.

The developers — two former city officials and the wives of two others — want to add several floors to the historic building at 600 Hudson St. and create 39 condominium units. They are seeking four variances, primarily for the building's height and parking.

The foursome of former City Council President Helen Macri, former budget officer Joseph Lisam, former budget officer Joseph deNicola's wife, Louise deNicola, and former First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano's wife, Martha Romano, reportedly paid \$1 million for the property about a year ago.

One of the major objections remains the proposed height, according to both board President Mike Ocello and attorney George Pappas. The developers want to add 30 feet to the building's 45 feet.

One of the proposed conditions would allow the building to be 60 feet or five stories. That, however, would cost them 14 units and make the project uneconomical, the developers claimed.

"If they didn't go that high, I

think there wouldn't be any objections," Ocello said.

Ocello cast the tie-breaking vote that defeated the motion because he objected to another condition, he said. He does not want to see the existing fence between the sidewalk on Sixth Street and the building torn down and the sidewalk extended to the building wall. That would especially be a problem where developers propose digging "wells" to allow sunlight into basement units, he said.

To deal with parking, the developers propose providing seven spots on the property and renting another 32 from the city parking authority's garage at Fourth and Hudson streets.

Ocello said he wants a long-term guarantee from developers that those spaces will be provided.

In addition to variances from the prevailing height requirement and the on-site parking, developers also are seeking variances on the rear yard requirement and a loading bay on Court Street that is too small.

The other proposed conditions include a 30 percent sky angle or setback for any part of the building built above the prevailing height of 45 feet, providing on-site trash pickup and storage, removing the fire escapes that encroach upon Sixth and Court streets, put all utility lines connecting to Court Street underground, obtain all sewer and utility permits, pay all taxes and have the project substantially completed before final approval is given.

Alicandri making federal case of it

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken's ousted director of environmental services and facilities was set to take the City Council to court today to restrain them from a post-firing hearing scheduled for tomorrow.

Peter Alicandri was set to file a motion in U.S. District Court, Newark, said his attorney, Neil Mullin of Hoboken.

The City Council fired Alicandri, an appointee of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, by a resolution that passed 6 to 2 last week. Alicandri has charged that the firing was largely political.

Mullin explained that he was going to federal court because he believes Alicandri's constitutional right to due process was violated by the firing.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires a fair hearing after notice of charges is served, he said. Alicandri was fired subject to a hearing scheduled for a week after the vote and he was never served charges, Mullin said.

"We're moving for a restraining order to restrain the City Council from hearing the matter ... because they have

See ALICANDRI — Page 6.

Alicandri seeks to block council's dismissal hearing

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The public works director dumped by the City Council is going to court to fight what he and his supporters say would be a "kangaroo court" convened to hear his appeal of the firing.

Peter Alicandri is seeking to block a dismissal hearing the council has scheduled for Wednesday, according to his attorney, Neil Mullin of Hoboken, who said he expects to file papers tomorrow in U.S. District Court in Newark, contending Alicandri was brought up on charges illegally.

Although the council has balked

at confirming many of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's appointees, Alicandri, ousted on a 6-2 vote at a stormy meeting Wednesday, is the first one fired by the governing body. The grounds, as outlined in a resolution, were personnel mismanagement that demoralized Department of Public Works staff and hampering progress toward the government-mandated improvement of the city's sewage treatment plant.

Read into the record by Councilman E. Norman Wilson Jr. was a letter from Mayo Lynch & Associates, the local engineers hired to design the plant under a contract Alicandri claims is invalid. The

letter accuses Alicandri, whose job nets him \$41,000 per year, of excluding the firm from meeting with state environmental officials, issuing a stop-work order on the project and taking other steps to undermine the contract.

Alicandri has refused to sign vouchers for work by the firm until he is satisfied it has a legal contract — one that specifies a funding source for the \$2 million design job.

Members of the Vezzetti administration have said the firing was triggered by his public stand on this issue, plus staffing changes intended to bring into line a department long noted for the political connections, rather than the productivity of its workers.

Judge won't delay Alicandri hearing

By Silvia Ascarelli

A U.S. District Court judge in Newark yesterday refused to issue a temporary restraining order that would have prevented the Hoboken City Council from holding a hearing on the firing of the city's director of environmental services and facilities originally scheduled today.

Following the judge's decision, the hearing over the ousted Peter Alicandri was delayed. Assistant City Attorney Michael Mongiello said the postponement was requested by Alicandri's attorney, Neil Mullin of Hoboken,

and a new hearing has tentatively been set for 4 p.m. Tuesday. Alicandri's firing is to take effect next Wednesday, but Mongiello stated several times that Alicandri "absolutely" will have a public hearing before the termination date.

"It's possible (that the firing date could be delayed)," he said. "The Council would have to act on it. But he will be given his hearing date before his termination date. That's definite."

The council last week passed a resolution 6-2 to fire Alicandri, an appointee of Mayor Thomas

Judge won't delay Alicandri's hearing

Continued from Page 1.

Vezzetti. Alicandri has charged that the firing was largely political.

In denying the request for the temporary injunction, Judge Herbert Stern ruled that Alicandri and Mullin had failed to show "irreparable harm" and that Alicandri's right of due process had not yet been violated because the council has not taken final action.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Hoboken tax rate to rise 33 percent

Dispatch 3/27/86

HOBOKEN—The Board of Education has passed a 1988 budget that would raise the school tax rate by \$20 to \$25 on each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The school district tax bite now comes to \$59.17 of the overall rate of \$162.74.

At a hearing Tuesday night, the \$25 million spending plan drew fire from trustee candidates allied with Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti. One of

Opposing attorneys disagreed on the ruling's meaning. Mullin described it as a "mixed bag" but Mongiello labeled it a "clear-cut victory for the council."

Mullin said Stern agreed to retain jurisdiction over the matter and is willing to entertain a motion in the future asking him to review the council's procedures.

"I'm pleased to know that a federal judge is going to look into those procedures," he said.

He said he "most definitely" plans to file another motion, probably in a few weeks. If the council upholds the firing, as he expects it to do, he will ask Stern to overturn the decision.

Mongiello said Stern's decision blocked Mullin's attempt to remove the council from the case and have the hearing before an administrative law judge or other body. In doing so, the judge rejected the argument that the council was biased when it adopted its resolution, he said.

Board President John J. Pope has said the budget, up less than one percent from 1985, is as tight as possible when fixed expenses and

Little League parents in City Hall rhubarb

By Jim DeRogatis

A meeting on Wednesday night between Hoboken officials and some angry parents of Little League ball players could have used an umpire, but the two sides left with their differences resolved.

About 35 parents and children gathered on the second floor of City Hall to protest not being allowed to sit in on a meeting of the Hoboken Recreation Committee. The crowd hurled insults at the chairman of the committee, Frank "Pupie" Raia, Peter Alicandri, director of environmental services and facilities, and Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

The recreation committee "is a working committee responsible for coordinating recreation for the city's

children," according to Alicandri. Its 15 members include three representatives from the Little League.

Parents objected on Wednesday night that the meetings are closed to the public. They also charged that Alicandri and the committee were being lax in preparing the Little League field on Fourth Street and Frank Sinatra Drive for tryouts on Saturday.

Alicandri spoke to the group while the meeting was being held. The committee met with the parents following their closed meeting.

Raia said that future meetings of the committee will be held in public following a brief closed caucus. The committee's next meeting is on April

See LITTLE — Page 11.

Gov. Thomas Kean's office — send more money to the Hoboken board so it can reduce local funding.

The mayor responded that he has no intention of making that request.

"They've got more than enough money," he said, noting that the school population is down to 4,400 students. "They'd only spend it frivolously."

Vezzetti has long accused the board of spending money for political rather than educational purposes, and Pope regularly denies the charges.

2 schoolteachers busted as dealers

By GAIL FREIDMAN
Staff Writer

Police yesterday arrested a veteran Hoboken High School gym teacher they said was the kingpin of a cocaine ring that made weekly drug sales worth "thousands of dollars."

A Secaucus High School teacher also was charged with drug dealing after police rounded up five suspects at several locations in Hoboken and Union City at about 2 p.m.

The alleged ringleader, gym teacher Thomas Cacamis, 42, has taught at Hoboken High School for 20 years. He and a Hoboken woman,

Cecelia M. Pierri, 33, were arrested at his home at Troy Towers, 380 Mountain Rd. in Union City, according to Paul DePascale, first assistant Hudson County prosecutor.

Also arrested was Susan Scabzo, 37, who taught English at Secaucus High School for 15 years, and who also lives at Troy Towers, according to county prosecutor Harold J. Ruvoldt Jr.

The raids by members of the county Narcotics Strike Force and Hoboken police netted a kilogram — more than two pounds — of cocaine and \$30,000, authorities said.

The drugs and money were found

See DEALERS, Page 8.

Continued from Page 1
at the Hoboken residence of Thomas Finerty, 33, 917 Clinton St., who was arrested as he was sitting in a car at Sixth and Washington streets in Hoboken, DePascale said, adding that the cocaine would fetch at least \$200,000 if cut and sold on the street.

Police also seized drug sales records and packaging paraphernalia.

The fifth person charged was Corrado Russo, 45, of 14 Paterson Ave. in Hoboken. Police said he was arrested in a car at Ninth and Adams streets, Hoboken.

Ruvoldt said court-authorized wiretaps helped police crack the drug ring, which operated in Hoboken and Union City.

All the defendants are charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine. Russo faces the additional charge of possessing illegal gambling records.

Other arrests are expected in the case, but DePascale would not elaborate on the details of what investigators said is a "sophisticated" drug distribution network.

Bail for Finerty and Cacamis was set at \$100,000 each; for Scabzo, at \$10,000 bond, with a \$1000 cash option, and for Pierri and Russo, at \$5,000, with a \$500 cash option. As of yesterday afternoon, all were being held in the county jail in Jersey City.

Continued from Page 1.

9 at 7:30 p.m. Alicandri told the parents that the field would be in shape for the children to try out on Saturday. Work to resod the field will be completed by the start of the season in mid-April, he said.

"There was quite a bit of talk," Councilman Robert Ranieri said of the meeting. "But my impression is that the parents and the committee got together and resolved their differences."

Alicandri charged that the parents' protest was politically motivated. "It was a desperate

attempt to use children's needs for political purposes," he said. "The city is fulfilling its obligations to the children of Hoboken. The children shouldn't be politicized," he added.

Little League parents, officials trade charges

By Jim DeRogatis

Hoboken kids just want to play ball, but the adults seem more interested in playing politics.

Several parents of Little League ball players and city officials traded accusations of foul play yesterday, but after last night's Hoboken Recreation Committee meeting — which was closed to the public — officials assured parents that the youngsters will be able to try out Saturday, and that the season will open as scheduled on April 15.

Charles Casazza and Tom Scerbo charged that Peter Alicandri, the city's director of Environmental Services and Facilities, has not lived up to his obligation to have the Little League field on Fourth Street and Frank Sinatra Drive ready by Saturday for tryouts.

The two also objected to not being allowed to attend meetings of the Hoboken Recreation Committee and to being denied access to the clubhouse located at the field.

Scerbo charged that the field is not ready yet for the

ballplayers. "There are stones everywhere, it has to be cleaned up, and there is a problem with the lighting," he said.

"The field will be ready on Saturday," Alicandri responded. "I have men working on it right now."

Alicandri said he told Parks Department officials to "select fill that was safe" to close up divots and bare spots that may cause injury.

The director added that the field will be completely resodded by the start of the season in mid-April. He said the City

Council is currently accepting proposals to refurbish the lighting, and may award the contract by Wednesday.

Alicandri said that there are three representatives from the Little League on the Recreation Committee. "The committee is loaded in their direction," he said.

According to Alicandri, the 15-member committee is "a working committee responsible for coordinating recreation for the city's children." The Little League is responsible for running their program, Alicandri

said, and the committee is responsible for seeing that city services are provided.

"If they have a complaint, they should speak to their representatives on the committee," he said.

Casazza and Scerbo also objected to being denied access to the clubhouse. Alicandri said that no one is denied entrance into the facility — as long as he is accompanied by a city employee.

"The clubhouse is city property," Alicandri said. "We provide access on a scheduled

basis."

Some parents expressed anger that they were not permitted to attend last night's 7-30 committee meeting, but Alicandri said it was open only to committee members. Alicandri, however, did meet with some parents at about 9 p.m.

"Politics should never have anything to do with children's sports, and this is politics," Scerbo said.

"This is a form of a power play," Alicandri said. "They're playing politics."



Photo by Don Smith

Pothole fixers in Hoboken include: Frank Fleming, left, Jimmy Burke, in the background, and Muzzi Morales.

STREET SMOOTHERS

Hoboken crew hits busy season

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—In some circles, the first robin marks the coming of spring, but down at the public works garage, they know a new season has arrived when the hot-asphalt plants open their doors.

For drivers, March can be the cruelest month. That's the time when road flaws — magnified by months of freezing, thawing and salting — erupt into full-blown potholes.

One mild day not long ago, a three-man crew from the Department of Public Works set out to patch their mettle against the urban landscape of some city streets. Heavy equipment operators Frank Fleming and Muzzi Morales rode in a big yellow dump truck, and Foreman Jimmy Burke brought up the rear, in a smaller truck carrying equipment.

Their day had begun hours earlier, when they drove up to Patuxent to pick up a load of hot asphalt. The department's usual supplier is in Bogota, but that plant was still shut for the winter. So, the Patuxent operation was the only game in town, and the Hoboken crew waited in a line of trucks that stretched almost to upstate New York, from which some of the customers hailed.

Fleming's "hit list" read some-

'For this week alone, I got 500 potholes to be filled ... I like seeing the streets give you a smooth ride'

thing like this:

- Between Eighth and Clinton streets: bad potholes.
- Ninth Street: bad potholes
- 311 Washington Street: two bad potholes.
- Seventh and Bloomfield streets: bad pothole.
- 502 Jefferson St.: very bad pothole.

This was the emergency list, Fleming said, adding that there were two longer lists back at the garage. "For this week alone, I got 500 potholes to be filled," he said. "I can get them all, as long as it doesn't rain."

The trio pulled out of the garage, turned the corner onto Observer Highway and spotted their first patients: twin two-foot potholes and a flock of baby ones. Working quickly, since the hot asphalt loses its bonding ability as it cools, one man cleaned out the hole, another

shoveled fill in, and a third smoothed it off and splashed it with water.

Then came the finishing touch. Morales sealed their handiwork with a poulder, a device that resembles a lawn mower engine mounted on a slab, and seemingly takes its name from its effect on human eardrums.

Fleming said he learned the fine art of filling potholes at the hand of Morales, "the perfect pothole filler." What makes Morales' potholes perfect? "It's just the knack," Fleming muses, "maybe from just doing it so long."

Road repairing is a year-round job, but in winter, it's too cold to work with asphalt, so a sand-and-gravel mix is substituted, explained Burke. The result is a makeshift patch destined to come apart almost as soon as it's put in, he went on, while asphalt fills the hole permanently — or at least for a year

under the assault of 18-wheelers and the elements.

The work can be hazardous. To avoid traffic jams, roads rarely are blocked off while the crew goes about its business, fanned by the breezes stirred by passing cars and trucks. "You're constantly looking over your shoulder; you don't wanna get clipped," said Fleming.

Sidewalk superintendents are drawn to pothole operations like flies to honey. Fleming, Morales and Burke got applause from Rafael Fernandez, who was watching them patch the holes across the street from his home. Other spectators, less kind, have been known to hurl insults, the trio said.

Accidents do happen. Fleming recalled the time a switch stuck and the truck dumped "a couple of tons" of blacktop on the ground. A pay-loader got rid of most, and they shoveled up the rest by hand.

Is there a reward in doing a task that could stretch from here to eternity? This crew said they take some satisfaction in seeing another axle-buster bite the dust. "I like seeing the streets give you a smooth ride," said Burke.

But when the boredom level rises beyond the tolerable, there's only one thing left to do, according to Fleming, and that's to hope a bigger job, like, say, a road cave-in, falls your way.

Sewerage firm hits Hoboken for \$6.2M

Sewerage firm hits Hoboken for \$6.2M
3-27-86

By Margaret Schmidt

The battle over lucrative contracts for Hoboken's secondary sewage treatment plant escalated yesterday when one company demanded \$6.25 million or a contract award.

Hoboken Waste Water Management Inc. in a letter to city Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., demanded the money within 10 days because of what they consider an infringement of their proprietary interests.

D'Amelio responded by calling the demand "legal extortion."

Hoboken must have a secondary sewage treatment plant in operation by July 1988, according to state and federal mandates. City officials have estimated that the construction of the plant will cost \$40 million and that design of the facility will be 5 percent of that, or \$2 million.

The city hopes to receive federal funding of up to 75 cents on the dollar for the plant construction.

Last week, the issue of a design contract blew up when Peter Alicandri, director of environmental services and facilities, acknowledged that he has refused to let Hoboken engineering firm Mayo Lynch and Associates begin design work.

He has charged that the contract Mayo Lynch drew up with the city last year is invalid. In response, the City Council voted 6-to-2 to reaffirm the contract and fire Alicandri.

Alicandri has contended that the 1985 contract is invalid because the City Council resolu-

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Continued from Page 1.
tion that accompanied it only specified part of the contract — a \$42,300 contract for Mayo Lynch to review the mandated municipal compliance plan.

The compliance plan was based on pilot work by HWWM and James A. Federline Inc.

In his letter to D'Amelio yesterday, Robert Ellenport of the Roseland law firm Ellenport, Holsinger and Lehn objected to the Mayo Lynch contract for designing the plant.

"Mayo Lynch and Associates Inc. has requested access to our client's secret, confidential and proprietary information, but has refused to sign the agreement of confidentiality necessary to protect our client's rights," Ellenport wrote. "Furthermore, we understand that the design concept to be performed by Mayo Lynch and

Associates Inc. borrows heavily, if not entirely, from the design concept contained in HWWM's copyrighted plan."

D'Amelio responded that it is his understanding from meetings and correspondence with the various parties that HWWM has yet to secure patents on the processes and that Mayo Lynch is using information known by distributors that deal with HWWM and Federline and isn't confidential.

Ellenport continued that HWWM will seek injunctive relief if Hoboken and Mayo Lynch try to implement the proprietary concepts. That, he wrote, would possibly constitute theft of proprietary information.

"As you have sought to use such design concepts," he concluded, "my client demands payment in full in the amount of \$6.25 million for the cost of

creating the concepts."

He adds, however, that the claim for compensation would be "subsumed" if HWWM is awarded the contract to plan, design and construct the secondary sewage treatment plant.

The law office will formulate a reply, D'Amelio said, and it may suggest to the City Council that it decline to use any of the HWWM technology. It is impossible that the city pay the \$6.25 million on demand since the funding isn't there, he added. D'Amelio further accused the company of using threats of legal action to extort a contract from the city.

"They want it all," he said of the contracts. "They don't want just part of it."

Alicandri said he has yet to review the letter and could make no comment on it.

Vezzetti can't get his way

By Margaret Schmidt

A state official has told Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti that he cannot fire the city's six code-enforcement officials.

Frank L. Salamandra, supervisor of the state Licensing Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement, wrote in response to a letter from Vezzetti that the inspectors cannot be replaced because they have Civil Service status.

Al Arezzo, the construction code official, said he was unaware the mayor had made the inquiry and called it a political move.

Vezzetti said he made the inquiry because he thought the inspectors had appointed terms and he might be able to make new appointments soon.

In response to Arezzo's charge of politics, he said, "I'm the mayor, aren't I?"

Asked if he was unsatisfied with the inspectors' work, he said, "Let me put it this way, I think I would do things in a different way."

Board won't adjust to Vezzetti's plans

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—It looks like the letter of the law has stymied for a year Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's plan to replace the majority of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with his own appointees.

The board has come under fire from citizens groups and others who say it is ill-equipped to rule on the growing number of variance applications that have come before it since July as a result of a change in the state land use law.

The names of Vezzetti's choices for six seats and one alternate post on the seven-member board had been scheduled to go to the City Council tonight for a confirmation vote. They would replace members appointed under the previous administration of Mayor Steve Cappiello, whose terms were believed to have expired yesterday.

But according to City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio, three of the members that were to be replaced have another year left to serve. Those members had been appointed to three-year terms in 1983, he said, but "it was just an error." Both state statute and city ordinance stipulate a four-year term for board members, D'Amelio said.

The appointees Vezzetti had in

mind are: urban planner Joel Prieser, who would succeed Vincent D'Agostino; Pedro Roman, an engineer, replacing Sergio Germinario; truckdriver Joseph DePalma, vice president of the 1st Ward Block Association, replacing James Greany; Thomas Newman, a board alternate and president of the block association, replacing Salvatore DeGennaro; and alternate Martin Turman, an architect. The mayor also has nominated board members Mary Perry and Marie Versaci for reappointment.

But D'Amelio said the only slots now legally open as a result of expired terms are those held by D'Agostino, Perry, Versaci and the alternate. He also said any board appointments Vezzetti makes would have to be for four years, rather than the staggered terms listed on the nominating resolution the mayor had sent to the council.

D'Amelio said he had complied with a request from some council members, made at Monday's caucus, to research the issue with the state Attorney General's office. Helen Canning, one of Vezzetti's two allies on the council, questioned what the attorney labeled the legal roadblock standing in the way of a vote on all the nominees, saying the earlier three-year appointments had been made "in good faith."

Few school board candidates comment on budget

By Margaret Schmidt

Only four of 11 candidates for the Hoboken Board of Education spoke last night on the board's proposed budget, which calls for a slight overall increase but double the amount of funding from local property taxes.

Two of the four attacked the budget, while the other two, incumbents, defended it. Several other candidates attended, but sat silently during the hour-long public hearing.

Three board seats and the proposed \$25,043,311.50 budget go before the city voters April 15.

The proposed 1986-87 schools

budget calls for a \$464,000 increase over the 1985-86 budget, but increases the portion of funding from city tax coffers from \$5,887,701 to \$11 million. The original budget figures called for only a \$25,000 increase; an extra \$439,014 in state aid was announced last night.

Incumbent candidates John Pope, the board president, and Otto Hottendorf defended the municipal levy increase, laying the blame on the city administration for not collecting taxes on the true market value of property as is mandated by the state.

Candidates Joseph Rafter and Michael Rossano, who are

running on a slate backed by the Committee for Quality Education and Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, attacked the increase, saying it showed poor financial planning on the board's part.

Incumbent James Farina, when asked by Vezzetti to "justify" the increase, declined to respond. "When you justify increasing the city budget," he told the mayor, "then I will justify it."

Rafter and Steve Block, a former school board trustee and longtime board critic, questioned what will happen to the budget if the voters reject it.

"You'll do what you've done for the last 20 years," Rafter

charged, "make cuts that will hurt the kids and the teachers."

Pope responded, "We'll have to prevail upon the City Council (which gets the budget if it is rejected at the polls) to work with us in coming to a reasonable reduction."

Richard England, head of the board's finance committee, and Pope lauded the budget for remaining relatively flat in comparison to last year's spending.

Cuts in state and federal aid led to the jump in local funding, England said, adding "the time has come to pay the piper." He said that trying to cut \$5 million from the budget would be devastating to education.

"What do you want to do,"

he asked, "educate the children or save a couple of bucks?"

Block responded that the argument was faulty in his opinion because he believes the 1985-86 budget was inflated with unnecessary jobs and operating expenses.

The meeting was relatively calm with only a few instances of board trustees or members of the public raising their voices.

At least several other candidates had been expected to speak. The other candidates are: Theresa Ann Alfano; Lourdes Aroyo, who is running with Rafter and Rossano; Peter Perry Belfiore; Marguerite Gaspar; Mario Mercado, and Graciela McEwen.

Marineview Towers revising the list of 2,500 names of those waiting to get in

By Margaret Schmidt

The management of Hoboken's Marineview Towers is apparently revising its waiting list.

Annette Illing, a member of the Marineview Tenants Association, said several persons on the waiting list have told her they have received forms asking for updated information on prospective tenants' situations. The forms aren't accom-

panied by a cover letter, she said, so people wishing to stay on the list should follow directions and reply promptly, sending the form by certified, return receipt requested mail. The prospective tenants should also keep a copy of the form for their files she said.

Representatives of the management office could not be reached for comment.

Approximately 2,500 names are on the waiting list to enter

Marineview Towers, a development that was state-funded and is specifically for middle-income families.

The waiting list has been the subject of dispute over the years with some charging that it has been disregarded for political reasons.

The two 25-story towers, located at River, Hudson, Third and Fourth streets, have more than 400 apartments.

Ranieri out to slice Vezzetti's power

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Three of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's choices for the Board of Adjustment were seated last night, but a political foe moved to strip the mayor of his power to appoint future members of the board.

The City Council unanimously confirmed Joel Freiser, Mary Perry and Ameno says they have another year left to serve, as a result of a mistake made in setting their terms when they were appointed in 1983, during the administration of then Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Cappiello appointees remain in the majority on the seven-member board, whose critics say it issues variances too loosely.

and Marie Versaci at its meeting. Vezzetti had been set to name three more board members and an alternate, but those appointments were tabled until the state Attorney General's Office responds in writing to the question of whether those posts are legally open.

Vezzetti contends the terms of three other members have expired. But City Attorney Salvatore Salamandra, Councilman Robert A. Ranieri introduced an ordinance he said would take the right to make zoning board appointments "out of the mayor's hands and place it on the desk of the City Council."

There was no discussion on the ordinance last night. It is scheduled for a public hearing next month and following that, it goes to the council for a vote.



Photo by Gary Higgins

JOSE ORTIZ, portraying Jesus in his final hours, carries a cross through the streets of Hoboken accompanied by other parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church.

HOLIDAY OBSERVED

Parade relives Stations of the Cross

By ROSEANNE BUCKLEY
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A bearded man wearing a brown robe collapsed in the street yesterday morning near the intersection of 7th and Washington streets.

As he lay on the road, a block-long procession of parishioners from Our Lady of Grace Church bowed their heads, sang a song of mourning and joined the Rev. Frederick M. Eid, associate pastor of the church, in prayer.

The scene was repeated throughout the world in recognition of Good Friday, considered by Christians to

be one of the holiest days of the year. It was on that day, almost 2,000 years ago, that the New Testament says Jesus was nailed to a cross on a small hill just west of Jerusalem.

The parishioners of Our Lady of Grace were reenacting the final hours before Jesus' death, with Jose Ortiz playing the role of Jesus. The procession passed through five city blocks, making stops along the route to recall the important events of Jesus' final walk, known as the Stations of the Cross.

The prayers recited by Eid and Deacon Jose Ponjano did not dwell on the past. Rather, they addressed

what Jesus and his suffering means for Christians today, Eid said.

"It is not a tragedy to fall," Eid declared from a microphone as the man lay in the street. Just as Jesus was able to stand and finish his journey, people today can be strong even if they sometimes fall, he said.

"Our goal is to keep the theme current," he explained after the procession. He added that Jesus' suffering at each of the stations can be related to the suffering in the world today. Usually, 14 stations are commemorated. But yesterday Eid added a 15th station to recall the Resurrection as well.

Procession honors victims

By Margaret Schmidt

The Way of the Cross. Nearly 2,000 years ago, it was the path that Jesus Christ took in Jerusalem from his imprisonment to his crucifixion at Golgotha.

Five years ago it was at 12th and Washington streets in Hoboken when the poor of the city, it seemed, got in the way of real estate development. Arson hit the building, and 11 persons died, several of them children.

As Christians marked the day of Christ's death Friday, the solemn holiday Good Friday, many paralleled Christ's ancient sufferings to the pain, despair and distress felt today.

In Hoboken, the Hoboken Clergy Coalition led more than 100 persons on a "living" Way of the Cross throughout the city, marking spots where the innocent, the poor and the decent fight or have fought against power, greed and suffering.

"Those who sowed with tears," read the Rev. Paul Hagedorn, pastor of St. Matthew's Trinity Church, "will reap with songs of joy," the crowd responded as the Easter message of hope rang through the litany of pain.

The men, women and children who participated in the three-hour procession were often quiet as they walked from station to station, many reciting the rosary in prayers for those who suffer.

Although the prescribed Way had 14 stops — paralleling the 14 traditional stations of the cross — the participants saw more suffering as they progressed past the poor family crowded into a window to watch the marchers; as they passed a man asleep and drunk on a Third Street stoop; as a line of men, their faces drawn and pale and showing signs of drug addiction, looked on.

The first stop was at the old El Dorado, the 12th and Washington streets building where fire killed 11 persons. The building is far from the tenement the fire victims knew. Now it is filled with modern apartments, an art gallery and shops with wares ranging from fine clothes to antiques.

"As Our Lord was condemned to death, so are many innocents condemned to die," read the Rev. George Ligos, pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church. "We remember on this spot how innocents were killed by the hell of fire. Forgive us for condemning you whenever innocents are sacrificed to death."

The Stations that followed were: the vacant lot that was once the Pinter Hotel, 14th and Garden streets, where 13 persons died in flames and

where charring is still visible on the wall of a building next door; 12th Street and Willow Avenue, where several families were displaced last month because of fire, and the Board of Education building, where decisions are made that affect the futures of Hoboken's children.

Then the procession, stretching across two blocks and stopping traffic as well as construction on its way, went to the St. Francis Home, where homeless young mothers and their children find shelter; a street corner in the southwest section of the city where drug addicts gather; St. Mary Hospital, and the Bishop

Mahurter Shelter for the Homeless.

The final Stations were at the St. Mary Hospital Mental Health Outpatient Clinic; a check-cashing store; City Hall; the American Hotel, where two men died in fire and where new restaurants and offices flourish; the PATH Station, the city's hub of activity, and the Erie-Lackawanna Park, which overlooks the city's waterfront where redevelopment may again change Hoboken's face.

The Rev. Geoff Curtiss, pastor of All Saints Episcopal Parish, explained that the Clergy Coalition decide to hold

the "living" Stations of the Cross about 10 days ago.

Many of the members had participated in similar Good Friday events in other communities and agreed that Hoboken residents would see much suffering, past and present, in a tour of their city, he said.

While the ceremonies focused on the plight of the suffering, the powerless and the poor, he said, there is hope in the realization that the Coalition and others in the community are working to provide shelter, food, housing and health care for those who suffer.



EASTER PROCESSION — The procession from St. Matthew's Church in Hoboken winds its way down Eighth Street as part of yesterday's Easter celebration.

Hoboken council affirms Alicandri firing

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN — The ax finally fell on the director of environmental services and facilities last night, as the City Council turned down a bid to keep him in his job.

A resolution that would have overturned Peter Alicandri's ouster was defeated on a 6-2 vote. As in the March 19 vote to fire him, the dissenters were Joseph Della Fave and Helen Cunningham, the two supporters of Mayor Thomas F. Vezze-
tti on the council.

The firing is to take effect today. But one of the attorneys representing Alicandri, Neil Mullin of

Hoboken, has said he will take the matter back to U.S. District Court in Newark. Judge Herbert J. Stern had ruled that the council could hold an appeal hearing on Alicandri's ouster but retained jurisdiction in the case.

Alicandri made his case against the firing at Tuesday's appeal hearing, calling the dismissal an act of political retribution against a reform government.

He was represented by attorney Richard Regan of Hoboken. Regan likened his role to that of an attorney during the French Revolution, asked by a client "to put his head back on after the guillotine has already fallen."

Regan argued the session should be shelved on two grounds.

First, he said, Alicandri had not received a list of the charges against him, despite a request filed with the city clerk soon after the firing. And second, the hearing should be conducted by a neutral body rather than the council, which already had voted to dismiss him, the attorney said.

But Michael Mongiello, an assistant city attorney, pointed out that Stern already had ruled the council could hold the appeal hearing. Council President E. Norman Wilson Jr. earlier had read a statement repeating the reasons the council gave for

ousting Alicandri two weeks ago — demoralization of department personnel and blockage of the city's progress in upgrading its sewage treatment plant. Wilson said the specifics had been discussed with Alicandri on several occasions.

Alicandri spoke in his own defense, saying he had inherited a demoralized and disorganized department. Rather than respond to his questions about the validity of the sewer contract, he said, the Law Department and the council majority "banded together" in support of a firm — Mayo, Lynch & Associates of here — "that stands only to benefit and benefit handsomely by my removal."

Last night's action leaves the city without a director of environmental services and facilities.

Under the law, Vezze-
tti is charged with the responsibility of appointing a successor to Alicandri, according to D'Amelio. But Vezze-
tti may not have long to name a successor.

An ordinance currently before the council would merge the Department of Environmental Services and Facilities into the law department under D'Amelio's jurisdiction.

Also, D'Amelio was unsure about Alicandri's status as a member of the city Planning Board.

In other business, the council ratified the appointments of six citizens to the city Historic District Commission. Ratified by the council were the appointments of Theresa Castellano, Helen Manogue, Gennaro Noriega, Joyce Tyrrell, Claire

Walter and Don Liloia of the Community Development Agency.

The council also ratified the appointments of Joel Freiser, Marie Versacci and Mary Perry to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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Mayor's allies fail to save Alicandri

By Rick Tosches

Peter Alicandri, the recently fired Hoboken director of environmental services and facilities, is officially without the job today following last night's unsuccessful last-ditch attempt by pro-administration forces to save the director from the ax.

Mayor Thomas Vezze-
tti's supporters on the council, Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave and Councilwoman-at-large Helen Cunningham, sponsored a resolution during last night's City Council meeting in City Hall to reinstate Alicandri, a Vezze-
tti appointment named last September and fired by the council, 6-2, on March 19 on various charges.

Continued from Page 1.

the city's secondary sewage system by July 1, 1988, among other charges, he was never given written notice of the formal charges leveled against him.

At that point, D'Amelio informed the council that the Cunningham resolution had not been approved by the law department and therefore was not proper to act on.

Meanwhile, D'Amelio informed the council of a similar resolution he had drafted to reinstate Alicandri if the council deemed it necessary.

After some discussion, Cunningham withdrew her resolution and supported D'Amelio's document.

That measure failed, 6-2. Cunningham and Della Fave supported it, with Councilmen-at-large Robert Ranieri and Patrick Pasculli, Third Ward Councilman Steve Cappiello, Sixth Ward Councilman David Roberts, Councilwoman Mary Francone and Council President E. Norman Wilson opposing it.

Della Fave then unsuccessfully motioned to introduce the resolution which had been disapproved by D'Amelio.

Hearing on condo put off

By Blanca M. Quintanilla

Hoboken residents who came to speak on the proposed Presidential Towers — a \$25 million condominium development project — were disappointed last night when the zoning board adjourned discussion on the matter until April 16.

More than 50 residents, who for the most part are opposed to the development, were angered when Frank Cameron, zoning board chairman, adjourned the meeting after the Rev. Francis Schiller, a principal of the Anawim Investment and Development Corp. of Jersey City, asked the board to hold the meeting on April 16 because three board members were absent last night.

The residents living within 200 feet of the development also charged that they never got a notice of the meeting of Feb. 24, when the board gave conditional site approval for the two controversial 16-story Presidential Towers.

Philip Elberg, the attorney representing a number of residents, said "We oppose that the application be adjourned. There are five members on the board tonight. We have a quorum. I suggest that you clarify the board's recent decision."

But Cameron had the last word and said the meeting would be held when all members of the board were present.

Not present at last night's meeting were Salvatore DeGennaro, James Greany and Vincent D'Agostino.

Some residents have been attending all the meetings pertaining to the application since last August when the application was first presented by the Anawim Investment and Development Corp. But soon after the board gave conditional approval to the project, developer Patrick A. Reynolds announced that he has a contract to buy the project.

The move seems to have confused some people and even some board members, who didn't know if they were going to be reviewing the same application or a different one.

Some residents said they felt the board adjourned the meeting with the only purpose of keeping them away.

"But on April 16, we will all be here. Just like tonight," said Graciela McEwen, one of the residents. She said she opposes the project because it is too massive for the surrounding area. The controversial \$25 million condominium project was first introduced to the zoning board last year as two 29-story buildings slated to be erected on mostly vacant land stretching from Newark and First streets to Adams and Jefferson streets. An elevated pedestrian bridge would connect the two towers.

The plan was then modified from the two 29-story buildings to 24 and 22, and finally, it was reduced to two 18-story buildings — two stories above the allowable 14 stories in the area.

These revised plans will include 310 condominium units, a swimming pool, tennis courts and 3,000 square feet of commercial space on Newark Street.

Elberg said last night he wanted to see copies of the new plans. Cameron said the architect, the Hillier Group of Princeton, had submitted them and they were available for residents to examine.

Elberg also said he wanted to know if his witnesses would be allowed to testify at the continuation of the meeting on April 16.

"Is it possible to have them sworn in now?" he asked, as his request was turned down.

"The best thing to do with the application would be to start from the beginning," the attorney said.

"I wouldn't count on that," said Schiller, who was walking out the room as soon as Cameron announced the decision to adjourn.

Cameron also walked out of the room quickly; the residents began planning a new strategy.

"Schiller felt he was more in control of the situation than the board," said Evelyn Smith, a resident. "I think they (the board) could not hold the meeting because there were too many people here."

Asked about her reaction to the adjournment, she said, "This is absolutely ridiculous. He (Cameron) could not answer any questions."

Elberg said the people want to see the plans and discuss them with the board and the developers.

"They just want to know exactly what they are proposing," he said. "They want development on that side as long as it is compatible with the surroundings."

Waterfront zoning changes approved

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Planning Board has approved changes to the city's master plan that would open the way for redevelopment of the northern waterfront.

The board voted unanimously Tuesday night to accept zoning changes drawn up by planning consultant Ralph Seligman.

The new master plan, which must go before the City Council for confirmation, would allow mixed-use developments on the northern waterfront, an area now zoned for industrial uses only.

The development would be conditional on the developers' providing buffer zones next to in-

dustrial developments and on approval from city officials.

The new master plan also encourages development of the western edge of Hoboken for an industrial park, said Michael Ocello, board chairman. Questions about whether the 70 acres of available space could support such a facility led the board to include a condition on the master plan, he said.

Within two years, if no one is interested in developing an industrial park, that part of the plan will be dropped, he said.

Seligman has long advocated such a facility in Hoboken, pointing to the success

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of the Hartz Mountain development in Secaucus.

The City Council should get the master plan by mid-April, Ocello added. Generally, he said, the council approves what the Planning Board approves. State law requires that the master plan be updated every seven years.

In other business, the Planning Board gave preliminary approval, with nine conditions at-

tached, to the conversion of the historic Union Club to condominiums and postponed a public hearing on the commuter parking lot at 14th and Washington streets.

The board told developers they can change the Union Club, 600 Hudson St., if:

- They provide proof of paid taxes and water bills.
- They obtain all the necessary utility and sewerage permits.
- They plan to store gar-

2 candidates say they lack time for school campaign

By Margaret Schmidt

Two of the 11 candidates for Hoboken's Board of Education have dropped from the race.

Theresa Ann Alfano, 36, and Marguerite Gaspar, 22, will have their names taken off the April 15 ballot by court order, said Joseph Brady, Hudson County superintendent of elections.

The two women's names will be blocked off and the levers will be removed next to their spots on the voting machines, he said. Absentee ballots should also be changed, he said.

Both women said they asked to be dropped from the ballot because they found that their jobs don't allow the proper time for campaigning or being a board member.

They also said they may seek board terms again.

Gaspar, an insurance underwriter for the Hoboken firm Stack and Stack, said she received her real estate license on Saturday and is taking her exam for an insurance sales' license on April 12.

"My career is getting very, very high pressure as I'm starting to do" what she plans for a career, she said. "I just

couldn't dedicate the proper time to both."

She also attributed her decision to her desire to investigate every aspect of the proposed \$25 million 1986-87 schools' budget. She questioned whether the school board is spending money to properly educate the city's children.

Alfano, who recently took a night job at the Pegasus restaurant in the Meadowslands, said her job would interfere with the volunteer post if she were elected to the school board.

"I wouldn't be able to really carry out the duties of the school board," she said.

She said she ran for the board because she has two children at the Calabro School and sees "a lot of changes" that need to be made. She criticized the current board because several of the members send their children to private or parochial rather than public schools.

Neither Gaspar nor Alfano — both were running as independents — said they could commit themselves to other candidates' campaigns yet.

Vezze- tti told he's limited on zoning board replacements

Hoboken's law director has thrown a hitch in Mayor Thomas Vezze-
tti's plan for an overhaul of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, saying the expiration dates for their terms.

Law Director Salvatore DeGennaro Jr. said yesterday that city and state law mandate that three of the seven board members serve another year, despite the expiration dates for their terms.

Vezze-
tti had named six new board members and a new alter-

State OKs \$10M for Hoboken offices

TRENTON — The state Economic Development Authority yesterday approved \$10 million in tax-exempt bonds for a Hoboken office development, paying the way for construction.

The approval also set in motion a \$37,500 federal Urban Development Action Grant, money which the city will lend to the developers but then recoup with interest for use in a variety of Community Development programs.

The EDA also approved the issuance of \$810,000 in tax-exempt bonds for a Jersey City commercial development at 301 West Side Ave.

The Baker family, developers of the Hoboken project, is expected at the city construction code office today to take out \$56,000 in building permits, said Gerald Baker, a principal.

The 2 Hudson Place area should be enclosed and secured for construction within two weeks, he said. Groundbreaking ceremonies should be held around May 1, and construction is estimated to take 18 months, he said.

The \$10.75 million project is for the construction of an eight-story, 93,000-square-foot commercial office building. Approximately 263 temporary construction jobs are anticipated and another 232 permanent jobs.

The development is expected to generate about \$400,000 in taxes.

The developers had to overcome several hurdles since they first brought plans for the building to the city in the summer of 1984.

base inside the building rather than on the street or alongside the building.

• They remove fire escapes. Ocello said fire stairwells are being provided, inside so the fire escapes aren't necessary.

• The height of the building is dropped from 74 feet to 60 feet, thus taking the two penthouses from the plans and changing the design from 39 to 37 units.

• A long-term agreement is

executed with the Parking Authority to provide 32 parking spots at the Second Street garage. The plans call for seven on-site parking spots.

• Final approval is granted after the board reviews changes.

• The existing seven-and-a-half-foot sidewalk on Sixth Street is widened to nine feet.

"It means they all agreed to it," Ocello said of the developers. If they don't, the plans would be rejected. New plans, however, could be brought before the board.

The developers are two former city officials and wives of two others. They are: former City Council President Helen Macri; former Budget Officer Joseph Lisa; Louise DeNicola, wife of former Director of Revenue and Finance Anthony

DeNicola, and Martha Romano, wife of former First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano.

The board postponed the hearing on the 623-spot parking lot at the request of the developers, Anthony DeN' Aquila Enterprises, Ocello said.

At last month's Subdivision and Site Plan Review Committee meeting of the Planning Board, members asked Dell' Aquila representatives to provide proof of easements around the lot and to redraw the plans so they are more specific.

"They didn't have time to complete the whole thing," Ocello said, "so they asked for an extension until May 1."

About five persons had attended Tuesday's meeting to speak on the parking lot, Ocello added.

nate last week because the resolutions appointing the board show 1986 expiration dates.

The council was expected to vote on Vezze-
tti's appointments tonight, but it was unclear yesterday what action will now

be taken.

D'Amelio agreed with Vezze-
tti that the terms of members Vincent D'Agostino, Mary Perry and Marie Versacci are expiring as well as the term held by alternate Thomas Newman.

But, he said, the three-year terms of James Greany, Salvatore DeGennaro and Sergio Germinario were a "slip up" by the previous administration of Steve Cappiello. State and city law mandates that all members serve four years, he said, not three.

The purpose of the law is that boards will have staggered term so politicians cannot make clean sweeps, he said.

Vezze-
tti had appointed Joseph DePalma to Greany's term; Newman to DeGennaro's term and Pedro Roman to Germinario's term.

For expiring terms, the mayor had reappointed Perry and Versacci and named Joel Freiser to D'Agostino's post.

He named Martin Tuzman the alternate, a position that doesn't need council approval.

In other business, Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri has asked Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte to speak tonight on the status of the reassessment of real estate.

Shipyard cleanup cost put at \$4.5M by state

The state Department of Environmental Protection has estimated that it will cost \$4.5 million to clean up the Old Hoboken Shipyards, a necessary move before redevelopment can begin.

James Staples, spokesman for the DEP in Trenton, said yesterday that the 45-acre site is "saturated" with petroleum, hydrocarbons and other chemicals that must be removed.

"It needs a lot of work," he said.

The clean-up plans are handled through the Environmental Responsibility Cleanup Act, a division of DEP.

The shipyards are owned by Braswell Shipyards, a South

Carolina company that has filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge J. Bratton Davis, sitting in Columbia, S.C., approved the sale of the land to Hoboken developer Anthony Dell'Aquila on Dec. 19. Dell'Aquila bid \$16.85 million for the property.

The sale, however, is contingent on the cleanup. Staples said, "There has to be a cleanup before any sale can be consummated," he said.

Thomas Stagnitti, a Dell'Aquila associate, said the developer is currently working on surface cleanup but that the greater portion of the work is upcoming once an ECRA-approved plan is in place.

"We're endeavoring to work toward a closing," he said.

Staples said ECRA is now waiting for a \$4.5 million bond from Dell'Aquila and an administration consent order that will map out the cleanup. The bond, he said, would be held in escrow and used by ECRA to clean the site should the developer miss deadlines or improperly do the work.

The standard procedure, he said, guarantees that the cleanup will take place and that taxpayers won't bear the financial burden for it.

Dell'Aquila has yet to bring formal plans before the city but has said he wants to put housing and commercial office space on the land.

No deadlines are upcoming, both Staples and Stagnitti said. George Cauthen, clerk of the South Carolina court, said monthly hearings are held in the case.

The shipyards were once one of the city's largest employers and taxpayers. As the Bethlehem Steel Shipyards, the operation was one of the largest on the East Coast. Its contracts

included government work for Navy battleships and aircraft carriers.

Braswell bought the shipyards and one in Bayonne for \$8.5 million in 1983.

The bankruptcy proceedings originally led to a contract between Braswell and Orb Management of Manhattan.

The \$12.5 million sale, however, fell through when Orb asked to change the terms of the contract.

Hartz Mountain Industries, New Jersey's largest real estate developer and a subsidiary of the pet products company, had tried to buy the shipyards, which are less than a quarter of a mile from its Weehawken development, but was outbid by Dell'Aquila.

Alicandri blames politics for ouster

By Rick Tosches

Peter Alicandri, recently fired Hoboken director of environmental services and facilities, last night called his termination "political" and an effort by anti-administration officials to disrupt the reform-oriented movement of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

Alicandri made those remarks during a brief hearing before the City Council in City Hall. Following the hearing, the council met in closed session for nearly 90 minutes to discuss the matter.

The council can either stand

by its March 19 decision to fire the director or rescind the move at tonight's session slated for 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. His firing is effective today.

Alicandri was represented by attorney Richard F.X. Regan, who had been retained by Alicandri earlier in the day.

At the meeting's outset, Council President E. Norman Wilson read a prepared statement to Alicandri, reminding the director of last month's council action and the reasons for his termination.

Wilson said Alicandri was fired for the following reasons:

- A lack of desire to manage the personnel in the department properly, causing demoralization of personnel in the department.
- Jeopardizing the progress of the city in its efforts to provide a secondary sewage treatment plant by "frustrating

the progress" with the state, other cities and design engineers.

Wilson said the council made its determination following hearings on Feb. 19, March 5, 11 and 19.

Wilson added Alicandri

Continued from Page 1.

jeopardized the city's liability in the sewer update when he gave a presentation on the matter during a recent press conference in which he stated the agreement between the city and a consulting firm was invalid.

"Your showing of bad faith has put the city in a great liability posture and damages from such actions are more than likely," Wilson said.

At that point, Regan presented his viewpoint, including feelings of being a little awkward, trying to put his (Alicandri's) head back on after the guillotine has fallen.

Regan also questioned last night's hearing after Alicandri was fired.

"What we have here is a discharge that already has taken place," he said. "This does not stand up to due process that Mr. Alicandri is entitled to."

Regan asked the council to submit a list of charges filed against Alicandri and that the hearing be postponed until he could prepare a defense for his client. That was denied.

He asked the council to rescind the resolution firing the director, "so we have a meaningful opportunity to rebut the allegations and that, in fact, there is no cause for removal."

Regan also requested that the council let the matter be heard before an impartial administrative law judge instead of a body which had already made a determination.

Wilson denied the request, saying that the council is required to hear the matter under state law.

"Wouldn't it be in the best interest of the city to remove this to a third party?" Councilwoman Helen Cunningham asked.

"The truth is that come tomorrow, Peter Alicandri is out of a job."

Alicandri was then given his chance to speak.

He said that when he joined the administration last September, it had an objective of reform.

"This (reform) was clearly something new and unfamiliar to the established political systems in Hoboken," he said.

Alicandri said he took over a department characterized by disorganization and demoralization.

"Consultancy was and is wholly inadequate and unresponsive to the city's needs," he said. "Rather, it is an 'old boy'

network that provides the week off in the Bahamas and the potential for big money... and influence at all times."

In his operation of the department, he said he "stood in between that inherited system and the crazed political ambitions of men clearly disturbed by their defeat electorally, and the work to be done."

"I have invested a very intense and critical time of my life to the service of the citizens. Many projects have been put in place and must be nurtured, but because these very initiatives directly conflict with various special interests, they are being attacked by those with these interests."

Alicandri said his objectives have been not to satisfy any particular consultant or individual developers, but to satisfy the oath of office and to promote and protect the rights of Hoboken citizens.

"By these efforts to dislodge reform, by the effort to abuse the rights of an individual, the very processes of reform are being defeated for individual advantage and in defiance of the public will," he said.

"The issue is not this individual or another, but as far as one individual represents the values of reform and as far as one individual's rights are denied, the principles of democratic government are exposed to abuse and denial."

"My promise, regardless of the outcome of my position here at the city, to those citizens of Hoboken who truly believe in and are willing to support the reform of our government, is that I will bend every effort, pursue any path, and make any sacrifice along with them to achieve honest and open government for our town," Alicandri concluded.

He was greeted with applause from citizens in attendance.

The council then met in closed session.

Vezzetti to consult schools chief

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti will meet the Hudson County superintendent of schools Thursday to discuss the workings of the city school system.

County Superintendent of Schools Louis Accocella has reviewed the mayor's charges that the Board of Education is politicized and financially unsound and he has documents for the mayor to look over, Vezzetti said.

Members of the board,

Ed Board candidates speak out

By Bianca M. Quintanilla

Most of the candidates seeking election to the Hoboken Board of Education participated in an animated forum that attracted more than 200 people last night.

The forum, sponsored by the Sixth Ward Block Association, was held in the Martha Institute and featured seven out of the nine remaining candidates seeking three-year terms in the April 15 election.

There were several outbursts of emotion from at least two candidates and other people in the audience, but they were almost immediately suppressed by the organizers, who asked the people and the candidates not to conduct personal attacks on each other.

Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano, running on a ticket backed by the Committee for Quality Education and Mayor Vezzetti, were among the first to arrive at the forum.

Incumbent John Pope, who

See ED BOARD — Page 35.



Lourdes Arroyo
Backed by Vezzetti



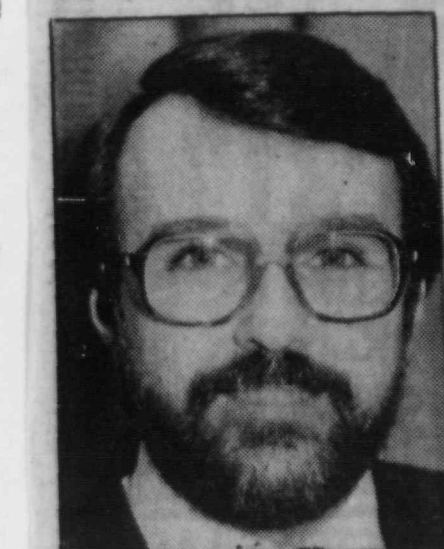
Perry Belfiore
Independent



Joseph Rafter
Backed by Vezzetti



Graciella McEwen
Independent



John Pope
Incumbent



Michael Rossano
Backed by Vezzetti



Mario Mercado
Independent

Confusion looms over zoning body appointments

By Rick Tosches

The City of Hoboken may have been its own version of the classic Abbott and Costello routine "Who's On First?"

However, this rendition could be called "Who's in the Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment?"

There was confusion at Wednesday night's City Council meeting over the seven appointments to the board made by Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

When the smoke cleared, the council unanimously ratified Vezzetti's appointments of Joel Freiser, who was named to replace Vincent D'Agostino, Marie Versacci and Mary Perry.

The council agreed on those appointments because all three terms had recently expired.

The other appointments — of Pedro Roman, Thomas

Newman and Joseph DePalma — were delayed as the city awaits an opinion from the state attorney general's office.

In a lengthy letter sent by Vezzetti to Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., who questioned the mayor's appointments, the mayor referred to a 1982 ordinance establishing a planning board and zoning board of adjustment. The ordinance requires the zoning board to consist of seven members appointed by the mayor to serve for four year terms beginning Jan. 1.

"The terms of the members first appointed... will be distributed evenly over the first few years after their appointment; provided that the initial term of a member shall exceed four years," according to the ordinance.

Vezzetti referred to four ap-

pointments made by his predecessor Mayor Steve Capiello, who named Sal DeGennaro, Sergio Germinario, James Greany and current board chairman Frank Camerone.

The remaining members, D'Agostino, Perry and Timothy Calligy served as holdovers from their original appointments which expired Monday. Calligy resigned and Vezzetti appointed Versacci to fill the unexpired term until last Monday.

"Based on documentation available to my office," wrote Vezzetti, "the May 1983 appointments did not follow the intent of the ordinance."

Vezzetti said that as per the May 1983 appointments, the zoning board consists of six members whose terms expire in 1986 and one member whose term ends in 1989

members (Roman and Versacci) for two years, one member (Perry) for three years and two members (Newman and DePalma) for four years," Vezzetti said.

The mayor concluded that since the matter "would probably result in a dispute between executive and legislative branches of local government and since you (D'Amelio) are directly or indirectly involved in a matter currently before the Zoning Board of Adjustment (Presidential Towers)," he felt the matter should be deferred to the attorney general's office.

D'Amelio disagreed with Vezzetti's request, claiming he had no conflict with the project of which he is a partner.

D'Amelio also said the city has no "flexibility" as to the

four-year terms and they cannot be staggered.

He added that he had requested a written opinion from the attorney general's office, but has yet to receive it.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said that since the matter was so confusing, he asked that it be tabled until an opinion is secured.

Councilman Helen Cunningham suggested that the council ratify the appointments of Freiser, Versacci and Perry since they were the holdovers, whose terms expired Jan. 1 of this year.

Ranieri then unsuccessfully moved, to table the resolution and the council later unanimously ratified the three appointments.

Continued from Page 1.

is also the school board president, came without his running mates. Incumbents James Farina and Otto Hottendorf, who are running on a slate ticket backed by anti-administration forces. Farina, who is the city clerk, was attending a special City Council meeting. Hottendorf, his other running mate, did not accept the invitation to participate in the forum.

Peter Perry Belfiore, Graciella McEwen, and Mario Mercado Jr., all independents, accepted the challenge and participated.

The candidates were given five minutes to make a presentation and tell the residents why they are seeking election. Then, a question and answer period followed.

During the initial presentation, Rafter, McEwen and Rossano said the present school board is not serving its purpose because it is too political.

"We have only political people in the school board," McEwen said. "If we keep the system the way it is today, we will only have factory workers in the city. No more politics. We want people who care for our children," she said.

Rossano also criticized the present board. He said, "Here is a system and board members who say nothing is wrong, but the school system is not achieving even the minimal standards. It is our responsibility to change it," he said.

Rafter, Arroyo and Rossano were critical of the high school dropout rate, the school's budget and bilingual education policies. Rafter said he is not confident of a school system that "loses certification; has a one-third high school dropout rate and a system in which students score low on the basic skill tests."

Home delivery of The Jersey Journal is convenient, reliable and economical. It costs only \$1.10 a week.

The organizers of the forum stopped the argument because they said it was a personal attack on the candidate.

But the incident had not ended yet when another one started. This time it involved McEwen and Lucille Mercado, wife of candidate Mario Mercado.

Earlier in her presentation, McEwen had said that she didn't think it was a good idea for parents who had their children in Catholic schools to participate on the board of education. Mrs. Mercado asked her to clarify the point.

"Why should I send my children to a horrendous school system?" Mrs. Mercado asked McEwen, after explaining her daughter is a student at St. Peter and Paul School.

"Are you afraid to bring your girl to the public schools?" McEwen asked her.

But again, before the argument escalated, George DePalma, one of the organizers, said if the personal attacks continued, the forum would be closed.

The candidates were asked if they had solid ideas on how to

But Pope defended the board, saying people only bring out the negative points. He said the real issues on the election are the certification and the budget questions.

He said the system did not meet six out of 51 points the state set as criteria for school certification.

"But if we were evaluated today," he said, "we would pass."

Pope also said the \$5 million increase on the budget is not the fault of the board, but rather of cuts in state aid to school districts.

Mercado said if he was elected he would be totally committed to one thing: the students.

"I come to you as a concerned citizen," he said. "There are no quick answers. All I'm offering to you is my goodwill and my commitment to your children and my children," he said.

Belfiore said he is a product of the Hoboken school system and defended it saying, "they (school board members) served me well."

He stressed he believes in issues, not insults. At one point he asked Mayor Vezzetti, who was sitting in the back of the room, "How am I doing, Mayor?"

Belfiore, like other candidates, also ended his presentation saying he did not want "pretty politics on the school board."

The forum, which up to that point had been conducted fairly smoothly, suddenly turned abruptly. The question and answer period contributed to it.

Belfiore was the target of the first question, which came from Tom Olivieri, relocation director for the city Community Development Agency.

"How can you sit on the schoolboard when you have misplaced and harassed people in Hoboken?" Olivieri asked. "You are a horror story."

Olivieri said Belfiore is involved in some partnerships and is responsible for "emptying the

improve the system.

Rafter, who had a list of suggestions, said he was willing to help form parent groups at the schools if he was elected. He pledged to strengthen leadership by conducting a nationwide search for a qualified superintendent, pursue a review of non-tenure administrative positions, introduce programs to support teachers, and conduct "fair evaluation" of teachers.

His running mates agreed with his proposals and Arroyo closed the forum saying that members of her slate truly complemented each other.

"Joe has the educational background. Michael has the business expertise and I am a concerned parent," she said.

The candidates are invited to participate at another forum tonight. This time, it is scheduled to be held at St. Matthew's Trinity Parish Hall. The Hoboken Environment Committee and the Hoboken Clergy Coalition will co-sponsor the event.

Three board seats and the proposed \$25,043,311.50 budget that go before the city voters on April 15 are scheduled to be discussed.

What's wrong with schools in Hoboken?

By Richard Rosenberg

Francis C. McGorty, the assistant superintendent of the Hoboken public schools, is a man who speaks in metaphors, and his metaphor for the Hoboken schools concerns being under water.

"If you're in 16 feet of water and you bring yourself up to six feet of water, you've moved up," he said.

Critics might contend, he said, that "you're still drowning."

"The fact of the matter is," McGorty said, "they're right."

As Hoboken moves toward the 21st century, its school system with 4,401 pupils appears bogged down in the era that spawned Marlon Brando's 1954 movie "On the Waterfront."

With more than 90 percent of the staff raised in Hoboken, the school system is inbred, and it appears to be intertwined with the old-time ward politics and politicians who maintain a grip on the city and the board of education.

After last year's municipal election, for example, five people active on behalf of former Mayor Steve Capiello were promoted in the relatively small school system of one high school.

Among them was Capiello's campaign manager, who became a principal, and three others who became vice principals, including one who had the additional tie-in of being school board vice president James Monaco's sister-in-law.

"They supported me I don't deny that," Capiello said, looking at a list of the five names. He pointed out, however, that they were appointed after he lost the mayor's office. He was subsequently elected as a city councilman.

"You tell me any one of those people who's not qualified," Capiello said of his supporters.

"When you say it's political, that's people's opinion. What you call political involvement, I call civic interest," Capiello said.

There are plenty of people with civic interest working for the Hoboken Board of Education. Among them are the board secretary, a long-time city councilman who recently announced

his resignation for living outside his ward, but still hasn't officially resigned. Another with civic interest is the board business manager, a former city councilman.

Capiello met a reporter in the office of City Clerk James Farina, who is also a member of the school board.

"There's no politics in the school system," Farina said.

Capiello said politics in the school system "goes back to Christ." He added, however, "That was never my policy. I tried to steer clear of that."

Capiello said teachers and other school board employees become politically active because "there's no method of scoring (on a test) for those eligible for supervisory or administrative positions."

What price renaissance?

By Margaret Schmidt

Pablo Charon is 68 years old, a retired factory worker. He sleeps in his car.

Sheila Santiago, 39, and her three children are the last tenants in a dilapidated tenement slated for rehabilitation — after the family moves.

Terry is 29, a freelancer in the publishing field. She does most of her work from home, although "home" has been a series of friends' apartments and sublets since fire struck her Hoboken apartment building in February.

To some, it's the same old story in Hoboken — people are forced from affordable apartments for various reasons and have nowhere in the city to go. For the people experiencing it now, it's a constant struggle.

"These are good, hard-working people," said Tom Olivieri, relocation director for the city Community Development Agency. "Their kids are good. You never see them hanging out."

Despite that, he said, "injustices" are being committed against them as they find themselves at the center of the city's housing crisis.

Many of the problems for Hoboken tenants are blamed on the same phenomenon that's credited with saving the housing

stock — the so-called renaissance. With the upgrading came spiraling rents. Tightened rent-control laws have often been circumvented by landlords who buy out their poor and middle-income tenants and then convert to condominiums.

To fight or not

Olivieri pointed to five buildings where tenants are now struggling for their rights, and there are others where tenants have sought help from politicians or lawyers or are giving in without a fight.

In two of the buildings that Olivieri mentioned, the sense of uneasiness for tenants comes after fire left apartments uninhabitable but repairable. The tenants fear their landlords will use the circumstances to force them out.

"I have a good apartment, but I can't go in," said Charon, who is one of several tenants waiting to go back to 261 12th St. The building was the scene of an early evening fire March 10.

Construction Code Official Alfred Arezzo has determined that five of the eight apartments need relatively minor repairs. He had estimated that people could be moving back in within a week — but three weeks later, no one is back.

City officials are so concerned that assistant city attorney Thomas Calligy was directed to write to owners Jerome and Marie Merzon asking for a schedule of repairs "to insure your compliance with the law and to protect the interest of Hoboken citizens."

The letter was mailed late last week. The Merzons could not be reached for comment.

After Red Cross benefits ended, Charon and others in the building had to make their own living arrangements. Charon's wife, Rosemarie, who is 59, sleeps on the floor in a corner of her sister's tiny Hoboken apartment.

Charon spends the nights in his car.

I feel weak

"My car is my hotel," the robust senior citizen said. Every night he stakes out a different spot, careful to avoid areas where he might be spotted by thieves or vandals.

"I'm very cold (in the car)," he said. "I cover my feet with something and I go to sleep. Only I wake up in the morning as if I haven't had any sleep. I feel weak, sick."

Alicia Vargas, another te-

See WHAT — Page 23.



Pablo Charon, 68, has been virtually homeless since March 10 when fire struck his apartment building. His wife has been sleeping on a floor at her sister's house. He has been sleeping in his car.

By Margaret Schmidt

The 1986 Hoboken municipal budget will be a "bite-the-bullet" one that remains about the same as the last year's finances, officials have said.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti is scheduled to present his proposed budget to the City Council at a special meeting today, 5:30 p.m., at City Hall.

But officials have been tight-lipped about what the budget contains, refusing to release specific information in advance.

Opponents of the mayor have said the apparent secrecy surrounding the budget is caused by Vezzetti's fear of releasing

Vezzetti's 'secret' budget to be introduced today

information about possible tax increases.

But, Vezzetti said, the budget will show that "I've done my job."

Early in the budget-making process, Vezzetti and administrator Edwin Chius had said that layoffs might be needed to stabilize the tax rate.

Chius said no slashes had been made to offset the Board of Education's request for double the amount of local funding.

Whereas the board received nearly \$6 million from city coffers in 1985-86, it has asked for \$11 million for 1986-87.

The 1985 budget was around \$22 million and resulted in a slight decrease in the tax rate. The 1985 rate was \$162.74 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The rate represented \$59.17 for schools; \$57.40 for the municipal budget levy; \$41.58 for county taxes, and \$4.59 for

4-7-86 Jg

the Hudson County Vocational-Technical School.

Complicating the upcoming tax rate is the issue of reassessment. Several council members have asked that today's meeting also address that issue.

Councilman Robert Raniere, who had previously advocated that the council go to jail rather than agree to a reassessment or revaluation, has said the reassessment must now be faced because the schools' burden has resulted in a "partial reassessment."

Vezzetti has also set up a meeting with an Atlantic County lawmaker who is working on a

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Continued from Page 1.

state Legislature bill that would give tax relief to longtime homeowners.

The bill, if passed, would allow exemptions for longtime owners whose homes have seen dramatic increases in market value but who may have no intention of selling.

State inspectors checking why building not repaired

By Margaret Schmidt

State inspectors were in Hoboken yesterday gathering information on an Observer Highway apartment house.

The information will be turned over to the compliance section of the Division of Housing in Trenton after Jersey Journal questioning spurred an investigation, said spokesman Richard Harpster.

The Journal called the state to clarify the building's condition after owner Alan Richards complained about a story that appeared Tuesday.

Richards said that he was misquoted in a paragraph that referred to the building, 562 Observer Highway, as being "run down with violations." On Wednesday he objected to the word "violations" and on Thursday he objected to the phrase "run down." Not only did he not refer to the building in those terms, he said, they were inaccurate.

The four-story, eight-family building, which is for sale, is vacant except for one family. Richards paid varying amounts of money to have the tenants leave, citing plumbing problems that would result in the loss of bathroom facilities while work is done.

Asked yesterday for his description of the building, he said, "I don't have to describe anything to you . . . I am not going to answer your questions . . . I don't see why I should subject myself to further questioning with the risk of being misquoted — at best."

Representatives of the state Division of Housing, Department of Community Affairs, said Thursday that they had no record of 562 Observer Highway and sent inspectors to the city housing office yesterday.

The records show, Harpster said, that a state inspection was done March 19, 1985, and that violations were found in six of the eight apartments. The violations ranged from faucets in need of repair to cracked ceilings, he said.

Richards and co-owner Peter Perry Belfiore were sent a list of violations by certified mail May 30, Harpster said.

A reinspection was done by city officials Oct. 2 and the inspector found that while some work had been done, more violations remained than were corrected, he said.

On Jan. 3, 1986, the state levied a \$250 fine against the owners, again notifying them by certified mail, Harpster said, adding, "The assessment was never paid."

In the meantime, on Oct. 24, Richards and Belfiore notified officials that the building and its sister

building, 564 Observer Highway, were being vacated so repairs could be done.

Harpster said the fact that the building is nearly vacant presents a "difficult situation" for the state because it loses its jurisdiction over the dwelling until it is renovated and has a new certificate of occupancy.

The compliance section will have to determine how to handle it, he said.

Jude Fitzgibbons, the city housing officer, said the two buildings are under state violation and "As far as I'm concerned, the vacant apartments have to be renovated."

The remaining tenants, Sheila Santiago and her three children, are living in a "dangerous situation," he said, because of the "vagrants and undesirables" that may enter the building.

"Let's face it," he said, "She has to move. It's a sad situation. The other tenants sold out; they didn't stick together."

Richards stressed that the only comment he made regarding the building's condition was that it was in worse shape than it had been in November when another Jersey Journal article referred to it.

The November article quotes his letter to the tenants telling them that work must be done:

"You are all aware of the falling ceilings and walls due to continuously dripping water inside these ceilings and walls," the letter, signed by 562-564 Observer Highway Partnership, says. "As fast as we replace the damage they fall down again."

"Plumbers have visited your apartments to repair these problems . . . but haven't been able to figure out where all this water is coming from."

"We are now informed that the only way this can be corrected is by removing all plumbing in all bathrooms and kitchens. Then replacing it with new pipes."

"The problem here is that all of you will be without any bathroom as we will have to take out all bathrooms, including the fixtures and the walls and floor, for many weeks."

"What will all of you do without a bathroom for all those weeks?"

The letter went on to give a schedule of financial help for the tenants' relocation. Tenants were offered decreasing payments that started at \$3,000.

In a related event, Health Officer Patricia Mitten said water was back on in Santiago's apartment yesterday. It had been off since Tuesday because of plumbing problems, officials said.



Posts of the stairwell to Sheila Santiago's 562 Observer Highway, Hoboken, apartment, are missing. The hallway has also been littered with garbage apparently left by vagrants or vandals.



Sheila Santiago, the last tenant at 562 Observer Highway in Hoboken, stands in front of the building, which is for sale.

What's wrong with schools in Hoboken?

Continued from Page 1.

"I still submit to you I would like test criteria" for promoting teachers, Cappiello said.

"Absent that process how do you know who's good? We eliminated the politics here in the 1940s when we marched in favor of civil service," said Cappiello, a retired police sergeant. "You've got to develop a system," he said.

Cappiello said that teachers up for promotion "should be outstanding," but, without a test, "how will we know about them?"

He said the way for them to become "noticed" now is to be politically active.

"I would imagine what they have to do is either work for (Mayor Thomas) Vezzetti or work for another side," Cappiello said.

Cappiello said working for a political candidate is a way for public employees to say: "I want to be noticed. I want to be recompensed."

Hoboken Teachers Association President George Gonzales seemed astounded by Cappiello's statements, noting that the teachers' contract calls for positions to be posted and interviews to be held.

"They go through the motions," Gonzales said. "Of course, Mr. Cappiello is right. Political involvement is the only consideration," he said.

Cappiello denies that he has much political influence any more in what he calls his "semi-retired" status as a councilman after 12 years as mayor, and he said there is no "political machine."

"You can attribute a machine to a mayor who has strong council support. I might have had that for a while, but that diminishes when you're not upstairs," Cappiello said.

Dr. Harry Galinski, superintendent of the Paramus public schools, who was born and raised in Hoboken and went through the schools as a student, teacher, vice principal, and assistant to the superintendent, said, "My memory of political involvement goes back as long as I can remember."

Galinski left the Hoboken system in 1970, and said he hasn't had direct involvement with it since then, but he still talks with former colleagues and friends occasionally.

"I think we all realize that politics in Hoboken, as in

Hudson County, is almost a religion — it was pervasive," Galinski said.

"The mayor always had a major influence on major personnel decisions. I don't think anybody became a principal without it being discussed at city hall," Galinski said.

Cappiello said: "There is no question that that happened. That probably happened in his time. That was before my administration."

Galinski said that in



Iris Rodriguez and her three children are the only tenants remaining in a dilapidated building on Hoboken's 14th Street.

Santiago knows she must leave, but said she hopes her family will be safe until she can find appropriate housing.

At the other end of town, Rodriguez and her three children are living alone in 166 14th St., which is also in poor condition, officials said.

She and her landlord have been back and forth to court, and a case is pending in Jersey City. A decision is expected in that one tomorrow, Olivieri said.

Meanwhile, other tenants scattered throughout the city live in apartments that are run down. At 70 Park Ave., for example, tenants plan to form an association and seek legal assistance.

Tenants opened their doors to The Jersey Journal yesterday and pointed to exposed piping in bathrooms, windows that are so drafty they've had to put up plastic sheets, and holes in ceilings, walls and floors.

In one apartment, water has been pouring into the bathroom for months, the tenant said.

"By all rights," Olivieri said in general, "they should remain in their apartments and the violations should be abated. But realistically . . . ?"

But, Councilman DellaFave said, there are instances in which tenants can and have secured their rights to homes — by working together. "It's not all negative," he said.

The passage of time has made it so much worse," he said, referring to the building's condition late last year when the Journal ran an article on it.

Richards has been trying to empty the building for several months, paying tenants varying amounts of money, depending on when they left. He said the building must be cleared for necessary renovations and then "any of the tenants can return — at prevailing rates."

He added that he has a tentative buyer for the building, but that it shouldn't affect Santiago's situation.

is being sold. The tenants, mostly artists, have stopped paying rent to Harmon while paying for temporary living space.

"It's really starting to get to me," Terry said. (She asked that her last name not be used.) "Most of my things are in storage. It's hindered my work, and I've lost income. You get to the point where you're completely disoriented. You don't have a household. You just have a bed and suitcase. You don't know where you're going to be living next month."

Fighting back

The tenants have banded together and retained a lawyer to help them in their fight to get back in their apartments.

Olivieri suggests that tenants fight to stay in their apartments as long as possible. If tenants join together, he said, they have a better chance of remaining in their homes.

Once tenants take cash — landlords wishing to empty buildings have been known to pay \$1,000 to \$30,000 in legal contracts in Hoboken — they lose their right to their apartments. Often, he said, the money that seemed like so much is spent very quickly.

Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave agreed and said tenant victories in his ward came only after tenants decided together that they weren't going to move.

"Landlord equals 'SOB' around here," complained Mrs. Attilio Vallerini, who owns 423 Adams St. with her husband. That building was hit by fire Feb. 20, and although they have been able to reopen their ground-floor pharmacy, the apartments above it remain uninhabitable.

"It's not something we asked for," she said of the fire. "We don't know what we're going to do (with the building)."

Attilio Vallerini said he is still waiting for his insurance report so he doesn't know what can be done.

Fire violations

Arezzo's report listed several state fire violations as well as fire damage.

Meanwhile, Margarita Canini, a 31-year-old mother of three young children who receives public assistance, has no home.

She has been living with her sister but the sister cannot keep the family in her apartment building much longer, like other

families displaced by fire or rising rents, the Caninis know that they cannot legally stay with relatives because of fire hazards.

"But what am I going to do," she asked, "sleep in the street?"

She and only one or two other tenants need to return to the five-story brick building, Olivieri said, which may make it harder for them to get satisfaction. Canini is seeking advice from Hudson County Legal Services, he added.

"It seems that legally tenants have every right to return to their apartments after a fire," he said, adding that any of these cases may lead to a legal precedent if brought to court.

If Canini does move back, she could find herself in a similar position to Sheila Santiago and Iris Rodriguez, women who with their children are the final tenants in multi-unit buildings.

Santiago, who lives at 562 Observer Highway, is a nurse's aide at an Orange nursing home. Most apartments in 1500-1500 that could accommodate her family rent for \$400 or \$500 a month, more than her monthly salary, she said.

What about kids?

"I'm mostly concerned about my kids," she said of her 17-year-old, 12-year-old and 7-year-old children. The building is a natural target for vandals and vagrants because there are so many empty apartments.

Besides being frightened by the loneliness, she said, she is concerned because of violations in the building. Among the problems in her apartment are a cracked ceiling, drafty windows and mouse and rat infestation.

Owner Alan Richards, who taped his telephone conversation with a Jersey Journal reporter, admitted that the building is run down with violations.

"The passage of time has made it so much worse," he said, referring to the building's condition late last year when the Journal ran an article on it.

Richards has been trying to empty the building for several months, paying tenants varying amounts of money, depending on when they left. He said the building must be cleared for necessary renovations and then "any of the tenants can return — at prevailing rates."

He added that he has a tentative buyer for the building, but that it shouldn't affect Santiago's situation.

Board candidates hit school policies

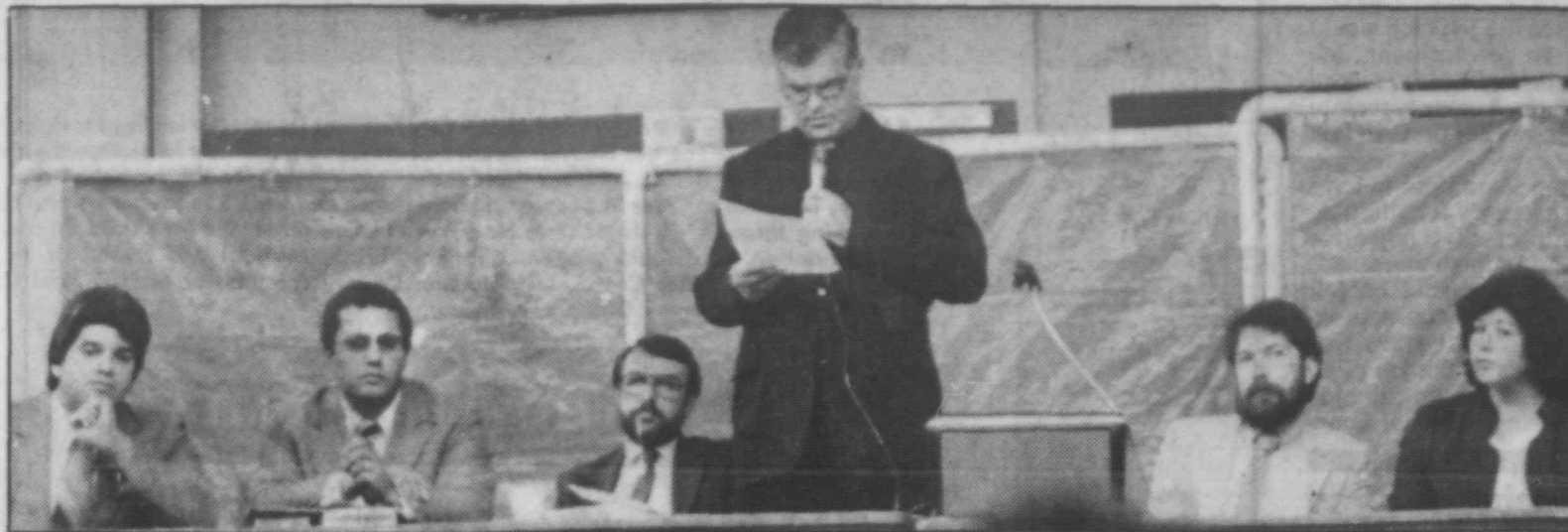
By Jim DeRogatis

Five candidates running for seats on the Hoboken Board of Education attacked the policies of the current board while incumbent President John Pope defended them at a forum last night at St. Matthew's Church.

The event was much quieter than Tuesday night's forum at the Martha Institute, which was frequently interrupted by shouts and heckling from the crowd. It was sponsored by the Hoboken Clergy Coalition and the Hoboken Environment Committee.

About 50 people filled the church hall on Hudson and Eighth streets. They listened attentively as the candidates gave brief introductory statements, then answered written questions from the crowd.

Pope was the only representative from his ticket, which is backed by anti-administration forces. Running mates James



The Rev. George Ugos, moderator, introduces candidates for the Hoboken Board of Education, from left, Perry Belfiore, Mario Mercado, John Pope, Joseph Rafter and Lourdes Arroyo.

Photo by Mark Wyville

Farina and Otto Hottendorf are also incumbent board members. Pope said that Farina was involved with his duties as city clerk at last night's City Council

meeting. Hottendorf was campaigning at "Networking Night" at the Gold Coast Cafe, Pope said.

"It was our decision that we

would be more effective if the ticket split up and campaigned separately," Pope said. "We did not want to be as redundant as our opponents who are criticizing us."

"Why have three people here to deflect the javelins when one can do it?" Pope asked. Most of the verbal javelins

thrown at Pope came from Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano, who are running as a slate backed by Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

The other candidates who attended the forum were Perry Belfiore and Mario Mercado, who are running as independents. Graciella McEwen, another independent candidate, did not attend.

Rafter was the first candidate to speak. He cited his background as an educator with the New York City school system as an asset for a seat on the board.

He attacked the low achievement test scores in the schools and the high rate of teacher absenteeism and called for "drastic steps in the right direction." One of these steps, he said, is to stress parent participation in the school system. Arroyo said that she spoke

See CANDIDATES — Page 21.



Photo by Roy Groething

Cliffhanger

This wooden stairway, leading from Sinatra Drive on the Hoboken waterfront to the Stevens Institute of Technology campus, is the only path on the face of the cliff. The city hopes to cut into the cliff to build a scenic walkway. (Story on Page 35.)

Continued from Page 1.

to the audience "as a parent with two children in the Hoboken schools" and echoed the call for more parent participation.

"If we want the system to respond to our children's needs, we have to take part in the system," she said.

Rossano called for the Board of Education "to stop responding to the needs of individuals and start responding to the needs of the community's children."

Belfiore said that, if elected, he would request a formal table of organization for the Board of Education.

"I want to know who's in charge right down the line to the janitor," he said. "Then we will know where the system is getting bogged down and we can correct it."

Mercado, a Hoboken policeman, said that he is "layman who's totally committed to only one thing, the children of the community." He said that the board should meet with state officials to determine the shortcomings of the city's school system that caused it to lose its state certification.

Pope told the public that he was glad of the opportunity to address them "and tell the board's side of the story."

"The board has instituted a number of programs designed not only to get back our certification but to achieve our long-term goals of providing a quality education," Pope said. He said that he felt the school system will not have a problem being recertified.

Pope also defended the school board's proposed budget of more than \$25 million. Voters will be asked to approve the budget on the April 15 ballot, as well as to fill three board seats.

Pope said that the school budget will mean higher taxes for city residents, but he blamed the increase on the loss of state funds and not on the increase in the budget's size.

A few questions from the crowd were addressed to all of the board members, including one asking for their views on

bilingual education. Each candidate said that they supported bilingual education programs in the school system.

The candidates were asked if they felt there was political interference in the school system and, if so, how this could be prevented. Each of the candidates agreed that politics was present in the school system to some degree, but they differed on who was doing the interfering.

Pope attacked Mayor Vezzetti. "The mayor has stated on numerous occasions that he wants to control the board," Pope said. "That's political interference."

Belfiore blamed the presence of politics in the system on people who expect patronage in return for their votes.

"For 15 years the system has been tailored to the needs of adults, not children," he said.

Mercado also said it was the citizens' responsibility to help keep politics out of the Board of Education by holding their elected officials responsible.

The candidates were also asked what they would do to help students who were graduating without having received the proper schooling.

Pope said that the board has started a remedial program for eighth- and ninth-grade students who are preparing to take the high school proficiency test. However, he said there was little that could be done to help poor students from the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Pope lashed out at the state for setting standards that are "unrealistic" for urban districts.

Rafter also said that there was "nothing that could be done to help the students who are already graduating."

He said the board should look toward the future and improve the system, starting from the lowest grade levels.

"You are not going to be able to give these kids in a remedial program what they haven't gotten in eight years of school," he said. "It's a tragedy."



Photo by Mark Wyville

Joseph Rafter of the Hoboken Board of Education speaks at the forum, sponsored by the Hoboken Environment Committee and the Hoboken Clergy Coalition.

Property taxes will rise this year

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken taxpayers can expect a boost in their property taxes this year as both the municipal and education portions of the levy rise.

Officials are unwilling to predict how much more property owners will pay, noting that the complicated issue of reassessment has yet to be resolved.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday that he expects the 1986 municipal budget will ask taxpayers for "a little more" than \$6 million, several hundred thousand dollars more than the 1985 levy of just under \$6 million.

The Board of Education has already asked for \$11 million in tax money for the 1986-87 school year, nearly double the \$5.9 million it received for 1985-86.

The increased tax levies are expected despite relatively flat budgets over last year for both the school board and the city. Declining state and federal aid are blamed by both for shifting a greater burden onto the taxpayer.

The board has proposed a \$25 million budget, and the municipal budget is expected to

be presented at \$23 million to \$23.5 million, Chius said.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti had called a special meeting of the City Council to present his budget last evening, but he canceled it early in the day. He has rescheduled it — and a discussion of the reassessment plan — for Thursday, 6 p.m., in the council chambers of City Hall.

Vezzetti gave conflicting reasons for the newest delay in the already late budget presentation. First he said it was because the city was awaiting state aid figures. Then he said it was because new figures had come in and the city had to readjust the proposed budget.

Chius said the delay was because he received new information on Friday and had to make last-minute readjustments. He also said he and Vezzetti were going to meet last night to discuss spending that Chius wants but which the mayor will probably veto to keep the tax income as moderate as possible.

Vezzetti denied charges by Board of Education President John Pope, a candidate in the April 15 school election, that he was timing the presentation around the election.

He has also denied charges that the administration is afraid to reveal its budget because of the potential tax hike.

"We have been in the dark on this," said Councilman Robert Ranieri, one of the mayor's opponents on the council. He said he believes the delay is due to a desperate attempt by the administration to make "bad" figures "more palatable."

He also called it a clear-cut instance of indecision, inability and a "total void of a sense of responsibility."

Vezzetti had promised during the mayoral campaign last year that he would have his budget before the council by Jan. 15. Not only did he miss his personal deadline, he missed the March 15 state deadline, as did many other municipalities.

The state deadline for adopting a budget is April 20, a date which is also missed by many municipalities. Last year the Hoboken council adopted the 1985 budget in July.

Chius said that among the items he hopes to fund that he doubts the mayor will approve is a cleanup of several illegal dumping areas in the city. Among the increases, he

said, are the "normal" increases for salaries, an extra \$2 million for police and fire personnel because of a state matching program that allowed hiring last year, and the cost of insurance doubling from \$400,000 to \$800,000.

He said Vezzetti was warmly received in Trenton last week when he went to Gov. Thomas Kean's office to ask for payments in lieu of taxes on railroad property. The \$1.3 million would be for the years 1982 and 1983, however.

He denied that the money is being sought to bail the city out of a potentially catastrophic tax increase.

"It's not a bailout," he said. "It's money that's rightfully ours. Besides, it would only stabilize the tax rate, not lower taxes."

The 1985 tax rate was \$162.74 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The 1986 tax rate will be determined not only by budget action, but also by whether the mandated reassessment is undertaken. A reassessment is expected to drastically drop the rate, to about \$30 per \$1,000 of valuation, but actual tax bills would probably rise, officials fear.

Hoboken budget means tax hike

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Property owners can expect a tax rate hike of \$4.56 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation under the 1986 municipal budget proposal released yesterday by Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.

The overall rate for Hudson County, school and municipal taxes would go from \$162.74 to \$205.58, assuming no increase in the county levy, which is not set until later in the year.

For the owner of a typical one-family home, which has a market price of \$200,000 and is assessed at \$12,000, the figures translate into a \$314 tax hike, according to Business Administrator Ed Chius. Property here is assessed at an exceptionally low rate, and city officials this week asked state legislators to push through a bill that would postpone to Jan. 1, 1988, the deadline for a

county-ordered revaluation.

The \$22.6 million budget, up \$1.6 million from 1985, calls for collecting \$500,000 more in property taxes. Administration officials yesterday were quick to point out the proposed increase in the city levy is one-tenth the \$5 million hike sought by the Board of Education. The \$25 million school budget goes up for a vote Tuesday.

The City Council wants answered "a great many questions" about the administration's revenue projections before it can accept the budget, said council President E. Norman Wilson Jr. after a meeting last night. He said the council is seeking assurances the city will actually get \$1.6 million in state tax assistance and railroad replacement funds.

"We want to make sure the budget we're getting is not a sham," said Wilson.

In a statement, Vezzetti, whose campaign platform last year included a pledge to cut taxes, listed major expenses he said account for the \$1.6 million increase.

They are a jump in insurance premiums, the cost of removing illegally dumped garbage before a road reconstruction program can proceed, contracted wage hikes, matching funds for a state grant to hire 37 police officers and firefighters and raises for 48 police officers and firefighters promoted by "the prior administration" of Steve Cappiello.

Vezzetti also blamed the increase on a declining tax collection rate and what he said was an unbelievably slim rise in rates amid a construction boom. He said Assessor Woodrow Monte had estimated the rates figure at \$105 million, up \$600,000 from 1985.

Monte would not confirm the estimate.

Continued from Page 1.

Neil Mullin, a Hoboken lawyer representing Alicandri, said yesterday that he will bring the ouster back to federal court in 30 to 50 days.

U.S. District Judge Herbert Stern heard a plea by Alicandri before the April 2 hearing but refused to issue an injunction. He did, however, retain jurisdiction over the case.

Mullin said he will argue for Alicandri's reinstatement on the grounds that the council action was "a gross violation of (Alicandri's) constitutional right" to a fair trial.

The council, he charged, had already decided the case before it voted. The hearing, he said, was "an uncontrolled, humiliating experience."

He may also ask for further relief, he said. The federal action will take more than a month, Mullin said, because he must go in on the regular calendar rather than as an emergency matter.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Mongiello is representing the City Council in the matter.

Vezzetti cleared on threat charges

By BETH KUHLES

Staff Writer

Hoboken Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti was cleared for the second time yesterday of criminal charges of harassing political opponents, but a Hudson County judge warned him that he should not use his apparent authority as mayor to threaten people during a campaign.

Vezzetti was charged with harassing Frank "BB" Weick by allegedly telling a police officer to "lock him up" when Weick began shouting at him while the mayor was campaigning for Board of Education candidates in the city's PATH station on Jan. 14.

Vezzetti said Weick had a megaphone and was accusing him of being gay, according to testimony at the trial.

Weick is leading a recall campaign against Vezzetti.

"I do not see a violation of a criminal statute here," said Judge James W. Taylor of Hudson County Superior Court. "But for a mayor of a city who is always in the limelight to use words that have other connotations is a serious mistake."

Weick never was arrested for harassing Vezzetti, but he was taken by a police officer to another location, the trial testimony said.

Vezzetti was acquitted two weeks ago of harassing Anthony Russo, a political opponent and chairman of the Hudson County Utilities Authority. Russo said Vezzetti verbally attacked him at the Dunkin' Donuts on Washington Street on Feb. 14.

Haack to do Alicandri's job

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken superintendent of public works will be named acting director of environmental services and facilities in place of the ousted Peter Alicandri.

Roy Haack, 43, a public works employee for 23 years, will temporarily head the \$8 million department, said Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

Alicandri, meanwhile, is planning further court action in an attempt to be reinstated. The City Council voted 6-to-2

But mayor's appointee may be opposed

March 19 to fire Alicandri. The council held a hearing on the matter last Wednesday and defeated a resolution to keep him in the post.

Various division heads under the umbrella department have taken up supervisory roles but say the department needs a director before the April 16 council meeting because

resolutions must be signed.

City Clerk James Farina said yesterday that there is already a debate brewing over whether the mayor has the power to name an acting director.

"It has to be checked with the Law Department," he said. The administration, however, said state law clearly

gives the mayor that power. But Vezzetti was unsure yesterday what the term of an acting director would be.

The point may become moot, he said, should anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri's ordinance to abolish the department be adopted by the council. The ordinance would consolidate En-

vironmental Services and Facilities under the Law Department, which is directed by Salvatore D'Amelia Jr.

Alicandri's firing was the latest in a series of council acts against Vezzetti, who appointed the director with council ratification.

The council, except pro-administration members Helen

Cunning and Joseph DellaFave, charged that Alicandri's firing was warranted because of what they considered the "demoralization" of the department and because of Alicandri's refusal to recognize a contract between the city and Hoboken engineering firm Mayo Lynch and Associates for the design of a secondary sewage treatment plant.

Alicandri has said that the contract isn't valid.

See ALICANDRI — Page 31.

HOBOKEN PROJECT

Condo variances vote put off

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—"Why are we here?" The Zoning Board of Adjustment was asked repeatedly last night by the attorney for neighbors seeking to block construction of a controversial twin-tower condominium project.

The residents were wondering if the board would approve the last remaining variances needed for the project, planned by ANAWIM, a Jersey City development partnership headed by the Rev. Francis Schiller.

But at the end of a 1½-hour meeting, the board scheduled another hearing on the Presidential Towers complex for May 8.

Before that, the board expects to obtain an evaluation of the development from the consultant to the Planning Board. And the zoning board also voted to ask the developer to bring back for cross-examination his expert witnesses who had testified at earlier rounds of hearings.

Both moves for more information were taken on a motion by Joel Freisler, a member newly appointed by Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.

About 60 residents came to the hearing at the Multi-Service Center on Grand Street. Most had contested a Feb. 24 board vote to grant some variances needed for the project and reserve decision on others until the developers had changed their site plans to reflect a cutback in the

height of two towers. Neighborhood residents have charged they were not notified of the February hearing as required by law.

The structures were cut back from 22 to 16 stories. The residential zoning in the area of the proposed condominium, between Newark and First streets, calls for a maximum height of 14 stories.

Chairman Frank Cameron would not say whether the board will consider the project as a new application at the May session. But he did say all variances sought by the developers would be up for a vote — including one for a building height.

Representing the residents last night was Newark attorney Philip Elberg.

Hoboken hopefuls state platforms

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Tuesday's balloting will give the Board of Education a majority of elected members, but whether it will change the panel's direction is another story.

A November referendum triggered the switch from an appointed to an elected board. Two months later, Eugene Drayton and Richard England won the first school election here since 1978.

The remaining seven members were appointed when Steve Cappiello was mayor. Three are seeking re-election, running as a slate. This team is backed by opponents of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, as were Drayton and England when they ran.

A rival ticket has the endorsement of Vezzetti, who defeated Cappiello at the polls last year. Cappiello is now on the City Council.

In addition, three independent candidates are competing for the three board openings.

Also up for a vote will be the \$25 million school budget. The city schools enroll 4,401 students.

Here are excerpts from board candidates' interviews with The Dispatch:

□ Lourdes Arroyo — Arroyo, 32, has two daughters who attend public school here, and she says this would help spur the parental participation needed to make the system work. "They can talk to me in their language, because I speak their language; they can talk to me as a parent, because I am a parent," said Arroyo, the city rent leveling administrator.

She said she favors the establishment of after-school centers relying heavily on volunteers. The current board, "entrenched with the political machine," is thwarting the education of low-income and minority students who make up a majority of the enrollment here, Arroyo said. She added that she wants school officials to borrow teaching methods used in other urban districts with high Hispanic enrollments whose students, she said, unlike Hoboken's, are passing basic skills tests.

Arroyo lost in the January board race, and is now running with Joseph Rafter and Michael Rossano on the slate endorsed by Vezzetti and the Citizens for Quality Education.

□ Peter "Perry" Belfiore — Belfiore, 34, a developer, said his election would send a message that the voters are fed up with the "turf wars" between the two main political camps here.

His three-part platform consists of a stepped-up drug education program, a citizens advisory committee and a table of organization that would show "how many chiefs compared to how many Indians" work for the district, and what each does.

Belfiore said the system, with proper leadership, "has the capacity to make itself well without external interference." A former coordinator of the city Safe and Clean Street program, he is running as an independent. His wife, Patricia, is a teacher on leave from the public schools.

□ James Farina — A trustee for 12 years, he said he is proud of his role in bringing girls' sports to the schools and in expanding other athletic activities that enable students to qualify for college scholarships.

Farina, 38, who is also the city clerk, said he would rely on a program developed by the local school superintendent to help the district gain state certification. He said individual board members



JOHN J. POPE, left, president of the Hoboken Board of Education, Otto Hottendorf, center, and James Farina are all running for re-election on a slate endorsed by opponents of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.



MICHAEL ROSSANO, left, Lourdes Arroyo and Joseph Rafter are seeking three-year terms on the Hoboken Board of Education on a slate supported by Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.

should schedule meetings in the community to get parents involved.

"Other urban areas have their share of some of the problems that we face," he said. Farina's running mates are Otto Hottendorf and John J. Pope, on the slate supported by anti-Vezzetti forces. His wife, Patricia, is a board clerk on leave of absence.

□ Otto Hottendorf — A 36-year trustee, Hottendorf traces the roots of many problems facing the system to a rising rate of single-parent families coupled with a decline in "values."

He said he would lobby Trenton for funds for an after-school program for "latchkey" children who need compensatory education and supervised homework time. Hottendorf, 77, also calls for better drug education and family-life instruction.

"One of the problems we find is the break-up of homes caused by out-of-wedlock births," he said. "We have to teach not values, but the reason for those values."

□ Graciella McEwen — McEwen, 56, a former teacher's aide here, has said the bilingual education program is falling short of the mark. "I'm a Cuban mother and my concern is children," she said. Remedies she spoke of included recruiting teachers whose English is as good as their Spanish and reaching out to Hispanic parents who may be "afraid to come to the schools."

"With a united community of parents who care, you could fight



together and abolish a little of the politics in the schools," said the credit investigator for Meadowview Hospital in Secaucus.

McEwen, who ran unsuccessfully for the City Council last year, also has criticized the board candidates who send their children to private schools. She has grown daughters who attended public schools.

□ Mario Mercado — A police lieutenant, he said the board should look to consultants from local colleges for ideas on how to reverse educational decline.

He also advocated a "unit control" system which he said would improve school management by centering administrative, budget and curriculum responsibility in the superintendent. Mercado, 42, said he wants to rechannel funds for administrative jobs to teaching staff. He said teacher morale needs boosting and patronage has to be brought under control. The board must get across the message "we will consider professional attitudes

before we will consider political allegiances and alliances," he said.

He is supported by UNIDAD, Mercado said. The Hispanic group voted to unify behind a candidate who could address the community's needs. McEwen, however, has pointed to infighting between Cuban and Puerto Rican factions in the coalition.

□ John J. Pope — The board president, Pope, 38, said he wants to stay in office to continue and expand the programs he hopes will help lead to state certification of the system. They include teacher in-service training, the gifted and talented program, and bilingual education.

"The record is there; it speaks for itself," said Pope, a trustee for seven years and a marketing manager for AT&T in Morristown. "The only criticism I would accept is the fact we were not certified due to low test scores," he said. "The other is all fluff."

□ Joseph Rafter — A New York City public school teacher on sabbatical, Rafter said his unsuccessful January campaign served to raise voters' awareness of the "mess" in the school system.

"We feel that leadership is really the problem," he said, speaking of the slate that also includes Arroyo and Michael Rossano.

Their platform includes reviving parent groups, mounting a national search for a new superintendent "with experience in turning troubled schools around" and rolling three business office jobs into one administrative post. Financial record-keeping is sloppy, said Rafter, 40.

□ Michael Rossano — An equities coordinator for a New York financial firm, Rossano said the district's accounting system needs to be overhauled. Asked for specifics, he cited what he claims are discrepancies in the audit, and between the opening and closing financial balances. The district also has no fixed asset ledger showing what equipment it has, he said.

Rossano, 25, said the school budget, which calls for a hefty tax hike, reflects bad planning, since the board had a year's warning of the drop in state aid. He said unit control would put an end to a management situation in which "the buck doesn't stop anywhere."

Candidates agree: Politics is a part of school system

By Jim DeGatatis

The candidates for the Hoboken Board of Education seemed to agree yesterday that politics is a part of the city's school system.

But, they said, it's the result that counts.

Five of the nine candidates were reached in the last two days and responded to the issue of politics in the schools as a result of The Jersey Journal's series "What's wrong with schools in Hoboken?"

They also discussed questions about the system that are described in today's installment.

The candidates are seeking election on Tuesday. Three three-year terms are up in the

race. Also on the ballot is the \$11 million the board is requesting in city taxes.

The Journal piece on politics and the schools gave opinions from various people in the system suggesting that political activism is advantageous for advancement. Some figures said the issue was critical to problems in the system while others recalled meeting a mayor or council member only as an entree without being politically tied once in the system.

Incumbent James Farina said yesterday that politics has been a part of the system but that it hasn't resulted in the employment of unqualified people in education jobs. Incumbent John Pope, the board president,

declined to speak on the subject, calling the article "a piece of crap" and saying the issue has been beaten to death.

Challengers Joseph Rafter, Peter "Perry" Belfiore and Graciella McEwen, meanwhile, said politics is part of the reason that a Hoboken public school education isn't what it should be.

"Our whole platform has been to eliminate political appointees," Rafter said, including running mates Lourdes Arroyo and Michael Rossano in his remarks. Should the group win, he said, they would treat as a priority firing the administrative and supervisory personnel who they believe are

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Continued from Page 1.

unqualified or unnecessary and working only because they are politically connected.

"For the last 15 years," independent candidate Belfiore charged, "the board has been tailored to the needs of adults, not children. We need people in the system to perceive that a change is coming."

He called the situation a "political paralysis" that affects City Hall as well as the board.

"I feel that the politicians have been fighting a turf war that is holding the school system and our children hostage," he said.

McEwen, also an independent candidate, said she knows of politics in the system firsthand.

Her daughter Mercedes, who is 28, couldn't get a teaching job with the Hoboken board, she said, because "she wouldn't play politics." She is now teaching in Union City.

The teachers in Hoboken, McEwen charged, "are puppets of the politicians. They have to do what the politicians say. To work in the school system, you have to campaign for the politicians. It shouldn't be like that."

Farina disagreed. "To a certain degree," he said, "there is politics in everything. To say that there isn't wouldn't be the honest thing to do."

But, he said, anyone who got an entree through politics was qualified for his job. Each candidate for a job — the board is the hiring arm of the system — is interviewed and the board gets input from the superintendent of schools.



TWO VISTAS — Elderly gentleman takes in the view of the Hudson River from the Erie-Lackawanna Plaza in Hoboken while a member of the younger generation, at right, peers upward. 28 4-8-86.

"We based our judgment on that," he said, "at least I did."

He added that in the education end of jobs — teachers, principals, etc. — critics have never named any unqualified personnel.

Pope has made similar remarks in the past, saying that no unnecessary jobs have been created or unqualified personnel placed in regular posts.

He declined to answer questions yesterday, charging the Journal piece was unfairly timed to coincide with the election and was biased. The sources in it, he said, are known to be against the board. One of the sources, however, was Assistant Superintendent Frank McGorty.

On problems brought out in today's installment, the incumbents again defended the board and current efforts while challengers charged that nothing is being done to better education.

Pope said that efforts have been under way since September to increase scores on standardized tests. Remedial efforts plus in-service teacher training should lead to better education in general, he said, adding that merely emphasizing test scores would result in a false sense of security.

Belfiore was the only candidate to give a plan to improve education. He advocates a four-point plan to draw a table of organization; form a citizens' advisory committee; expand anti-drug abuse education; and increase parental involvement.

Candidates who could not be reached were Arroyo and Rossano, incumbent Otto Hottendorf, and independent Mario Mercado.

Mayor wants moratorium on revaluation

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti is seeking a moratorium on the revaluation of property until the 1988 tax year.

Vezzetti said yesterday that he has asked Hudson County representatives in the state Legislature to introduce a bill that would grant the two-year moratorium.

Hoboken has been under a state and county mandate to bring property assessments up to true value since 1981 and has stalled the effort through moratoriums and inaction.

The mayor said the two-year grace period would give the city time to undertake a new revaluation, a suggestion the county Board of Taxation has previously rejected.

Vezzetti said he already met with Assemblymen Ronald Dario and Jose Arango and state Sen. Christopher Jackman. A draft of the bill has been drawn, he said.

A special City Council meeting on the 1986 municipal budget and the issue of revaluation is set for tonight at 6 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall.

While the mayor placed the revaluation issue on the agenda — at the request of Council President E. Norman Wilson — yesterday's announcement was unexpected.

Last September, city officials met with the county Tax Board to go over options to bring property assessments to market value. While city Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte pushed for an update of a 1983 revaluation, other officials wavered.

Monte had argued that a new revaluation would take too long and cost the city about \$500,000. Plus, he said, the longer the delay the harder revaluation will hit the average taxpayer.

The meeting came just weeks before a City Council election and it was believed that officials didn't want to support a revaluation because of the political timing.

The Tax Board then ordered Monte to do a reassessment, which is less precise than a revaluation because property inspections would be rare, and told the City Council to give Monte's office "reasonable" financial support. Despite pleas by Monte, the council has refused to act on his requests.

In his announcement yesterday, Vezzetti said he included \$15,000 in the 1986 budget for Monte to hire a field represen-

tative. A revaluation, however, would have to be contracted out to a professional appraisal firm.

The 1983 revaluation done by Landmark Appraisal Company of Perth Amboy wasn't implemented after a citizens' outcry led to an investigation. Residents were shocked when they received notices that their new assessments would, in some cases, be double their current assessments.

Property values have soared in Hoboken over the last decade. It isn't unusual, for example, to see a brownstone assessed at \$25,000 sell for \$250,000.

The change has hurt the city with respect to state aid for education. The state began using an equalization formula, based on market values rather than assessments, this year to determine aid. As a result, Hoboken is receiving about \$2 million less for 1986-87 than it did for 1985-86. The Board of Education has asked the city to come up with double the amount of tax money to fund the gap.

Vezzetti and his supporters have claimed, however, that the board should have anticipated the decline and slashed its budget.

Because of the schools' bill, officials who were previously against revaluation or reassessment, fearing it would unfairly burden longtime Hoboken homeowners, have reversed their positions.

Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, who as a state assemblyman sponsored legislation leading to previous moratoriums, said the schools' bill represents a "partial reassessment" so a reassessment should be done now.

In explaining his wish for a revaluation, Vezzetti wrote to the council: "I believe this recommendation is the fairest and most equitable solution available to the city at this time. Insufficient time remains for an equitable reassessment conducted by the assessor for 1986."

"I believe that a reassessment executed in this manner would be unfair and arbitrary and have a catastrophic effect on the longtime property owner."

The 1985 tax rate of \$162.74 is expected to rise this year as a result of added tax levies in both the municipal and schools' portion of the rate. A reassessment or revaluation is expected to drop the rate drastically — to about \$30 — but still result in tax bills that could double, officials fear.



PETER "PERRY" BELFIORE, left, Graciella McEwen and Mario Mercado are independents running for three-year terms on the Hoboken Board of Education.

Hoboken gets grant to study walkway

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken planners have received a \$10,000 state grant to determine the feasibility of a waterfront walkway that would cut into a cliff overlooking the Hudson River.

The walkway would make the "terrific" views of the New York skyline accessible to pedestrians and provide a link between historic Elysian Park and proposed waterfront developments, said Thomas Ahern, director of economic development for the Community Development Agency.

It would also be a necessary step for creating a walkway stretching the length of Hoboken, as suggested by the state in its Hudson River Walkway study, Ahern said. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection through the Division of Coastal Resources has proposed a pedestrian walkway leading from the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee to the Bayonne Bridge.

The DEP grant to Hoboken will serve as a pilot project to study the full walkway plan, Ahern said. An important part of the Hoboken study, he said, will be determining how best to go around waterfront industry, in Hoboken's case the Union Dry Dock.

It may also serve as a model for the safe and environmentally sound creation of pathways, stairs and picnic areas along the Palisades, Ahern said.

The study area would stretch along the cliff, which overlooks Sinatra Drive, from about Eighth Street to the southeast corner of Elysian Park at 10th Street. It would have a walkway with benches and historical markers to explain the view.

The southern end of the walkway would connect with a walkway planned for the Port Authority riverfront development and the northern end would probably be through the park, onto a public sidewalk in front of the Maxwell House coffee plant and then into the planned redevelopment of the old

Hoboken Shipyards, Ahern said. Elysian Park, once a popular spot for vacationing New Yorkers, was immortalized in the 1954 film "On the Waterfront," in which several scenes show the park and its New York backdrop.

Second Ward residents have complained recently about vandalism and late-night drinking parties in the park, and city officials have said they will work to keep the area clean and quiet. "Improvements to Elysian Park have always been a top priority with me," Mayor Thomas Vezzetti said in a prepared statement. "With this grant, the city will be able to design a safe way of getting to the river from Elysian Park."

Ahern said that the cliff area is somewhat littered and shrubbery has grown wild. Some of the areas are just rock, and there are parts with outcrops that could make sitting areas, he said.

The path would follow the slope of the cliff and be about 20 to 30 feet above Sinatra Drive, Ahern said. It may not be accessible to the handicapped or for bicycles, he added.

In February, before applying for the grant, CDA personnel took a mini-tour of the cliff, which was then snow-covered, Ahern said. The area has virtually no traffic now, he said, adding, "Only kids and crazy city planners go there."

Having won the grant, which should cover most of the study work, the city's next step is to meet with officials of Stevens Institute of Technology since the property abuts the Stevens campus.

After a preliminary design and cost study are finished, the city will determine whether it can construct the walkway and, if so, would have specifications drawn so that bids for the work could be taken.

The CDA also hopes to use construction workers from apprenticeship programs such as the Hudson County Vocational-Technical School and Hudson County Private Industry Council, Ahern said.

Called 'inept' by Vezzetti, Farina charges harassment

By Jim DeRogatis

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti attacked City Clerk James Farina yesterday for being "inept" and criticized a \$5,928 raise granted him by the City Council in January.

Farina, however, charged that Vezzetti was "politically harassing" him. Farina is running as a candidate on a slate backed by anti-administration forces in next week's Board of Education election.

The two engaged in a brief exchange of words yesterday afternoon in the city clerk's office in City Hall before Farina turned his back on the mayor and refused to speak to him.

"Farina is inept, he can't do his job," Vezzetti said. "He doesn't know anything and he is never at work."

Vezzetti walked into the city clerk's office and said that he was surprised Farina was there. "I'm here," Farina shot back. "Where are you, outer space?"

"This is harassment," Farina said. "He comes in all the time to check if I'm here. If

I'm out to lunch, he goes around saying I'm never here. "I think the citizens of Hoboken can always find me here."

Vezzetti criticized a salary increase granted to Farina by the City Council in January. "The City Council fires someone who is capable and gives someone inept like Farina a \$5,000 raise," Vezzetti said, referring to the council's recent firing of Peter Alicandri, the city's director of Environmental Services and Facilities.

The City Council passed an ordinance at its January 2 meeting increasing the maximum salaries of all city employees. Although Farina had been serving as city clerk since

April, 1984, he was still making the same salary as a department head, with consideration for his length of employment, \$35,568.

According to Vezzetti, City Council President E. Norman Wilson approved an increase of Farina's salary to the maximum for a city clerk, \$39,900. With a 4 percent consideration for his longevity, Farina's current salary is \$41,496.

The salary increase "was a payoff from Mr. Wilson," Vezzetti said. "Farina does all their dirty work for them."

Wilson said that he did not grant Farina in particular a raise. "I don't know what (the mayor) is talking about," he said. Wilson pointed out that the

ordinance which raised the employees' salaries was prepared by the business administrator and signed by the mayor. He called Vezzetti's charges against Farina "trumped up."

Farina said that the raise he was granted was earned. "Tom Vezzetti makes it sound like I got something I wasn't entitled to, and that's not the case," he said.

"This is harassment. It's the right time now to make a few points, so (Vezzetti) decided to go after Farina."

Vezzetti denied that he is harassing Farina. "I'm harassing him?" he asked. "He threw me out of his office, and I'm the mayor."

Judge: Vezzetti has legal right to badmouth Russo

By Margaret Schmidt

Hudson County politics had its day in court yesterday — and won.

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, 57, was acquitted of harassment charges when state Superior Court Judge James W. Taylor found nothing seriously wrong or illegal in the mayor's harangue of political foe and Hudson County Utilities Authority Chairman Anthony Russo.

In "a highly political county such as Hudson and a highly political city such as Hoboken," Taylor said in giving his decision, there is a serious question of whether name-calling and accusations can be considered criminal harassment.

Russo said, after court, that he had anticipated the decision but may follow up with a civil suit against the mayor. He added that he wished Taylor would have been "more stern" and chastised Vezzetti for his behavior. "Maybe it will prevent him from doing it to other

people," Russo said of the mayor.

The charges stemmed from a Feb. 12 encounter between Russo and Vezzetti in the Dunkin' Donuts, 214 Washington St.

According to testimony by Russo and Dunkin' Donuts employees Joan Pinto and Clara Diaz, Russo was eating lunch in a booth when Vezzetti entered the eatery. Vezzetti verbally attacked Russo before leaving, they said.

Russo said the attack concerned three matters, although Pinto and Diaz were less clear on what was said. Vezzetti accused Russo of being dishonest, improperly away from his job as a Hoboken special education teacher and a "political whore," Russo testified.

Russo was on a lunch break, he said.

Much of the questioning involved the phrase "political whore" and what Russo's reaction to it was.

"Have you heard the word whore before?" asked Vezzetti

attorney Arthur Abrams of Jersey City.

"Yes, of course I have," Russo responded.

Asked what it meant to him, Russo said, "It means you sell to the highest bidder in politics."

"You just changed, is that right?" Taylor asked.

"Yes," he responded.

"That's fairly common language in the county," Taylor noted, and again Russo responded, "Yes."

Taylor, saying that Russo was "a very honest witness," asked whether Russo had ever crossed lines, switching from Vezzetti's side to his opponents? Russo answered that he had never been and probably never would be aligned with Vezzetti but that he had switched from being an 11-year opponent of former Mayor Steve Cappelletto to one of his supporters.

He added that he switched to Cappelletto because there was no other viable choice, in his opinion.

See VEZZETTI — Page 6.

Vezzetti had foe held in campaign incident

By BETH KUHLES

Hoboken Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti used his position to have a political opponent detained by police during a confrontation in the PATH station there during the winter, an assistant Hudson County prosecutor said yesterday.

Vezzetti has been charged with harassment, and he is the defendant in a non-jury trial before Judge James W. Taylor of Superior Court in Jersey City. He is accused of having Frank "BB" Weick detained by police after Vezzetti said Weick harassed him in the PATH station.

Vezzetti was campaigning for his Board of Education slate, Citizens for Quality Education, on Jan. 14 when Weick came into the terminal with his megaphone. Weick shouted at Vezzetti that they had campaigned together to keep politics out of the school system. Vezzetti then told a nearby officer to arrest Weick on a charge of harassment.

Police Officer Thomas Kennedy testified yesterday. Kennedy had run unsuccessfully against Vezzetti and Steve Cappelletto for mayor in May.

Kennedy said he refused to arrest

Weick, telling Vezzetti that he first had to sign a complaint.

Weick was placed in the back seat of a patrol car by other officers and later driven to another location. No charges were filed against Weick, but Weick immediately filed a charge of harassment against Vezzetti.

Also testifying for the defense was Anna Alicandri of 1035 Garden St., who said Weick had accused Vezzetti of being a homosexual with AIDS in an incident in front of City Hall on Nov. 6. Alicandri is the wife of Peter Alicandri, who was fired by the City Council earlier this month as director of public works.

The hearing is scheduled to continue today.

Vezzetti was acquitted on another harassment charge two weeks ago in an incident involving Anthony Russo, a political foe who is chairman of the Hudson County Utilities Authority. Russo said that Vezzetti had assaulted him verbally at a Dunkin' Donuts on Washington Street on Feb. 12.

Ranieri: City must reassess

By Rick Tosches

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri will lobby tonight at the City Council caucus for funds for Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte to reassess the city.

Ranieri wants funds for Monte to hire additional staff members to handle the reassessment.

On several occasions at recent council meetings, the council has refused to act.

Ranieri said this is the logical way to solve this longstanding problem.

"The fact is that we are going to have a revaluation whether we want it or not," Ranieri said.

Ranieri said if the city remains inactive, the city's current \$105 million in ratables will decrease to below \$100 million, probably to \$95 million.

He said a similar reduction has occurred to the Hoboken Shipyard property which has declined from \$16 million to around \$6 million.

"Something has to be done," Ranieri said. "We must have a reassessment. If nothing is done, it will destroy the old city of Hoboken and destroy the renaissance of the city."

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Ranieri has warned officials that if the city continues its inaction the Hudson County Board of Taxation has threatened to take over the city tax records and update it themselves.

"If we do nothing, Stanley Kosakowski (of the county tax board) will come in and confiscate the books and set a new tax rate."

Ranieri said the time for action is now.

"It's absolute. Like the sun must come up in the morning," Ranieri blames the inaction on Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's administration, calling them a "confused bunch of amateurs."

Tonight's meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Vezzetti ticket takes 2 school board seats

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

HOBOKEN—Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti gained a long-sought foothold on the Board of Education last night, but a narrow win by one incumbent prevented his slate from making a clean sweep of three seats.

The two top finishers were Joseph Rafter and Lourdes Arroyo, running on the ticket endorsed by Vezzetti and the Citizens for Quality Education. In a rebound from their defeat in the January school race, Rafter got 2,734 votes and Arroyo, 2,639, according to unofficial returns that include absentee ballots.

The third seat went to Trustee James Farina, the city clerk, whose ticket had wide backing from Vezzetti's opponents. He tallied 2,508 votes.

Voters rejected the \$25 million budget, 1,883-568, and voted 1,653-593 against \$294,912 in capital outlays.

"We built a base, we spread the word," said Rafter after he heard the returns at the board's office. "People really do care more about kids than they do about politics."

Farina, in a phone interview, pledged to "work with anybody on the board to better the educational system." He credited a "unified effort" by the Vezzetti team with swinging the race their way.

Michael Rossano, also a member of the Vezzetti slate, came in fourth with 2,340 votes. Farina's running mates, incumbents John R. Pope — who is the board president — and Otto Hottendorf, received 2,185 and 1,936 ballots, respectively.

The other losing candidates and their vote totals were: Mario Mercado, 1,895; Peter "Perry" Belfiore, 601; and Graciella McEwen, 353.

Board Secretary Anthony H. Romano said ballots from one district in the 3rd Ward will be impounded because of a voting machine breakdown. He said the mechanical problem appeared to have cost Pope votes but would not have changed the election's outcome.

As in January, Vezzetti's friends marshaled their forces behind one slate, while his foes gathered around the other and injected the management of city government into the campaign. But insiders said feuds within the anti-Vezzetti forces resulted in some key figures lending lukewarm support to the full incumbent ticket.

On the issues, the challengers again spoke of patronage in the schools, low student test scores and the board's indifference to parents. Incumbents, in the race for the first time, defended themselves by arguing that the school system's shortcomings have been highlighted at the expense of its achievements.

The same division marked candidates' stands on the school budget. Those who helped in its preparation said it was as sparse as possible in the face of government aid cuts.

Although Hispanics number only about 20 percent of the city's registered voters, their children make up a 70 percent majority of public school students. Three Hispanic candidates — Arroyo, McEwen and Mercado — stressed their desire to see their ethnic group have a stronger voice in the school system.

The current board has two Hispanic members, Zelma Lugo and Raul Morales. Of the nine trustees, seven were appointed by Steve Cappelletto when he was mayor. Eugene Drayton and Richard England were elected in January, two months after a referendum changed the method of choosing trustees from appointment to election.

Hoboken, Secaucus recounts on Friday

By Ronald Leir

Recounts in two Hudson County school board elections will be conducted Friday, according to Joseph Brady, county superintendent of elections.

Until then, he said that voting machines used in April 15 elections will remain impounded and all absentee ballots cast will stay "under lock and seal."

In Hoboken, several unsuccessful candidates for seats on that city's Board of Education are seeking a recount. And, in

Secaucus, a recount was requested by Harry Winarski, separated from the third and final winner by just 10 votes.

Winners of three seats on the Hoboken board were: Joseph Rafter, with 2,734 machine votes and 62 absentee; James Farina, 2,508 on the machine and 180 absentee; and Lourdes Arroyo, 2,639 on the machine and 55 absentee.

The Secaucus winners were: Carmen Ross, Anthony DeBari and Florence Rainone who had the 10-vote margin over Winarski.

Anti-nuke group, Stevens disagree about Star Wars

By Margaret Schmidt

Representatives of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and opponents of the nuclear arms race have agreed to disagree over a Star Wars research grant awarded to the school, officials said.

The school neither endorses nor opposes the research program and is intent on keeping academic freedom, said Margot Hammer of the Hudson County Coalition for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze after a "cordial" meeting with Stevens officials.

The arms race opponents, however, have left open the possibility of petitioning Stevens faculty to solicit objections to the program, she said.

Stevens has been awarded a one-year, \$100,000 federal grant to do research on detecting missiles as early as the launch phase.

The grant, by the Department of Defense, is connected to President Reagan's proposed

Strategic Defense Initiative technology, or Star Wars. The proposed technology would track and destroy nuclear missiles before they reached the United States, thus limiting war to the skies, the government says.

Stevens was one of approximately 250 colleges and universities awarded SDI research grants.

The Stevens project, by lead researcher Professor Harrison Rowe, would utilize heat sensors and radio astronomy rather than nuclear physics.

However, opponents of the arms race have said that any research connected to SDI advances the race.

Along with Hammer for the hour-and-a-half meeting at Stevens were: Judith Karpova of Hoboken Action for Nuclear Disarmament; Lornal Henkel, Michael Monheit and John Skelly of the county coalition, and Robert Birchfield, a Stevens

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Anti-nuke group, Stevens disagree

Continued from Page 1.

graduate and a member of High Technicians for Peace.

The Stevens representatives were Dr. Rowe, Richard Griskie, vice president and provost, and Robert Hand, vice president, Hammer said.

The SDI contracts have caused controversies on many campuses because of the connection with the arms race. Schools, however, are unwilling to ban the contracts because of the fear that it would result in a loss of

academic freedom akin to censorship.

The group that went to Stevens asked the school to reject the grant, an option that was itself rejected, Hammer said. It also said it would like to host a forum on the issue, but no plans have been set.

Stevens officials have said they are proud that Rowe's proposal was chosen for funding because of the highly competitive nature of the program.

Similarly, Rep. Frank Guarini of Jersey City said in announcing the grant that it proved Stevens' and New Jersey's advancement in the science and technical spheres.

Hoboken schools not last but...

By Richard Rosenberg

A newspaper headline appeared in 1978, Francis C. McGorty, assistant superintendent of Hoboken schools, recalled, and it said "Hoboken Is Last" in standardized test scores.

George Maier, the schools' superintendent at the time, posted the headline and said "he never wanted to see that again," McGorty recalled.

Hoboken is last no longer. Its ninth graders' combined reading and mathematics score on the state Minimum Basic Skills test rose 47.3 percent since the 1977-1978 school year.

But on that same standardized test, which New Jersey uses to judge school systems,

Hoboken still finishes close to the bottom, in the company of Newark and Camden, whose school systems are 10 and five times as big as Hoboken's, respectively, and whose cities are considered the worst slums in the state.

"I don't see it as the greatest thing in the world, because it isn't," Superintendent of Schools Walter J. Fine said of the school system.

McGorty said: "The total resources of the district since 1978 have been concentrated on basic skills. We've revised all our courses of study, we broke away from grade-level supervisors to identifiable subject-area supervisors."

McGorty said the teachers and administrators "have gone

all out" to improve the school system.

"Despite all their efforts, on the barometer imposed on us by the state, the true fruits of their efforts are not evident," he said.

"For all we've done, why aren't we further ahead?" McGorty asked. "That's still the \$64,000 question."

The state Department of Education decertified the Hoboken public schools last year, in part because not enough students could pass the Minimum Basic Skills Test in reading and mathematics.

Decertification means the school system hasn't met minimum state standards and must write and implement

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school improvement plans. Over a period of several years, the schools must either improve to the minimum standards, or face further state action, including the possibility of a state takeover.

The decertification was based on test scores and other factors observed in the 1983-1984 school year. In the 1984-1985 school year, ninth graders still hadn't met the state standard in reading on the Minimum Basic Skills Test. The state is now abandoning the MBST as being too easy. The ninth graders did pass the standards on the mathematics portion of the test.

Replacing the MBST is the High School Proficiency Test, which 77 percent of Hoboken ninth graders flunked last year. The test is expected to be a statewide problem, as 80 percent of Jersey City and Paterson students flunked it, and almost 50 percent of the students across the state flunked it. Hoboken's scores on the HSPT last year improved over its scores in 1984, the first year the test was given.

A review of test scores shows that:

• Over the years, Hoboken's test scores have risen from the bottom, yet last year, Hoboken ninth graders still scored below Newark on the reading section of the MBST, and scored 2 percent above Camden ninth graders.

• On the new HSPT, Hoboken scored above Newark and Camden, but was within several percentage points of each city on the reading and writing portion of the test. On the math portion, it was 6 percentage points above Camden, and 18 points above Newark and Jersey City.

Some officials say such comparisons are unfair because much of the Hoboken student population is economically deprived and Spanish-speaking.

While the student population's background certainly influences the school system, not everybody agrees the students can be blamed for the school system's ills.

"I'm not one of those who buys that all the faults of the district fall to the family," McGorty said.

Another who doesn't accept that proposition is Maureen Singleton, the mother of three children who went through the Hoboken school system in the late 1970s.

Her son, Mark, graduated from Hoboken High School in 1978 as an A student, the Singletons said. When he went to

Montclair State University, however, he failed the basic skills mathematics portion of the entrance test, and had to take remedial mathematics.

Mark's two sisters graduated from the Brandt School, as he did, but they graduated from other high schools.

The Singletons are not Hispanic or poor. Mrs. Singleton is a real estate broker in Hoboken. The children's father is a veteran reporter from the New York Daily News, and served on the Hoboken Board of Education in the early 1970s.

Suellen Newman, whose Hudson School includes some low-income Hispanic students, said she had heard complaints similar to the Singletons' from other people.

Parents bring their children in, she said, and they say their "horizons are limited" in the public schools.

She said a common complaint she hears is, "They're getting straight A's but I don't see them doing anything."

Compared with 17 school districts of the same size, in the 4,000- to 4,500-student range, Hoboken had lower test MBST scores than all of them, except for Orange, which scored lower on the mathematics portion of the test. Orange and the other school districts scored higher, however, on the HSPT.

Again, some officials would say the comparisons are unfair, because of the high Hispanic population of Hoboken.

Yet compared with the other school districts with high Hispanic populations — Passaic, Perth Amboy, Union City, Weehawken and West New York — Hoboken still comes out on the bottom of all the test scores.

Officials contend that such comparisons are still unfair because, they say, Hispanics in those communities are wealthier.

"Hoboken undoubtedly is dealing with a very complex educational population," said Steve Cappiello, the mayor for 12 years until last year, and now a city councilman. "There's no town that's going to compare in Hudson County, unless it's part of Jersey City."

In 1985, Hoboken's per pupil spending of \$4,319 was 9 percent above the state average of \$3,952. In other words, Hoboken was spending more per student than the average school district.

Where does the money go? A look at some statistics from the Board of Education helps explain some of the expenses.

In 1972, Hoboken had 7,828 students and 520 employees, including 417 educational staff members, according to school board figures.

In 1985, Hoboken had 4,401 students, a decrease of more than 3,000 from 1972. Yet the number of employees went up to 700, according to the board payroll.

Board figures indicate 437 of those employees are educational staff members, such as teachers or principals.

The other 263 employees, where the biggest increase is over 1972, are non-education employees such as janitors and lunch aides.

The slight increase in teachers can be explained by educational programs mandated by the state since 1972.

With the decrease in student population, the school board has been able to cut down the class size, for the most part, especially in the elementary schools, though there are still some classes with 27 to 31 students, according to school board records.

At the same time, the school board hasn't closed any schools, and most of the schools, except the high school, are half-empty.

What follows is a list of schools, their functional capacity, and their current population, according to the school board:

- Rue: 503; 267;
- Brandt: 962; 467;
- Kealey: 798; 491;
- Calabro: 476; 367;
- Wallace: 1,215; 577;
- Connors: 750; 579;
- Demarest: 979; 309;
- Hoboken High: 1,431;

1,348 Fine, the superintendent

since January, and McGorty, the assistant superintendent, talk frankly about having an uphill fight.

Asked what's good about the Hoboken school system, Fine answered: "What's right with it, I think, are the teachers and the students."

"OK, what's wrong with it, I think, is an attitude that everything is viewed as being political. I think if there were no newspaper," Fine said, "our problem would still be to pick up the scores."

"I think teacher morale has improved through this office recognizing teacher contributions," Fine said. "I held a meeting with them and told them what I expected them to do to pull the system up."

"To turn any system around, you have to start at the beginning," Fine said. He said the school system was instituting and revising curriculums for pre-kindergarten through the early grades.

Fine said a "district-wide disciplinary code" also works.

McGorty said the staff was making a massive effort to improve the schools, but "given (student) deficiencies, I'm not too sure we're helping them to the extent or with the speed we should be helping them."

McGorty said the school system, once "in 16 feet of water" was now only in six feet of water.

"I'd like to get out of the water. We've still got a ways to go. Because there are kids' lives at stake, we can't get up there fast enough."

"We're their life preserver," McGorty said.

Some appellants, particularly industries, have argued that when the ratio is applied to their assessments, the supposed market value is too high.

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a doctor's appointment that morning, she would have placed him under citizen's arrest.

Also testifying yesterday was Hoboken Police Officer Thomas Kennedy, who said dialogue between Weick and the mayor went on for about five minutes before Vezzetti told Kennedy to arrest Weick.

According to Kennedy, Vezzetti said he wanted Weick arrested for harassment. "I explained to the mayor that 'Bebe' was exercising his freedom of speech," Kennedy said during questioning by Assistant Prosecutor Robert Zucconi.

The officer also said The Vezzetti refused to sign the complaint, instead telling Kennedy to sign it. Kennedy said he explained to the mayor that he could not sign the complaint since he was not the one being harassed. The

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Harold Nobile's entire route was one big party as people living along Hudson Street and Castle Point Terrace in Hoboken helped their favorite mailman celebrate his 50th birthday.

Photo by Roy Groening

'Routes' a smash hit for Nobile

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken letter carrier Harold Nobile received a surprise 50th birthday bash not just from friends and family but from a whole neighborhood along his route.

"It was really overwhelming," the 15-year veteran of the Hudson Street-Castle Point Terrace route said. At first he was miffed by all the fuss, but by the end of the day he'd learned to smile and joke about it and enjoy the marching band that accompanied him from the Post Office to a dinner at the Union Club.

The daylong event was the brainchild of Camille Corea who had no trouble whatsoever in gathering scores of neighbors to help out.

The whole route was decorated with balloons and streamers and fraternity brothers from Stevens Institute of Technology, who live along Castle Point Terrace, joined in the fun by splashing "Happy Birthday" signs on the frat houses.

"We all love Harold," Corea said. "All the kids love Harold. He's got compassion for people, especially the older people on the route."

He's always looking out for the people who are his clients, and willing to do favors, said Inez Scivani. She recalled one time when he found a door ajar, went in to check and wound up calling an ambulance for one of his clients who needed help.

"We thought he deserved a party," she said.

Philip Curley, another person along Nobile's route, had a string of superlatives for the letter-carrier — "loyal, faithful, good-looking, considerate, nice," he said, "real nice."

Nobile's boss, Hoboken Postmaster Sam Tridene, said this was the first time he knew of that members of the Hoboken community had organized a party for one of his workers.

But it wasn't too surprising that it would be for Nobile, he said, adding that Nobile exemplifies the "service" part of the U.S. Postal Service.

Nobile, who had to be dragged out of work once he saw a group of neighbors and a four-piece band outside, said his

secret was "just being neighborly."

A lifelong Hoboken resident, he's a graduate of local schools and a U.S. Army veteran. He and his wife, Claire, have raised three children, now in college and graduate schools, in the city. He'll mark his 29th year as a postal worker on June 26, and he's been on the Hudson Street-Castle Point Terrace route 15 years.

"It's a great job," he said. "You get out and meet the people. It's very fulfilling."

Nobile described himself as a "really private person" who didn't cotton to Friday's fuss. Call 792-3688 for information.

Shipyard loses tax appeal

By Margaret Schmidt

A state Tax Court judge has dismissed an appeal by the owners of the old Hoboken Shipyards to have its assessment lowered.

Judge David Crabtree, sitting in Newark, dismissed the appeal last Friday because of a tax payment law stipulating that an appellant must have paid three-quarters of a year's taxes before bringing action, said Herbert Fine, the city's tax consultant.

Braswell Shipyards Inc., the owner of the 45-acre waterfront property, hasn't paid any of its

Continued from Page 1.

In any case, the bankruptcy proceedings may hold up tax payments on the property for several years.

While city Business Administrator Edwin Chius said Hoboken will be lucky to be paid in 1987, another official laughed, "I'd like to see it paid in my lifetime."

At issue in the tax appeal is the current assessment of \$4 million. A combination of the real estate boom in Hoboken and the long overdue revaluation of property has left the city with an abnormally low ratio of tax book assessments to true value.

Some appellants, particularly industries, have argued that when the ratio is applied to their assessments, the supposed market value is too high.

1985 taxes so it cannot appeal, Fine said.

It is unclear, however, whether Crabtree's dismissal means the end of the appeal since a federal bankruptcy court in Columbia, S.C., is directing Chapter 11 proceedings for Braswell Shipyards.

Court-appointed attorneys from the East Orange firm of Brach, Eichler, Rosenberg, Silver, Bernstein and Hammer had argued that the bankruptcy court should have exclusive jurisdiction over the land and thus be the forum for the tax appeal.

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Using the 1985 ratio of 23.06 percent, the market value of the Hoboken Shipyards would be \$17,345,000. At the 1986 ratio of 16.96 percent, it would be \$23,584,905.

Recent bidding for the property, however, ranged from \$12 million to the successful bid of \$16.85 million. The bankruptcy judge will have to assign an assessment when a sale is closed, officials have said.

The dismissal in the Newark court at least means that Hoboken can continue applying an 18 percent interest rate to back taxes on the property, Chius said. It also means that the \$4 million assessment can be included in the approximately \$108 million of ratables — the total worth of taxable property according to the tax lists, he said.

Continued from Page 1.

officer said Vezzetti insisted the chief of police come to the scene. Instead, Kennedy said he called the "round sergeant" who arrived and was apprised of the situation.

Kennedy said he then saw Weick get into a patrol car with Sgt. Cecil Vincent and another officer. He testified that this indicated to him that Weick was being arrested.

Arthur Abrams, representing Vezzetti, pointed out during cross-examination that Kennedy's report of the incident made no reference to Weick's being arrested.

Kennedy responded that it was only later that morning that he learned Weick went into the patrol car to be taken back to his newspaper stand in the Erie-Lackawanna train terminal.

The case is scheduled to resume tomorrow.

Council gets out ax for school budget

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken City Council has until May 12 to suggest cuts in the proposed 1986-87 schools' budget.

Louis Acocella, Hudson County superintendent of schools, explained yesterday that the council has two options once it receives the budget — return it to the school board without change or recommend a

dollar figure by which the board must decrease its tax levy.

The council has jurisdiction over the budget because \$11 million in local property taxes requested by the school board was defeated at the polls Tuesday.

The funding is to support the proposed \$25 million budget, of which most of the other funds are in state and federal aid. Acocella said that the council may suggest line items where

decreases or cuts should be made but that the board has final jurisdiction over the changes. The board need only adhere to the council's total dollar figure, he said.

If the board thinks it is impossible to cut as much funding from the tax levy as the council requests, it can appeal to the state Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman within 15 days

of the council action, Acocella said.

The consensus of opinion by local officials Tuesday night was that cuts were necessary to head off a dramatic tax hike.

Yesterday, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti issued a statement that the voters had sent a clear message when it defeated the proposed tax levy by a better than 3-to-1 margin.

"I am imploring the City

Council to not play games," Vezzetti said. "This budget must be cut, patronage has to be set aside, and the end result must be a budget that supports quality education without robbing the taxpayers."

Board Trustee James Farina, an incumbent who won election in the Tuesday balloting, said, though, that the budget has already been trimmed.

"We'll see what the council does with it," he said, adding, "I will vote to approve any cuts that aren't detrimental to education."

He noted that he and others on the board are private homeowners and are also concerned with the tax rate.

The City Council and Board of Education must schedule a joint meeting to begin work on the budget, Acocella said.

Hoboken may dismiss a school

4-29-86 Dispatch

52 receive pink slips as City Council looks to pare ed budget

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The defeat of the Board of Education budget has jeopardized 52 jobs, but one trustee says the district should cut costs not by axing teachers, but by shuttering a school.

All 52 employees without tenure have been notified their jobs may not be waiting for them next September, said Trustee James Farina. That figure includes 24 teachers and 8 administrators in a professional

staff totaling 425, and along with 20 guards, clerks and trunk officers, he said.

Farina said the tentative pink slips were issued pending City Council action on the school budget.

The \$25 million spending plan would hike the funds to be raised through property taxes by \$5 million over the current level. Defeated at the polls April 15 by a margin of better than 3-1, it now goes to the council for paring. A meeting is scheduled tomorrow.

we've done away with any other superfluous expenditure," he said.

Rafter said a school should be closed, but not sold. He would not specify which building might be shut down, saying the decision should be made by a committee of parents, teachers, administrators and trustees.

The district's seven elementary schools are running at 46 percent of overall capacity, Rafter said. "There's plenty of opportunity or need to consolidate there."

Farina said if a school is shut down, "we might as well sell the building" so the funds could be applied to the budget.

Although both oppose firing teachers, Rafter and Farina said sending out layoff notices was necessary to give the district flexibility in facing a budget emergency.

Farina said the staff was targeted for cutbacks because their wages and benefits account for 70 percent of the budget.

Witness says plaintiff called Vezzetti 'gay'

By John Petrick

A harassment case against Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti continued yesterday before Superior Court Judge James Taylor, during which the wife of the city's former director of public works testified she heard the plaintiff make homosexual allegations about the mayor through a bullhorn in front of City Hall.

The plaintiff, City Hall gadfly Frank "Bebe" Weick, during cross examination denied allegations that he said the mayor was gay.

Weick has charged that Vezzetti unconstitutionally tried to

have him arrested during a verbal confrontation on Jan. 14.

According to testimony, Vezzetti was handing out Board of Education campaign literature in front of the Hoboken PATH station that morning. Weick said he saw the mayor pamphleteering and remarked that Vezzetti had previously campaigned against interfering in school board politics.

He said he repeated the accusation seven times until Vezzetti told a nearby police officer to arrest him.

According to Arthur Abrams, representing Vezzetti, Ann Alicandri, wife of former

Public Works Director Peter Alicandri, saw a news report on the case in which Weick denied calling Vezzetti a homosexual and "nutcase." She decided to come forward, she testified yesterday, because of an incident she had witnessed on Nov. 6.

She testified that she had been walking by City Hall that day when she saw Weick announcing through a bullhorn, "The mayor has AIDS, the mayor sleeps with men."

"It was so offensive to me," she said, adding that if she hadn't been in a hurry to attend



Photo by Don Smith

KENNETH ROGERS, president of Stevens Tech, addresses yesterday's housing and economic development seminar at his institution. Participants were told that Hoboken could become a hi-tech leader.

DESIGNATION SOUGHT

Hoboken eyes hi-tech road

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—By mapping its own path of economic development, the city now known as the area's condominium capital could become the hi-tech center of Hudson County, according to a top municipal planning official.

Efforts are under way to have the city named an Economic Development Area apart from the rest of the county, Michael Coleman, director of the Community Development Agency, said yesterday.

He said the designation should qualify the city next year for government grants covering most of the \$100,000 cost of a study on whether computer and software firms can be lured here to replace dying heavy industries.

"If the answers are positive, it would put us in line for bigger (grant) money," he added.

Coleman was one of the speakers at a CDA-sponsored luncheon which touched on the topics of economic planning, housing and waterfront development. Some 55 city officials, business executives and civic leaders turned out for the event at Stevens Tech.

Coleman said it is uncertain where a hi-tech industrial park would fit best, adding that Stevens would play a role in attracting it. Chances are just one or two firms would come in at first, he said.

This city has chosen to strike out on its own and become a separate development area, as is Jersey City, because the county hasn't been taking advantage of a range of available government programs, Coleman said. They include technical assistance, business loans, and guidance on public works and planning.

Cliff Rossignol of the federal Economic Development Administration, said that despite his agency's increased selectivity and diminished funds, there are good prospects of a grant for the Hoboken study.

On the housing front, Coleman outlined steps the CDA is taking to translate into action the pledge of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's administration to improve the stock of affordable homes.

He said negotiations with several private developers should lead to some firm deals within six weeks. One is ready to construct 500 rental units, Coleman said. Of those, 125 would be set aside for low-to-middle-income tenants, at monthly rents from \$250 to \$650.

In the talking stage with six developers are condominium projects that would have between three and five market-rate units for every "affordable" one. "We think that condominiums are a fact of housing life, but we think the moderate-income (person) should have the opportunity to purchase one," said Coleman.

Such construction hinges on a combination of public and private capital, he said.

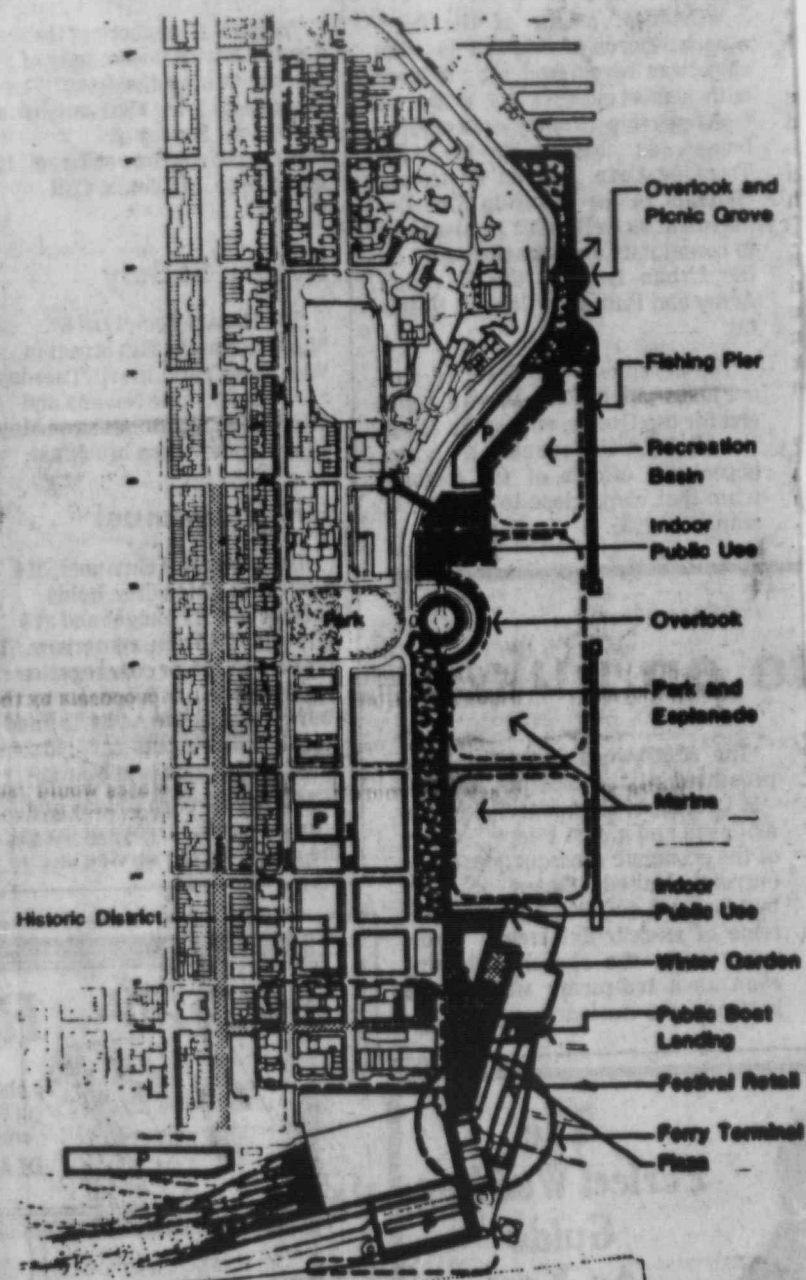
To preserve the city's rich cultural life, the CDA is also advising a group of 30 local artists seeking to buy a building they can both live and work in.

More experimental is an attempt to organize into a cooperative, three tenant groups facing certain displacement in the next year or so, Coleman said. Under this approach, tenants would buy and manage their buildings.

"The tenants have been the most difficult to convince this is in their best interest, and not to accept insider prices," said Coleman. The advantages are lower purchase prices and restrictions on resale, but on the other hand, banks don't accept co-op shares as security, he said.

Leonard S. Coleman Jr., commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs, said, "I am very bullish on Hoboken. I think the renaissance is very strong and one that our governor is behind."

Vezzetti said later: "I think his



THE PROPOSED Hudson Center project of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is shown in this artist's rendering. It is planned for the Hoboken waterfront as part of the city's renaissance.

Industrial park may replace dying factories in Mile-Square City

(Leonard Coleman's) words are going to get the Vezzetti administration off center."

Other speakers yesterday were: Kenneth Rogers, Stevens Tech president; and Santo Milici, who introduced the other members of the mayor's Economic Development Advisory Commission. Slides were

shown by Michael Krieger, manager of the Hudson Center waterfront project planned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, showing various aspects of this project, which is expected to cost at least \$250 million to build. Nora Jacobson, a filmmaker, showed slides of recent Hoboken street life.

City gives landlord benefit of doubt on burned-out house

By Margaret Schmidt

City officials have toured a Hoboken apartment house damaged by fire Sunday and agree with the owners that extensive work is needed before tenants can return.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti and Community Development Agency representative Tom Olivieri accompanied city building inspectors to 155 14th St. yesterday and found extensive damage to the roof.

"The beams are burned right through," Olivieri said. In one room and over portions of the hallways, roofing is gone.

The five-story building was the scene of a one-alarm blaze Sunday around 9:20 p.m. Four fire companies were needed to bring the blaze under control but were able to contain it to the top floor. No injuries were reported.

The two top-floor apartments were vacant, as was the ground-floor commercial area. Families were living in the other six apartments, which sustained heavy water damage.



Photo by Rex Miller

HOBOKEN MAYOR Thomas F. Vezzetti, seated in his office yesterday, jokes with writers Allan Zullo, left and Bruce Nash, and historian Jim Hans, far right. The four maintain that the game of baseball first was played in Hoboken.

USTODY BATTLE

Hoboken called baseball's true birthplace

Vezzetti wants recognition for city's accomplishment

HOBOKEN—New York and New Jersey have battled over the Statue of Liberty, the Westway highway project, the moving of businesses, defections by sports teams, and now, the birthplace of baseball.

Yesterday, Hoboken Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti asked New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and two state lawmakers to withdraw legislation that seeks to have New York license plates in 1989 bear the slogan "Birthplace of Baseball."

The measure was introduced earlier this month by state Sen. Thomas Bartosiewicz, D-Brooklyn, and Assemblyman Alexander Grannis, D-Manhattan.

Vezzetti, however, disputed the long-accepted belief that baseball was first played in Cooperstown, N.Y., contending that the sport originally was played on June 19, 1846 in, of course, Hoboken.

Vezzetti said historical evidence backs up his claim. See VEZZETTI, Page 16

Continued from Page 1

"Apparently you have been misinformed," Vezzetti said in his letter to Cuomo. "The city of Hoboken, N.J., was the site of the first baseball game on June 19, 1846."

"For a long time the people of Hoboken and New Jersey have begrudgingly accepted the fact that baseball's Hall of Fame is located in New York," Vezzetti continued. "But the flaunting of the false claim that New York is the birthplace of baseball is too much to take."

The mayor concluded his letter with the request that the proposed legislation be withdrawn because of historical inaccuracy.

The letters were mailed yesterday, according to mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano.

At a news conference on the issue, Vezzetti was joined by Bruce Nash and Allan Zullo, authors of "The Baseball Hall of Shame II."

In the book, they agree that Hoboken was the site where baseball first was played and contend the game was invented by Alexander Cartwright Jr., not Abner Doubleday.

"What's really an injustice is having the baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown," Nash said. "We know it won't be moved to Hoboken, but we'd at least like to see Major League Baseball recognize the city as the site where baseball was first played."

Vezzetti also called for a letter-writing campaign to Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth so the city could gain at least some recognition.

However, Grannis said he still wants "Birthplace of Baseball" on his state's license plates.

"My understanding is that baseball was first played

in Cooperstown in 1839," Grannis said in a telephone interview from his Albany, N.Y., office. "It's our understanding that a very important game was played in Hoboken in 1846, but that was after the Cooperstown game."

Grannis said he came up with the idea for the license plates after a recent trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

"I'd seen so many license plates with things like 'Show-Me State' and 'Live Free or Die' that I thought 'Birthplace of Baseball' wasn't so far out in left field," he said.

New York motorists are slated to get new red, white and blue license plates this year with a figure of the Statue of Liberty on them. Grannis said the baseball slogan would be added to new plates in 1989 if his measure is approved.

Grannis said he's not worried about opposition from Vezzetti and New Jersey.

"We'll field our team of historians against theirs and see who wins," he said.

It is not known if Cuomo has placed much support behind the "Birthplace of Baseball" slogan, said Tom Conroy, a spokesman for the governor.

"The governor did not introduce the legislation and he would be powerless to have it withdrawn," Conroy said. "He could veto it if it came to his desk, but the governor usually doesn't consider legislation until it gets there."

Bartosiewicz, who Conroy said sometimes walks around his office wearing a Brooklyn Dodgers baseball cap, was on a train bound for New York City and unavailable for comment, a secretary in his office said. (AP)

Vincent Wilt, a representative of BWA Associates, the building's owner, met with city officials and the tenants after the inspection and as soon as an insurance inspection is made, repairs will begin and the tenants can return to their apartments, Olivieri said. Wilt could not be reached for comment.

"I'm optimistic," Olivieri said. "The owners deserve the benefit of the doubt."

Olivieri and the tenants fear the situation will be similar to three other apartment house fires in Hoboken since the beginning of the year. In those blazes, no injuries were reported but damage kept tenants from returning to their homes.

Authors toss out theory at City Hall press event

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Sports officials struck out when they chose Cooperstown, N.Y., over this city for the site of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

That was the word yesterday from Bruce Nash and Allan Zullo, who hit town to launch a letter-writing campaign aimed at moving the baseball shrine here, to the true birthplace of the great American pastime.

"Cooperstown got this beautiful baseball museum and Hoboken got Maxwell House," Nash said, referring to the coffee plant that sits on the old Elysian Fields playing grounds, believed to be the site of the first baseball game in 1846.

The pair from Palm Beach, Fla., are co-authors of "The Baseball Hall of Shame," two volumes that chronicle the great blunders in the history of the game.

See TOSS, Page 16

Continued from Page 1

The darkest chapter, they said at a City Hall news conference, is the "tall tale" that Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Cooperstown in 1839.

According to their research in Hall of Fame files, the Doubleday legend was cooked up in 1907 by a committee set up to determine the origin of baseball, and stacked with appointees of sporting goods magnate A.G. Spalding.

According to Nash and Zullo, Spalding reasoned that if the committee ruled baseball owed nothing to its British ancestors — cricket and rounders — sales of equipment for a native-born sport would soar.

The authors said the committee based its decision that Doubleday drew baselines in the Cooperstown dirt in the summer of 1839 on a letter from one Abner Graves, who would later wind up in an asylum for the criminally insane. At that time Graves was 5 years old, and Doubleday was a cadet living at the West Point academy in upstate New York.

"The whole myth is based on this one shred of ridiculousness," Zullo said.

In 1939, baseball officials gave immortality to

fiction when they celebrated the sport's centennial by opening the Hall of Fame, the authors maintained. Swept under the rug, they said, was a letter documenting that Alexander Cartwright Jr. had written rules and drawn a diamond for the first baseball game, played on June 19, 1846, at the Elysian Fields summer resort.

Cartwright's Knickerbocker Club lost to the New York Club, 23-1.

"He invents the game, then doesn't know how to play it," Zullo said. "That's a shame."

The authors, on a national tour to plug their books, are asking sports fans to go to bat for baseball's true home by writing Peter Ueberroth, commissioner of Major League Baseball, and urging him to relocate the Hall of Fame.

Adding insult to the injury shared by the authors and local baseball buffs is a recent proposal by two New York City lawmakers to put the slogan "Birthplace of Baseball" on license plates in the state. Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti has written to legislators here, and on the other side of the Hudson River, seeking to have the bill withdrawn.

Hoboken seeking federal funds for industrial park

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken took a first step yesterday in an effort to become a federally recognized "redevelopment area" and seek funding for an industrial park.

If the project goes through, it will be a joint effort by the federal, state and city governments and Stevens Institute of Technology, said Michael Coleman, director of the city Community Development Agency.

The initial step, announced yesterday, was the formation of a 12-member economic development advisory committee.

Cliff Rossignol, New Jersey representative for the federal Economic Development Administration, an arm of the Department of Commerce, commended the city on taking the step. "You're managing your own future," he said.

School recounts show no change

By Margaret Schmidt

The results of two Hudson County school board elections were confirmed yesterday in recounts conducted by the county superintendent of elections.

The results in the Hoboken and Secaucus elections "stayed the same," said Superintendent Joseph Brady after checking each machine and recounting absentee ballots. The voting machines and absentee ballots had been lock and seal since the April 15 elections.

In Hoboken, the winners were confirmed as Joseph Rafter with 2,734 votes; Lourdes Arroyo with 2,639 votes, and James Farina with 2,508 votes.

And in Secaucus, the winners were confirmed as Carmen Ross with 752 votes; Anthony DeBari with 723 votes, and Florence Rainone with 698 votes. Rainone retained her 10-vote lead over Harry Winarski.

The Hoboken recount proved that the voting machine in the Third Ward, Fourth District had malfunctioned, but officials said the winners would have been the same even if the machine had worked.

The number of people who voted were correctly tallied on the machine but only one vote was registered for incumbent candidate John Pope, who placed fifth overall. The votes for the other eight candidates were believed to be correct.

Pope "came in 100 votes higher, in our opinion," said Bernard Kenny Jr., who represented running mates Pope and Farina at the recount. While the extra 100 votes wouldn't have changed the election, it's good to know more than one vote for Pope came in the district, he said.

Kenny figured Pope had 100 votes there because Farina had more than 100 and Otto Hottendorf, the other incumbent on the ticket, had about 80.

Had Pope been closer to the winners, a new election would have been ordered in the voting district, Kenny said.

Michael Rossano, the fourth-place finisher in Hoboken who had requested the recount, said he was satisfied with the results.

"I already knew I lost," he said jokingly, adding that he is happy with his showing, especially since it was his first race. He finished 168 votes behind Farina — 122 votes in absentee ballots and 46 on the machines.

Winarski, who had asked for the Secaucus recount after coming so close in the balloting, also said he was satisfied with the results.

"I didn't expect anything different," he said, but had thought there might have been a transposition of numbers that could have made him exchange places with Rainone.

The official numbers, according to Vincent Russomanno of the county Superintendent of Schools office, are:

In Hoboken — Rafter, 2,734; Arroyo, 2,639; Farina, 2,508; Rossano, 2,340; Pope, 2,185; Otto Hottendorf, 1,936; Mario Mercado Jr., 1,895; Peter Perry Belfiore, 601; and Graciella McEwen, 353.

In Secaucus — Ross, 752; DeBari, 723; Rainone, 698; Winarski, 688, and Thomas Troyer, 382.

See HOBOKEN — Page 11.



Photo by Gary Higgins

THE FRONT ENTRANCE of Hoboken City Hall is cordoned off yesterday, after pieces of the facade fell earlier this week.

HOBOKEN HAZARD

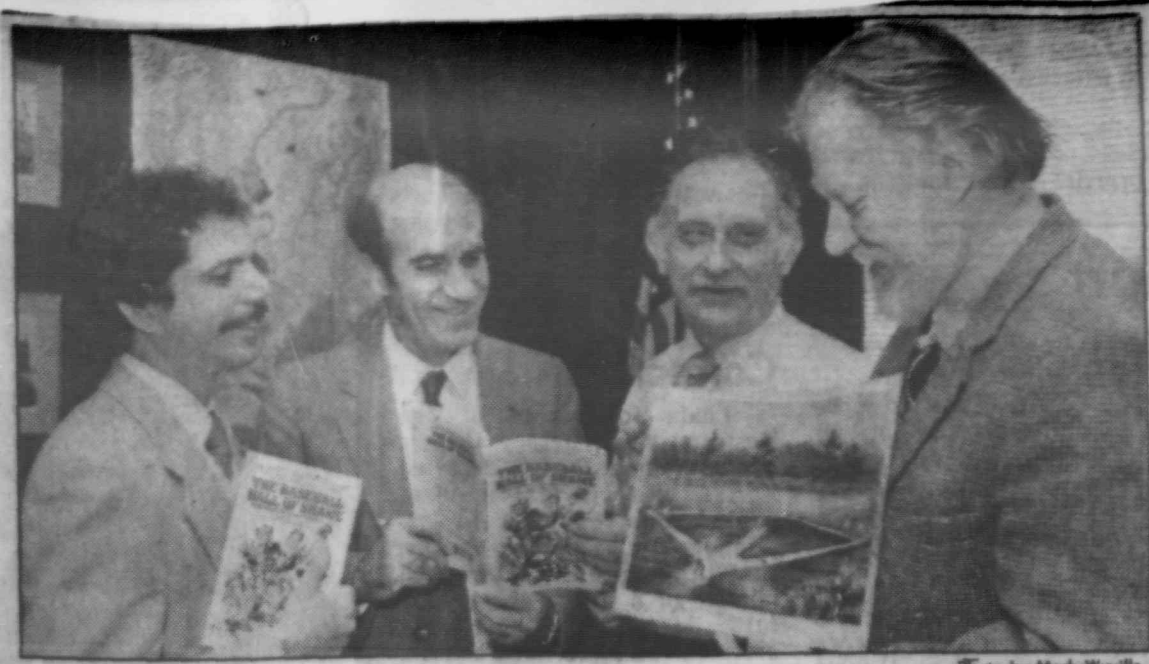
City Hall scaffold: The facade stops here

HOBOKEN—Scaffolding went up around City Hall yesterday just in case some more of the facade comes tumbling down.

City officials said the hazard from falling brownstone became evident more than a week ago, when a piece of decorative trim dented the roof of a car parked near the Newark Street entrance.

Engineering consultant James Caulfield recommended cordoning off areas around the three building entrances until repairs are made, said Ed Chius, city business administrator.

Chius said it is hoped the stonework can be restored, rather than replaced. No timetable or price tag has been set for the work, which needs a green light from the City Council to get under way, he said.



Allan Zullo and Bruce Nash, left, authors of "The Baseball Hall of Shame," meet with Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezetti, second right, and local historian Jim Huns to campaign for moving the Baseball Hall of Fame from Cooperstown, N.Y., to Hoboken.

Baseball writers say error put Hall of Fame in Cooperstown

By Rick Tosches

Bruce Nash and Allan Zullo, authors of "The Baseball Hall of Shame" and "The Baseball Hall of Shame 2," were in Hoboken yesterday "on a pitching mound" of sorts, delivering "pitches" which may prompt some at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., to score them as "wild pitches."

Nash and Zullo visited Hoboken City Hall and Mayor Thomas Vezetti's office as they continued their national tour not only to promote their newest book, but also to lobby for support to sway baseball's brass in switching the site of the Hall of

Fame from Cooperstown to Hoboken.

A "wild pitch," you think? Don't tell that to Nash and Zullo. Here's the play-by-play of why the Hall of Fame should be located in Hoboken, according to the keystone combination of Nash and Zullo.

In the closing paragraphs of the final chapter of their latest work, "The Baseball Hall of Shame 2," published by Pocket Books, the pair recall the formation of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Cooperstown in 1939 and the playing of the first baseball game at Elysian Fields in Hoboken on June 19, 1846.

"The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was established in 1939 in Cooperstown, with honors bestowed posthumously upon Abner Doubleday — 'no many feel invented the game,' the pair wrote.

"Had the powers that be been true to the game, they would have built a shrine at the birthplace of modern baseball — Hoboken, New Jersey. And they would have honored the real originator of modern baseball — Alexander Cartwright Jr."

Then-Commissioner of Baseball Kenesaw Mountain

See BASEBALL — Page 27.

Continued from Page 1.

Landis knew the truth about the origin of the sport, the pair wrote, "but swept it aside."

Nash and Zullo claim that Landis received a letter from Bruce Cartwright, the grandson of Alexander, who documented that it was his grandfather — and not Doubleday — who designed the first baseball diamond and wrote the rules of the game.

"It's a matter of record that Alexander Cartwright, who headed the rules committee in 1845, established the foul lines, set the distance between the bases at 90 feet, and fixed the numbers of players on a side at nine," according to the book.

"The first game of baseball under the Cartwright rules was played on June 9, 1846, on the old cricket grounds at Elysian Fields, a summer resort in Hoboken." The New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club, of which Cartwright was a charter member, lost to the New York Club, 23-1, in a four-inning contest.

"Landis chose to ignore these facts," Nash and Zullo wrote. "Cartwright's grandson Bruce died a few weeks after writing to Landis and the letter was filed away. Too much money and prestige had been committed for the lords of baseball to be bothered by facts."

"Today, the only official recognition of Cartwright is a plaque at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum identifying him simply as 'a father of modern baseball.'"

The conspirators won... Cooperstown's coffers began filling up with tourists' money, and baseball promoted its mythical roots.

"Meanwhile, Abner Doubleday remains the unfounded father of baseball."

"We planned to do something because baseball has ignored its birthplace," said Nash. "We needed to change this myth, right this grievous wrong."

"We call it the shame of shames," said Zullo.

Zullo tells fans he meets throughout the country that "the Hall of Fame is in the wrong place; that Abner Doubleday had nothing to do with the founding of baseball. It has no business being in Cooperstown. It ought to be in Hoboken."

In an effort to change the site of the baseball shrine, the duo began launching a letter writing campaign to involve baseball fans and to convince Commissioner of Baseball Peter Ueberroth.

"We want people to write to Ueberroth and tell him there's a grave injustice that has been committed over the years,"

Zullo said.

"Evidently it's still being committed," Nash added.

Nash was referring to a bill currently in the New York State Senate which would place the slogan "Birthplace of Baseball" on all state license plates.

"That just shocked and outraged us even more," Zullo said.

What has been the fan reaction around the country?

"First they kind of laugh at you," Zullo said.

"But once we explain to them what really happened, there's a sense that there's a wrong there that needs to be corrected."

Nash and Zullo said that most of the information collected about Hoboken was attained "right out of the files in Cooperstown."

The pair said the change is up to Major League Baseball.

"You guys could put up anything you want," Zullo said to Vezetti, "but that's not the same as Major League Baseball acknowledging it. In Cooperstown, all you have is a little thing that says Alexander Cartwright was quote a father of baseball — a father. But it doesn't mention anything about Elysian Fields. It's just not right."

Nash said the first baseball game played in New York was at the Red House Grounds at 10th Street and Second Avenue in

Noise war keeps bands out of popular Hoboken bar

Dispatch 4-23-86
By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer



Photo by John Decker

THE JON VINCENT OLSEN BAND performs at Hoboken's Bloomfield Cafe. The cafe owners are awaiting a decision to reverse a court order prohibiting loud music after 10 p.m. The cafe has been a centerstage and entry point for local bands.

Motorists should plan for marathon on Sunday — Page 11



Photo by John Decker

THE WHALENS, left to right, Carol, Erik, 8 months, and Harry, who live above the Bloomfield Cafe at 116 14th St. in Hoboken, have joined in the lawsuit to ban loud music in the cafe after 10 p.m.

Continued from Page 1

Pat Greenspan, the owner of the cafe, "we had rock music. We've always had it."

The problem began when the landlord, Louis Stefano, renovated the apartments and the new tenants took exception to the loud music. Greenspan, whose business relies principally on the weekend profits, when the cafe closes at 3 a.m., has a 15-year lease. Without loud music, there would be no cafe, she said.

Yesterday afternoon, local bands held a benefit concert to help Greenspan raise money to fight for her cafe — and, in a sense, to fight for their rights to show their talents. She said she has spent close to \$10,000 since last November to retain her business, a sum that includes legal fees and \$2,500 she invested in soundproofing.

"This place was a mess when we took it over," she said yesterday afternoon. "Now it's become a home-spot for the local bands. From the day we started, we wanted to use local talent."

But the soundproofing has not been enough, and Greenspan has maintained that any more work must be paid for by Stefano, who she argues granted them the lease knowing music would be the mainstay of the cafe.

There are two court suits in the case. One is filed by Stefano and two tenants in the building against the cafe. This suit already resulted in the temporary curfew, which was issued by a judge in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

The other suit is filed by Greenspan, who is charging Stefano with failing to live up to the lease agreement. Stefano could not be reached yesterday.

"Yes the music is loud," Greenspan said in the kitchen of the cafe while a rock group performed for a small crowd in the afternoon. "But I feel it's the landlord's responsibility" to pay for the soundproofing.

Harry and Carol Whalen, who live right above the cafe with their 8-month-old son Erik, moved into their renovated apartment in August. Since then, loud music has been a permanent and unwelcome guest in their railroad apartment.

Harry Whalen, who knows Stefano through business dealings, said his rent has been lowered because of the problem with the cafe. He and his wife have joined the suit against Greenspan.

"Can you feel the vibrations?" Carol Whalen asked yesterday while a band played downstairs. "Could you sleep with this?"

The benefit concert yesterday threatened to ruin the couple's dinner party.

"This is wonderful," one of the guests, visiting the apartment for the first time, said sarcastically. "I love the way the floor shakes."

Greenspan pays \$800 a month for the cafe, less than the tenants pay for their individual apartments. Her 15-year lease, while allowing for increases, is a boon in an area where commercial space rents for considerably higher.

"We have a very workable lease in Hoboken," she said, "and we know it."

Greenspan and the Whalens both said the only solution to the problem was to soundproof the cafe — the dispute now is over who pays for the work. Greenspan said soundproofing could cost close to \$7,000 — money she does not have. Stefano has been quoted as saying Greenspan should pay for the work.

The suits, which have already gone through depositions, are scheduled to be heard May 1 in Hudson County Superior Court. The future of the cafe, Greenspan said, will be bleak if she is ordered to pay for the soundproofing.

"I don't know what will happen to us," she said when asked whether the cafe would close if the court ruled against her. "Stefano knows he's got our business destroyed. He knows it's costing us a fortune."

Harry Whalen, who said his television has to blast above the din from downstairs, said he will be happy with a "good soundproofing job."

"She has a right to her business," he said of Greenspan. "But I also have a right to live here."

The rock bands, who are the unintended victims of the dispute as well as the principal cause, contributed their time yesterday to Greenspan's cause.

Supportive acts included Vincent and the Wild Hearts, Centerfold/Carolyn Mas, Jimmy Riardon and Brian Anthony.

The bands and soloists played from 3 p.m. until the curfew, with the \$5 cover charge intended for the cafe's legal fees. John Cervello, a member of Centerfold, a local rock band that counts on the cafe's home crowd, said the city's music scene will suffer if the cafe closes.

"It's a nice place to play in," he said. "It's our Hoboken crowd, and you get all psyched up because it's your hometown."

Inside, Jon Vincent Olsen, the lead singer of a band that carries his name, was on the "stage," the back of the cafe where musicians perform. Upstairs, at the Whalens, the words were audible. "Take me home," Olsen sang. "That's where the party's at."

Asbestos being removed from pipes at Stevens nursery school

By Margaret Schmidt

Suspected asbestos is being removed from a privately-run Hoboken nursery school, officials said.

The insulation material covers about 60 feet of heating pipes in the Stevens Cooperative School, 800 Castle Point Terrace, said Robert P. Mitchell, spokesman for Stevens Institute of Technology, the building's owner.

There's been no verification that the material is asbestos, he said, adding that test results are awaited. "We are removing the substance, whatever it is, from the pipes at this moment," he said. "We're obviously taking a very cautious path."

Asbestos, once a popular insulation material, has been known to cause various health disorders ranging from the respiratory disease to cancer. In general, experts have said, asbestos-related disease lies dormant for about 20 to 30 years.

"There is no danger and there was no danger," said Claire Walter, publicity chairwoman for Stevens Coop. She said that despite "false rumors," the children were never exposed to the material.

Most of the piping is reportedly in the boiler room of the building, but there were some tracts in areas where the children had classes, officials said. However, the suspected asbestos was covered by other

insulation materials.

The state had issued the nursery school a temporary operating license which would expire July 29, Walter said, but Stevens Tech officials decided to tackle the problem immediately.

State reports on the suspected asbestos couldn't be tracked down in the last several days. Spokespersons for the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Health in Trenton said their offices had no reports on it. Walter had said the Department of Human Services had conducted the routine inspection that turned up the material, but spokeswoman Charleen Brown couldn't confirm that yesterday.

Two apartments above the school were unaffected, Mitchell said.

Mitchell said Stevens Tech is proceeding on the assumption that the material is asbestos in order to be cautious. International Testing of Newark did tests on the material and on air quality — since tiny flakes can cause disease — late last week. Adams Insulation of Hoboken is removing the material, he said.

Approximately 35 3- and 4-year-old children attend the nursery school for half-day sessions, Walter said. The school has been closed because of the testing and removal work since April 7, but students were expected to attend classes this week at the Coop's elementary school, 220 Willow Ave.

Two apartments above the school were unaffected, Mitchell said.

Mitchell said Stevens Tech is proceeding on the assumption that the material is asbestos in order to be cautious. International Testing of Newark did tests on the material and on air quality — since tiny flakes can cause disease — late last week. Adams Insulation of Hoboken is removing the material, he said.

He estimated that the removal will be completed and the school reopened by the end of the month.

Also: Gregg Millman, specialist in international economic development in the Far East; Byron Scott Miner, trading and marketing specialist, Merrill Lynch Capital Markets; John L. Neu, president of Hugo Neu and Sons, an industrial and commercial developer; Cathy Rawitscher, business consultant for the Arthur Andersen Company; James M. Sears, president of a marketing and business research firm; and Angelo Valente, assistant to the chief of staff for Gov. Thomas Kean.

Reorganization divides ed board

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Board of Education has elected a president and a vice president in split voting that members say in the next several years.

In its reorganization meeting Tuesday night, newly elected board members Joseph Rafter and Lourdes Arroyo were in a 7-to-2 minority on the key votes. The two were elected April 15 after running on a reform platform endorsed by the Committee for Quality Education and Mayor Thomas Vezetti.

Rafter had sought the president's post, and Arroyo wanted the vice presidency. Instead, the board elected

Richard England president and reelected James Monaco vice president.

"I don't consider it a 7-to-2 board or a 5-to-4 board or a 6-to-3 board," said England. "I consider it a nine-member board comprised of nine individuals."

Rafter attributed the vote split to members not having had time to think about the reorganization. "As we go into budget discussions — real, solid issues — people will have various concerns and there will be shifts in the voting."

If no shifts occur, he said, "it would be unfortunate."

James Farina, the other member who was elected to a three-year term on April 15, said he sees problems on some is-

ues, but not on others.

If Rafter and Arroyo present programs to better education in the public school system, there shouldn't be problems with those votes, he said. But in the area of personnel, he predicts battles.

The Committee for Quality Education has charged that the board is overstaffed with unnecessary positions, and Rafter and Arroyo have said they plan to work toward eliminating those jobs.

Some of the people whose jobs have been targeted have served the city for years, Farina said, and he won't vote to fire them. He is a 12-year trustee who ran on a slate of incumbents and was its only successful candidate.

Until the board settles, he

Firehouse to be closed

By Margaret Schmidt

One of Hoboken's four firehouses will close this week for an indefinite period because of serious structural problems.

Fire Chief James Houn said the two fire companies at the Observer Highway station will be relocated because of deteriorating brickwork.

"These moves aren't that drastic," he said, "because Hoboken is so small."

The City Council will have to decide what to do with the 1892 firehouse that is an historic land-

mark, the chief said. It could vote to repair the building or build a new station.

The closing comes on the recommendation of city engineer James Caulfield who inspected the building last Wednesday. His report cited several "serious structural problems," the most urgent being brickwork and archways that need shoring and pointing.

A section of a parapet on the firehouse has dislodged because of the deterioration, it said.

See FIREHOUSE — Page 9.

Continued from Page 1.

Caulfield recommended a temporary closing so that a thorough investigation can determine the structural integrity of the building.

Complicating the problem is construction on an adjacent lot, the report noted. Houn said that last week test piles were driven into the ground at the extreme end of the construction site and

firefighters felt the station rumble.

No other piles are being driven in yet, Houn said, so the closing can wait a few days while other quarters are prepared. He expects to have the companies relocated by the end of the week.

The engine company will be relocated to Fire Department headquarters, Second and Jefferson streets, and the truck company will be moved to the Eighth and Clinton streets firehouse. The fourth fire station is at 13th and Washington streets.

Caulfield made his inspection last week after fire officials asked acting Public Works Director Roy Haack to check the building.

Firefighters had placed an aerial ladder next to the building two weeks ago and part of the facade broke off while the ladder rested against the roof. No injuries or property damage were reported, Houn said.

Each of the four firehouses, three out-of-service firehouses and the city's Firemen's Monument were named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Continued from Page 1.

Coleman said. He added that having federal EDA backing would be important should the study determine the project is feasible. The agency has a history of staying committed to projects, he said, and could thus provide further assistance in other stages.

Stevens President Dr. Kenneth Rogers also gave his support to an "incubator" program at yesterday's luncheon.

"Stevens is very interested in working with the City of Hoboken to provide space for an incubator, for new small companies," he said.

Being designated as an EDA "redevelopment area" will

allow the city to directly apply for funding in several areas, such as planning, technical assistance, public works and business loans. The city now has to go through Hudson County, Coleman and Rossignol said.

That office, however, isn't as aggressive as Coleman would like. County officials could not be reached for comment. One planner, however, noted that the federal EDA has been hard hit by President Reagan's economic policies.

Rossignol, though, said he is still optimistic about his programs because he is still being funded after six years of hearing that the office would no longer receive money.

Coleman hopes to have the city designation in place by the end of the year so that the application on the industrial park feasibility study can be in time for the 1987 funding decisions.

Named to the advisory committee were: Thomas Ahern, director of economic development for the CDA; Robert A. Hand, vice president of finance at Stevens; Alan M. Lambiasi, industrial real estate representative for the Archie Swartz Company; Joseph Michael Mangino, specialist in transportation law with the firm Vincent, Berg and Russo; Helen Manogue, vice president, City Federal Savings Bank; and Santo Milici, a U.S. Postal Service

said, it may resemble the City Council, a nine-member board that has only two staunch pro-Vezetti votes.

Arroyo, Farina and Rafter were sworn in before the meeting, and each had cheering sections. About 200 people crowded into the Clinton Street board meeting room for the ceremonies.

The other members of the board are Anthony DeBari, Eugene Drayton, Zelma Lugo and Raul Morales.

The board reorganizes every year after the April election. Each year three of the nine seats are up for their three-year terms. The system provides for staggered terms so the board is never without veteran trustees.

Vezzetti not guilty of harassment

By John Petrick

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti was found not guilty yesterday of harassment charges filed by Frank "BeBe" Weick following a political confrontation between the two on a street corner in January.

Superior Court Judge James Taylor ruled there was no purpose of harm on the mayor's part when he told a Hoboken police officer to arrest Weick during the argument that erupted. According to testimony, the mayor merely wanted Weick to be removed from the scene of the dispute,

and the plaintiff was never actually arrested because Vezzetti didn't press charges.

Earlier, the judge expressed concern over the mayor of a city ordering a police officer to arrest someone, thinking that perhaps his political influence was being used to apply undue pressure.

But in making his decision yesterday, Judge Taylor said that the mayor's initial reaction that day — "lock him up" — was one that any person would probably have had under the circumstances.

Much of the testimony in the case dealt with name calling

hurled back and forth between the two men. But on the whole, the crux of the conflict was differing political positions that were being debated, according to the judge's opinion.

"Certainly you are able to argue politically," the judge said. "It's been going on in this country for years and is what this country is all about."

Clouding the issue of a strictly political discussion were claims that Weick had repeatedly said that Vezzetti was a homosexual who had AIDS.

The incident occurred on Jan. 14, when the mayor was handing out board of education

campaign literature in front of the Hoboken PATH station in the morning.

Weick, a critic of City Hall, approached the mayor and pointed out that Vezzetti said during his campaign that the city would not get involved in school board politics.

Vezzetti, quite composed during his testimony yesterday, said Weick approached him and repeatedly called him "Cousin Tom" in a loud voice. Weick then made the statement about the city promising to stay out of Board of Education campaigns.

Will tax advisor be paid?

By John Petrick

Questions were raised at yesterday's county Board of Taxation meeting as to why there is no contract in place for the services of James Mulroy, who has been assisting Hoboken Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte in reassessing the city.

The issue was raised when the board was reviewing the status of Hoboken's 1986 tax lists. Mulroy questioned board members why no contract existed, since the board had previously ruled that the county would come up with funds to finance his work.

But tax board officials explained they don't have the authority to allocate such funds, and that a resolution was prepared on the matter for the Board of Freeholders to consider.

Several weeks ago, however, the freeholders had the

item pulled from the agenda. Some freeholders said they didn't understand why the county should become involved in a matter which appeared solely up to Hoboken to resolve.

In addition, Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti had sent a letter to the freeholders advising the board not to approve the resolution. In the letter, the mayor said he was seriously opposed to Mulroy's qualifications, citing alleged problems in a 1983 revaluation conducted by the consultant.

Mulroy insisted at yesterday's meeting that he is currently most familiar with Hoboken's tax situation, and that anyone else would not have nearly as much background on the matter.

But the freeholders' refusal to consider funding the consultant is not the only stumbling block, according to board member William Connelly. The

county law department had drawn up a \$10,000 contract, but the state attorney general directed the tax board not to go through with that contract because it could not exceed \$7,500 under bidding laws.

Mulroy appeared irritated as he walked out in the middle of the meeting, and with no funding in place, his future role in the city's assessment appears uncertain.

According to Connelly, the main reason the tax board sought county funds for a municipal consultant was to ensure an efficient processing of the city's books. Monte sought assistance in the reassessment because he contended the job was too big for one man alone.

Tax board officials said that while county funds were being sought for the time being, the hope was that the city would eventually come through with the money to pay Mulroy.

Monte said yesterday after the meeting he will meet with Mulroy today to determine what happens next. He criticized the city for not hiring Mulroy, saying that the mayor's and council's misgivings about the consultant's qualifications were "nonsense."

Mulroy, who used to be part of the firm Landmark Appraisals Inc. of Perth Amboy, had been contracted by the Hoboken council in 1982 for a citywide revaluation. A state moratorium later delayed that revaluation, however. Many landlords reportedly complained that the work was sloppily done and that property was unfairly assessed.

Several council members and civil groups demanded that the revaluation be reviewed to determine its accuracy. An independent firm was appointed, and it found that Mulroy's work was for the most part fair and equitable.

Hoboken ends reassessment standoff

By BETH KUHLES
Staff Writer

The Hudson County Board of Taxation tried to bail Hoboken out of its revaluation stalemate, but the Board of Freeholders took their bucket away.

The failure of the relief effort was compounded when the man who thought he was hired to alleviate the reassessment problems learned after he began working that no one would authorize his paycheck.

Hoboken's City Council has agreed to give the city tax assessor, Woodrow Monte, \$15,000 to obtain

help in comply with a September order by the tax board to reassess its properties after a two-year postponement of a revaluation. But the freeholders were no help in ending a seven-month standoff that pitted the council against Monte and the tax board.

Monte got the reassessment task in September after the council dumped Landmark Appraisers of Perth Amboy, which formerly did the city's revaluations. Monte petitioned the council repeatedly for help to get the books in on time, but none was given.

As a result, the tax board voted

to hire James Mulroy, the president of Landmark, in March for \$10,000 as a consultant for Monte in completing the reassessment. When the resolution went to the freeholders for funding in April, they withdrew it, according to county Tax Commissioner William Connelly.

In addition, the state attorney general said Mulroy could only be paid \$7,500, because any job paying more than that would have to go out to bid.

Mulroy apparently has been working with the city since September on the reassessment under the im-

pression that he would be paid. He could not be reached for comment last night.

Connelly said that Mulroy was informed that he had no contract with the county unless it was approved by the freeholders.

The freeholder's rejected the contract.

Another county tax commissioner, Denis McGuire, warned yesterday that if Hoboken failed to update its books, he would refuse to certify them. Certification is necessary before a tax rate can be set for the entire county, Connelly said.

Council comes to grips with budget

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council last night agreed without opposition to introduce Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's \$22.6 million municipal budget. Anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri abstained. A budget hearing has been scheduled for May 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

In another matter, the council has scheduled a closed session for May 6 to discuss cuts to the Board of Education budget.

Introduces Vezzetti's \$22.6M proposal

Last night's special session was called to review both the municipal and school board budgets.

About 75 people attended the four-hour meeting which featured extensive line-item reviews from both budgets.

The municipal budget, presented to the council on April 10, calls for a \$1.5 million increase over last year and projects a \$42 increase per \$1,000 as-

essed valuation in the city's tax rate.

Ranieri criticized Vezzetti for not attending the meeting.

"I don't see the mayor here," he said as the council began its discussion of the municipal budget. "I can't see how he can present it and not be here to defend it."

He then lashed at city Business Administrator Edwin Chius for including nearly \$1.5

million from the municipal tax assistance fund and railroad property tax under the anticipated revenue line-item.

"There is no justification for this. You anticipate full funding from these, but that's not what I've been told. This is in the hands of the Joint Appropriations Committee," Ranieri said.

"We've received positive word that if it gets through the appropriation committee, then it

looks good," Chius said. "This is the way we must approach it."

Chius said the city is anticipating \$1.1 million in railroad taxes and about \$450,000 from the municipal tax assistance fund.

"Has the administration developed a plan of action if the \$1.5 million does not come through?" asked council President E. Norman Wilson.

"We're not prepared to make \$1.5 million in cuts," Chius

said. "It won't be easy and I hope the day does not come, but the funds will have to come from property tax."

Chius said that his second option, a reduction in essential services, was "not realistic."

"I'll sit down with the administration and go through each line-item, but they really can't be cut back," he said.

Wilson said that including the \$1.5 million in the budget was "a gamble that the taxpayer will have to deal with when he

See COUNCIL — Page 15.

HOBOKEN

Residents

want to keep their fire station

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A historic firehouse downtown soon may be closed for repairs, but the people it serves say they want at least one hook-and-ladder truck to stay in the neighborhood.

Built around 1900, the firehouse at Observer Highway and Newark Street needs overhauling, according to James Caulfield, the city engineer.

Current plans are to send the two companies it houses to other stations, said Fire Chief James Houn.

But residents of southwestern Hoboken fear the shift may leave what they say is a fire-prone area short of protection. They were scheduled to meet with city officials last night.

The Observer Highway station "is the only firehouse in this immediate neighborhood," said Brother John, an associate pastor of St. Joseph's Church.

The area contains schools, churches, a hospital and much new construction, he added. "The main concern is that the hook-and-ladder remain in this neighborhood, and not be removed to another part of town."

Houn said the date for closing the old firehouse is uncertain, as is the question of whether it will be repaired or replaced by a new facility at Henderson Street and the highway. He said immediate plans are to locate its engine company at the firehouse at Second and Jefferson streets, and the hook-and-ladder at Eighth and Clinton streets, at the opposite end of the same fire district.

Houn said officials, sensitive to residents' concerns, are considering moving the hook-and-ladder temporarily to a lot at the Second and Jefferson firehouse. A proposal to house it at the public works garage, has been deemed impossible because of the lack of communications systems and firefighters' quarters, he said.

But firm plans can be reached only after more is known about the work to be done at the Observer station, Houn said.

Continued from Page 1.

bills go out in July."

The eight-member council approved a series of 13 budget spending measures before agreeing to introduce the budget. The resolution to approve anticipated revenue on railroad property was passed 4-to-0. Ranieri, Wilson and Council members Pat Pasculli and Dave Roberts abstained.

Council members Steve Cappiello, Joseph Della Fave, Helen Cuning and Mary Francone voted for the measure.

On the Board of Education

budget, the council agreed to meet with members of the school board on Tuesday at 9 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The school board met in a special session after the council meeting to authorize issuing layoff notices to all non-tenured school employees.

School board President Richard England said the cost-cutting move was necessary to meet a May 30 deadline.

Superintendent of Schools Walter Fine said that between 78 and 80 layoff notices were issued but "we didn't actually lay

anyone off."

Hoboken voters rejected the 1986-87 school budget by a 3-to-1 margin on April 15. The proposed budget calls for a \$5.6 million increase in the tax levy over last year.

Much of the increase is due to a loss of state aid.

"We are not out to hurt the children," said England. "We struck as close to the bone as we could on our budget."

School board trustee Joseph Rafter said that voters rejected the school budget because of a "campaign of consolidation for administrative positions."

He added that the temporary closing of city schools may reduce the number of teachers affected by layoffs.

Fine said that eight elementary school teachers are among those to get pink slips.

"The council must cut some funds so the board can live with the reductions and the taxpayers, too," said Pasculli. "There has been a progression in test scores and we must keep that up," he said.

The council must act to resolve the school budget by the May 12 certification deadline.

Cappiello wants closed firehouse rehabilitated

The Hoboken City Council's Public Safety Committee met yesterday to discuss the closing of the fire house on 561 Observer Highway.

Committee chairman Steve Cappiello maintains that "if estimates are reasonable, I will move to rehabilitate the building. I would like to see it restored to maintain its nearly century-old character."

Cappiello said measures have been taken to equalize fire coverage in the area.

Residents, including Sister Norberta, who operates the

city's only homeless shelter, said they fear for the safety of local residents.

Cappiello said he will tell committee members Pat Pasculli and Mary Francone and Fire Chief James Houn that the property should not be sold to local developers.

Cappiello said he will call for a review by engineers to determine if it is economically feasible to restore the fire house.

City Engineer James Caulfield initially determined that the structure was unsound.

Vezzetti: Hire lawyer to fight towers

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti yesterday urged that the city hire an "independent outside counsel" to resolve a dispute with the developers of the controversial Presidential Towers project.

The developers, Anawin Investment and Development Corp. of Jersey City, filed a legal notice April 21 claiming that they can proceed with their proposed 24- and 22-story towers because of inaction by the city.

The developers have cited a state law that, if the Zoning Board of Adjustment fails to act

on a completed application, it is automatically granted after 120 days.

The \$25 million project, to be built in the southwestern region of the city, was first presented to the zoning board in June 1985.

In a letter yesterday to City Council President E. Norman Wilson, Vezzetti said, "I suggest that we request an independent organization such as the New Jersey Federation of Planning Officials to recommend council for our consideration."

Vezzetti's request was spurred by an April 29 letter from Philip Elberg, an attorney

representing residents living near the proposed towers.

In his letter, Elberg advised Vezzetti that "it is clear that the rules of professional conduct prohibit the new director and every member of the Hoboken Law Department from providing any representation or advice to any city official in connection with this dispute."

City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio, Jr. was a partner in the Presidential Towers project before his appointment to the city post.

See VEZZETTI — Page 17.

Continued from Page 1.

D'Amelio was not available for comment yesterday.

Elberg said that the legal notice filed by the developer "sets into motion a complicated legal procedure requiring the participation of the municipal attorney as an advisor to the building inspector and perhaps the Municipal Court."

In a phone interview yesterday, Elberg said the 120-day provision of the state Land Use Law "does not apply in this case."

"The developer agreed to extend the time period," Elberg said. "It's not in the city's best interest for development to get approved this way — on a technicality."

Elberg said that the legal board attorney Peter Daglian could not represent the city because he will likely be called as a witness.

In an interview last month, D'Amelio said the developers "felt they weren't being treated right by the board. They were fed up by the board."

Original plans for the project called for two 29-story towers. In July of last year, the developers submitted the plans for the 24- and 22-story buildings.

Board members did not second a motion to vote on the scaled down plans during an October meeting.

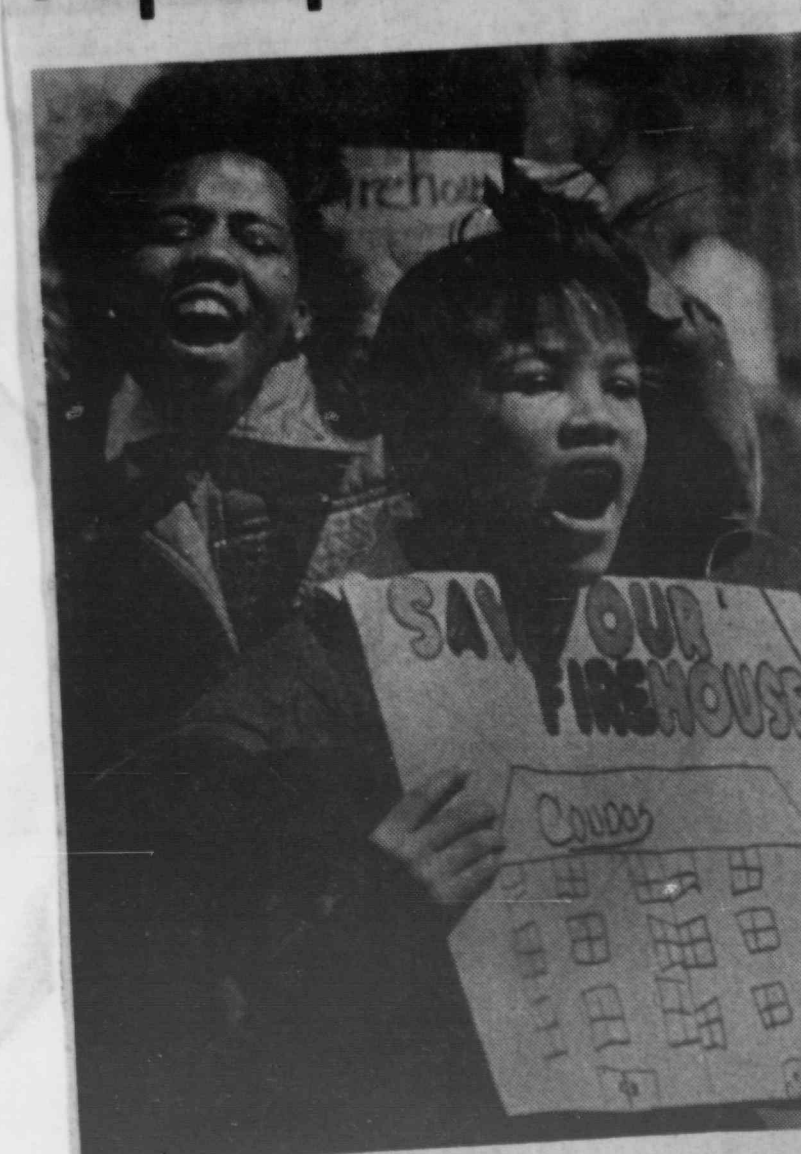
After the 120-day period expired, Anawin returned to the board in February with plans for two 16-story towers. The proposed site, bounded by Adams, Jefferson, First and Newark streets, is zoned for 14-stories.

Edwin Duroy, who lives within 200 feet of the site, is opposed to the project because "it's just too big. They were trying to railroad the project," he said of the developers. "They saw the board changing its

strategy and they panicked," he said.

Duroy said he welcomes outside counsel to avoid any conflict of interest with D'Amelio. "To avoid any clouds over the decision-making, D'Amelio should stay away," he said.

Pupils protest fire co.'s move



Dispatch 5-3-86

HOBOKEN—Chanting schoolchildren on their lunch hour yesterday joined the pickets protesting the impending shutdown of the 1892-vintage fire house at Observer Highway and Newark Avenue.

The station is scheduled to close next week, when workers begin driving pilings for the nearby Skyline condominium project, according to Fire Chief James R. Houn.

Houn said the construction is one reason an engineer ordered the building closed while its structural soundness is evaluated.

A developer with the 100-unit Skyline project, Sanford Weiss, said the pile-driving "has nothing to do with the structural support of the fire house."

Meanwhile, neighbors opposed to losing the area's lone hook-and-ladder fire company pressed city officials for guarantees they will maintain a working fire house in the southwestern part of the city.

The group intends to seek a stop-work order on the pile-driving if their conditions are not met.

Although members of the group said the fire company already has been relocated, Houn said moving is on hold until the pile-driving begins.

Dispatch Staff Photo

HOBOKEN SCHOOLCHILDREN use signs and slogans to protest the closing of the 94-year-old fire house at

Council will meet on condo project

The Hoboken City Council will hold a special session tonight at 5:30 p.m. to discuss litigation concerning the proposed Presidential Towers condominium project.

The council will also discuss the water contract between the city and Jersey City and an ordinance for Bond Anticipation Notes for a proposed secondary sewage plant.

The developers of Presidential Towers, Anawin Development of Jersey City, have gone to court seeking a building permit.

Last month, Anawin invoked a provision of the state's Land Use Law to gain approval for their application. The law states that, if a Zoning Board of Adjustment fails to act on an application within 120 days, the project application is approved.

A motion to approve the project was not seconded during an October 1985 zoning board meeting.

Earlier this month, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti and an at-

torney representing local residents urged that the City Council hire an independent attorney to represent the city.

Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio was a partner in the law firm that comprises Anawin before his appointment to the city post.

At last Wednesday's council session, D'Amelio said he would not represent the city to "avoid any possible conflict of interest."

The meeting will be held in the council chambers.

Vezzetti names six to Planning Board

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti has made six new appointments to the 11-member Planning Board.

The appointments, effective immediately, came after administrators asked board attorney George Pappas to research each member's term.

Officials are questioning whether Pappas' findings can be applied to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. There had been skirmishes between the mayor's office and other officials over Vezzetti's appointments to the Planning Board earlier this year.

Appointments to the Planning Board don't need City Council ratification.

Vezzetti reappointed James

Starrett to a term expiring Dec. 31, 1988, and John Corrado to a term expiring Dec. 31, 1987. He also reappointed Maurice DeGennaro's first alternate to a term ending Dec. 31 of this year.

He appointed Sharon Desrosiers to replace Vincent Mottola and Peter Alicandri, the ousted director of Environmental Services and Facilities, to replace Ben R. Goodman. Desrosiers' term will expire Dec. 31, 1988, and Alicandri's will end Dec. 31, 1987.

Vezzetti also appointed City Business Administrator and Public Safety Director Edwin Chius as the municipal official on the board. Chius replaces Alicandri, who had been Vezzetti's appointee until the council fired him from the ESF post.

The term ends at the end of the calendar year or when an official leaves his post, whichever comes first.

The appointments were made after Pappas submitted a six-page memorandum regarding the terms of each board member. His research found that Starrett's, Corrado's, DeGennaro's, Mottola's and Goodman's terms had already expired.

Despite the expired terms, he said in a telephone interview, the men were sitting legally as "holdovers" and their votes binding.

But, he said, the new appointments are until the end of a four-year term that began when

the old terms ended. Starrett's term, for example, expired Dec. 31, 1983. His new term thus ends in 1987, rather than four years from Vezzetti's announcement.

Officials are questioning whether the research can be applied to the Zoning Board. Vezzetti had made several Zoning Board appointments which were halted by the Law Department.

Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio argued that the appointments were illegal because the previous administration of Mayor Steve Cappiello had improperly set all terms to expire at once. The appointees whose terms should have been staggered must continue to serve, he said.



Coming aboard
Hoboken Board of Education Secretary Anthony Romano, right, swears in newly-elected board members, from left, Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and James Farina.

Firehouse closing foes want guarantee

By Margaret Schmidt

Residents protesting the closing of a Hoboken firehouse yesterday sent a list of demands to city officials and said they may seek a court order to keep the building open.

The demands included an "immediate guarantee" that the truck company housed at the 501 Observer Highway station would have a "permanent, active presence" in the southwest section of the city.

"We firmly expect to hear from you today," the letter said,

"regarding your plans to address the above issues."

By 4 p.m., the close of the city government day, however, no response was received, said Sister Norberts Hunnewinkel of St. Joseph's Parish, one of the protesters.

Fire Chief James Houn announced the impending close of the firehouse on Monday. The closing, for an indefinite period, is at the recommendation of city engineer James Caulfield who reported serious structural

problems with the 1882 building. Passersby can spot some of the defects as several-inch-wide cracks run along the fence of the firehouse.

Houn had said the station's engine company would move to Fire Department headquarters at Second and Jefferson streets, just three blocks from the Observer Highway site.

The truck company, however, was set to move to the station at Eighth and Clinton streets, midway into the city.

Protesters, whose ranks include Fourth Ward Councilwoman Mary Francone and her husband, Louis, the former ward representative, have gone to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's office, were passing a petition and staged sporadic demonstrations in front of the firehouse yesterday.

Protesters are expected at the City Council caucus Monday and meeting Wednesday. Both are at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

A meeting of the protesters is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph's School, 73 Jackson St.

The possibility of seeking a court injunction to temporarily or permanently prevent the closing of the firehouse is being considered, Hunnewinkel said.

The letter also demanded that the city issue an order to delay the driving of piles at a

construction site adjacent to the firehouse. The construction, for the Skyline condominiums, began recently with site preparation. Test pile drivings, Houn said, could be felt in the firehouse.

The protesters asked for the construction delay until:

- A letter of intent from the administration is received regarding the current and future use of the firehouse.
- A report is done on the effects of the pile driving on the neighborhood.
- A guarantee is given that Truck Company No. 2 will stay in the city's southwest section.

The protesters want two independent engineers to inspect the firehouse after the pile driving to determine the integrity of the building.

Should the inspectors determine the building is safe, the protesters demand a "same day" return of Truck Company No. 2.

If the building is found to be unsound, they said, they want an "immediate" release of emergency funds for the construction of a temporary shelter for the hook-and-ladder truck and the release of emergency funds for the construction of a new firehouse.

The City Council would have final say over whether to repair the building or erect a new structure.

Council's ax chips away at schools

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council, facing a May 12 school budget certification deadline, agreed yesterday to across-the-board cuts of 4.5 percent for all "non-mandatory items" in the 1988-89 Board of Education budget.

In an unanimous vote, the council trimmed more than \$900,000 from the school budget, thus reducing the amount to be raised from taxes to slightly more than \$10 million.

According to City Council President E. Norman Wilson, the cuts will shave off about \$10

from the proposed 1988 municipal tax rate of \$205 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Yesterday's meeting was the second continuation of last Wednesday's regular session. Last Friday, the council met in a closed caucus for nearly three hours to draft the three-page spending measure and, during a 15-minute open session, Wilson announced that the non-mandatory items would be cut.

The resolution calls for cuts in 62 line items, including \$346,137 earmarked for teacher

See COUNCIL'S AX—Page 6.

Garbage-collection bids face rejection

By Bill Campbell

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Hoboken has received competitive bids on its contract for garbage collection, but, city officials warn, the bids may be rejected because of a technicality.

City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. has urged the City Council to reject both bids for the 1986 scavenger contract because a "substantial discrepancy exists" between the contract specifications and the bidding form.

According to D'Amelio, the specifications for the contract

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"The proposals for one-year were submitted on an equal basis by each bidder and clearly show that BFI was the low bidder by \$213,350 without the cost of disposal and \$288,350 lower when the cost of disposal is included," Chius said.

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"Given these facts, it is not likely the city would fare better on a rebid," Kobin said. "I would submit that it is in the best interest of the city to award the contract to BFI for one-year on both a short-term and a long-term basis," he said.

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by a 3-to-1 margin, calls for a more than \$5 million in tax levies over last year.

While the school board budget rise is only 4.5 percent over last year, the large spending increase is due to the loss of state and federal spending.

Wilson, reading from the resolution drafted at the closed session, urged the school board to cut the 4.5 percent, of \$1 million from its budget with the "strong consideration to close

one (school) building."

The resolution was adopted unanimously by the eight-member council.

"The \$1 million figure was the consensus," Councilwoman Helen Cunniff said afterward. "But I would have liked to have seen more."

"I would have liked to have seen particular line-item cuts," said Councilman Joe Della Fave. "I would have liked cuts in the school administration."

Councilman Robert Ranieri

said he favored permanently closing a school and buying out contracts of senior personnel. "We then could cut the heaviest people from the payroll without laying off younger people," he said.

Last night's meeting was to have begun at 5:30 after the closed session. At 6 p.m. Ranieri announced that the council would need "another hour or two of closed deliberation." The meeting finally began at 7:40 p.m.

Continued from Page 1.

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"These are just recommendations," Wilson said. "The school board has the discretion to cut what it wants and, if they are wise, they will look into other areas rather than teachers," he said.

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By Bill Campbell

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Andruela is scheduled to replace Rudolph Naddeo who resigned Friday.

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Ranieri to allow the council to appoint members to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Currently the mayor is responsible for appointing members to those boards.

Also on the council agenda is a resolution requesting the county clerk to place a proposition on the November 4 ballot which asks voters whether the city's water supply should be fluoridated.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New Jersey Transit and Planning Board Consultant Ralph Seligman are scheduled to make presentations before the caucus.

The council will hold its regular session on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

D'Amelio avoiding conflict of interest in condo litigation

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. said last night that he will not involve himself in possible litigation between the city and the developer of the Presidential Towers condominium project.

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The developers, Anawim of Jersey City, have proposed building 24- and 22-story towers in the southwestern region of the city.

The developers have invoked a provision of the state's Land Use Law which stipulates that a project is automatically approved if the municipal Zoning Board of Adjustment fails to act on the application within 120 days.

The project, which was introduced before the board in June 1985, was up for a vote last October, but no one seconded the motion.

"I agree that there is a need

for an outside attorney," D'Amelio said. "I was going to request a resolution to that effect be sent down for Wednesday's council meeting, but I did not want to anticipate litigation."

Last Friday, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti and an attorney representing residents living near the proposed project called on the city to hire "independent outside counsel" to represent the city in the event of a suit.

Councilman Joe Della Fave, citing D'Amelio's relationship with the project, questioned the law director's ability to represent the city in general zoning matters.

"Zoning matters are one of the few areas of expertise I have," D'Amelio joked. "I feel comfortable that I and other members of the Law Department can represent the city in all but this instance."

Council President E. Norman Wilson and Councilman Robert Ranieri expressed concern over the role of the Law Department in disputes with the administration.

"If the council investigates

See D'AMELIO — Page 10.

Continued from Page 1.

members of the administration or of the zoning board, would the Law Department be the counsel for the City Council?" Ranieri asked.

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nounced that he will introduce a resolution tomorrow to institute a hiring freeze, retroactive to April 30.

The resolution states that no employees are to be hired by the city except in cases of "extreme emergencies."

Ranieri said the measure was necessary to ward off a potential "60 percent increase" in municipal taxes.

Councilman Pat Pasculli said he would introduce an ordinance to shift the Public Safety Department from the Law Department.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius has headed the Public Safety Department since last July of last year.

England maintains that the school's operating costs have decreased. "Where the budget is up is debt service because we changed from an appointed to an elected school district. In the past, the city picked up those costs," he said.

England said the budget is actually up 1.88 percent, "but the problem is that the state says you must fund your own education system. And so did the majority of voters who turned this budget down."

Cuts in state and federal education programs have cost the city nearly \$5 million in aid, England said.

England said the school board will schedule a special meeting, probably this week, to discuss the council's recommendations.

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Wilson said, "I haven't had any comment from the board and they may very well appeal this resolution."

Wilson said the school board has 14 days to appeal the council's actions.

"I really can't comment until I meet with our members," said school board President Richard England. "But I have

Vezzetti names six to Planning Board

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti has made six new appointments to the 11-member Planning Board.

The appointments, effective immediately, came after administrators asked board attorney George Pappas to research each member's term.

Officials are questioning whether Pappas' findings can be applied to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. There had been skirmishes between the mayor's office and other officials over Vezzetti's appointments to the Zoning Board earlier this year.

Appointments to the Planning Board don't need City Council ratification.

Vezzetti reappointed James

Starrett to a term expiring Dec. 31, 1989, and John Corrado to a term expiring Dec. 31, 1987. He also reappointed Maurice DeGennaro as first alternate to a term ending Dec. 31 of this year.

He appointed Sharon Desrosiers to replace Vincent Mottola and Peter Alicandri, the ousted director of Environmental Services and Facilities, to replace Ben R. Goodman. Desrosiers' term will expire Dec. 31, 1988, and Alicandri's will end Dec. 31, 1987.

Vezzetti also appointed City Business Administrator and Public Safety Director Edwin Chius as the municipal official on the board. Chius replaces Alicandri, who had been Vezzetti's appointee until the council fired him from the ESF post.

The term ends at the end of the calendar year or when an official leaves his post, whichever comes first.

The appointments were made after Pappas submitted a six-page memorandum regarding the terms of each board member. His research found that Starrett's, Corrado's, DeGennaro's, Mottola's and Goodman's terms had already expired.

Despite the expired terms, he said in a telephone interview, the men were sitting legally as "holdovers" and their votes binding.

But, he said, the new appointments are until the end of a four-year term that began when

the old terms ended. Starrett's term, for example, expired Dec. 31, 1983. His new term thus ends in 1987, rather than four years from Vezzetti's announcement.

Officials are questioning whether the research can be applied to the Zoning Board. Vezzetti had made several Zoning Board appointments which were halted by the Law Department.

Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio argued that the appointments were illegal because the previous administration of Mayor Steve Cappelletto had improperly set all terms to expire at once. The appointees whose terms should have been staggered must continue to serve, he said.



Coming aboard

Hoboken Board of Education Secretary Anthony Romano, right, swears in newly-elected board members, from left, Joseph Rafter, Lourdes Arroyo and James Farina.

Firehouse closing foes want guarantee

By Margaret Schmidt

Residents protesting the closing of a Hoboken firehouse yesterday sent a list of demands to city officials and said they may seek a court order to keep the building open.

The demands included an "immediate guarantee" that the truck company housed at the 501 Observer Highway station would have a "permanent, active presence" in the southwest section of the city.

"We firmly expect to hear from you today," the letter said,

"regarding your plans to address the above issues."

By 4 p.m., the close of the city government day, however, no response was received, said Sister Norberts Hunnewinkel of St. Joseph's Parish, one of the protesters.

Fire Chief James Houn announced the impending close of the firehouse on Monday. The closing, for an indefinite period, is at the recommendation of city engineer James Caulfield who reported serious structural

problems with the 1892 building. Passersby can spot some of the defects as several-inch-wide cracks run along the fence of the firehouse.

Houn had said the station's engine company would move to Fire Department headquarters at Second and Jefferson streets, just three blocks from the Observer Highway site.

The truck company, however, was set to move to the station at Eighth and Clinton streets, midway into the city.

Protesters, whose ranks include Fourth Ward Councilwoman Mary Francone and her husband, Louis, the former ward representative, have gone to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's office, were passing a petition and staged sporadic demonstrations in front of the firehouse yesterday.

Protesters are expected at the City Council caucus Monday and meeting Wednesday. Both are at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

A meeting of the protesters is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph's School, 73 Jackson St.

The possibility of seeking a court injunction to prevent the closing of the firehouse is being considered, Hunnewinkel said.

The letter also demanded that the city issue an order to delay the driving of piles at a

construction site adjacent to the firehouse. The construction, for the Skyline condominiums, began recently with site preparation. Test pile drivings, Houn said, could be felt in the firehouse.

The protesters asked for the construction delay until:

- A letter of intent from the administration is received regarding the current and future use of the firehouse.
- A report is done on the effects of the pile driving on the neighborhood.
- A guarantee is given that Truck Company No. 2 will stay in the city's southwest section.

The protesters want two independent engineers to inspect the firehouse after the pile driving to determine the integrity of the building.

Should the inspectors determine the building is safe, the protesters demand a "same day" return of Truck Company No. 2.

If the building is found to be unsafe, they said, they want an "immediate" release of emergency funds for the construction of a temporary shelter for the hook-and-ladder truck and the release of emergency funds for the construction of a new firehouse.

The City Council would have final say over whether to repair the building or erect a new structure.

Council's ax chips away at schools

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council, facing a May 12 school budget certification deadline, agreed yesterday to across-the-board cuts of 4.5 percent for all "non-mandatory items" in the 1988-89 Board of Education budget.

In an unanimous vote, the council trimmed more than \$900,000 from the school budget, thus reducing the amount to be raised from taxes to slightly more than \$10 million.

According to City Council President E. Norman Wilson, the cuts will shave off about \$10

from the proposed 1989 municipal tax rate of \$205 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Yesterday's meeting was the second continuation of last Wednesday's regular session. Last Friday, the council met in a closed caucus for nearly three hours to draft the three-page spending measure and, during a 15-minute open session, Wilson announced that the non-mandatory items would be cut.

The resolution calls for cuts in 62 line items, including \$346,137 earmarked for teacher

salaries.

See COUNCIL'S AX—Page 6.

Garbage-collection bids face rejection

By Bill Campbell

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Hoboken has received competitive bids on its contract for garbage collection, but, city officials warn, the bids may be rejected because of a technicality.

City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. urged the City Council to reject both bids for the 1988 scavenger contract because a "substantial discrepancy exists" between the contract specifications and the bidding form.

According to D'Amelio, the specifications for the contract

called for alternate bids of one, two and three years, while the bidding form called for bids of one, three and five years.

Two firms, LaFera Contracting Co. of Newark and Browning Ferris Industries of Fairfield, bid on the scavenger contract.

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"Given these facts, it is not likely the city would fare better on a rebid," Kobin said. "I would submit that it is in the best interest of the city to award the contract to BFI for one-year on both a short-term and a long-term basis," he said.

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"We've had bids before, but nothing like this," Chius said. "LaFera has usually been the low bidder."

The City Council is expected to act on the scavenger contract during tonight's session at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

Hoboken cuts \$1M from schools

By Bill Campbell

After a nearly three-hour closed session, the Hoboken City Council last night agreed to cut \$1 million in "non-mandatory items" from the 1988-89 school budget.

The meeting, a continuation of Wednesday's session, will be continued on Monday at noon.

The council also failed to fill the First Ward vacancy created last month by the unexpected resignation of six-term Councilman Anthony Romano.

"We had several capable and viable candidates to choose from," said City Council President F. Norman Wilson during the 15-minute public meeting. "However, there was no overwhelming consensus for either candidate."

According to City Hall sources, former City Council budget examiner Joseph Lisa and Parking Authority Executive Director Patrick Caulfield were the two leading contenders.

"Do you know when nominating petitions can be picked up?" Lisa asked City Clerk James Farina after Wilson's announcement.

Farina said that petitions would probably be available in September.

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but I will support the resolution," Councilman Pat Pasculli said. "I don't want to cut teachers in light of the progress of students in standardized tests. There is room for more improvement," he said.

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Councilman Joe Della Fave, who did not attend the session, cast the lone dissenting voice. "The 4.5 percent cut in non-mandatory costs is a blind approach which forgoes the responsibility to recommend reductions in unnecessary high-salaried positions," he said in a letter read by City Clerk James

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"For example, I believe that we should be recommending that the position of secretary, internal auditor and business manager (totaling \$150,000) be consolidated into one position, that of a certified business administrator," Della Fave wrote.

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See D'AMELIO — Page 16.

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