

Developers say project gets automatic OK

By Margaret Schmidt

Developers of the controversial Presidential Towers in Hoboken filed a legal notice yesterday saying they can go ahead with their proposed 24- and 22½-story buildings because of inaction by the city.

The paid notice, which appeared in The Jersey Journal, cited a state law that if a zoning board of adjustment fails to act on a completed application it is automatically approved after 120 days.

Board officials, however, questioned the move, saying the law shouldn't apply because the developers have come back to the board with scaled-down plans and that that proposal is still pending.

"It is my opinion that they can't do it because the matter is pending," said board attorney Peter Daglian. "We haven't gotten all the information yet."

He noted that the group has come back three times since the 120-day period ended.

Board chairman Frank Camerone said he was unaware that the developers had planned the move and added he will have to consult Daglian on what step to take next. As far as he is concerned, he said, the matter is pending with an May 8 hearing set for discussion of two 16-story towers.

The developers, meanwhile, "felt that they weren't treated right by the board," said city law director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., a former partner in the project. "They were fed up with the board."

Although the group contends it has the right to build the 24- and 22½-story towers, containing 356 condominiums, 357 parking spaces and 3,000 square feet of commercial space, it may not build that high, he said.

The \$25 million project has been the subject of controversy since its developers, the Anawim Investment and Development Corporation, of Jersey City approached the board last year. Original plans called for two 29-story towers on the site, which is bounded by Adams, Jefferson, First and Newark streets.

Scaled-down plans for the 24- and 22½-story towers still drew criticism from neighboring homeowners and from community activists who said the proposed buildings were too high. The area is zoned for buildings of up to 14 stories.

The plans, however, made it to the voting stage Oct. 22 when board member James Greany made a motion to approve them. No one seconded the motion, so no vote was taken; but the developers were given the option of returning with further scaled-down plans.

In February—just after the 120-day period had ended—Anawim returned with plans for two 16-story towers, and a majority of the members voted to approve it. The decision got caught up in a legal wrangle when opponents said there was inadequate notice of the hearing.

Camerone then scheduled public hearings in which opponents could be heard before the board took a vote to grant final approval.

The first hearing ended when the developers claimed there was no quorum. The second closed when an attorney for residents claimed the new plans hadn't been filed in the City Hall and after several opponents were heard. The board asked Anawim to recall six of its witnesses.

A continuation was scheduled for May 8.

A lot of money is involved in this," D'Amelio said in explaining why the developers decided to use the 120-day statute now. "They've been trying to do whatever was necessary to appease the board and the community."

He said he was speaking as an attorney, not in his capacity as city law director. The argument will stand in state Superior Court if challenged, he said, adding that Anawim may independently seek court verification of their move.

The Rev. Francis Schiller, a lawyer and principal of Anawim, could not be reached. Schiller and Anawim are carrying the project through the approval process, but have announced the sale of the project to developer Pat Reynolds.

"It is absolutely a shock that this would happen," said community activist Maurice Singleton, an opponent of the project. "It's a total disregard of law and order, a total disregard of due process."

Philip Elberg, the attorney for residents opposing the plans said he doesn't think the action will stand.

"The board had clearly said that the 120-days (statute) has no application in this case," he said. "It's been one thing after another, under various guises, to slip this thing through."

Fire victims take plea for homes to Vezzetti

By Margaret Schmidt

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"When we give a complaint, they (the building owners) don't listen to us," another said, "so we have to get more help."

Four of the six families affected by the one-alarm blaze at 155 14th St. met with Vezzetti and were scheduled to meet him again this morning, this time in front of their apartment house as inspectors determined whether they can return.

The tenants fear they will be like the tenants of three other Hoboken buildings hit by fire since the beginning of the year. In those blazes, no one was hurt but damage kept the low- and middle-income tenants from returning to their homes. To date, none has returned and their prospects are waning, officials said.

"If they don't want to do the repairs, give us the materials and we'll do them," said eight-year tenant Calisto Alfano. His neighbor Maria Villa Nueva cried in the mayor's office. "I'm not looking for money," she said. "I just want my apartment back."

After speaking with officials of the building inspector's office and with Vincent Wilt, of BWA Associates, the building's owner, Vezzetti said that fire and water damage had apparently affected roof beams, causing a potential hazard.

Wilt, who could not be reached for comment, said he was awaiting the inspectors' decision before letting anyone into the building, said Tom

Olivieri, relocation director for the Community Development Agency.

Meanwhile, police and fire officials were investigating the cause of the blaze.

The alarm was called in at 9:19 p.m., shortly after a woman told someone on the street that she had set the fire, officials said. The woman, 37-year-old Diane Mary Rose MacPherson of Union City, has been charged with aggravated arson, said arresting officer Sgt. Rafael Cruz.

"They're working on the human end," Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremietti said of the police. "We're working on the scientific end." Officials have sent materials to the state police labs for testing.

See FIRE — Page 9.

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and Willow Avenue and held her for police.

Meanwhile, others in the building alerted the tenants.

The building had many housing violations, including front doors that didn't lock, said Housing Officer Jude Fitzgibbons.

Vezzetti, on hearing that the suspect may have just wandered into the building, said he will seek to bring criminal negligence charges against the owners for not having the doors in proper order.

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The club/restaurant, at Bloomfield and 14th streets, and building owner Louis Stefano are before the state Superior Court in Jersey City in a noise pollution case, said Pat Greenspan, owner of the club.

She and her husband, Michael, have racked up more than \$7,000 in legal fees, have lost business since Judge Robert

Tarleton ordered them to temporarily halt entertainment at 10 p.m. and may have to pay for soundproofing the club, she said.

"It's been a tremendous strain," Mrs. Greenspan said. "We have spent a fortune so far. If the judge rules against us, we will have to do the soundproofing." His preliminary order, filed in mid-February, "has almost destroyed us on Friday and Saturday nights, when the bulk of our business is done," she said.

The benefit was the brainchild of Michael Lisa, the drummer of the Hoboken band Vincent and the Wild Hearts. Once the idea was in place, Mrs.

Greenspan was able to enlist the others on the bill.

"We all just really like the place," Lisa said. "It's a real home spot. We play in the city (Manhattan) and other places in Jersey. But it's always great to come home."

Mostly Hoboken rock bands perform at the club, he said, and it attracts a local crowd.

"If we can't help her," he said, "who will?"

The show was put together in about two weeks and is scheduled for this weekend to precede the Greenspans' next date before Tarleton, May 1.

The Greenspans have filed a countersuit in the proceedings.

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City Hall is falling to pieces bit by bit

By Rick Tesches

If you're strolling past Hoboken City Hall during the next few days and see a chunk of rock come crashing to the sidewalk, don't worry, the sky isn't falling.

When he did, he said, "I couldn't believe it."

Harry Whalen, who lives with his wife and infant above the club, said he can hear "every word" of every song that's sung below, even soloists playing guitars.

He has planned a dinner party for Sunday and said he will protest the benefit. "I've been in bands and I've deejayed," he said. "When I can hear every word, to me, that's loud."

Stefano said he'll be satisfied if Greenspan puts in soundproofing that will stop the music from traveling upstairs. If the cafe had a shorter lease, it would be a different scenario, he said, but with a 15-year lease, "the least you can do is soundproof."

"You don't bother my tenants," he said. "I don't bother you. All I want is peace and quiet."

James Caulfield after a recent inspection.

Last week, a piece of stray brownstone fell from the side of the building and struck a vehicle owned by a city police officer, denting the hood.

As an added precaution, yellow police rope has been draped in front of City Hall to alert residents of the possible danger.

Chius said work will eventually begin to remedy the problem and the city is expected to go out for bids to hire a firm to do the work.

The city should restore the brownstone work instead of ripping it out, Chius said, noting it is an historic structure.

Meanwhile, the Police Department has no reports of any injuries stemming from the falling fragments.

Join your pier group by lottery

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken residents may have to rely on Lady Luck if they want to view the July Fourth fireworks display from Pier A.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday that the city plans to open the pier to Hoboken residents for viewing the July Fourth Operation Sail festivities, but tickets will only be available through a lottery.

"It's the only fair way we can insure that Hoboken residents will all have a chance to view the parade of sails and the fireworks," Chius said.

According to Chius, the city will issue two sets of tickets for pier viewing — one for the parade of sail boats between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and another between 6 and 11 p.m. for the fireworks display.

The pier, which is leased by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, can accommodate 5,000 people, Chius said.

Chius said that tickets for the two events will cost \$5.

In addition, Chius said the city is coordinating several free events, including a review of naval vessels and sail boats, and a street fair planned for the

southern end of River Street.

He said that local merchants have formed a non-profit business arrangement called Hoboken Advantage to conduct the lottery and coordinate the street fair.

"We expect to raise about \$45,000 in advance through the ticket sales," Chius said. "The reason we are charging for the event is that we want to recoup most of the costs for maintenance of the pier, lighting and sound. I do not want to go into the city budget to cover these costs."

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School trustees await the fall of Council budget ax

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken school board members are still uncertain what measures the City Council will take when the council reviews the 1986-87 Board of Education budget tonight.

A special council session has been scheduled for 6 p.m. to discuss both the school and municipal budgets.

"Quite honestly, I've been given no indications of what to expect from the council," said school board President Richard England.

"It's too early to tell, but it all depends on the amount of money they want to cut. But believe me, our budget is not fat," England said.

The proposed school board budget, which represents a \$5 million increase in the city tax levy over last year's budget, was

to be reviewed by the Board of Education Monday night.

However, the meeting was cancelled due to a violation of the Open Public Meeting Act.

On April 15, voters rejected the proposed \$11 million tax levy by a more than 3-to-1 margin.

The council now must decide how much to trim from the \$25 million budget.

The school board will hold a special session following the council meeting, and may lay off as many as 52 non-tenured personnel.

According to school officials, the board must take action by midnight tonight if layoff notices are to be issued.

"I don't know what the council will do, but I do suspect that large amounts of money will be cut," said Joe Rafter, a newly elected board member.

"I don't know how many

jobs will be affected, but I'm opposed to letting any teachers go," Rafter said.

Rafter, a political ally of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti who, along with board member Lourdes Arroyo, was endorsed by the Committee for Quality Education before the April 15 school board election, has suggested the temporary closing of one of the city's seven elementary schools.

"It's a short-term solution, but it's an option," he said.

Arroyo said she expects a fight with the other board members over teacher layoffs.

"It's probably going to be another 7-to-2 vote," she predicted.

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School budget

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Chius said he will need "at

least" a \$20,000 budget to cover operating expenses for the event. He is scheduled to present the City Council with a preliminary budget tonight.

According to Chius, lottery coupons will be available later this month and all entries must be received by June 6.

"If we hold to this deadline, we'll have a good idea of how many people to expect. I anticipate a larger turnout, though, for the fireworks."

Chius said that Hoboken residents would have a good view of the fireworks display since it will be based in lower Manhattan.

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She also charges that Stefano is trying to force the business out of the building because the \$600-a-month rent is low in the Hoboken market.

Stefano, reached yesterday at his beauty salon, Mr. L's Hair Creations, said tenants living above the club have complained that the late-night music is too loud and disturbing. He declined

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Fire victims take plea for homes to mayor

Continued from Page 1.

damage was done throughout the building, Tremietti said. Some of the tenants reported that their ceilings dropped because of the water saturation.

No injuries were reported. According to Cruz, MacPherson was arrested after she told Ana Rivera, daughter of tenant Maria Villa Nueva, that she had taken a pair of boots

from an apartment in the building. She then pointed to the building and said, "Look what I did," Cruz said. Rivera looked up and saw smoke and flames in the roof area.

Rivera ran into the building, met her brother Jesus in the hallway and pointed MacPherson out to him. Jesus, 23, chased the woman for two blocks, caught her at 14th Street

and Willow Avenue and held her for police.

Meanwhile, others in the building alerted the tenants.

The building had many housing violations, including front doors that didn't lock, said Housing Officer Jude Fitzgibbons. Vezzetti, on hearing that the suspect may have just wandered into the building, said he will seek to bring criminal negligence charges against the owners for not having the doors in proper order.

Most of the tenants said they were staying with friends or relatives last night although some were being sheltered by the Jersey City-Hoboken chapter of the American Red Cross.

Vezzetti not guilty of harassment

Continued from Page 1.

"At first I ignored it," Vezzetti said. "But then he started calling me a queer, and said I was like Rock Hudson and that I had AIDS. There was no sense talking to him," he added.

The mayor testified that he asked Weick to "please" stop. Regarding Weick's alleged statements, Vezzetti said, "Sure it bothered me. I'm a human being. I'm the mayor and it reflects on my elected office."

The mayor said he did at first tell Police Officer Tom Kennedy to arrest Weick, but later changed his mind. He said all he really wanted was to get Weick away from him. "I don't

like to have people arrested. I'm an easy-going guy. It's not my cup of tea," the mayor said.

The prosecutor in the case, during his cross examination, tried to draw a parallel between Vezzetti calling Weick a "political whore" that day and Weick's alleged statements.

Vezzetti responded that "political whore" was a term which was strictly used as a political criticism, as opposed to references to homosexuality and AIDS.

Weick had denied making such statements during a previous hearing before Judge Taylor. Supporting the mayor's testimony, however, was Ann Alicandri — wife of former Public Works Director Peter Alicandri — who had testified she heard Weick making similar remarks through a bullhorn alleging Vezzetti was a homosexual several months prior to the January incident.

According to Hoboken

Police Officer Robert DeStefano, who also testified yesterday, Weick was asked to get into a patrol car merely to separate the two quarrelling parties. No handcuffs were used, and he was not placed under arrest.

The officer said that while Weick did seem alarmed at first, he calmed down after entering the car. He was then driven back to his newspaper stand at the Erie Lackawanna train terminal, according to the testimony.

Landlord denies club's complaint

By Margaret Schmidt

The landlord of a Hoboken club/restaurant denied yesterday that he is trying to harass the club owners so they'll break their 15-year lease.

Louis Stefano, owner of the 14th and Bloomfield streets building that houses the Bloomfield St. Cafe, said "It's a total lie that I'm trying to get (the club) out of here" and said the noise problems from music in the club are real.

Stefano was responding to allegations by club owner Pat Greenspan, whose comments appeared in yesterday's Jersey Journal. Stefano had been contacted for the article, but declined comment until speaking with his attorney, Leonard Franco of Hoboken.

The cafe will be the scene of a benefit concert all day Sunday. Soloists and rock bands have joined to raise money for Greenspan's legal fees, for the possible soundproofing of the club and to compensate for some of the money the club has lost since mid-February, when a state Superior Court judge issued a temporary restraining order banning loud music after 10 p.m.

Stefano and the club owners are set to meet in court on the issue May 1.

Stefano said yesterday that the cafe took over the ground floor commercial space while the upper floors were empty and he didn't check noise levels until tenants were set to move in.

When he did, he said, "I couldn't believe it."

Harry Whalen, who lives with his wife and infant above the club, said he can hear "every word" of every song that's sung below, even soloists playing guitars.

He has planned a dinner party for Sunday and said he will protest the benefit. "I've been in bands and I've deejayed," he said. "When I can hear every word to me, that's loud."

Stefano said he'll be satisfied if Greenspan puts in soundproofing that will stop the music from traveling upstairs. If the cafe had a shorter lease, it would be a different scenario, he said, but with a 15-year lease, "the least you can do is soundproof."

"You don't bother my tenants," he said, "I don't bother you. All I want is peace and quiet."

Greenspan and her husband, Michael, contend that Stefano wants them out of the building because their \$600-a-month rent is now considered low in the Hoboken market. They have occupied the space a year and a half. They have countersued, claiming the legal action has prevented them from running the business stipulated in their lease.

The case is before Judge Robert Tarleton, sitting in Jersey City.

Meanwhile, the benefit is set for 3 p.m. Sunday. A \$5 cover charge provides music, sandwiches and chances for door prizes, such as T-shirts, donated by distributors that deal with the club.

On the bill are soloists Carolyn Mas, Jimmy Reardon and Brian Anthony, and rock bands Vincent and the Wild Hearts, Centerfold and Desire.

Stefano asked reporters to go to the building Sunday, "and see who's harassing whom."

City Hall is falling to pieces bit by bit

By Rick Tosches

If you're strolling past Hoboken City Hall during the next few days and see a chunk of rock come crashing to the sidewalk, don't worry, the sky isn't falling.

James Caulfield after a recent inspection.

Last week, a piece of stray brownstone fell from the side of the building and struck a vehicle owned by a city police officer, denting the hood.

As an added precaution,

Recently, loose fragments of brownstone which frame City Hall windows have become loose and fallen to the sidewalk.

In a safety move, the city has erected protective scaffolding in front of the building to protect passers-by from injury

from the stones which have sporadically plunged from the structure, according to City Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Chius said the scaffolding was erected upon the recommendation of City Engineer

to do the work.

The city should restore the brownstone work instead of ripping it out, Chius said, noting it is an historic structure.

Meanwhile, the Police Department has no reports of any injuries stemming from the falling fragments.

yellow police rope has been draped in front of City Hall to alert residents of the possible danger.

Chius said work will eventually begin to remedy the problem and the city is expected to go out for bids to hire a firm

School trustees await the fall of Council budget ax

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken school board members are still uncertain what measures the City Council will take when the council reviews the 1986-87 Board of Education budget tonight.

A special council session has been scheduled for 6 p.m. to discuss both the school and municipal budgets.

"Quite honestly, I've been given no indications of what to expect from the council," said school board President Richard England.

"It's too early to tell, but it all depends on the amount of money they want to cut. But believe me, our budget is not fat," England said.

The proposed school board budget, which represents a \$5 million increase in the city tax levy over last year's budget, was

to be reviewed by the Board of Education Monday night. However, the meeting was cancelled due to a violation at the Open Public Meeting Act.

On April 15, voters rejected the proposed \$11 million tax levy by a more than 3-to-1 margin. The council now must decide how much to trim from the \$25 million budget.

The school board will hold a special session following the council meeting, and may lay off as many as 52 non-tenured personnel.

According to school officials, the board must take action by midnight tonight if layoff notices are to be issued.

"I don't know what the council will do, but I do suspect that large amounts of money will be cut," said Joe Rafter, a newly elected board member.

"I don't know how many

jobs will be affected, but I'm opposed to letting any teachers go," Rafter said.

Rafter, a political ally of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti who, along with board member Lourdes Arroyo, was endorsed by the Committee for Quality Education before the April 15 school board election, has suggested the temporary closing of one of the city's seven elementary schools.

"It's a short-term solution, but it's an option," he said.

Arroyo said she expects a fight with the other board members over teacher layoffs. "It's probably going to be another 7-to-2 vote," she predicted.

City Council President E. Norman Wilson said he had no indication what actions he or his

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School budget

Continued from Page 1.

colleagues would take. "We just got our copies of the school budget over the weekend and not everyone has had a chance to review the material."

He said the council would take its final action before the school budget certification deadline on May 12.

In the past, layoff notices have been issued to school personnel during times of budget cutbacks. Most of those affected were later rehired in the fall.

Join your pier group by lottery

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken residents may have to rely on Lady Luck if they want to view the July Fourth fireworks display from Pier A.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday that the city plans to open the pier to Hoboken residents for viewing the July Fourth Operation Sail festivities, but tickets will only be available through a lottery.

"It's the only fair way we can insure that Hoboken residents will all have a chance to view the parade of sails and the fireworks," Chius said.

According to Chius, the city

will issue two sets of tickets for pier viewing — one for the parade of sail boats between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and another between 6 and 11 p.m. for the fireworks display.

The pier, which is leased by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, can accommodate 5,000 people, Chius said.

Chius said that tickets for the two events will cost \$5.

In addition, Chius said the city is coordinating several free events, including a review of naval vessels and sail boats, and a street fair planned for the

southern end of River Street. He said that local merchants have formed a non-profit business arrangement called Hoboken Advantage to conduct the lottery, and coordinate the street fair.

"We expect to raise about \$45,000 in advance through the ticket sales," Chius said. "The reason we are charging for the event is that we want to recoup most of the costs for maintenance of the pier, lighting and sound. I do not want to go into the city budget to cover these costs."

Chius said he will need "at

least" a \$20,000 budget to cover operating expenses for the event. He is scheduled to present the City Council with a preliminary budget tonight.

According to Chius, lottery coupons will be available later this month and all entries must be received by June 6.

"If we hold to this deadline, we'll have a good idea of how many people to expect. I anticipate a larger turnout, though, for the fireworks."

Chius said that Hoboken residents would have a good view of the fireworks display since it will be based in lower Manhattan.

Hoboken Council puts ban on hiring city employees

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council last night unanimously froze all municipal hiring. The measure, which is retroactive to April 30, prevents the hiring of any employee whose salary would be funded through the city budget.

The move comes exactly one week after Mayor Thomas Vezzetti introduced his 1986 municipal budget.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, sponsor of the hiring freeze, said the resolution prevents all new hirings, except in cases of "extreme emergencies."

The resolution was amended

Ranieri warns of \$300 tax rate

to exclude employees of the Community Development Agency which receives the bulk of its funding from the federal government.

The CDA director, though, must consult the City Council before hiring new employees.

Ranieri, an anti-administration council member, said the freeze was a result of the rising cost of government. "It's our responsibility to dictate that there be no new hirings

except in extreme emergencies," he said.

Earlier, Ranieri attacked Vezzetti and his administration for what he called their "irresponsible" fiscal policy and their unwillingness to defend the municipal budget.

"Where does the responsibility of the administration start and the council end?" Ranieri asked during the hearing on payrolls.

"Where is the mayor who

has not been to a meeting in six months and where is the junta of power who controls him?" Ranieri continued.

"I maintain that the budget is irresponsible and illegal and I expect a challenge to my statements. I expect the mayor and the junta of power to be at the microphone," he said, motioning to the gallery.

Ranieri, who spoke for nearly a half hour, warned that the loss of anticipated revenue, coupled with increases in water

and sewage fees, would cause the tax rate to skyrocket.

"When you add these expenses and the secondary sewage plant, the costs will go up to the moon. We could be looking at a tax rate of \$300 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation," he said.

"You raised so many things that it's hard to know where to start," answered Councilman Joe Della Fave before responding to the charges.

"You tend to ramble and you are a political opportunist," charged Della Fave. "You say

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the tax increase is a concession by the administration, but we are all responsible. You say the tax rate will rise by 40 to 60 percent, but no one should concede anything."

"I'll tell you something, Pal Joey," Ranieri said, pointing his index finger. "If I can sit here and bore you for 10 minutes I will, as long as I can save the city some money."

"Even though Tom (Vezzetti) has left the council, this is still the best show in town," Della Fave answered, comparing Ranieri to the flamboyant mayor.

Vezzetti's proposed municipal budget will raise the tax rate from \$185 to \$205 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The council has scheduled a budget hearing for May 29.

Della Fave and Council members Helen Cunniff and Pat Pasculli were concerned that the freeze would hurt CDA programs.

Assistant city attorney Fred Bado, a former CDA executive director, said the council had the option to freeze agency hirings.

"Unlike the Housing Authority and HOPEs, the CDA is part of the city since the council selects salaries and positions," he said.

In another matter, the council agreed to award a contract for garbage collection, despite warnings from the law director and a city attorney that the resolution "may leave the city open to a lawsuit."

In a 5 to 3 vote, the council awarded Browning Ferris Industries of Fairfield a one-year scavenger contract, despite objections from the city's law

department.

Due to a technical error, 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.

City attorneys urged the council to reject bids by BFI and LaFera Contracting of Newark, which currently holds the contract.

Edwin Chius, business administrator, advised the city to accept the one-year bid by BFI which was about \$300,000 less than the LaFera bid.

"My recommendation is based solely on money," Chius said. "It's up to the law department to say if we can get away with it."

Bado warned that the contract for one year would have a greater risk of a lawsuit than if the city rejected both bids. "It's our position that the city was in error and the bids should be rejected," he said.

"This is a difficult position to be in, but we have an opportunity to take advantage of a lower contract," Della Fave said.

Della Fave, Cunniff, Pasculli and Councilman Dave Roberts and E. Norman Wilson voted to award the contract to BFI. Ranieri and Council members Steve Cappiello and Mary Francione voted against the resolution.

In other business, Pasculli introduced ordinances to shift the Department of Public Safety from Administration to the Law Department, and another to reorganize the Department of Environmental Services and Facilities under Administration.

Both moves met resistance from pro-Administration Council members Della Fave and Cunniff.

Hoboken hiring freeze draws Vezzetti's fire

By Bill Campbell

The freeze on municipal hiring, adopted Wednesday by the Hoboken City Council, is nothing more than a political maneuver engineered by a "B-movie actor," according to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

"Ranieri simply wants to be mayor and he just did this to undermine the current mayor," Vezzetti said of City Councilman Robert Ranieri, sponsor of the hiring freeze resolution.

"What effect is this going to have on me? Who am I going to hire?" Vezzetti asked.

On Wednesday, the council unanimously put a freeze on all municipal hiring, retroactive to April 30. Ranieri cited es-

calating municipal expenses as the reason for the freeze.

Ranieri also attacked Vezzetti for presenting "an irresponsible and illegal" 1986 municipal budget.

The \$22.6 million budget calls for a \$1.5 million increase over last year. Ranieri maintains that the budget could reflect a 40-to-60 percent tax increase if anticipated revenues are blocked by the state.

Yesterday, Vezzetti said he has contacted state officials in Trenton to recoup the \$1.1 million in railroad property tax and the \$450,000 in municipal assistance funding that was included in the budget.

"I'm doing my job and that's more than Bob Ranieri can say," Vezzetti said. "And this whole thing is ironic. When Ranieri had the chance to stop hiring last year when we were

both on the council, he did nothing. Now that I'm mayor he decides to act. He's nothing more than a sanctimonious double-talking hypocrite," Vezzetti said.

Vezzetti also criticized Ranieri's insistence that the mayor attend council meetings to defend the budget.

"I sent the budget down and that's my job. Why do I have to be there?" Vezzetti said.

"Ranieri is just a B-movie actor, not an A-actor like me," Vezzetti said.

Vezzetti, though, said the hiring resolution would have no impact on the administration.

City Business Administrator

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Edwin Chius said the resolution would have no effect on city employees currently on the payroll. He said that no one had been hired since the April 30 cutoff date.

"Other than perhaps crossing guards and a vacant position at the library, I don't see any major ramifications," Chius said.

The resolution was designed to trim municipal costs by freezing the number of city employees and eliminating positions through attrition. The measure allows hirings only in cases of "extreme emergencies."

"I'd really like to know what an extreme emergency is," said Jim Fisher, head of the municipal employees union. "I am not as concerned with existing employees as I am about the city honoring its commitments on the current contract."

Fisher said the contract runs through 1986.

Charges against nun are dropped

By Margaret Schmidt

Criminal trespass charges against a Hoboken nun who staged a sit-in at a construction site have been dropped, officials said yesterday.

Sanford Weiss and Louis Mont of the Willow Group withdrew their charges against Sister Norberta Hunnewinkel of St. Joseph's Parish before Municipal Judge Ross London on Thursday.

Hunnewinkel, 45, was arrested May 5 during a protest against the proposed closing of an 1892 firehouse adjacent to the construction site on Observer Highway. Officials had said they feared pile-driving would disturb the building, and Hunnewinkel stopped construction by sitting on piping that was scheduled to be moved.

Weiss signed a complaint against Hunnewinkel at 11 a.m., four hours after she began the sit-in. He had pleaded with the nun to leave so work could get under way and assured her the workers would do nothing to

cause hazardous vibrations.

Police officers took Hunnewinkel away in a squad car, and construction began. The project is the Skyline condominiums development.

Later in the day, various officials and Weiss came to amicable agreements that the developers would pay for some renovations on the fire station and the city Community Development Agency would seek funding for a complete rehabilitation.

Hunnewinkel and about 75 protesters had demonstrated around the firehouse because they feared its closing would leave the southwest section of the city unprotected. They collected several hundred signatures on petitions.

The firehouse, which has visible cracks in the facade and lost some bricks recently, has several structural deficiencies, according to a report by city engineer James Caulfield. Caulfield has said, however, that his report was misinterpreted and the situation wasn't as grave

as public safety officials thought.

At Thursday's hearing, Weiss and Mont withdrew the charges and Hunnewinkel signed a release stating she will seek no civil damages for false arrest, London said.

Hunnewinkel has said she is satisfied with the way the situation has worked out and hopes the promises will lead to a safe firehouse that will remain open.

Yesterday, Mont explained that he and his partner dropped the charges because "there was no further problem so there was

Lafera to continue picking up trash until final hearing

Lafera Contracting, which lost out on its bid for a new garbage collection contract, will continue to provide collection service to Hoboken until June 6, according to a ruling last Thursday from Assignment Judge Surrall Ives Humphreys of Superior Court.

Humphreys told representatives of the city's Law Department that Lafera, currently in the final days of a three-year scavenger contract, could continue garbage collection until a final hearing is held in June.

On May 7, in a 5-to-3 vote, the City Council awarded a one-year scavenger contract to Browning Ferris Industries. BFI's bid was more than \$250,000 lower than the Lafera bid.

Lafera will continue providing service at the price specified in the BFI contract,

Humphreys ruled. "This is very good news for the city," said City Council President E. Norman Wilson. "If we had thrown out both bids during the council meeting, we would have had Lafera as a holdover at full price."

Earlier this month, Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. urged the council to reject both bids because of a "substantial discrepancy" between the bidding form and the bid specifications.

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.

The council, on the advice of City Business Administrator Edwin Chius, agreed to accept

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bids for the one-year contract.

Chius maintained that "proposals for one year were submitted on an equal basis by each bidder and . . . rejection of the bids completely would cost the city \$20,000 during the rebidding process."

City officials and representatives of both firms went before Humphreys last week on an order to show cause, according to assistant city attorney Thomas Calligy. Calligy said that Lafera filed a complaint alleging that the bids were not clear.

"Lafera argued that it should continue service until all the depositions have been

taken," Calligy said. "And BFI argued that it should begin services now."

"In any event, should BFI win, the one-year contract would start on the date they begin service," Calligy said.

Calligy said the city will argue that the bids on one-year contracts were made on "an equal level," while he said he expects Lafera to argue that they were not.

He said the firms were not required to bid on all three years of the contract.

"I don't think we're in bad shape legally," Calligy said. "In the meantime, the city is getting the best service it should."

Bill Campbell

Hoboken Council may crack down on 'warehousing'

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken landlords will have 60 days to rent all vacant apartment units, according to an anti-warehousing ordinance scheduled to be introduced at tonight's city council caucus session.

The ordinance, sponsored by Second Ward Councilman Joe Della Fave, excludes owner-occupied dwellings of two to four families.

Earlier this year, Weehawken and West New York passed similar anti-warehousing legislation.

Assistant City Attorney Thomas Calligy, in a memo to the City Council members, suggested that the ordinance be an amendment to the current rent control ordinance.

The ordinance cites the lack of affordable housing and "that the emergency continues to grow more severe in the city."

Landlords who cannot rent units after more than 60 days will be required to notify the Rent Leveling Board.

Violators can be fined up to \$500 per vacant unit and imprisoned for up to 30 days.

In other business, the council will discuss an ordinance to require the city's tax assessor to be employed on a full-time basis in City Hall on Monday through Friday.

Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte is currently in City Hall two days a week.

The caucus session is scheduled for tonight at 7 in the council chambers.

Friends of Hoboken Library plan first book fair

By Bill Campbell

Nearly a thousand books, ranging from best sellers to children's classics, will be on sale when Friends of the Hoboken Library conducts its first book fair, May 31 in Church Square Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We timed the fair in conjunction with the celebration of the newly renovated Church Square Park," says library Director Virginia Vogl. "We are anticipating a large turnout and we'll certainly have enough books."

Vogl said that the library plans to sell nearly a thousand donated and used books. "We have many old books, best sellers and children's selections," she said of the ever growing collection.

"Hundreds and hundreds of books. I'd say a very decent selection," Vogl says modestly. The book fair is the first fund-raiser ever for the newly formed friends group. Since January, the organization has grown to over 50 members.

"We have the only Friends group around," says Vogl, "and with the fair, we expect to increase membership to around 75."

She said that funds from the book sale would be reinvested in the purchase of more children's books and best sellers. "We can keep our collection growing by selling the duplicate books," Vogl said.

She said the books would be priced between 50 cents and \$1.50, but "most will be around 75 cents."

The rain date for the book fair will be June 1.

Church Square Park is located between 4th and 5th streets and Garden Street and Willow Avenue. The historic library, which was built in 1894, is located on the corner of Fifth Street and Park Avenue.



Wilda Gastelu, right, adult services librarian, is joined by Clo Rohter, recording secretary of the Friends of the Hoboken Library, and Philip Leinhardt-Stark, president of the group, in pricing books for the May 31 book sale at Church Square Park. It will be the first fund-raiser for the Friends of the Hoboken Library.

Nun arrested in sit-in but firehouse is saved

By Margaret Schmidt

A Hoboken nun protesting the potential closing of a firehouse was arrested yesterday on criminal trespass charges.

Sister Norberta Hunnewinkel of St. Joseph's Parish was arrested after staging a lone sit-in on a construction site adjacent to the firehouse. Officials had said they were going to close the firehouse indefinitely because of fears that it wouldn't withstand vibrations from the construction.

"I did what I had to do," Hunnewinkel said after developer Sanford Weiss of the Skyline Condominiums project signed a complaint. She was released on her own recognizance and was scheduled for a hearing in municipal court today.

Protests around the firehouse pressed city officials into negotiations with the developer to keep the Observer Highway station open. Plans announced at last night's City Council caucus seemed to appease the demonstrators, but they said they still wanted written assurances that the station will continue to protect the southwest section of the city.

Protesters made a ring in front of the firehouse all day yesterday, and at times their ranks swelled to 75 or 80 men, women and children carrying signs, chanting slogans and cheering for motorists who heeded their "Honk if you want to save our firehouse" poster.

Fire Chief James Houn announced last week that the fire station, which houses an engine company and a truck company, would be closed indefinitely on the recommendation of city engineer James Caulfield.

The report, he said, led to serious questions of the safety of the firefighters and equipment.

Caulfield's letter cited structural problems ranging from the need for a new heating system and windows to brickwork that must be shored and pointed. A section of the building's peak had fallen when a ladder was placed against it, spurring the inspection.

Passers-by can see some of the problems with the building since cracks run along its facade. Caulfield, however, denied yesterday that his report raised urgent issues. He said it was misinterpreted by city officials and that work to solve the problems could go on while the firehouse was occupied.

Repairs, he said, should only take three or four days.

"This just blew out for no reason," he said.

While he had requested that pile driving for the skyline project be monitored, he said, he never intended the work would lead to hazardous conditions for the firehouse.

"I am more concerned," he said, "with the buses and trucks that pass by."

Caulfield said vibrations in

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School children and residents of southwest Hoboken join in protest yesterday outside the Observer Highway firehouse that was slated for indefinite closing.

LIBERTY ROCKETS

Hoboken to house fireworks

By GAIL FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer Dispatch

HOBOKEN—The old Hoboken Shipyards will be the point of departure for barges carrying fireworks destined to light up the skies during Liberty Weekend.

After a meeting yesterday with the event's organizers, city officials disclosed the shipyards had been designated the staging area for the Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza.

"This was not our idea, but we are not going to block the celebration," said Ed Chius, public safety director. "If it wasn't done here, it couldn't be done unless it was scaled down considerably."

Chius and other officials emphasized that a network of safety and security measures will surround the fireworks' arrival, including compliance with stiff state and federal regulations.

"One gasoline truck has much more potential for danger than fireworks," Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremietti said.

The fireworks are to be delivered to the shipyards "at the last minute" before the show, Chius said, adding that the date of arrival and the method of transport from an out-of-state storage point have not been determined.

Housed in steel containers, the fireworks will at all times be more than 2,000 feet away from any occupied building, Chius said. Around-the-clock land and sea security will rest with the U.S. Coast Guard, joined by state, local and New York City police, he said, and a similar combination of forces will handle

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fire protection.

Chius said the Liberty Weekend Commission negotiated directly with the shipyard owners for use of the property without a fee. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation is responsible for insurance coverage, he said.

The fireworks show celebrating Lady Liberty's centennial is designed to be the largest ever held in this country. Scheduled to begin at 9 p.m., the 25-minute display set to music tells the story of America's immigrants and of the seven continents and seven seas.

Eleven steel reinforced barges, previously used to haul sand or cement, will carry the fireworks out

into the Hudson River under Coast Guard escort, Chius said. Plans call for one to be moored outside Liberty State Park in Jersey City and the others to be anchored in a ring around the Battery in lower Manhattan.

He said pleasure craft will not be allowed within 1,000 feet of the barges. Officials here said the city foresees no extra expenses from serving as a staging ground. The promoters have agreed to use local businesses and workers where possible, he said.

Details of a lottery for pier seats for the fireworks are expected to be announced next week.

"I believe the objectors should seek private counsel and take the matter to civil court," Callagy said. "If the original deed had restrictions in it, then they were for the benefit of the homeowners."

However, the residents' complaints with the city's sewage system were echoed by the Public Works director.

"There has been a serious problem with the sewage connections in the Willow Terrace complex," Roy Haack, the acting-director of Environmental Services, wrote to Vezzetti.

"It is my recommendation that (homeowners) not be allowed to expand these houses from one-family to two-family until the sewer problem is resolved. It should be noted that this creates a serious health problem in these complexes," Haack said.

Vezzetti said the homeowners were "absolutely right" in protesting the conversion of homes. "This whole thing is insane. This is an historical area and I fully support keeping it that way," Vezzetti said.

"I'll do all I can to see that this is resolved," Vezzetti said.

Tons of fireworks will be assembled at Hoboken shore

By Margaret Schmidt

Tons of fireworks for the Statue of Liberty centennial spectacular will be loaded and assembled on 33 barges docked at the old Hoboken Shipyards, officials said yesterday.

Although various officials declined to specify or said they didn't know the exact amount of fireworks to be in the city, one production source said 20 tons of explosives will be used in the show.

The fireworks, created by four companies, should begin arriving in Hoboken on June 30, four days before the July Fourth extravaganza, sources said.

Months of negotiations and intercession by Rep. Frank Guarini were required before the staging plans were completed.

Hoboken Public Safety Director Edwin Chius, in announcing that the fireworks will

be loaded in Hoboken, said yesterday that security will be provided by several agencies and that a "safety zone" will be created so the "low-grade" explosives are 2,000 feet from the nearest building and away from passing ships.

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Trimietti said that, although the presence of explosives may be frightening, there's more explosive capacity in a propane, liquid hydrogen or gasoline truck than in all the fireworks combined.

"There's still a risk," he said. "But it's a small risk."

The question of terrorism, which is often brought up regarding the centennial weekend, was avoided by most officials, although some sources said the military may protect the shipyards. There was no official confirmation of that.

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however.

While Chius and other city officials said they believed it was best to make it public knowledge that the massive fireworks display will leave from Hoboken, Liberty Weekend organizers wanted to keep it quiet.

Omar Lehrman, the associate producer for pyrotechnics with Liberty Weekend, said from his New York office yesterday that he thought publicity wasn't in the public interest. Writing a newspaper article about it was akin to "shouting 'Fire' in a movie house," he said.

City officials, who said they weren't formally notified about the fireworks until yesterday, said, however, that they thought it best to inform Hoboken and Hudson County residents and assure them that all possible precautions are being taken.

Chius said there will be 11 barges, but Lehrman explained that each of those is actually three connected barges. Once placed for the display, there will be 11 locations — 10 ringing the tip of Manhattan and one behind the statue.

Lehrman refused to specify how many tons of fireworks will be in the city, saying the question was insignificant. "It's a very large show," he said, "bigger than a breadbox,"

He added: "One firework is just as dangerous as 250,000 tons."

Lehrman also refused to say how much insurance is being carried for the Hoboken site. "It's an excess of what the shipyard requires and what the local regulations call for," he said.

City officials said they didn't know how much insurance was being carried.

While most officials said Hoboken was the only site that could accommodate the fireworks, some sources said New York locations had been suggested but were rejected

because of the insurance liability issue and the threat of terrorism.

Rep. Guarini said he worked about two months to get all the necessary approvals in place. The use of the inactive shipyards was complicated because the property is in the process of being sold by Braswell Shipyards of Charleston, S.C., to Hoboken developer Anthony Dell' Aquila.

The sale is being handled through federal bankruptcy court. The sale is complex because Columbia, S.C. Braswell has filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, which must approve a cleanup of the site before any development can begin, was also involved.

"We satisfied both the state of New Jersey and Mr. Braswell's legal battery," the congressman said. Dell' Aquila had no objection to using the site for the fireworks.

"For a while, it looked like we would have had to phase back the fireworks to a very small level," he said. "There was no other place that was large enough to take care of the storage or locating, as a base for the fireworks."

The shipyards, once the busiest on the East Coast, have been virtually dormant since Braswell filed for bankruptcy protection in 1984. The nearest building is Dell' Aquila's light manufacturing building, the old Standard Brands building.

The pier that will be used is approximately at 15th Street, a city block away from the shipyards' entrance at 14th and Hudson streets, Chius said.

The fireworks, most of which are coming from the Far East, will be stored in Long Island until "the last minute," Chius said, when they will be shipped to Hoboken. It isn't known whether the materials will be sent via land or boat, he said.

The materials will be in protective steel containers and then assembled and arranged on the barges by workers from the fireworks companies. It is impossible that an accident could cause a chain reaction and explode all containers, Chius said.

They will leave Hoboken two-by-two and be positioned 1,000 feet apart in the river. Once the barges are in their places, no pleasure craft will be allowed past, officials said.

Officials are expecting 40,000 pleasure craft in New York Harbor for the July Fourth festivities and say about 1,500 will most likely break down.

The fireworks display is scheduled for 9:30 to 10 p.m. July Fourth. The barges will ring the tip of Manhattan from approximately Chambers Street (across the Hudson from Jersey City's Harborside Terminal) to Wall Street on the East River side.

Continued from Page 1

the building are caused when heavy vehicles pass on Observer Highway and Newark Street because of bumps in the roadways. Paving should solve that problem, he said.

He denied he has any conflict of interest, as protestors had charged, because he owns property across the street. The presence of the firehouse is advantageous to him as a landowner, he said.

Protests began at 5 a.m. yesterday and by 7 a.m. there was a solid line of demonstrators, many of them children from St. Joseph's School.

Around 7 a.m., Hunnewinkel and the others heard construction begin, so a small group moved to the dirt lot. Construction workers were attempting to remove 200,000 pounds of steel beams and other materials that had been used in a test pile drive to see how much weight the land could stand.

Hunnewinkel, however, "just walked in" the fenced lot and sat on piping, preventing any more work, she said.

Weiss pleaded with the nun to leave, telling her no pile-driving was going to be done and saying he had 25 men ready to work who had to be paid whether they worked or stood on the sidewalk. He assured her that he would work with the demonstrators to resolve the problem.

Hunnewinkel refused to leave, however, saying she would continue her sit-in until she received a written guarantee from the city.

At 11 a.m., Weiss asked police to arrest Hunnewinkel and remove her from the area. She was put in a squad car and taken to police headquarters at City Hall where she was processed.

"She can't sit there all day long," he said. "Look at all these guys. . . I'm going to have to have her removed."

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, who stayed away from the protests, said at an unrelated groundbreaking later in the day that plans were under way to resolve the dispute. Asked about Hunnewinkel's arrest, he said, "She wanted to dramatize the situation."

Public Safety Director Edwin Chius said at last night's caucus that the Skyline developers had offered to pay for repairs to the peak. The firefighters and equipment may have to be moved across the street while patching is done so that they don't disrupt the work if an alarm is called in.

The city Community Development Agency will approach state and county officials, he added, to secure funding for the rehabilitation.

Protesters had said they feared the relocation of the truck company to Eighth and Clinton streets would endanger the southwest part of Hoboken, which has four schools, the project and newly rehabilitated housing.

"It's not acceptable to us," said St. Joseph's teacher Kare Kaitzeissen, citing longer response time, Hoboken traffic, and the truck's inability to round some corners.

Hoboken crosses its fingers against fear of fireworks

By Margaret Schmidt

Representatives of Hoboken's Second Ward are concerned about the assembly of 20 tons of fireworks for the Statue of Liberty centennial at the old Hoboken shipyards, but say they are reassured that every possible precaution will be taken.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave said he was very concerned about the plans when he first heard of them several weeks ago but now believes the situation isn't "as dangerous" as he'd thought. City officials weren't formally told of the plans until Thursday.

"I was very concerned about it originally — not just as a councilman, my whole family lives in this area," he said. The shipyard, now inactive, is on the Hudson River from 13th to 17th streets.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, who was the Second Ward representative for two years before becoming mayor, said he has "trepidations" about the event but believes organizers and public safety officials have truthfully represented potential hazards.

"I'm never satisfied, but I can say in all honesty (the security) is as good as can be, considering the total situation," he said.

He said he is worried about

the possibility of an accident setting off the "low grade" explosives rather than about the threat of terrorism that has concerned planners of July Fourth festivities.

Most city officials said they aren't pleased that the fireworks will be in Hoboken several days but won't try to block the staging because organizers say the shipyard is the only viable site. Without the use of the piers, they said, the show would have to be scaled down tremendously.

The fireworks, created by four companies, will be the highlight of the July Fourth celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. The show, set for 9:30 to 10 p.m., is being billed as the largest ever in the country.

The explosives will be shipped to Hoboken for loading onto 33 barges. Most of the barges will ring the tip of Manhattan, and some will be placed behind the Statue to keep it bathed in light.

While the fireworks are at the shipyard there will be 24-hour security on land and in the Hudson River. Security will range from New Jersey State Police to New York City Harbor patrols and the Coast Guard.

Multi-family conversions draw protests from Hoboken residents

By Bill Campbell

Fearing a potential "explosive situation," homeowners of Willow Terrace have petitioned the Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment to protest the conversion of one-family homes into multi-family dwellings.

"With so few people occupying these homes, the sewers are in such bad condition that any additional burden will create an explosive situation," said the petition which was signed by 53 homeowners.

The residents first notified the city of their objections in a March 20 letter to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti. The letter, which expressed concern over the conversion of three Willow Terrace homes, triggered a flurry of letters between the mayor and various city and planning officials.

"Double occupancy will have a disastrous effect on the six-inch city-owned sewer that service 32 homes per court," the homeowners maintained. The residents have also

cited the original 100-year-old search and deed of the homes which they claim prohibits the creation of multiple dwellings and limits business ventures.

Residents have objected to the conversion of three homes into a rooming house, a multiple occupancy dwelling and a rental home and land management company.

A fourth home is in the process of conversion to a residence and antique gallery, the homeowners said.

Vezzetti said the homeowners were "absolutely right" in protesting the conversion of homes. "This whole thing is insane. This is an historical area and I fully support keeping it that way," Vezzetti said.

"I'll do all I can to see that this is resolved," Vezzetti said.

Parking lot approved

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hoboken Planning Board considered two applications to open parking lots at its meeting on Monday.

The board agreed to allow West Bank Construction, developers of the Jefferson Trust Condominiums on Clinton Street between First and

Newark streets, to open spaces in their parking garage to local residents.

The developers told the board that many residents of the condominiums do not own cars, according to Michael Ocello, board chairman. The board agreed to allow West Bank to rent the extra spaces, with

priority given to area residents and business owners.

According to Ocello, some 50 units out of 105 at Jefferson Trust have been sold so far. Only 26 of those units utilize the parking spaces provide them.

The Planning Board also received a new application from Thomas Stagnitti and Anthony

Dell'Aquila to operate a parking lot at Washington and 14th Streets. The lot has been in operation without city approval for several months and has been the subject of a dispute between the owners and city officials.

Neighbors have claimed that the lot was built on parts of their property, while city officials

claim the operators did not seek variances to operate the commercial business in an industrial zone.

The board denied the first application for the lot last week, but an attorney for the owners said they would submit revised maps of the property, an engineering survey and en-

vironmental data with the new application.

Ocello said the board plans to review the surveys submitted by Stagnitti and Dell' Aquila before reaching a decision on the new application. The board is still waiting for the developers to submit a study on the sewage system on the property.

Every day is for mothers in this Hoboken home

By BRENDAN NOONAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The Mother's Day card was addressed to Mrs. Bell, but there is no Mrs. Bell at 303 Madison St. There is Christopher Bell, however, and the good-natured nun who sent the card knows he has played the role of Mom often enough.

Bell, 28, operates the St. Francis Home for unwed mothers here. Yesterday four young women and their babies marked the observance quietly at the neat, wood-frame house, which stands out amid rundown tenements in a neighborhood that hasn't quite been reached by the city's renaissance.

The shelter has provided a fresh

start, however, for about 25 mothers in the 14 months since Bell opened the facility. Up to six mothers can stay with their babies, and four are living there now.

Yesterday 19-year-old Diane sat in the back yard and reflected on the two months she has spent at the home. It was the first Mother's Day on which she was among the honorees.

"It's real strange," she said. "I felt like I grew up overnight." Her daughter is three months old. Diane, who asked not to give her last name, came to the home from Pennsylvania, leaving behind a string of tragedies that she doesn't talk about in much detail.

But there is little time for any of the clients here to feel sorry for See MOTHERS, Page 8

Continued from Page 1 themselves. All must go to school or to work, with one becoming independent. A staff of volunteer baby sitters cares for those children who are too young to be placed in day care.

"It's just to get the girls to do something, instead of just sit around and not have goals," Diane said. She said she is attending a local business school and will graduate in August, after which the home will provide job placement services.

At the center of the operation is B.J., a slight, soft-spoken man who came to this vocation by a roundabout route. Despite his best efforts to avoid it, circumstance steered him to open the home on March 10, 1985, in the former convent of St. Francis Church.

Bell was born on Long Island, N.Y., and attended the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, graduating with a degree in journalism and international relations. He was a reporter at the New Haven Journal Courier for a short time, then came to New York in 1979 to work at Covenant House, a shelter for homeless youths operated by a priest near Times Square.

During his five years at Covenant House, Bell said, one recurring tragedy began to make him angry. "I couldn't believe that there were young women with kids who had no place to go," Bell said.

"I complained a lot about it," he

said. Finally, one prominent priest in the New York archdiocese asked Bell, "Why don't you do something about it?"

The Rev. Benedict Groeschel offered to let Bell stay at a home for boys in Brooklyn and operate from there. And the day Bell approached the Rev. Father Bruce Ritter, head of Covenant House, Ritter had a memo on his desk saying there were only six emergency beds for pregnant women in the city.

Bell later admitted he was starting to feel cornered. And then Groeschel told him there was an empty convent available here. When Bell visited it, the Rev. Timothy Lyons of St. Francis Church asked him, "When can you move in?"

Bell moved in on New Year's Eve 1984 and less than three months later, the home was open. Here, an option is offered for mothers who choose to keep their baby, rather than abort it or give it up for adoption.

"I just really wanted to keep my child," Diane said. "It's a place where I can stay and get on my feet."

The home, supported entirely by private donations and the contributions of local church parishes, welcomes donations of money, food, and baby items — but not clothing, Bell stressed. The mailing address is Box 6068, Hoboken 07030, and the telephone number is 798-9039.

Hoboken's Liberty party plans heat up

5-20-86 Dispatch
No tickets? Still plenty to do

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The city is pulling out the stops for Liberty Weekend. Although Pier A tickets for the July 4 fireworks and Op Sail extravaganza are limited to city residents, the 30,000 expected visitors will find plenty to keep them happy.

This is the lineup of events: City Hall will host two patriotic displays, running from June 14 to July 7, excluding weekends. Lady Liberty herself is the star of "Images of Liberty," a photography exhibit assembled by the State of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. Hundreds of entries in the "Design the Hoboken Flag" contest also will be shown.

Sailors from the international naval fleet have shore leave July 3-4. Some 3,000 of them will be visiting Hoboken.

The smaller ships from Op Sail will be berthed south of Pier A July 4-6. You can look at — but not board — the vessels.

The international fleet sails into New York Harbor, heralding the parade of the Tall Ships. The time is 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. July 4. Op Sail takes off at 10:30 a.m. from the Verrazano Bridge and heads north toward the George Washington

Bridge.

America's biggest ever fireworks display will take place at 9:30 p.m. July 4.

Two daylong festivals are set for July 4-5. At the Pier A parking lot, the city's musicians, dancers and actors will be playing to the crowds for free. An ethnic food fair is planned for River Street between First and Fourth streets.

Volunteers, 18 years of age or older, are needed to staff information booths, sell posters and set up. Recruits get a T-shirt and free tickets. To register, call Carole McLaughlin of the Community Development Agency, 420-2220.

Food vendors interested in getting a booth at the festival should get in touch with the CDA's Donald Liloia at 420-2396. A fee is charged. Proceeds from the festival and pier ticket fees will go to defray weekend expenses city officials have estimated at \$70,000. On June 9 the hotline for Hoboken Liberty Weekend events will switch on. That number is 420-2009.

City officials, however, are urging people seeking information about other Liberty Weekend events to call the main number in New York: 212-972-3434. A brochure can be obtained by sending \$1 to Liberty Weekend, Box 2021, Murray Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10156-0701.

5-20-86 Dispatch
Luck's needed to snag spots

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—City residents will need a bit of luck and \$5 to snag a ringside seat for Liberty Weekend's two crowning events.

Tickets for July 4 viewing posts on Pier A for the Op Sail parade of tall ships and the fireworks show will be distributed by lottery, the city and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials said at a news conference yesterday. Admission to the pier during Liberty Weekend is by ticket only to avoid exceeding its safe load of 5,000 spectators, they said.

This is how the lottery works: Registrations will be available beginning today from Washington Street merchants. The forms may be used to apply for a maximum of four tickets for the weekend.

The viewing shifts are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Op Sail and 6 to 11 p.m. for the fireworks. The fee for each ticket is \$5.

There is no charge for tickets to view the sailing vessels moored along the waterfront on July 5. The two shifts are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to dusk. The pier will be cleared between each event.

Ticket applications can be split among the events. A first and sec-

ond choice should be specified.

Registration forms are to be sent to Hoboken Liberty Weekend, Box 1896, Hoboken 07030. They must be received by June 6.

Applications will be disqualified if they do not contain a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a check or money order for \$5 for each ticket, made out to Hoboken Advantage.

Tickets will be issued as the registration forms are drawn. When the supply of July 4 tickets is exhausted, free tickets for July 5 will be sent to applicants along with their checks or money orders. All others will have their payment returned along with a list of free public viewing sites.

City officials expect to distribute 7,000 tickets by lottery for each of the two days. The other tickets are reserved for municipal workers, volunteers, organizers of the event and the press.

Spectators will have to bring their own seats. A ban on bottled drinks at the waterfront will be enforced during the weekend.

Officials suggested Stevens and Elysian parks and Sinatra Drive as other good vantage points for the Liberty Weekend spectacular.

Real life hostage drama seems like a movie to Hoboken victim



Hoboken police officers, from left, Detectives Augie Sufara and Dave Costello and Vincent Lombardi, check out confiscated weapons and phony bomb.

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken police staged a payoff yesterday to trap an alleged extortionist who, they said, had held two businessmen and a factory hostage and threatened them with two shotguns and a fake time bomb.

Police arrested 25-year-old Oscar Corriano of Hoboken on extortion and various weapons charges after capturing him at Second and Harrison street, police said. The incident is still under investigation and more arrests may follow, police said.

"It was like a movie," said 22-year-old Ritauraj Bejjal of Flushing, N.Y., one of the victims, at police headquarters, "too much like a movie."

The staged payoff, in which Bejjal pretended he was going to give in to Corriano's alleged demand for \$4,000, was the culmination of several months of criminal incidents at Orient Originals, 561 Observer Highway, said police and Bejjal.

The incidents date to a robbery of 12 blank checks several months ago, Bejjal said. At the time, Corriano was employed by Orient Originals in a position similar to foreman and often acted as interpreter for Hispanic workers, he said.

"He was an extremely hard worker," said Bejjal, who is visiting the importing company and factory from its parent company, Rituraj Textile and General Industries, Private Ltd., New Delhi. "We never suspected him."

Stops were put on the 12 checks after a check cashing agency was suspicious of one brought in for a small amount. See REAL LIFE — Page 15.

he said. The police weren't called in, however, until a second robbery in which two checkbooks and the remainder of the first book were taken, Bejjal said, adding that the haul amounted to about 1,400 checks.

The accounts were closed and a few complaints were received because of bad checks being passed in Hoboken, Bejjal said. A merchant, who reportedly knew Corriano, decided to make a complaint and a warrant was issued for Corriano's arrest, Bejjal said.

At that point, he said, "I was going to fire him, but before I could do that, he quit."

On Saturday four other checks were reported missing, he said.

"Monday passed with no incident," he said, "but on Tuesday he showed up with two guns."

Bejjal and another victim from the parent company, Radhakrishnan Ramachandra, 31, also of Flushing, were in the fourth-floor office around 10:30 a.m. when Corriano allegedly came in wielding a 12-gauge single-shot shotgun and a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle with a telescopic sight, police said.

He also showed Ramachandra a wired alarm clock taped to batteries and wads of paper that he said was a time bomb, police said. Officers checked the device and determined it was only a prop.

A few minutes later, Corriano told a woman sewing machine operator to come into the office, and he held their hostage until 1 p.m., Bejjal said. He allegedly demanded \$4,000 for bail money.

"We kept talking to him," he explained. "We told him we were very scared. We said, 'We'll give you the money.'"

The woman, a Hoboken resident not identified in initial police reports, cried for a while but then calmed down as the men tried to pacify Corriano, Bejjal said.

Corriano, Bejjal said, finally let the group leave and Bejjal and Ramachandra went to their company president's Manhattan because they did not know what to do. They returned to Hoboken around 4:30 and went to police who searched the factory building on a report that Corriano was living there.

The search was led by Detective Sgt. Paul DiMartino and Detective Brian Murphy, the original investigators.

When the search led to nothing, police cooked up a trap since the alleged extortionist was scheduled to call Bejjal yesterday morning to pick up the cash.

The first phone call went to the factory and then an unidentified man police believe was acting with Corriano entered seeking employment. When he left, Corriano called to change the meeting place to the corner of First and Jackson streets, police said.

Detectives David Costello, Tony Anich, Vincent Lombardi and August Sufara, directed by Lt. Martin Kiely, arrested Corriano at Second and Harrison streets around 1 p.m., before he reached Bejjal, who had a manila envelope to give him, police said.

A subsequent search of the factory building turned up the fake time bomb, several burglary tools, and a red bag, black woolen gloves and a miniature globe, police said. A ground-floor loading dock was undetermined as guns were stolen.

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT in Hoboken officially got under way yesterday, as ground was broken for an eight-story office building at 2 Hudson Place, near the Erie Lackawanna Terminal. The \$10.75 million Baker Building, of which a model is shown in the foreground, is expected to be completed within 18 months.

Cool wind chills marathon fever on Mile-Square City

By Margaret Schmidt

Marathon fever nearly passed Hoboken by yesterday as only a few clusters of spectators made it out to the race course.

Police and other officials monitoring the New Jersey Waterfront Marathon as it looped through Hoboken for more than two miles attributed the lack of widespread enthusiasm to a combination of the windy, chilly weather, the early hour and a need for more advertisement.

Their reasoning was buoyed later in the day as hundreds gathered at either end of Hoboken under a warm sun for the second annual Hoboken Waterfront Arts Festival and a "band fest."

An elderly couple at Arak's Grocery on Washington Street epitomized the marathon mood in Hoboken. "Is it over, Ma?" the man asked. "Yes, Pa, it's over."

"The only problem seems to be that half the people don't know about (the marathon)," said National Guardsman James Baker from his post at Ninth and Washington streets. "The merchants didn't seem to be abreast of the fact that the marathon was going on" and residents seemed unaware that they had to move their cars.

So many cars were left along Washington Street that police had to stop towing because lots were full. The 26.2-mile race along the Hudson River waterfront began in Jersey City, Miles 8 through 10 were marked in Hoboken, and a course that began on the 14th Street Viaduct, turned onto the Washington Street, then Newark Street, and used River Street two weapons, and Frank Sinatra Drive for the rest of the race.

Top runners reached Hoboken shortly after 10 a.m., and several were undeterred as guns were stolen.

Paul Drazen, 23, a Hoboken resident and student at Sarah Lawrence College in Westchester, received some unexpected support as he ran through Hoboken. Some people apparently studied the list of nearly 2,000 runners and watched for Hoboken residents' numbers, he said.

"I heard my name a couple of times," he said as he was walking home along Washington Street after finishing the race. He clocked in at 3 hours, 41 minutes, "pretty good," he said, for his first marathon.

Many of the runners participating to test their endurance rather than to try for a win seemed to enjoy Hoboken's bands. The Hoboken High School band greeted runners at City Hall, on First and Washington streets, and rock bands at 14th Street had many runners dancing in the streets.

Also at 14th Street was Mayor Thomas Vezetti, without his bullhorn, cheering and clapping for runners. "I applauded so much my hands hurt," he said. Asked if he plans to run a marathon, he said, "Me? I'd drop dead. Politics is enough running. Physical running is not my strong point."

Vezetti said he was surprised at the low turnout of spectators but couldn't guess why. "I don't like to dogmatize," he said.

While one man said he wanted to see the runners because it's an emotional experience to watch men and women testing their endurance, one woman said she caught the race by chance, bolting from a laundromat to the sidewalk when she spotted the groups of runners.

Several people asked what was happening when they saw the added police and the National Guardsmen. One woman asked Leroy Carter of the Fifth Medical Battalion

Company of the National Guard if terrorists were reported in Hoboken.

The band fest attracted hundreds of listeners from what police called an older crowd, men and women in their 20s and 30s, some from out of town. Ten Hoboken bands played during the daylong concert, which ran long past its 3 p.m. deadline.

The arts festival held at the Erie-Lackawanna Plaza at the other end of town also attracted hundreds of participants. Fifty-three Hoboken artists displayed works ranging from paintings and photographs to handmade jewelry and silk clothing while Alan Quinn and the Two O'Clock Jump band played Big Band, jazz and rock music.

The festival also included women sketching portraits, a variety of foods and special attractions such as horse-and-buggy rides and photographer Bob Foster, snapping Polaroid pictures of men, women, children and pets with their faces through Statue of Liberty cutouts.

no reason to prosecute."

He continued: "All we really wanted to do was get our job under way and come to a peaceful resolution on the firehouse."

Weiss said that he and Hunnewinkel understood each other's positions and have no animosity toward each other.

He noted that a neighborhood party is set for tonight outside the firehouse to proclaim "we Saved Our Firehouse."

"We're all going," he said. "We're friends."



Photo by Don Smith

KATHRYN CROSBY and Bruce Stephen Foster, center, join the Hoboken High School band on Bloomfield Street yesterday during a block party to kick off the Bing Crosby golf tournament in North Carolina.

HOBOKEN PARTY

Crosby promotes golf tourney

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The home where composer Stephen Foster wrote the plaintive "I Dream of Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair" was rocking to a different beat yesterday.

"Celebrating America at the Crosby," boomed the loudspeakers in front of 601 Bloomfield St., "where golf and charity go hand in hand, for celebrities and friends across the land."

Attired in a red dress and turban that nearly matched the uniforms of the assembled Hoboken High School band, actress Kathryn Crosby was in town at a kickoff party for the \$2 million golf tournament honoring crooner Bing Crosby, her late husband.

Crosby afterward said she has been considering entering real estate ventures with local developer Patrick Reynolds, but would not elaborate.

At the event, Reynolds announced he and the Elysian Savings & Loan Association would pay \$20,000 to

enter a team of golfers in the match.

Crosby, who hails from Texas, said she had found Hoboken a charming place reminiscent "of the little town I grew up in."

The bouncy tune that has become the new theme song for the annual golf classic was a gift to Crosby from two New Jersey songwriters, Bruce Stephen Foster and Tom Marolda. Foster said he is a "great-grandcousin" of his famous namesake, who lived here briefly around 1854.

Crosby expects a field of 100 two-member teams pairing a celebrity and a business leader to turn out for the tournament, set for June 5-8 in Bermuda Run, N.C.

Reynolds' team is to consist of Wayne Yngstrom, a salesman in his firm, P.A. Reynolds & Associates Inc., and an as yet unnamed state politician.

The governors of all 50 states have been invited to take part, but some "aren't willing to risk their golf games," Crosby quipped.

Top prize in the contest is \$500,000, which goes to a charity of the winner's choice. All teams play with a handicap to even out their chances and are assured of taking home at least \$5,000 for their favorite cause.

Reynolds has earmarked the purse money for St. Mary's Hospital here.

"I believe in St. Mary's," Reynolds said. "I have a business in Hoboken. I'm a developer in Hoboken."

His current projects include the conversion of the old Hotel Victor and a pending deal for development rights to the proposed Presidential Towers condominium complex downtown.

Bob Hope, Pearl Bailey and Mike Douglas are among the show business personalities expected to play the North Carolina course.

The tournament last year was a professional-amateur match held in Pebble Beach, Calif. Crosby said the format and location had been changed to make sure that the bulk of the purse goes to charity.



Photo by John Decker

ERIC PETERSON, left, Janet Wygal and Fabianne Hudkova of the Band Wygals play at 14th and Washington streets in Hoboken yesterday during the arts festival held during the New Jersey Waterfront Marathon.

Dispatch 5-5-86

Fun-loving city has a festival to fall in with the foot race

HOBOKEN—The pack of runners thundered through yesterday morning, greeted by loudspeaker-amplified rock at one end of town, the brass tones of a high school band at the other and a scattered cheering section in between.

As the city's musicians, artisans, students and native-born came out to celebrate the New Jersey Waterfront Marathon, they also turned the day into a celebration of the city once dubbed "the Seacoast of Bohemia."

Robert Miller, attired in leather jacket and orange-rimmed sun-

glasses, had staked out a spot at Washington and 14th streets, in front of the stand where groups with names such as "Who's Your Daddy" and "The Cucumbers" were going through their paces.

Hoboken sound runs heavily to 'nouveau country' and rock

The Hoboken sound, explained Miller, who works at a recording studio, runs heavily to "nouveau country" and rock 'n' roll.

"It has energy," he said. "That's appropriate. These guys at this point could use a little energy."

"There are a million-and-one styles," was the verdict of a man a few blocks farther down Washington Street, watching the mara-

thons run by as he waited for an 11 a.m. worship service to begin. "Most of them are, appealingly bad," added the Trinity Church parishioner.

Although some of the viewers were nursing paper containers of hot coffee in the brisk weather, marathoners eagerly were stretching arms along the route.

On the Hoboken back stretch, near Elysian Park, members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Sigma Phi fraternities at Stevens Tech had 2,000 drinks of water and a squirt bottle of sucrose ready to go.

The brothers were supposed to be in Hawaiian dress, but J.P. Granatelli was the only one who came through. "I'm cool, and nobody else is," he said.

Meanwhile, another fraternity man was about to go for the beer. "This is a marathon, people," he said. "You should be drinking."

By 11:30 a.m., the cheering had stopped, and the paper cups were blowing down the street in the wind. It was all over except for people such as the West Orange woman who had to go to police headquarters in search of her car.

"Every time I come here, something happens," she lamented.

According to a couple of National Guardsmen stationed downtown, the fanfare surrounding the marathon hadn't extended to equal publicity of the no-parking zones. The towing began at 6 a.m. and continued until there was no more room in the city lot, said Leroy Carver, who was on duty with the Jersey City-based 50th Medical Battalion, Company B.

'Down all the side streets, people have wonderful hidden gardens'

To keep the momentum going after the race, the city sponsored an afternoon arts festival. Passing patrons having brunch at the Riverstreet Restaurant and a Realtor's open house inviting passersby to "Come Home to Hoboken," the crowd moved to Erie Lackawanna Plaza.

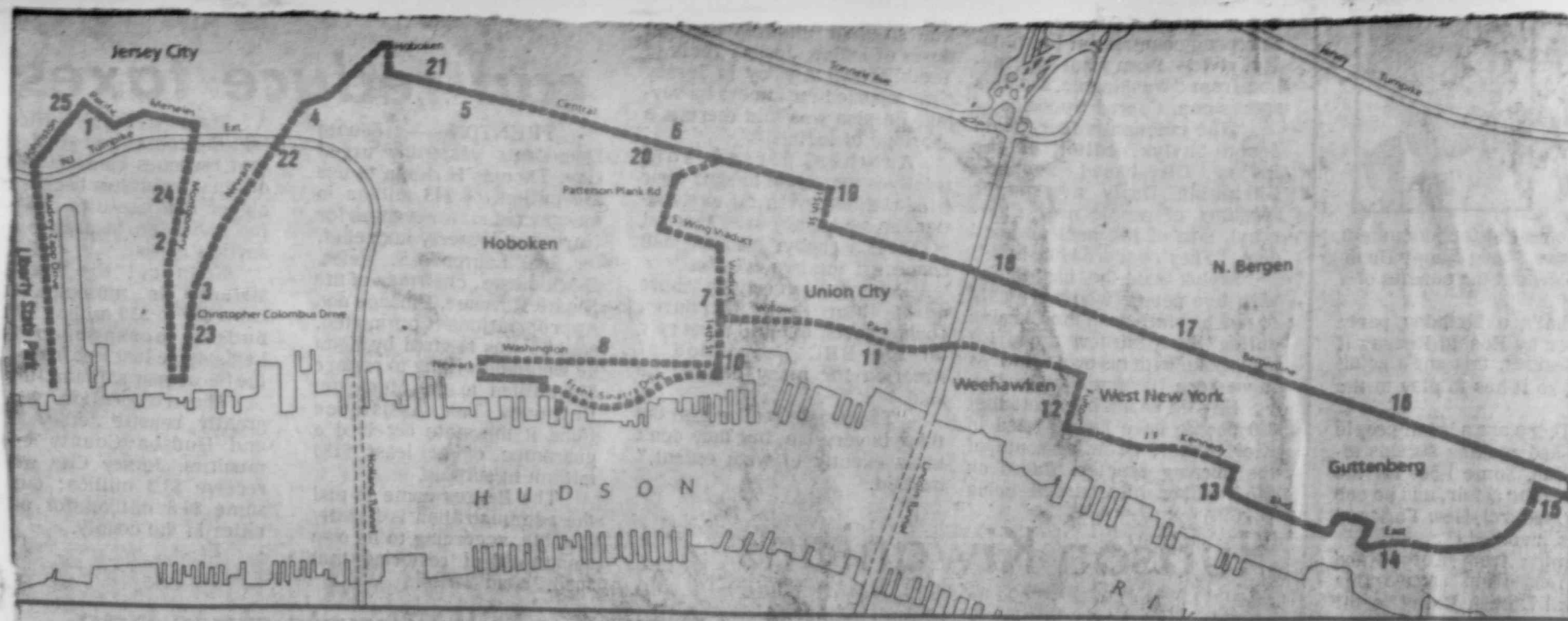
There, Mayor Thomas F. Yezzerli worked the crowd, a few feet away from a booth selling T-shirts bearing his picture and his slogan — "Always a Pleasure" — with the proceeds to be split between a tenants' group and the city's homeless shelter.

This was a showcase, too, for the Statue of Liberty. Her likeness appearing in a foam-rubber sculpture, a cardboard cutout next to which patrons could pose and have their pictures taken for \$4, and photographs.

Other art for sale ran heavily to portraits and Manhattan skyline scenes. One exception was a group of sketches of the vivid flowers that bloom in the city streets.

"When I do flowers, it's like nothing else exists," said artist Bill Curran.

"Down all the side streets, people have wonderful hidden gardens."



This is the official race course for Sunday's New Jersey Waterfront Marathon.

When marathoners run, all else goes slowly

By Silvia Ascarelli

Sunday's New Jersey Waterfront Marathon will pose major obstacles to Hudson County motorists trying to attend church services or to leave the area.

Police in the various communities which the 26.2-mile race will traverse suggest adding up to an hour in travel times because of the event. Each community is allowing

traffic to cross the marathon course during a lull in the action, but most are limiting cross-traffic to a few streets.

Unlike last year, Kennedy Boulevard is not part of the course and will be open to traffic the entire day.

In Jersey City, where both the first and last six miles of the race will be, roads will close at 8:30 a.m. and reopen at 3:30 p.m., said Deputy Police Chief Raymond Blaszczak. The five-

mile course will be closed until about 11 a.m.

Each intersection along the race route will be manned by a police officer who will allow cars across at his discretion, Blaszczak said.

He recommends that residents going Downtown add an hour for traveling and those along Central Avenue plan on an extra half-hour. He suggests walking whenever possible.

"There will be some traffic backups, but we will try to expedite it to the best of our ability," he said.

He recommends those coming into Jersey City from the south use exit 15E on the New Jersey Turnpike instead of exit 14C. In order to avoid marathoners and traffic snarls, those going to or coming from Bergen County should use Kennedy Boulevard.

In Hoboken, streets leading to the marathon route and the route itself will be closed from 9:45 a.m. to noon, said Lt. John

Howe. Anyone in Hoboken should expect to spend an extra 30 minutes trying to get around town.

Police said cross traffic will only be allowed at intersections where a police officer is stationed.

Parking is prohibited along the race route from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., police said. Howe said

See WHEN — Page 9.

Zone board denies variance for condo on Bloomfield St.

By Bill Campbell

After nearly a year of hearings and deliberation, the Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment Tuesday denied variances to the developers of a controversial project at 222 Bloomfield St.

In a 5-to-2 vote, the board refused to grant variances for floor-area ratio and prevailing height to Shumba Inc., developers of the condominium project.

"It was a very long and arduous process," said alternate board member Tom Newman, an opponent of the project. "We've had about half a dozen meetings scheduled with the developer and the vote was a very difficult decision."

Zoning code official Alfred

Arezzo, who issued work permits to the developers last spring, halted work last August after residents, including Newman, charged that proper variances were not obtained.

Arezzo said the permit was issued based on information submitted by the architect. The information concluded that variances were not needed.

At the time work was stopped on the project, a fifth-floor penthouse was nearly completed.

In an interview last summer, Peter Addison of Shumba said he was unaware of zoning problems. "I acted in good faith and I thought I had all the necessary permits," he said.



Fellow workers at Hoboken's Clam Broth House toast Beverly Hans, center, as she prepares for Sunday's New Jersey Waterfront Marathon.

Waitress, 46, will run first marathon

By Margaret Schmidt

By the time Beverly Hans hits Mile 8 of Sunday's New Jersey Waterfront Marathon, she expects to see her husband and 15-year-old daughter.

"They better be out there," she says with a slightly panicked edge to her voice. How else can she make the rest of the 26.2-mile run, she asks.

Hans, 46, one of two Hoboken and 15 Hudson County women in the race, is making her first marathon run and is looking for all the moral support available.

To give a little extra purpose to her run she'll be wearing a Clam Broth House T-shirt and will "run for" the restaurant-lounge where she has waitressed for the last decade and a half.

"It's turning out to be quite an experience," Hans says. She's received lots of encouragement

from her co-workers and employers, and since her name appeared in a list of marathoners, she's gotten several "good luck" phone calls.

Hans expects the best part of the race to be in Hoboken when her mini-cheering section greets her. Hoboken marks Miles 8 through 10 in the Hudson County course.

Hans has set a seemingly modest goal for her first marathon — to finish it. To prepare for the race she's done some long-distance runs in Hoboken and Weehawken and clocked in at 2½ hours when she did 20 miles recently.

"That last six," she predicts, "is going to be an experience."

Hans started running about four years ago. She recalls waking up one spring day and feeling sluggish. Just to do something, she donned sneakers and made a

her first run — around the corner. When she hit her first milestone and made it from her Third Street home to 14th Street, she says gleefully, "I was so proud of myself."

Now, she generally runs from Hoboken into Weehawken's Boulevard East where the sidewalk provides a trafficless run and where "you can't get a better view" of the Hudson River and Manhattan skyline.

The tall and muscular Hans, who wears her hair with a long braid down her back, has used the marathon as an excuse to push herself further in her body. She'll be running to test that endurance on Sunday and has no intention of trying for a win.

A Georgia native with a warm Southern accent, Hans and her husband, James, an historian, share a penchant for

collecting Hoboken memorabilia. Their daughter, Polly, a 10th-grader at Hoboken's Hudson School, is being wooed by Hans as a potential running partner.

The Hanses moved to Hoboken from New York around 1966 after visiting the city. "It was love at first sight," she says. "We came back the next day and found an apartment."

They later bought their own home. She finds both Hoboken and the Clam Broth House "uniquely charming" because they represent a myriad of styles and ways of life.

Like most of the 220 women and 1,607 men entered in Sunday's marathon, Hans is hoping for a cool day so she can run with less exertion. Asked if she's planning any more long runs, she shrugs her shoulders, laughs and leaves her sentence unended. "If I can pull this one off..."

City Council is closing in on waterfront development

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hoboken City Council last night discussed legislation that would authorize the accounting firm of Ernst and Whinney to resume negotiations with the Port Authority, paving the way for the proposed waterfront development.

Councilman Robert Ranieri sponsored the resolution during a caucus at City Hall. He called it a "compromise measure." It will come before the council for a vote during tomorrow's regular council meeting.

"The city is approaching its centennial of having accomplished nothing on waterfront development."

Ranieri said in introducing the resolution. Ernst and Whinney had done approximately \$50,000 worth of work for the city before they stopped negotiations in March.

Under Ranieri's legislation, the city would pay the accounting firm about half what it is owed, \$25,000. Ernst and Whinney in return will provide a detailed report on the status of development within three weeks.

Michael Coleman, director of the Community Development Agency, has been requesting for several weeks that the City Council authorize Ernst and Whinney to resume work.

The council also discussed

an ordinance sponsored by Councilman Joseph Della Fave that would give Hoboken landlords 60 days to rent all vacant apartment units.

The ordinance is intended to prevent landlords from "warehousing," keeping apartments vacant for speculation until their value increases. It would require landlords who cannot rent units after more than 60 days to notify the Rent Leveling Board.

Landlords who violate the ordinance could face fines of up to \$500 per vacant unit and a jail term of up to 30 days.

Della Fave said the or-

City Council

Continued from Page 1.

dinance would help solve three problems: the current shortage of affordable housing in the city; the health and safety hazards posed by vacant buildings; and the eyesore of boarded-up apartment buildings.

"The ordinance is not meant to prohibit development," Della Fave said. "It is meant to stop people from speculating with other people's housing."

Owner-occupied dwellings of two to four families are excluded from the ordinance, according to Della Fave. "It is intended primarily for large commercial landlords," he said.

Similar ordinances were passed by Weehawken and West New York earlier this year. However, Councilman Ranieri and Steve Cappiello expressed concern that the legislation might be unconstitutional.

Assistant City Attorney Tom Callagy briefly addressed the council. "This is a novel concept that has never been tested before," he said. He added that the constitutionality of the measure has not yet been determined.

In other business, the council prepared to vote tomorrow on the third reading of an ordinance sponsored by Ranieri to transfer the power to make appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board from the mayor to the City Council.

Della Fave also discussed an ordinance he is sponsoring to employ city tax assessor Woodrow Monte on a full-time basis Monday through Friday. Monte currently works at City Hall two days a week.

Hoboken nuclear activist Judith Karpova came before the council to request that the city authorize funds for a flag bearing the international symbol of nuclear-free zones. The flag would be flown on July 1, International Nuclear-Free Zone Day, Karpova said.

The regular council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday in the council chambers. The council has also scheduled a special meeting for 7 p.m. tonight in the council chambers to discuss a bond issuance to provide funding for a new secondary sewage treatment plant.



Dozens of officials representing city, state and federal agencies gathered at the construction site for Baker Waterfront Plaza in Hoboken yesterday as the developers held groundbreaking ceremonies.

Photo by Wally Hanning

Ground is broken for new development on waterfront

By Margaret Schmidt

The Baker family broke ground yesterday for a \$10.75 million commercial development on the Hoboken waterfront in ceremonies attended by city, state and federal officials.

Rep. Frank Guarini used the occasion to laud progress in the private sector as opposed to the slow-moving development being negotiated by Hoboken and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"This shows what private industry can do," Guarini said, noting that the Baker groundbreaking comes within two years of the project proposal. The Port Authority, however, has so far "done nothing" because of bureaucracy, he said, adding that he wasn't allotting blame, just highlighting differences.

Other officials later said they are confident the P.A. development is moving forward.

Sylvia Baker, widow of Hoboken lawyer Nathan Baker, and her sons, Gerald and Robert, have planned Baker Waterfront Plaza, an eight-story office building for Hudson Place which is adjacent to the Erie-Lackawanna Plaza.

The project has generated a \$37,500 federal Urban Development Action Grant, money that is lent to the developer and repaid to the city at a low interest rate. The project has also received \$10 million in low-

interest industrial revenue bonds through the state.

"We're all standing on probably the finest piece of land in the state of New Jersey," said Robert Baker during the hour-long ceremonies on a fenced-in dirt lot overlooking the Hudson River. "I think you'll like what you're going to see."

Robert Baker is a developer whose National Realty and Development Corporation is based in Greenwich, Conn. Through his company he has built about 80 shopping centers and is working on a 1,000-unit retirement community in Brick Town.

His Regional Construction Company, based in Greenwich with a New Jersey office in Somerset, is slated to build Baker Waterfront Plaza.

Gerald Baker, who has worked closely with city officials to receive various approvals needed for the project, is a Hoboken lawyer in the firm his father began, Baker Garber Duffy and Baker. The firm is based in the historic Hoboken Land Building, which abuts the plaza of the commercial development and is also owned by the family.

The Bakers' roots in Hoboken date to the turn of the century, Gerald Baker said. While the family has retained business interests in the city, it moved from Hoboken in the early 1950s.

The family accumulated the

waterfront land in bits and pieces. Much of the property once housed Duke's House, an historic Hoboken hotel that boasted the coldest beer in the city.

The Bakers expect to complete Waterfront Plaza in 18 months.

The project was originally submitted for city consideration in the summer of 1984 when a modern 11-story office building with a smoked-glass facade was envisioned. Architects had designed a building raised on stilts to allow a three-story plaza and atrium underneath.

The District Commission objected to the modern design, and the Bakers returned with designs for an eight-story brick building that resembles the Land Building and has a 19th century flavor.

The building will contain 90,000 square feet of office space with small retail shops on the ground floor. "You people are tough negotiators," Gerald Baker told city officials yesterday.

The developers also worked with the Mayor's Waterfront Advisory Committee and with the Parking Authority to receive a lease agreement for 235 parking spaces in a municipal garage; since the project has no on-site parking.

The project got caught between the administrations of former Mayor Steve Cappelletto and Mayor Thomas Hanning.

Under the new administration, the Bakers pledged to give \$188,000 to a housing trust fund.

Community Development Agency Director Michael Coleman said yesterday it hasn't been determined what to do with the pledge since officials aren't pushing for a trust fund as much as they had been last summer.

Approvals were also needed from the state Department of Environmental Protection before the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development could grant the UDAG. A state judge had to approve a consent agreement on sewerage before the DEP could act.

Most of the speakers yesterday had some part in the planning and lauded the Bakers' perseverance. They also recalled times spent with Nathan Baker, a leading labor rights lawyer, who died in 1982.

Former New York Gov. Hugh Carey attended, he said, as a longtime friend of the family. The Bakers have also long been clients of his law firm.

Carey said he isn't currently involved in any of the city's ventures, but said he is interested in promoting public-private projects and good will between the east and west coasts of the Hudson River.

He applauded Hoboken for "helping itself" and said a key to its continued success will be preserving the "charming family" atmosphere.

"The future of Hoboken," he said, "is enormous."

Continued from Page 1.

and will be for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to dusk.

Pier A, which is operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, isn't the best viewing spot in Hudson County or Hoboken, but it may be one of the most comfortable since tickets are limited, officials said.

Other public spots in Hoboken to view Op Sail or fireworks will be along Sinatra Drive; in Stevens Park, Fourth and River streets; in Elysian Park, 11th and Hudson streets, and on the Erie-Lackawanna Plaza, the foot of Newark Street.

Residents facing east in the city's few mid- and highrise buildings should have terrific views.

Other "official" events, sponsored by Liberty Weekend, will include the berthing of medium-size ships in Hoboken and the arrival of 3,000 sailors from around the world.

Official Operation Sail vessels of Classes B and C — up to about 150 feet in length — will dock at Pier A for viewing but no boarding.

Liberty Centennial fireworks spectacular.

The fireworks, set for 9:30 to 10 p.m., will ring the tip of Manhattan on a series of barges, about half of which should be visible from Pier A, said Edwin Chius, Hoboken public safety director.

About 2,000 tickets will be sold to city workers and board members who help in the festivities' planning, he said.

The lottery will give out 10,000 tickets for viewing the thousands of sailing ships expected to be in New York Harbor July 5. The tickets will be free

See LOTTERY — Page 6.

Lottery beginning for Pier A seats for July 4 festival

By Margaret Schmidt

The lottery begins today for Hoboken residents who want a chance to see July Fourth festivities from Pier A.

Residents may pick up coupons for the lottery in stores displaying Hoboken Liberty Weekend signs. The deadline for mailing entries is June 6.

Whether or not you get tickets for the riverfront viewing, there are plenty of other activities in the city for the July Fourth celebration that includes the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty.

Hoboken estimates it will spend \$35,000 to set up the

special events and expects to break even through Pier A ticket sales. Overtime costs for police and fire protection are expected to reach another \$35,000, said mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano.

Official and city-sponsored activities range from art exhibits to a giant (at least for a Mile Square City) food fest.

The city will sell 10,000 \$5 tickets for Pier A, the foot of First Street. Half the tickets will be for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July Fourth for residents who want to see the Operation Sail Parade of Tall Ships.

The other 5,000 tickets will be for 6 to 11 p.m. July Fourth for viewing of the Statue of

Transportation options are many

There is a monorail on the drawing boards for Jersey City. After that, perhaps everybody will use jet packs to get around. But until the future comes, Hudson County will still provide a wide array of transportation choices.

A study is currently underway by the state Department of Transportation to find out what kinds of transportation needs the many wa-

terfront development projects in our area will create.

For public transportation around the area and into New York City, there are two basic choices: Buses and PATH trains.

The PATH system is one of the most reliable and inexpensive in the New York metropolitan area. Linking South Manhattan with Jersey City and Newark, it costs 75 cents.

There are two PATH lines, one linking the World Trade Center with Newark, with stops in between at Pavonia Avenue, Exchange Place, Grove Street, Journal Square and Harrison.

Another line runs between Jersey City, Hoboken and 33rd Street at Sixth Avenue in Manhattan, with stops at 23rd, 14th, 9th and Christopher streets in between.

For those who wish to travel outside of the narrow passage served by the PATH, there are many bus routes.

A toll-free number, (800)-773-2222, is maintained by NJ Transit, which operates many area bus routes, to help commuters design routes to their destinations. Operators are on duty from 6 a.m. until midnight. NJ Transit requests that the toll-free number be used only sparingly.

Hoboken T-shirts are a hit featuring spoofs and roaches

HOBOKEN (AP)—One is a former San Francisco street artist. Another is a longtime resident who decided to take a few jabs at his hometown. The third is a business that's been around for 76 years.

Independent of each other, they have come up with the same idea, and product that bridges the two sides of the tracks in town: Hoboken T-shirts.

The new home-grown item is so popular, "I've often thought there should be a museum of Hoboken T-shirts. It's a booming fashion trend," says the former street artist, Kevin McCloskey.

McCloskey, who calls himself an illustrator on a good day, created his first Hoboken T-shirt for the River City Fair in 1982.

He borrowed from that summer's hot movie to come up with "E.T. — Phone Hoboken" and remembers selling out his supply the first day. McCloskey, his wife, Patricia, and his brother stayed up that night printing more shirts on the kitchen table.

Since then, he has printed "The Hobokener," a takeoff of "The New Yorker" map, and "I Remember Hoboken When Hoboken was Hoboken," which proved to be very popular with the local police force. In blue and extra large, of course.

McCloskey says another shirt, sold by Hoboken Exterminators and picturing a dying cockroach with its feet giving one last twitch, is considered proper enough apparel for art openings in New York.

"It's sort of reverse chic or something," he says.

Ed Floss, an employee of Hoboken Exterminators, describes it as "a phenomenon that I've stopped trying to understand."

The shirt, and a companion T-shirt that pictures a rat, sell at the rate of about 2,000 a year. Mail orders have been sent to Australia, Europe and South America, he said.

The cockroach captures about 70 percent of the business, "but we do have a subculture that likes the

rat," Floss said.

He said he did not know when the shirts caught on, but they have been an attraction since he began working at the company two years ago.

Phil Curley, a 28-year resident who now teaches drug and alcohol addicts in New York City, is the newcomer of the group.

His T-shirts take Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti and the city's schools down a peg or two. Still to come are "delicate jabs" at the city's high-brow yuppie image and bilingualism, he says.

Weehawken artist Ellen Robb plans to work with him on these and his Statue of Liberty shirts.

"The mayor thinks they're very, very funny, but he won't buy them," Curley said of his work.

Inspiration for the first shirt came while he and about 15 others were waiting for a bus shortly after Vezetti's election last year. He had hoped Vezetti's promise of government "of the people, by the people, for the people" would mean better bus service, but Curley said that was not the case.

"Well, how do you like the People's Republic of Hoboken?" he recalls saying. His audience burst out laughing, and a slogan was born. He estimates it has sold 40 dozen shirts, to both yuppies and longtime residents.

"It's about as much of a People's Republic as China and Cuba are," Curley says of the current administration.

Hoboken's falling grades in education are the target of his second shirt: "The University of Hoboken."

Curley takes the joke a step further in the design. The red athletic department-style lettering is lined up to the left rather than centered, an attempt at sophistication gone awry.

The shirt, he says, has proved popular with city police and young kids who "seem to find it very funny," he said.

Part of the shirts' success comes from the snickers that any mention of Hoboken draws across the country.

"You can say Hoboken in Atlanta, Ga., and they'll laugh," Curley says.

But wearers also are showing a bit of civic pride, according to McCloskey.

"It's generally people who love Hoboken who are proud enough to wear it on their chest," he said.

He said he does not view Curley's shirts as competition. T-shirts are like pennants at a ball park: One is not enough.

People also seem more willing to buy a \$6 shirt than an unwearable spoof for \$3. McCloskey's tried selling roach hotel conversion kits, complete with "grand opening" and "condo for rent" signs, but they bombed.

McCloskey's Hoboken items have not been limited to shirts.

"The Hobokener" prints in real estate offices and taverns throughout the city are his. He also printed and sold 2,000 maps and guides to Hoboken.

While McCloskey was doing his research, Rocky Musella of Alrocks Used Furniture provided him with the line for his second shirt when he said, "Hoboken? I remember Hoboken when Hoboken was Hoboken."

"You see three or four people wearing your shirts, and it's kind of invigorating. Maybe that's how Bill Bliss feels," McCloskey says.

But unlike clothes designer Bliss, his 1986 collection is not yet on the clothes hangers. He says he has not come up with his next idea.

Pehaps he should focus on Jersey City?

He pauses for an instant.

"I should — now that it's on the brink of becoming as stuck up as Hoboken," he says.

Fabiano.

River Street between First and Fourth streets will be turned into an ethnic food fest. Donald Lilloia of the CDA is seeking local food vendors to join the feast at \$100 a stand.

Lilloia estimated that 400 food stands may join, but said he expects about half that number. The festival may be opened to other types of concessions once the number of food vendors is set, he said.

Out-of-town food vendors may also participate at a higher cost, yet to be set, he said.

Information on official Liberty Weekend events may be obtained through 212-672-3434. Hoboken will set up its own hotline beginning June 9 for local events. The number will be 420-2008.

Use of Pier A will require work so the ships may dock, said Michael Krieger of the Port Authority. The pier, which is generally open days as a "concrete park," will be closed for the construction beginning May 27.

On both the Fourth of July and July 5, Hoboken will offer "Liberty Weekend Entertainment" in the parking lot adjacent to Pier A. Hoboken musicians, actors and dancers will stage a variety of free shows.

A list of entertainment has yet to be compiled, said

McLaughlin requested that

Sudden fame hits quiet Bloomfield St.

By Jim DeRogatis

Katherine Kochan, 65, had never witnessed a full-scale media "event" until yesterday morning, when one invaded her front yard in Hoboken.

Mrs. Kochan stood on her porch at 603 Bloomfield St. and watched as actress Kathryn Crosby, a crowd of photographers and public relations agents, and the Hoboken High School band filled the street in front of her house.

"I heard the band playing, so I came out to see what all the fuss was about," said Mrs. Kochan.

The fuss was about Mrs. Crosby, wife of the late entertainer Bing Crosby, who came to Hoboken to help promote the 45th Annual Crosby Golf Tournament and to announce that local developer Pat Reynolds will sponsor a team in the competition.

Reynolds, 35, is a Manhattan-based developer who has worked on several condominium projects in Hoboken. He recently purchased the Hotel Victor, which he plans to renovate.

The Crosby Tournament features 50 teams of amateur golfers vying to win money for the charities of their choice. Many celebrities are expected to compete this year from June 5-8 in Bermuda Run, North Carolina, including Bing Crosby's former partner, Bob Hope.

According to Reynolds, the grand prize is \$500,000. The developer said he plans to donate the money to St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken if his team wins.

However, the hospital will benefit even if the team loses, Reynolds said, since every team in the tournament gets a



Kathryn Crosby and Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezetti take in yesterday's festivities, which included a performance by the Hoboken High School Band.

minimum prize of \$5,000 for their charity.

The prizes are drawn from the \$20,000 entry fee that each team must post. The entry fee for Reynolds' team is being posted by the developer and the Elysian Federal Savings Bank.

Reynolds, who is not a golfer, is not a team member. He said he plans to hold another press conference next week to announce the team members, which include a "prominent

New Jersey politician," rumored to be former Governor Brendan Byrne.

Reynolds and Mrs. Crosby talked about the tournament in front of 601 Bloomfield St., former home of composer Stephen Collins Foster. Foster composed such popular songs as "Old Folks at Home" and "Camptown Races" in the 1850s.

Foster's great-grandson, Bruce Crosby of Trenton, composed the theme song for the Crosby Tournament. He posed for pictures yesterday with Mrs. Crosby while his song blared from loudspeakers in front of Mrs. Kochan's house.

Mrs. Crosby and Reynolds are clients of the same New York public relations firm. The photographers and public relations agents at the event almost outnumbered the onlookers, most of whom were unaware of the purpose of the festivities.

"Isn't that Kathryn Crosby?" one woman asked her friend.

"Yes. I think she's making a movie," the second woman replied.

Mrs. Kochan didn't know what was happening either when several people knocked on her door yesterday morning and asked if they could plug in their public address system. Mrs. Crosby later thanked Mrs. Kochan for her inconvenience and promised to send her a copy of her book.

Mrs. Kochan said she did not mind the noise and excitement that disrupted the usually quiet neighborhood. "After all," she said, "I've been living here all my life and I never had a celebrity visit before."



Outside the historic Bloomfield Street home of 19th Century composer Stephen Foster are, from left, Kathryn Crosby, local historian Jim Hans, and Bruce Foster. Foster, great-grandson of the famous composer, has composed the theme song for the Crosby Golf Tournament.

Photo by Mark Wyville



Mrs. Crosby takes time out from her promotional visit to meet students from Hoboken's St. Peter and Paul School.

Ranieri proposes to ban fireworks

By Jim DeRogatis

Legislation to ban the staging of fireworks at the old Hoboken Shipyards for the Statue of Liberty Centennial spectacular goes before the City Council tonight.

Councilman Robert Ranieri is sponsoring the resolution, which condemns the assembly of "high explosives" in Hoboken because of the potential danger to residents and property.

Other city officials, however, said they are satisfied with the safety precautions being taken by the Liberty Weekend organizers. They said they see no reason to ban the fireworks, although they still have questions concerning the operation.

The fireworks display scheduled for July Fourth has been called the largest ever staged in the United States by

Liberty Weekend spokesmen. Although organizers have declined to specify the amount of fireworks that will be assembled in Hoboken, one production source said 20 tons will be used in the show.

The fireworks, created by four companies, should begin arriving in Hoboken on June 30, four days before the extravaganza, sources said. They will be loaded and assembled on 33 barges docked at the shipyards, on a pier located approximately at 15th Street.

Omar Lerman, associate producer for pyrotechnics for Liberty Weekend, told The Jersey Journal that questions regarding the amount of fireworks that will be in the city are insignificant.

"It's a very large show," he said, "Bigger than a breadbox but smaller than a bushel basket."

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Continued from Page 1.

Lerman added that, "One firework is just as dangerous as 250,000 tons."

Liberty Weekend organizers have also refused to specify the amount of insurance coverage for the site. Jonas Halperin, new director for the group, said yesterday, "Insurance is being negotiated right now."

Ranieri criticized celebration organizers for not giving the city specific information. He likened the situation to the recent nuclear accident in Chernobyl, the Soviet Union, both in danger and in lack of information.

The resolution charges that the fireworks "will put (the) health and welfare of the residents of the City of Hoboken in jeopardy because of the risk from an accident or terrorist activity." It calls for "all law enforcement agencies of the federal, state, county, and local governments to prevent this conduct by private concerns to the detriment of the people of Hoboken."

Rep. Frank Guarini said he interceded with Liberty Weekend organizers and the owner of the Hoboken Shipyards to make the staging of the fireworks possible. He said the shipyards are the only site where the massive show can be staged.

If the site is not used, the fireworks display would have to be scaled down, Guarini said.

Halperin said that the city "has a right to do whatever it wants." He said that if the resolution is passed at tonight's meeting, celebration organizers would "have to go back and try to convince the city to 'unpass' it."

Ranieri criticized the organizers for not coming before the City Council sooner and answering questions concerning the amount of fireworks, the insurance, and the danger, and outlining a "worst case scenario."

Halperin said that the city would be given exact information concerning the amount of fireworks "in the next few days." He said Lerman's remarks had been made "jokingly."

The spokesman said he "was surprised that Hoboken would want to miss the chance to be part of the greatest show of the last 100 years."

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezetti attacked Ranieri for "crying wolf" and charged that the councilman was "just trying to get some publicity."

Ranieri in turn said that if the mayor were still Second Ward councilman, he would be more concerned for the residents. Vezetti served as councilman for the Second Ward, where the shipyards are located, before he was elected mayor.

Both Vezetti and Public Safety Director Edwin Chius, who is coordinating Hoboken's part in the fireworks assembly, said they had some concerns but were satisfied with the precautions being taken.

Hoboken Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi said that the Coast Guard, New York Harbor Patrol, private security forces, Hoboken forces, and fireworks experts from the New York Fire Department are all involved in safety and security measures for the assembly of the fireworks.

Tremittedi said the fireworks will all be grade C, low-grade explosives. However, Chius said there will also be some grade B fireworks, which are more dangerous.

Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney, said he was uncertain of the effect the resolution would have on the assembly of the fireworks. Ranieri said he would welcome a court challenge from Liberty Weekend organizers.

Ranieri said he was not trying to put a damper on the celebrations or be "unAmerican." "I would rather be concerned and cautious and have nothing happen than be overconfident and imprudent

and have something happen," he said.

The councilman's concerns were shared by several leaders of Hoboken environmental and waterfront groups.

"I think that with an undertaking this dangerous, they ought to be giving us more information," said Helen Manogue, chairman of the Hoboken En-

vironment Committee. Manogue said that members of the group were denied access to a meeting between the city and Liberty Weekend personnel.

Manogue said the environment committee is waiting to gather more information before taking a public stand. "I personally feel that there ought to be some place else on the

waterfront where this can be done," she said.

Judith Karpova of Hoboken Action for Nuclear Disarmament said that the fireworks should be assembled in four or five different communities so the burden is shared. "The fact that there is no sure thing as 100 percent safety from accidents is what makes this appalling."

Hoboken calls its 'Frank Sinatras of Rap' fresh

By Jim DeRogatis

When Hoboken kids say that Evershine D.2.C. is fresh, they don't mean that the rap group is rude, or that they haven't spoiled yet.

They mean the duo excels at what they do — mixing streetwise rhymed verse with throbbing dance beats.

Michael Roman, alias Doctor T.M.D., and Darrel Kearney, alias Grand Jammer Kid Fresh, call themselves the "Frank Sinatras of Rap." Judging by their popularity among Hoboken teenagers and the number of dances they perform at in the area, it is not an idle boast.

Roman, 23, and Kearney, 21, are both lifelong Hoboken residents. Both had strong reputations as disc jockeys on their own before they formed Evershine D.2.C. (for Diamond Two Crew).

The two first met at the Weehawken Roller Rink at a "DJ battle," a showdown that pits one DJ against another to see who can make the smoothest mixes between dance songs and who is the best at scratching (manipulating a record needle by hands for strange rhythmic effects).

"Darrel beat the pants off me that night, but we became good friends," Roman said.

Roman is the group's energetic, theatrical frontman and rapper. An indefatigable performer, he will stop at nothing to get dancers out on the floor. He also has a sharp sense of humor that he carries on stage, as in a bit where he spoofs popular singer Stevie Wonder.

"My main things was always the rapping," Roman said. "Even when I was a kid, before rapping was the big thing,

I would go around speaking in rhymes all the time.

"My family thought I was crazy."

Roman writes most of the words to the group's songs, while Kearney writes the music. Roman describes his less talkative partner as "a genius who can learn how to play any instrument he picks up."

On stage, Kearney mixes records and scratches on two turntables, programs powerful beats on a drum machine, and occasionally plays funky riffs on an electronic keyboard while his friend is out front in the spotlight, "getting the crowd psyched."

Evershine D.2.C.'s raps include diatribes against such common city problems as drug abuse, poverty and poor education. On a lighter, more satiric note, they poke fun at yuppies in a song called "Chairman of the Board."

However, the group is probably most passionate in their raps against violence at dances.

Rap music has received a lot of negative attention from the music press for encouraging violence. Several large rap shows in New York erupted into near-riots that caused injuries and property damage.

Although Roman and Kearney are both tall, broad-chested, and built like pro wrestlers, they dislike fighting and make their message clear.

"We're a class act," Roman said. "We can fight, but we don't like to. Those people who start fights are a bunch of stupid knuckleheads."

The fighting at some Manhattan dance clubs has discouraged Roman and Kearney from playing in New York. They are con-

tent to perform in Hoboken and are proud of their record of peaceful shows.

The group has so far released two 12-inch singles, "Prophecy" and "Growing Too Old," both on their own record label, A.S.D. Roman and Kearney raised the money to record and release the records themselves, working at a variety of day jobs ranging from Burger King to the Universal Folding Box Company.

Inspired by the success of the first two records, Roman and Kearney are currently working on an album, "Homeboys Only." The record should be available in about three months.

"We didn't know anything about putting out a record the first time we did it," Kearney said. "We learned as we went along."

The band has had a few offers from record companies since, but they are wary. "We'd rather do it ourselves than get ripped off," Kearney said.

The two agree that there is a sense of accomplishment that comes from achieving a goal such as releasing a record on your own. They encourage other kids to turn to music for that sense of accomplishment.

"There are too many kids wasting their time in the parks, getting drunk and using crack," Roman said. "They should get out and do something, get a job, play music."

The group hopes that kids will heed the message in their music. "We want people to believe in themselves, not in drugs," Roman said.

"They should believe in their dreams and make them come true, without stepping on anyone in the process."



Michael Roman, alias Doctor T.M.D., left, and Darrel Kearney, alias Grand Jammer Kid Fresh, the popular Hoboken rap duo known as Evershine D.2.C.

Photo by Mark Wyville

DANGER!

By Jim DeRogatis

Time is running out for Hoboken's 14th Street viaduct. The 76-year-old bridge grows more dangerous to travelers each day, according to state and independent engineers, but state officials said long-awaited repairs may be stalled because of federal budget cuts.

Work on an \$8.1 million plan to rehabilitate the Hudson County-owned bridge is set to begin in October, pending the authorization of funds by the Federal Highway Administration. However, state officials recently said they were uncertain whether the funds will be forthcoming because of budget cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget Act.

Motorists who travel the four-lane bridge linking Hoboken to Jersey City and Union City swerve from lane to lane to avoid hitting huge potholes and bumps in the roadway. Pedestrians complain of tripping on exposed iron reinforcing bars and crumbling concrete in the sidewalks.

Underneath these surface problems lie serious structural defects that could lead to the collapse of the 1,460-foot span if unabated, according to engineers. And conditions along the north and south wings at the top of the viaduct are not much better.

The north wing leading into Union City includes an approximately 300-foot suspended roadway that suffers from many of the same problems as the viaduct. The roadway along the south wing at the edge of Washington Park in Jersey City has been narrowed by a concrete abutment meant to keep cars from getting hit by large stones falling from the aging retaining wall.

Although the viaduct was built in 1910, there has been no major reconstruction work since 1938. And some local officials charge that the county has also been lax with routine maintenance.

As early as May, 1981, the bridge was listed "in critical condition" in a report that followed a state-authorized inspection by A.J. Lichtenstein Associates of Fair Lawn.

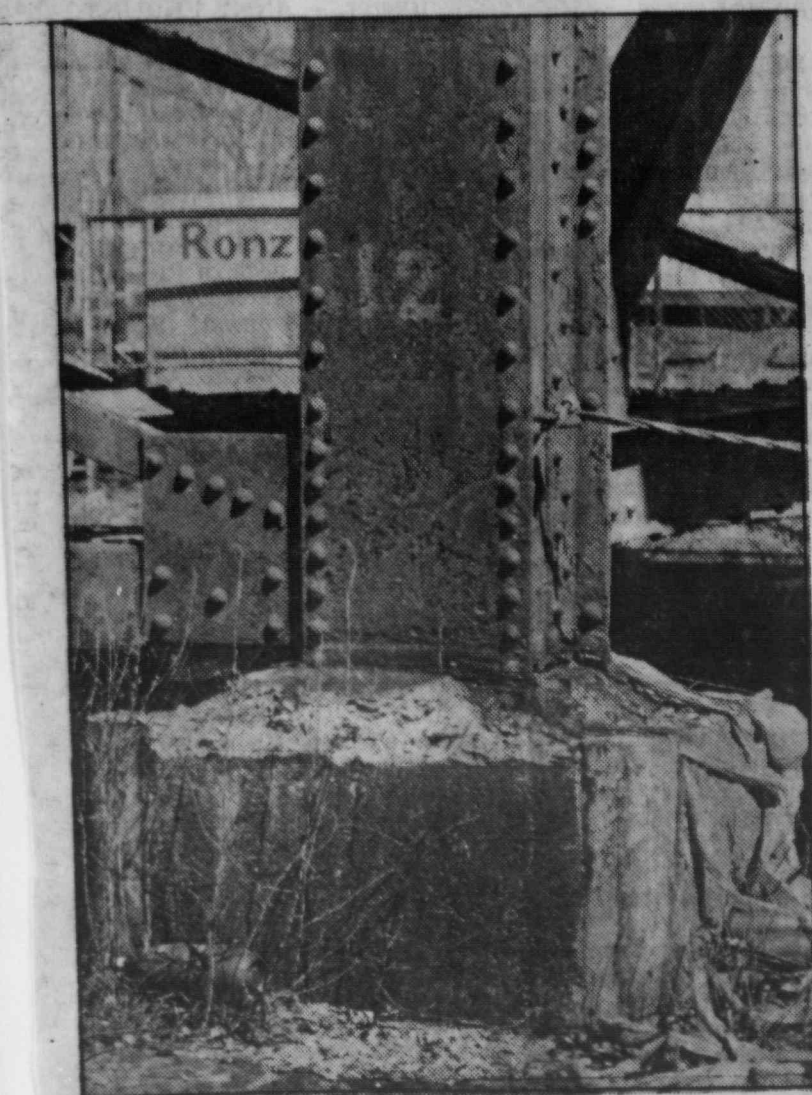
Lichtenstein, a frequent engineering consultant for the state, made a thorough inspection of the bridge and rated it a poor 12 on a scale of 100, according to Robert Jasek, who was recently appointed Hudson County engineer.

Any rating below 50 is cause to call for the replacement of the structure, Jasek said.

Among the findings cited as problematic in the Lichtenstein report are:

- Cracked steel crossbeams beneath the bridge.
- Areas of severe rusting resulting in up to 50 percent thickness loss in the steel plate beneath the roadway.
- Holes in the steel plate.
- Severe corrosion in the supporting beams and girders.

Photos by Wally Hennig



DECAYING PIERS — Key piers that support the 14th Street viaduct in Hoboken suffer rusting steel and eroding concrete, the effects of weather and time.

- Cracks and hollow concrete in the abutments.
- Numerous bowed and deteriorated steel plates beneath the roadway and walkway.
- Bent or broken bolts and loose or missing nuts at the girder bearings.

The Lichtenstein report recommended several immediate repairs as well as a large number of long-term repairs and improvements. Some minor repair work was done in 1981, according to Jasek, but none of the long-term repairs was made.

The viaduct, the longest county bridge in New Jersey, has not been inspected by the state since 1981. Dr. Kenneth DeRucher, a professor and head of the department of Civil and Ocean Engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, recently inspected the bridge with a reporter at the request of The Jersey Journal.

The problems DeRucher found include:

- Rust eating through key support beams.
- Crumbling concrete piers.
- Worn surface decking.
- Exposed reinforcing steel in the sidewalks.
- Clogged drains.
- A large crack in the concrete abutment at the Willow Avenue end of the bridge.

"The bridge is definitely in need of rehabilitation," DeRucher said. During his inspection, he pointed to rust that had eaten almost completely through thick steel reinforcing beams beneath the bridge.

"These would eventually rust completely away and crumble," DeRucher said. "Would it happen today? No. But with fatigue and corrosion, they would eventually cave in."

"The bridge ought to be repaired as soon as possible. The longer it waits, the greater the danger of something collapsing or rusting through."

However, John Brennan, project manager with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, denied that the bridge is dangerous. "There is no imminent danger with the bridge, it just needs to be repaired," he said.

"The longer it is left the way it is, the more it will deteriorate and the more it will cost to fix it."

Joseph Pullaro, an engineer at Lichtenstein who helped compile the report on the viaduct, agreed with Brennan. "If the bridge was dangerous, the county would have shut it down," he said.

However, both Jasek and Hudson County Director of Public Resources Charles Steinel said that they thought Lichtenstein and the DOT would be responsible for closing the viaduct.

Work on an \$8.1 million plan to rehabilitate the bridge is set to begin in October, pending authorization of funds by the Federal Highway Administration. The project will be 80 per-

Viaduct deteriorates daily but repairs may be stalled



14TH STREET VIADUCT — The 76-year-old county-owned bridge poses a potential danger to motorists and pedestrians if long-awaited repairs are delayed.

cent federally funded and 20 percent state-funded, according to Brennan.

The rehabilitation plan is being prepared by Lichtenstein. The firm is in the process of making its final revisions and the plan should be completed in several weeks, Brennan said.

Lichtenstein has already been paid \$322,000 for preliminary engineering work, according to Randy Linthorst, a DOT spokesman.

According to Pullaro, the plan calls for work that will result "in a viable rehabilitation of the same superstructure of the old bridge."

"The piers and abutments attached to the ground will be the same, but there will be a new deck and many new members in the superstructure," Pullaro said.

The DOT will seek authorization for the funds to pay for the work in July from the Federal Highway Administration. If the FHA approves, the bids will be advertised and sorted in August and September. Brennan said work should start in October, weather permitting.

If the project gets under way, it will take about a year and a half to complete, Brennan said. The bridge will be kept open to traffic during the repair work, although it will be limited to one eastbound and one westbound lane.

However, the fate of the project is uncertain due to questions about the federal funding. The state has its 20 percent set aside through funds provided by the Bridge Bond issuance of 1983, Linthorst said, but the best the state can do is "hope" that federal funding is authorized.

The money for repairs could come from any of "six or seven" programs under the control of the FHA, Linthorst said.

"If the funding is not authorized," Brennan said the DOT "will hold up the project until the funds are available. There is no reason that I'm sure the money is coming. It's just based on an assumption," he said.

However, county officials are optimistic that the funds will be granted. "I am not too concerned. The state always cries wolf, and Gramm-Rudman is an easy out," Steinel said.

"The state is covering its backside," he said. "If push comes to shove and federal funding is cut off," Steinel said he believed the DOT would make the repairs "even if they have to pay for them with 100 percent state funds."

Steinel said that if the federal and state government both withdrew funding from the project, the county would have three options: close the bridge, float a bond issue, or lower the weight class on the bridge to ban trucks.

Neither the county nor the state could provide figures on the number of cars and trucks using the bridge. However, several officials agreed that it would be difficult to close the viaduct, since it is the major roadway connecting northern Hoboken to the rest of Hudson County.

The 14th Street viaduct is also the route that residents of the Jersey City Heights and the Troy Towers and Doric Apartments, which flank the bridge, must take in order to get to the Lincoln Tunnel and Manhattan.

Steinel said that the county should know in the next 45 days whether or not federal funding will be available. "We'll know whether or not to push the panic button," he said.

If federal funding is not authorized, it will not be the first time repairs on the viaduct have been stalled.

The county has been requesting funds from the state for the repair of the viaduct since 1979, according to Steinel. He blamed the delay in repairing the bridge on the state "jockeying back and forth over the request for money."

But more than \$28 million was appropriated by the state for repairs to 12 bridges in Hudson County in 1984. The figure included \$4 million for construction at the 14th Street viaduct.

Steinel said that repairs were not made at that time because the state delayed in hiring an engineering firm to develop a rehabilitation plan and because there was not enough money to do a complete rehabilitation.

Hudson County Executive Edward Clark said he thought that a "switch around" was made at the time and the \$4 million earmarked for the viaduct was applied to construction on Route 169 in Jersey City.

The funds were transferred, Clark said, with assurances to then-Freeholder and Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello that the county would "push for funding" when the repair plan was completed for the viaduct.

Cappiello, frustrated by the state's inaction, held a meeting in 1984 in his office at City Hall with the current state assemblymen and senators. Steinel, and then-State Transportation Commissioner John P. Sheridan.

According to Steinel, "All of the heavyweights were there." The meeting resulted in the DOT hiring Lichtenstein to begin work on the current rehabilitation plan, he said.

Cappiello's successor, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, blamed the county board of chosen freeholders, whom he called "freeloaders," for the delay.

Vezzetti also lashed out at the county for not properly maintaining its roads, which also include Observer Highway in Hoboken. "The county doesn't do a thing to keep up the roads," he said.

A 60-year-old stone retaining wall along the Palisades at the south wing leading into Jersey City is deteriorating and rocks frequently fall from a height of about 100 feet, Jasek said.

The county erected a concrete abutment about two yards away from the wall three years ago to keep falling stones from hitting passersby.

According to Jasek, the repair of the viaduct is only the first step in a five-year overhaul of the roads in the area that will also include repairs along the north and south wings.

The rock wall is scheduled to be repaired in 1988, Jasek said.

"We may take the whole thing down and replace it with a new steel and cement wall or we may simply replace the loose stones," Jasek said.

The final phase of the repairs will include the rehabilitation of the bridge along the north wing leading into Union City.

Repairs on the bridge will cost an additional \$3.9 million, Jasek said.

Brennan said that work is scheduled to start on the bridge in late 1987.

Hudson County Police Chief Joseph Nealon.

Hudson County Director of Public Resources Charles Steinel said that it would be "valid" to close the bridge to pedestrians, but also agreed that it would be "impossible to enforce."

"If they can't close it, the simple answer is to repair it," DeRucher countered. He criticized the county for not repairing the sidewalks sooner.

"If somebody falls and injures themselves, (the county) will be responsible for a lot of money in a lawsuit because they were negligent," he said. — Jim DeRogatis

The increase results from greater tax levies for education, city operations and the reserve for uncollected taxes.

On Thursday, Vezzetti was successful in having a bill to appropriate the funding released from the Assembly Appropriations State Aid Committee. A bill can sometimes be long-stalled in committee.

The bill is sponsored by Republican Assemblyman Charles Catrillo of Jersey City. Catrillo was headed for Washington yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

No one in the state Senate has yet backed the bill, but

the city specific information concerning the exact amount of fireworks that will be present in Hoboken, the way they will be transported, the insurance coverage, and a "worst case scenario."

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Lerman told the City Council that the "safety hazard posed by the fireworks is very, very small." An assistant pointed to a large map taped to a wall of the council chambers, as Lerman spoke. The map detailed the positions of barges around the Statue of Liberty, but Hoboken was not shown.

Lerman would not specify

the amount of fireworks last week when he spoke to The Jersey Journal. Last night, however, he told the City Council that approximately 25,000 pounds of explosives will be involved in the show.

Exact information about the amount of fireworks, the mode of transportation and insurance will be given to city officials "within a few days," Lerman said.

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Trimidetti said a decision on whether to grant a permit will be made after they receive that information.

Ranieri remained skeptical.

Continued from Page 1.

Although members of the council raised questions about specific parts of the ordinance, including the fine and jail term, the vote on the first reading was unanimous. Della Fave said he would work with his fellow council members to iron out their problems before the second and third readings and the final vote.

In other business, the council unanimously approved the appointment of Roy Haack as director of the Department of Environmental Services. Haack replaces Peter Alicandri, who was ousted by the council several weeks ago.

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The council postponed the vote on an ordinance to transfer the power to make appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board from the mayor to the City Council until the state Attorney General provides information requested by Della Fave.

Finally, the council approved a resolution to authorize a partial payment of \$30,000 to the accounting firm of Ernst and Whinney in return for a report by the firm on the status of the waterfront development proposed by the Port Authority.

See COUNCIL — Page 32.

Council asks more data on fireworks before vote on ban

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hoboken City Council last night postponed a vote on banning the assembly of Liberty Weekend fireworks at the old Hoboken Shipyards until local fire officials receive more information from organizers of the event.

The decision to postpone the vote on a resolution sponsored by Councilman Robert Ranieri came after more than two hours of discussion by the council, local fire and safety officials and Omar Lerman, the associate producer for pyrotechnics for Liberty Weekend.

Liberty Weekend organizers plan to assemble approximately 25,000 pounds of fireworks on 42 steel and concrete barges at the shipyards near 15th Street. The July Fourth fireworks show will be the largest ever produced in this country.

In introducing the resolution, Ranieri criticized the show's organizers for not giving

the amount of fireworks last week when he spoke to The Jersey Journal. Last night, however, he told the City Council that approximately 25,000 pounds of explosives will be involved in the show.

Exact information about the amount of fireworks, the mode of transportation and insurance will be given to city officials "within a few days," Lerman said.

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Trimidetti said a decision on whether to grant a permit will be made after they receive that information.

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Ranieri remained skeptical.

Continued from Page 1.

Although members of the council raised questions about specific parts of the ordinance, including the fine and jail term, the vote on the first reading was unanimous. Della Fave said he would work with his fellow council members to iron out their problems before the second and third readings and the final vote.

In other business, the council unanimously approved the appointment of Roy Haack as director of the Department of Environmental Services. Haack replaces Peter Alicandri, who was ousted by the council several weeks ago.

An ordinance to employ city Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte on a full-time basis was approved on the first reading. Monte currently works at City Hall two days a week.

The council postponed the vote on an ordinance to transfer the power to make appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board from the mayor to the City Council until the state Attorney General provides information requested by Della Fave.

Finally, the council approved a resolution to authorize a partial payment of \$30,000 to the accounting firm of Ernst and Whinney in return

3rd generation jokers' delight is still thriving

By Jim DeRogatis

Whether you're looking for a freaky oozing thumb, an Angolan flag, a set of false ears, an antique postcard, or a stink bomb, the United Decorating Co. in Hoboken is sure to have it.

The small, unassuming shop on Washington Street near Fifth Street is a haven for budding magicians, actors, party-givers, students, antiquaries, practical jokers, and anyone looking for something a little out of the ordinary.

Unattentive passersby could easily miss the shop, with its fading signs and weathered green facade. But shoppers often do a double-take as something in the two display windows catches their eye, whether it is a Ronald Reagan mask, a false chest, or a Prussian army helmet.

Those adventurous enough to climb down the few steps leading into the musty, dimly-lit interior find themselves overwhelmed by the amount of merchandise stacked from wooden floor to tin ceiling.

A long counter on the right of the store is filled with such popular gags as the nail through the head, the freaky oozing thumb, the squirting bow tie, the fly on a spoon, the puddle of fake vomit, the jar of fake roaches, hot pepper bubblegum, the dirty diaper joke, and the ever-popular chattering teeth and whoopee cushion.

A display case near the window is full of theatrical makeup. Several cabinets around the store display an array of antique clothing and military gear, some of it dating back to World War I,

and every spare inch of space is covered with flags from around the world, or old postcards.

A sense of history permeates United Decorating. The store is the oldest on Washington Street, established in 1899 at the same location. It is run by a third-generation Hobokenite, George Kirchgessner, whose grandfather ran the store before him.

Kirchgessner's grandfather, Robert, a stonemason who emigrated from Germany, specialized in making banners and costumes for the vaudeville theaters and ballrooms that thrived in Hoboken at the turn of the century.

Kirchgessner was famous for the quality of his work, and he was named the official decorator of the Hudson-Fulton Festival held on the waterfront in 1909. The Kirchgessner's tradition of decorating some of Hudson County's biggest events continues.

The ballrooms and theaters are long gone, but United Decorating has changed with the times, said George Kirchgessner as he leaned on a counter with a catalog open to the "false ears" page in front of him, and the store is more popular than ever.

"Around April Fool's Day and Halloween, the store completely empties out," he said. "We have to have a doorman to let customers in two at a time because it gets so crowded in here that people can't move around."

Parents rush to rent Santa Claus and Easter Bunny outfits Christmas and Easter.



George and Dolores Kirchgessner, owners of the United Decorating Co. in Hoboken, display some of the novelty items commemorating the Statue of Liberty Centennial.

Photos by Roy Groething

Kirchgessner said. Shoppers also flock to the store at Halloween for unique costumes, with the headless man, priests and nuns, togas, and 1920s flappers being the most popular outfits, according to the storeowner.

United Decorating's customers represent a wide range of people, Kirchgessner said, ranging from students looking for international flags for a class project to PTA moms in search of leis for a Hawaiian party to that scourge of all office workers, the unrepentant practical joker.

"We have a lot of regular customers who look for the practical joke stuff," Kirchgessner said. "Some people come in once a week to see if there's anything new."

According to Mrs. Kirchgessner, the latest popular gags are the siren whistle ("We got rid of 100 of them like nothing") and the stink bomb.

Do the two quiet, friendly storekeepers ever feel guilty of aiding and abetting a practical joke?

"I always tell children not to set those stink bombs off

anywhere they can get in trouble," said Mrs. Kirchgessner, a sly smile crossing her face. "like in school."

Mrs. Kirchgessner is the corresponding secretary for the Garden State Postcard Club. She and her husband are obsessed with postcards. Their collection includes more than 3,000.

Many of the postcards depict scenes of Hoboken and Hudson County. Kirchgessner said young artists frequently stop by to look at antique postcards to get an idea of what Hoboken looked like in the past.

The Kirchgessners, who live above the store, said that the influx of newcomers to Hoboken has been great for business and the enthusiasm of the younger customers is invigorating. Although Mrs. Kirchgessner described her husband and herself as "senior citizens," retirement is not on the horizon.

"We might retire some day, but as long as we enjoy it and as long as health permits, we'll be here."

Stink bomb fans need not fear.

Hoboken dispute has Trenton angle

By Jim DeRogatis

A dispute between Mayor Thomas Vezzetti and his allies and Hoboken Law Director Sal D'Amelio has spilled into the state Attorney General's office in Trenton.

The fight involving a move by Vezzetti to reorganize the Zoning Board of Adjustment is causing growing animosity between the mayor and the law director.

Vezzetti attempted to reorganize the board in March, but D'Amelio contended it was improper. The terms of several of the board members Vezzetti

sought to replace had not yet expired, he said.

Angered by D'Amelio's ruling, Vezzetti requested that the law director get a second opinion from the state Attorney General's office. D'Amelio said he spoke with assistant Attorney General Burton Weltman and was told that office has no jurisdiction over such matters.

However, Vezzetti and Councilman Joseph Della Fave have questioned whether D'Amelio actually contacted the Attorney General's office. In a letter to Weltman dated May 20,

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Della Fave questions the accuracy of D'Amelio's version of his dealings with the deputy Attorney General.

The letter also asks Weltman for advice about "the proper person to review the entire case in regard to the question of the legality of appointments to the zoning board."

The Vezzetti camp contends that D'Amelio was biased in his decisions concerning board appointments.

"At the time Mr. D'Amelio was advising the city on these appointments, a multi-million dollar project built on property owned by his family was before the Zoning Board of Adjustment," Della Fave wrote in the letter.

D'Amelio was a partner in Anawim, developers of the proposed Presidential Towers, but he said he sold his interest in the project when he was appointed law director. The development is currently involved in a law suit in superior court.

The City Council passed a resolution on Wednesday

authorizing the hiring of counsel outside the law department to advise on matters pertaining to the suit.

D'Amelio agreed with the resolution and said he "wished to avoid the appearance of impropriety." However, he said he did not feel his decisions concerning the zoning board had been improper or biased.

"I think it shows gross impropriety," Vezzetti said. D'Amelio "should have removed himself from all dealings" concerned with the zoning board and Presidential Towers, the mayor said.

Della Fave questioned how D'Amelio could have offered an unbiased opinion to the City Council concerning the board appointments, considering his connections to Presidential Towers.

The three board members that D'Amelio refused to let

Vezzetti replace had supported the development, while Vezzetti's candidates for the seats had been critical, Della Fave noted.

D'Amelio accused Vezzetti and Della Fave of trying to bring politics into an autonomous board. He criticized the mayor for not accepting the decisions of the law director, which should be final, he said.

"When a decision comes out that is against your political practices, you can't go running to 10 other attorneys," D'Amelio said.

Vezzetti has likewise accused D'Amelio of politicking. He also called the law director "incompetent" and said he "should resign immediately."

Ironically, it was Vezzetti who appointed D'Amelio. But the mayor said yesterday that Councilman Patrick Pasculli had insisted on D'Amelio's appointment.

The City Council must approve a law director appointed by the mayor. Vezzetti did not have enough votes on the council to successfully appoint a law director of his choosing.

D'Amelio said he is not upset by Della Fave's letter. He said he has requested a meeting between Attorney General Carey Edwards, Vezzetti, Della Fave, and himself. Vezzetti and Della Fave said they would welcome such a meeting.

Both sides expect the Attorney General to resolve the fight over the zoning board appointments.

Vezzetti said he is also hoping the Attorney General will question D'Amelio's biases. D'Amelio said he is hoping the Attorney General will teach Vezzetti the policy regarding decisions by the city law director.



Dolores Kirchgessner displays one of many masks available at United Decorating in Hoboken.



A sign outside the United Decorating Co. in Hoboken advertises a few of the many items available inside the unique store.

Haack in hot seat in Hoboken

By Jim DeRogatis

Roy Haack walked into one of the toughest jobs in Hoboken last week when he was appointed as the new director of Environmental Services and Facilities.

The big, 44-year-old Irishman may be new to the job of director, but he is a familiar face around City Hall. Haack has been an employee of the Department of Public Works since 1963, when he started as a mechanic's helper.

The Department of Environmental Services and Facilities is the second largest department in Hoboken, operating at a cost of \$8 million a year with some 150 employees. It encompasses the departments of health, recreation, public works, water and sewerage, welfare, and street and roads.

The City Council unanimously approved Haack's appointment on Wednesday. He replaces Peter Alicandri, who was ousted by the council several weeks ago amidst a

flurry of political attacks and counterattacks.

An attorney for Alicandri, Neil Mullen, is seeking to overturn Alicandri's firing in federal court. "We intend to pursue the action and seek Mr. Alicandri's reappointment," Mullen said.

Politics is not the only problem at the Department of Environmental Services and Facilities, however. The department must coordinate work to meet a series of seemingly unending federal deadlines to install a secondary sewage treat-

ment system, as well as cope with a decaying infrastructure that manifests itself with street cave-ins and broken water mains.

Haack was faced with two major problems on his first two days of the job. The street caved in at Fourth Street and Frank Sinatra Drive on Thursday. There was a second cave-in at Sixth and Washington streets on Friday.

Despite such problems,

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Haack is confident. "You hold on the best way you can," he said. "And deal with the problems as they come up."

"I was appointed by the mayor and unanimously approved by the council, and I hope to develop a good working relationship with everybody involved," he said of the political situation.

A lifelong Hoboken resident, Haack and his wife, Lucille,

have two children, Kelly Ann, 18, and Roy Arthur, 15.

Haack played a variety of roles at the Department of Public Works over the years, before it became a part of the Department of Environmental Services and Facilities. He served as truck driver, equipment operator, foreman, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. All of the jobs were civil service positions, he noted.

The department has changed in many ways during his tenure, Haack said. It has been reduced from the 230 employees it had when he was hired to the approximately 70 people currently employed. The reductions in manpower are due largely to automation and budget cuts, Haack said.

Haack said he plans to make several changes of his own in the department, including increasing maintenance in the city parks and street cleaning on a seven-day schedule. Haack said he plans to provide the increased services without hiring new employees or paying overtime

by "shifting manpower" to avoid workers duplicating each other's jobs.

Haack said he feels that the two largest problems facing his department are the installation of a new, secondary sewage treatment facility and the city's aging water system.

Alicandri left his position as director in the middle of a fight concerning the awarding a contract to build the sewage treatment plant by Mayo Lynch Associates. Haack said he would not comment on Alicandri's contentions about the contract because of the possibility of pending litigation.

Haack in hot seat in Hoboken

City seeking \$20M for waterfront

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken is seeking a \$20 million federal grant for waterfront redevelopment proposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The city and the Port Authority are working to draw up an application for an Urban Development Action Grant by July even though negotiations are still under way for a contractual agreement.

If Hoboken should secure the funding and conclude an agreement with the Port Authority, the grant would be the second largest ever given in New Jersey.

Hoboken and Port Authority drawing up UDAG application

UDAGs, given by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, go to cities which end the funds at a low interest rate to leverage private development. The money is repaid on a schedule and may then be funneled into various community development activities.

Criteria for winning a grant

include the creation of jobs and

While the Port Authority has estimated its project would bring thousands of construction and permanent jobs to Hoboken, the mechanism for the city's financial return has yet to be set.

The authority has proposed a \$600 million redevelopment of

the Hoboken waterfront extending from the Jersey City border to Sixth Street on the campus of Stevens Institute of Technology.

A master plan developed by the New York architectural firm Cooper Eckstut and Associates calls for 1.4 million square feet of office space; 1,200 units of housing; a 400-room hotel with

conference space; retail stores; a marina; a water area for recreation; access parks; a rehabilitated PATH and NJ Transit bus and rail facility with a parking garage; a 2,000-foot breakwater, and a research and development center on the Stevens campus.

The Port Authority has said it would invest \$125 million

toward infrastructure for the project, minus whatever grants can be secured. The rest of the financing would come from private developers.

Michael Coleman, director of the city Community Development Agency, said the UDAG is being sought now because future funding of the program is in doubt. "We can't wait until we know for sure (whether the city and the Port Authority can reach an agreement)," he said.

Mayme Jurkat, chairwoman of Mayor Thomas Vezetti's Waterfront Advisory Committee, however, criticized the

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move in view of the drawn-out negotiations and what WAC considers an "absolutely abysmal" offer from the Port Authority in terms of revenues to the city and control over the project.

"How can you apply for a UDAG for the Port Authority when you don't have a contract in place?" she asked. "I don't know how you can do this."

She charged that working toward and submitting an application on the project gives the impression that the city is committed to it and this results in a poor negotiating stance.

Coleman disagreed. The city is covering all its bases by applying for funding while the UDAG program is certain, he said. Should the city and Port Authority fail to reach an agreement, the UDAG application will simply be stopped. The city would never know if the project had a chance for funding.

Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, a council representative to the city's negotiating team, said he believes working toward a UDAG can only strengthen the city's position in negotiations.

"It improves our negotiating position," he said. "It shows everybody that we are positive on the development of the waterfront."

He also supported the general idea of seeking a UDAG because the money will be "poured" into the waterfront and then come back for reuse.

"All that money, dollar for dollar," he said, "comes back into the city."

But, said Jurkat, all of the issues regarding agreements between the two parties "are still very much up in the air." She added: "This sounds to me as if Hoboken is willing to accept any offer."

Timing's essential

Vezetti, who appointed WAC and charged it to advise him on waterfront redevelopment, said he believes the timing of the application is essential. "I think Mr. Coleman knows what he's doing," he said. "I think Mr. Coleman has shown he knows what he is doing."

If the city and the authority cannot reach an agreement by HUD's September deadline for grant approvals, "it's not a major disaster," Coleman said. "We'll just go for funding next year."

And if the two parties never reach an agreement, there's been no harm done, he said.

Carmine Valenti, HUD program manager for New Jersey, explained that fiscal year 1986 funding for UDAGs had been in doubt when the Office of Management and Budget tried to rescind about \$200 million of the \$330 million appropriated.

The program was frozen for five months until Congress reversed the decision. HUD now has \$124 million to grant to large cities, the category Hoboken comes under, and \$55 million for small cities, he said.

"We might have a program after Oct. 1," he added, noting that President Reagan's proposed 1987 budget didn't in-

clude funding for the UDAG program but Congress has voted to approve some funding.

Jersey City won the largest UDAG in program history in December 1982 when HUD approved \$40 million for the New Port City project. The next highest UDAG in New Jersey went to Newark in 1979 for the office building at 1 Washington Place, Valenti said.

Five other grants were for \$8 million to \$9.8 million, but the bulk of New Jersey's 149 approved projects were below \$5 million in funding, he said.

2,600 grants

Nationally, there have been 2,600 grants and about a dozen projects have received \$20 million or more, said John J. Flynn, HUD spokesman in Washington. After Newport City, the next highest grant was \$30 million for an auto plant in Michigan, he said.

"You have to remember also that when an application, that comes in for \$20 million it doesn't necessarily mean it will be funded at \$20 million and we'll say: 'It's a good project, a good application, however, we don't feel you need the \$20 million.' We'll offer \$10 million."

Coleman said the UDAG application will refer to Phase One of the Port Authority project since the authority has the most input there. The Authority, a bistate agency, is laying the foundation for development but would ask private-sector businesses to develop the many segments — luxury housing, for example, as opposed to a public park.

bulkheading, park space and commuter parking.

The \$20 million would represent about 20 percent of the Port Authority's proposed contribution.

The Port Authority raises money by floating bonds, Coleman said, but the public-private nature of the agency would pose no problem in seeking a grant. Both Coleman and Valenti noted that there has been legal precedent, set when Newark received a \$9 million UDAG for the Gateway office project, to allow the matching funds for a Port Authority development.

Michael Krieger, Hoboken project manager for the Port Authority, said the agency is "pleased to respond to the city's request that we work with them on a UDAG." He said it is premature to answer how the awarding of a grant would affect financial agreements the city needs to arrive at with the authority.

In connection with the application, the City Council has approved the hiring of the Washington, D.C., law firm Krivit and Krivit as consultants. The professional services contract approves payment of \$2,500 a month plus expenses.

The firm, which Coleman called one of the top in the UDAG field, will also be working on other grant applications.

It has assigned Barbara Zientek to work with the CDA and Port Authority on the application. Zientek, 31, is a Bayonne native who has lived in Washington since attending Georgetown University.

A federal program specialist for Krivit and Krivit, she will work on the drafting of the application, ensure that all parties know their roles and responsibilities, make presentations before HUD and attend public hearings. The firm also provides legal expertise for the drafting of documents, she said.

Hoboken to debate warehousing ban

Dispatch 22 May 1986

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night was expected to introduce an ordinance that effectively would curtail the warehousing of apartments here.

The ordinance, seen by tenant advocates as a means to combat a shortage of affordable housing, will be challenged in court if adopted, according to landlords and attorneys interviewed yesterday.

Similar measures have been introduced in West New York and Weehawken, but these anti-warehousing ordinances have yet to be tested in court. Attorneys for landlords in West New York have maintained that the ordinance is unconstitutional because it removes a landlord's control over his property.

Under the provisions of the ordinance here, landlords must make "diligent efforts" to rent apartments once they become vacant. If an apartment is not rented within 30 days of becoming vacant, landlords must notify the city that they

have a vacancy in their buildings.

Failure to rent and apartment 60 days after it becomes vacant can, under the ordinance, result in fines of \$500 for each violation per day. Landlords may also face a prison sentence of up to 30 days for each violation.

It was not clear yesterday where the council stood on the ordinance. The measure was proposed by Councilman Joseph Della Fave, but opposition is expected from other councilmen, in particular Robert A. Ranieri, who yesterday said the measure is unconstitutional. The city's legal department, which was asked a month ago to review the legality of the ordinance, has not made an official recommendation.

One attorney said privately last night that the measure appeared unconstitutional.

The ordinance is widely supported by tenant groups here, partly because it is seen as one possible solution to a shortage of affordable apartments. Some also said warehousing apartments are effectively displacing the city's poor who, unable to find apartments, must look elsewhere for housing.

"It's a serious problem," said Lourdes Arroyo, the Rent Leveling Board administrator here. "It's just another way of fostering displacement in the city. Right now, people are looking for apartments — and there are some — but landlords won't rent them."

Conservative estimates place the

number of vacant apartments here at between 200 and 300, a figure that could not be confirmed. Nevertheless, tenant advocates maintain the ordinance — if passed — would drastically reduce the number of people who are on waiting lists for public housing, a figure estimated at close to 1,100.

Tom Oliveri, the coordinator of community services here, and a tenant advocate on his own time, said he is confident the council will pass the ordinance, despite the doubts as to its constitutionality. "I can't see how they will refuse to pass it because the need is so obvious," Oliveri said.

He said he believes the ordinance will make apartments "available immediately," and that will cut the number of people waiting for public housing.

But if the ordinance is adopted, landlords are confident that it will be ruled unconstitutional when challenged in court. West New York, which was the first municipality to pass such an ordinance, has only begun enforcing it recently. Officials there have suggested that the lax enforcement is partly because they see little likelihood of it surviving a court challenge.

Perry Belfiore, a landlord here who has been keeping apartments vacant for a year or longer, maintained that the ordinance is simply political. If the council were serious about alleviating the housing problem here, Belfiore said yesterday, it would not introduce a measure

considered weak constitutionally.

The city does not permit landlords to substantially rehabilitate apartments unless a building is completely empty. This forces landlords to keep apartments vacant until all the tenants move out, and keeps deteriorated buildings on the market, Belfiore said.

"They should come up with a criteria for buildings that need rehabilitation," Belfiore said of the council, adding that this will stop some landlords from warehousing apartments.

And even if the ordinance is adopted and upheld by the courts, some landlords will simply choose conversion to condominiums before they yield vacant apartments, Belfiore said. When conversions are approved, vacant apartments can be placed on the market immediately, and that will put them beyond the reach of the ordinance, he added.

"If it gets voted in," Belfiore predicted, "there will be people who will work around it."

Hoboken ed board finds ways to cut \$1M from budget

88-5-22-86

By Blanca M. Quintanilla

The Hoboken Board of Education has averted laying off a number of teachers as board members yesterday found alternative items which would help cut almost \$1 million from the 1986-87 school budget.

The board also avoided closing down a school — a move aimed at reducing operating costs — until an investigation committee presents a detailed research on the proposition, according to Joseph Rafter, board member.

Facing tomorrow's state budget submission deadline, the board worked for almost six hours during a marathon special session that lasted until almost 12 o'clock last night.

School personnel who wanted to know if there would be

any layoffs stayed until the end.

The board is scheduled to present the revised budget to the Hudson County Superintendent of Schools today so he can forward it to Trenton by tomorrow.

On May 12, the City Council had suggested ways to cut the budget by more than \$900,000, thus slicing the amount to be raised by taxation to slightly more than \$10 million from a proposed \$11 million.

In April, the voters rejected by a 3-1 margin the school budget, which represented an increase of nearly \$5 million in the tax levy.

From there, it went to the City Council for the first time on April 30.

The resolution passed by the council called for cuts in 62 line items, including \$346,137

budgeted for teacher salaries.

City Council President E. Norman Wilson said at the time that these were only recommendations.

"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," Wilson warned.

Last night, Rafter said, the board found enough money to avoid the layoffs, but said the board had terminated a contract for custodial services at the high school that represented about \$200,000 a year.

The board also terminated the position of business manager, eliminating another \$49,000 in salary.

Another \$150,000 in surplus money was reduced following

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the council's recommendation. Rafter said that as the chairman of the committee looking into closing Demarest School on Fourth Street, he wants more community feedback on the issue.

"At this time," he said, "we cannot move on the suggestion of the council. We need to research more this suggestion."

Former board President Otto Hottendorf said that the building should be sold.

"In my opinion, the building should be rehabilitated, sold for \$7 or \$8 million and that would help in reducing the operating budget for next year," he said.

Board President Richard England said the decision will probably take some time.

In other business, Rafter introduced a resolution to make the schools superintendent the chief executive officer for the board of education. This resolution was tabled until more research into the job description is available.

The board now operates an administrative structure in which the board secretary, the business manager/administrative director, the internal auditor, and the superintendent each report separately and independently to the board.

According to the proposed resolution, the present structure is no longer efficient. If the resolution passes, the superintendent will be responsible for coordinating all these departments, according to Rafter.

Anti-warehousing law makes tempers flare

88-5-23-86

By Jim DeRogatis

Emotions ran high yesterday among Hoboken housing groups supporting and opposing an "anti-warehousing" ordinance introduced by the City Council Wednesday.

Members of the Campaign for Housing Justice praised the council for voting unanimously to introduce the ordinance. But a spokesman for Help Hoboken Housing criticized the ordinance and said the group is ready to contest its constitutionality if adopted.

The ordinance, sponsored by Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, seeks to pre-

Hoboken landlords will fight proposal

vent landlords from speculating on real estate values while keeping apartments vacant. Landlords of buildings of more than two to four families would have 60 days to rent all vacant apartment units.

If landlords cannot rent units after 60 days, they would be required to notify the Rent Leveling Board. Landlords who

violate the ordinance could face fines of up to \$500 per vacant unit and a jail term of up to 30 days.

The anti-warehousing ordinance is one of a number of measures to ease the housing crisis in Hoboken that were suggested by consultant Steve Block in a housing plan prepared

at the request of Mayor Thomas Vezetti.

The plan attacked warehousing, which it said was a "widespread practice," because it "removes scarce units from the housing stock"; "increases the risk of infestation, other code violations, break-ins, arson and vandalism" in vacant units; and "enables the landlord to make long-term changes in the housing stock without providing appropriate relocation benefits and other mitigating measures."

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council last night approved the first reading of an ordinance issuing \$2.5 million in bond anticipation notes to pay "start-up costs" for the city's proposed \$50 million secondary sewage treatment plant.

A public hearing on the ordinance has been scheduled for June 9.

Last night's vote overrides the initial introduction made on May 13. According to bond counsel Harriet Welch, the ordinance was altered due to "technical changes" made by the city's auditing department.

Welch, a member of the Manhattan law firm of Finley, Kumble and Wagner, called the changes in the original ordinance "minor but unfortunate."

She said the initial computations concerning the supplemental debt statement and technical information in the ordinance were altered, but could not provide specific information.

"This was done to avoid a possible problem," Welch said. "It will have no effect on the deadline for the plant other than pushing back the deadline by five business days."

Less than half a dozen spectators attended the five-minute meeting. Council members Helen Canning, Joe Della Fave and Mary Francone were absent from the session.

Earlier this month, City Attorney Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. said the notes were earmarked to provide start-up costs for the proposed sewage plant.

"This is the lead-in to a bigger bond issue," D'Amelio told the council on May 13. "We can't go anywhere without the money."

D'Amelio said \$2.5 million was needed to pay costs not included in the federal funding package. Among the costs are \$2 million for Mayo Lynch Associates, the design engineers, and \$50,000 for Government Finance Associates, the financial consultants.

Hoboken will issue bonds for sewerage

88-5-28-86

Those were the days

Henry Ford said history is bunk, by which he probably meant that he didn't intend to let history get in the way of progress.

Well, be that as it may, the past is all around us all the time. It shaped our towns, our attitudes, and it is still shaping our future.

Plus it's fun once in a while to take time off from one's present preoccupations and dip into the past.

So, bunk or no bunk, let's look at what there is to dip into in Hudson and Bergen Counties.

Some of this may sound familiar — such as the fact that Lighthorse Harry Lee fought a Revolutionary War battle in the Paulus Hook section of Jersey City, near Exchange Place.

And almost every American schoolchild learns about the 1804 duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr that resulted in Hamilton's death (though for some reason most American teachers say it took place on the cliffs of Weehawken — fact is it took place at the water's edge, on what is now Imperatore territory).

And how about the fact that the nation's first baseball game was played in Hoboken on June 19, 1846. Most Jerseyites have heard of the

reign of the railroads, and most of us know that of all the glorious railroad terminals that used to crowd our Hudson shoreline, only two are left (the Erie Lackawanna at Hoboken and the old Central Railroad of New Jersey terminal, now part of Liberty State Park) — but how many commuters who take the PATH train every morning at Pavonia know that the E's chiseled into the upright girders stand for Erie?

And if you know that our area was important in the early history of the motion picture industry, perhaps you also know that in 1914, the Perils of Pauline, starring Pearl White, was filmed at the Pathe

studio building at Congress Street and Ogden Avenue in the Heights section of Jersey City.

But did you know that in Fort Lee's Coytesville section, you can still see, at 2423 First Street, a building once known as Rambo's Hotel that was used as a saloon backdrop for countless early westerns? "Many a pair of ugly cowboys stepped out the front door of Rambo's Saloon," writes film historian Arthur C. Miller in his book *One Reel a Week*, "and squared off on the dusty road for a shootout... Within a stone's throw was a tree where each day at least

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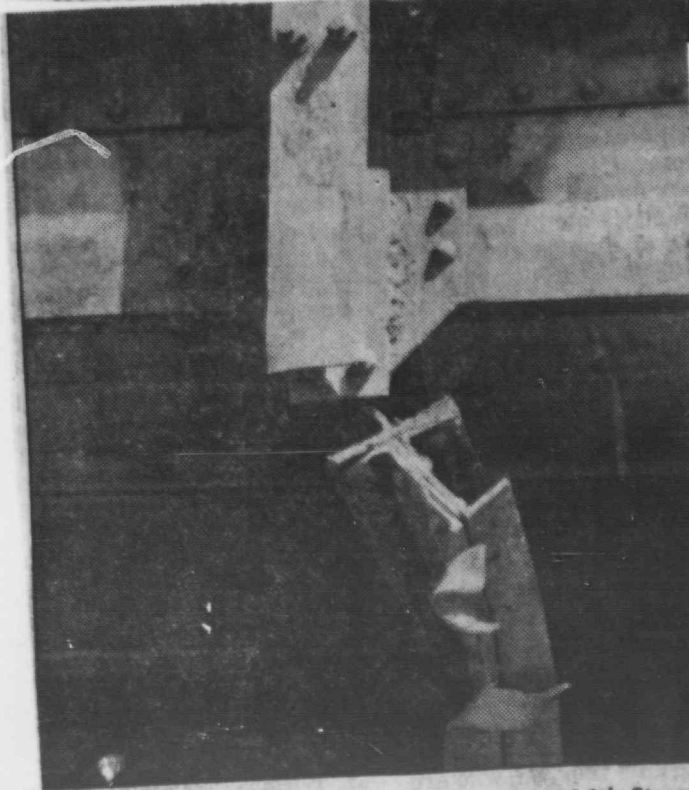
Dangerous conditions persist at the viaduct



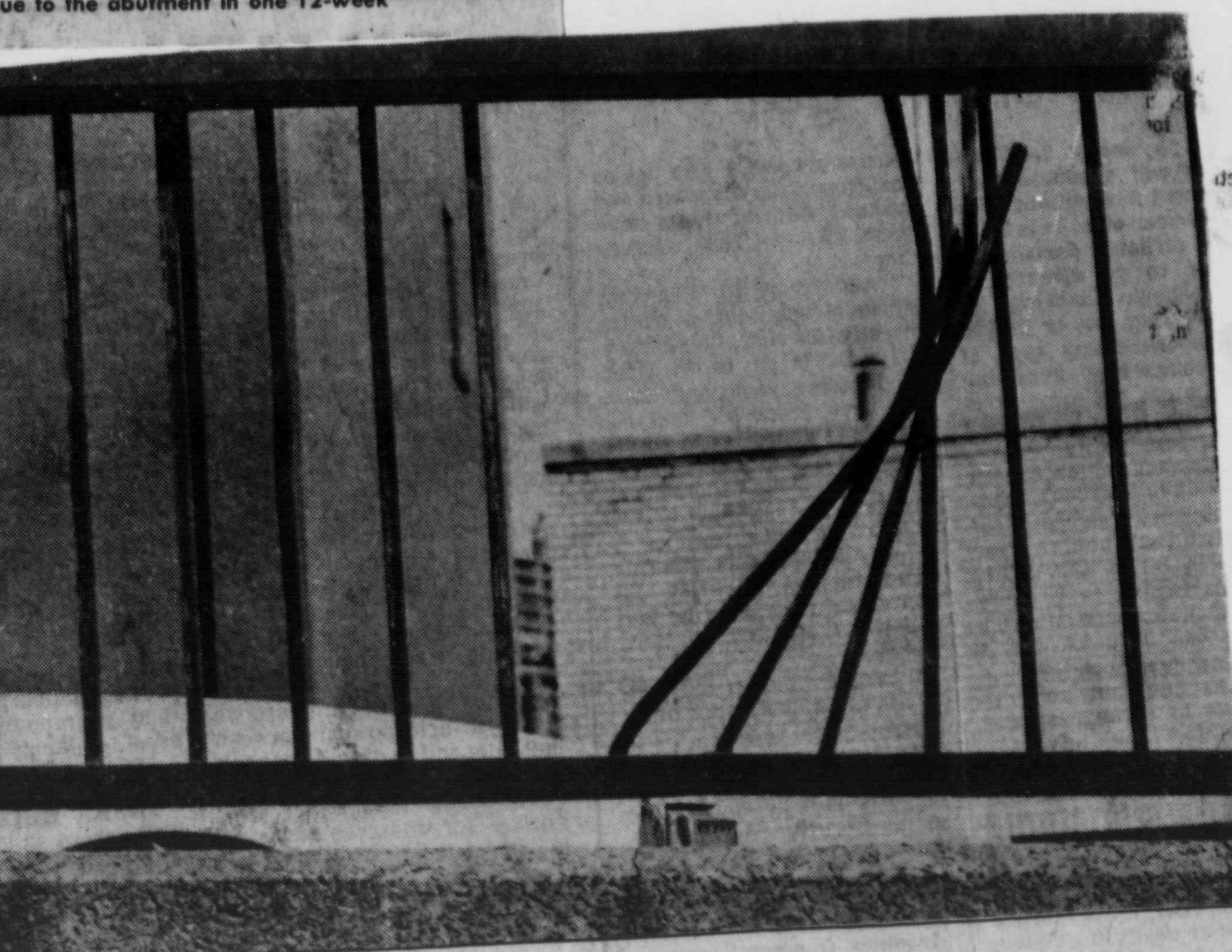
BATTERED ABUTMENT—A concrete abutment along the south wing of the viaduct leading into Jersey City bears the marks of many collisions with passing automobiles. Hudson County police reported six accidents due to the abutment in one 12-week period.



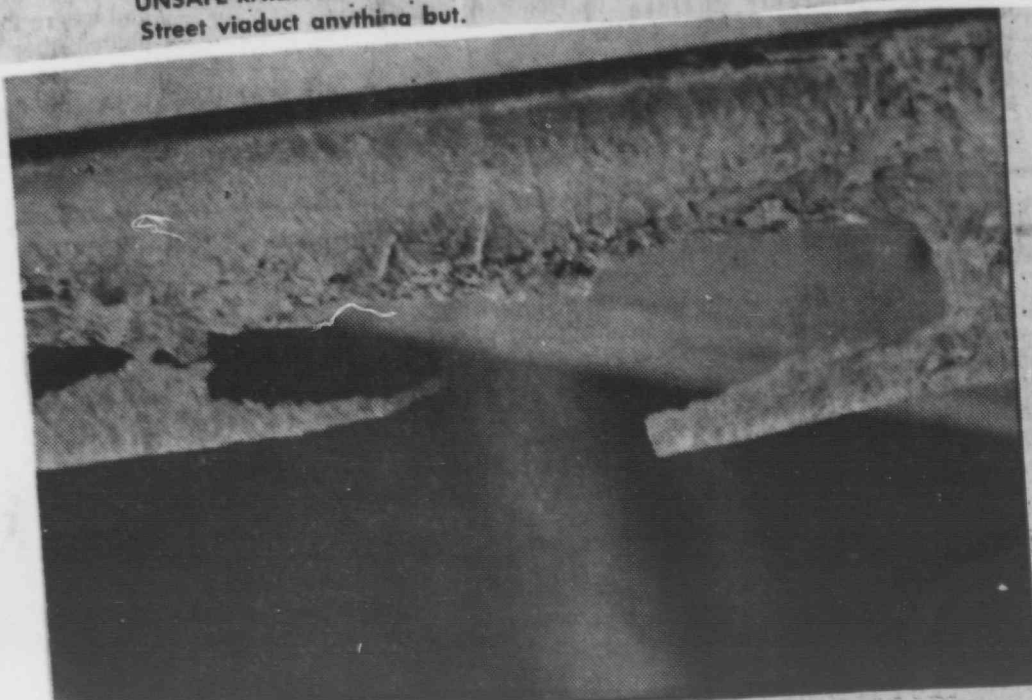
AGING BRIDGE — There has been no major reconstruction on the 14th Street viaduct since 1938. The bridge is plagued by a number of problems that could lead to its collapse if unabated.



BENT BEAM — A steel girder below the 14th Street viaduct seems to offer little support as it is corroded and bent out of shape.



UNSAFE RAILINGS — Bent and missing bars make the safety railings along the 14th Street viaduct anything but.



RUSTING SUPPORTS — Some of the steel support beams beneath the bridge have been almost completely eaten away by rust.

Photos by Wally Hennig and Mark W'ville

Continued from Page 11

one bad man finished life dangling from the end of a rope... At the back of the saloon was a cistern with a pump where the 'Indians' washed the Bole Armenia or reddish water paint from their bodies after a hard day's work... The building is an aluminum siding-covered private home now, but its shape is unmistakably saloon-like. Many of our readers probably know about the local historic sites that are open to the public. For example, at Fort Lee Historic Park, a Revolutionary War site on Hudson Terrace just south of the George Washington Bridge, you may picnic (but not cook) as well as see three reconstructed gun batteries and a reconstructed soldiers' hut. The visitor's center is open now Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Summer hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, and there is also an observation deck which will open in early June.

Then there is the former Hoboken ferryboat, the 80-year-old, 231-foot Binghamton, anchored off River Road in Edgewater — an historic landmark listed on both the state and national registries that has been doubling as a restaurant since 1975, when James Demetrakis bought her and replaced her boilers with kitchen.

The Binghamton carried an estimated 150,000 passengers between 1905 and 1967 when ferry service ended.

A little further afield: Newark's 1885 Ballantine House, a late Victorian mansion built for brewery magnate John H. Ballantine, which

as part of the Newark Museum, is open to the public (and free) Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

In Hackensack, at 150 River Street, the U.S.S. Ling, a World War II submarine that saw one war patrol in the Atlantic in 1945 before being de-commissioned and going to work as a reserve submarine training facility, is open to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. to

imagination, though, they've stepped the outside, or the only operating locomotive turntable in the state at the turn-of-the-century repair facility of the Delaware, Susquehanna and Western Railroad in Ridgefield. Then there is the first Roman Catholic church in Bergen County on Hoefley's Lane in Fort Lee (where there is a 1904 pipe organ donated by Andrew

The former Hoboken ferryboat, the 80-year-old, 231-foot Binghamton anchored off River Road in Edgewater, is an historic landmark listed on state and national registers

make a theme park out of it, but the most recent idea, currently on hold, was to build a small town — 723 luxury rental units as well as a tree-lined street system — inside the building.

On the other side of River Road just a bit north of the Ford plant is the old Aluminum Company of America rolling and stamping plant, built between 1914 and 1920 and in operation until 1960. It too, is listed on both the state and national registries of historic places, largely because of a pioneering use of rebar (something called the "mushroom flat slab" floor and support system). Collapsible toothpaste tubes were first manufactured at the Edgewater plant in 1921.

We could go on and on — the early stone house at 246 Broad Avenue in Fairview (you'll have to use your

Carnegie), or about the spectacular three-domed St. Michael's Monastery in Union City.

Historian Joe Brooks of Jersey City's Division of Urban Research and Design says that when you look across the river at it from Manhattan's Chelsea district, it's "like looking across the Tiber at the Vatican."

And on and on. Like we said, history is everywhere, all around us, all the time. 5 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children aged 5 to 11. There are discounts for senior citizens, groups of 15 or more and students.

And at 1209 Main Street in River Edge, on eight acres of Hackensack Riverfront property, is the 18th century Steuben House, a house that

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Judge OKs Democratic challengers

By Margaret Schmidt

The Hoboken Regular Democratic Organization received last-minute court approval yesterday to put challengers at the polls for today's primary elections.

Superior Court Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys approved the unopposed request after a brief hearing.

Hoboken RDO Chairman Maurice Fitzgibbons said he made the court request after missing the May 20 filing deadline.

Fitzgibbons appeared before Humphreys with papers prepared by Hoboken lawyer

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Continued from Page 1.

Bernard Kenny Jr.

Candidates are allowed to have two challengers at each polling district to monitor the voting. The Hoboken RDO is supporting Democrats Frank Guarini Jr., the incumbent, for U.S. Congress, Ed Webster of Jersey City for Hudson County sheriff, and Kenneth Chmielewski of Bayonne for county register.

The group is also supporting two candidates for Democratic Party committee seats in each of the 28 Hoboken election districts, Fitzgibbons said.

In all, the group has a list of 168 challengers, he said.

Also seeking election in the primary are: Marie Vaughan of Jersey City and Herbert Smith of Garfield for the Democratic nomination for the 14th Congressional District, Frances Smarr of Jersey City for sheriff, and

Yvonne Morales of Jersey City for register.

On the Republican side are Albio Sires of West New York and Octavio Alfonso of North Bergen for Congress; incumbent Dominick Pugliese of Jersey City and Michael DeLanzo of Hoboken for sheriff, and Kearny Mayor Henry Hill for register.

The nominees in the Democratic and Republican parties will face each other in November.

Warehousing tops Council's agenda

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council tonight is expected to discuss ordinances on warehousing and the reorganization of various departments during its caucus session.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

An ordinance regulating the office hours of the tax assessor and a resolution condemning the storage of July Fourth fireworks in the city are also on the agenda.

The ordinance to prohibit warehousing, the withholding of residential units from the rental market, was unanimously approved during its first reading two weeks ago.

According to the sponsor, Second Ward Councilman Joe DellaFave, "this is not what you would call an anti-development bill, it is an anti-speculating bill."

The ordinance will force landlords whose buildings have more than four units to rent all vacant apartments within 60 days.

Ordinances to reorganize the Department of Environmental Services and Facilities as a division under the city business administrator and another to

shift the Department of Public Safety under the law director are on the agenda for their first reading.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi has served as public safety director since last July. The ordinance will shift the department, which regulates the police and fire departments, under Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr.

Environmental Services, the umbrella agency for public works and health and welfare, is currently headed by Roy Haack, who replaced former director Peter Alicandri in April.

The ordinance regulating the hours of Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte was approved at its first reading in May. The ordinance requires Monte to work a five-day work week. He currently works two days a week.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said he will motion that a "what's good for the goose is good for the gander" amendment be attached to the ordinance requiring all directors to work the same hours.

The resolution condemning the storage of fireworks in Hoboken, withdrawn at the last

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council session, will be reintroduced if the city's fire code office allows Liberty

Weekend organizers to store explosives at the old Hoboken Shipyards.

Ranieri, the sponsor, said he wants to know the total volume of fireworks and the potential damage in the event of an explosion.

Ranieri called the resolution, which is not binding, "symbolic."

Worker's electrocution probed

By Jim DeRogatis

State and local officials are investigating the death of a Hoboken construction worker who was electrocuted on Saturday while working on scaffolding that officials said was in violation of state safety codes.

Ismael "Izzy" Del Valle, 20, was jolted by a high tension wire on Saturday shortly before noon. He was working on the scaffolding at 80 Bloomfield St., a building which is being converted to condominiums by Hudson Investments, a Hoboken development firm.

The shock from the 4,000-volt wire knocked Del Valle 25

feet to the ground below. He was pronounced dead at 12:27 p.m. in St. Mary Hospital.

Paul McNamara, a fellow worker, attempted to grab Del Valle as he was falling and also received a shock. He was taken to St. Mary, where he was in fair condition yesterday.

The details of the accident were still unclear yesterday. The police report states that Del Valle "lost his balance on the scaffolding and grabbed the high tension wire."

However, Bob Lee, owner of Hudson Investments, said Del Valle was struck by the wire when it fell from the top of a battered and leaning support pole

on the corner of Bloomfield and Newark streets.

According to the Public Service Electric and Gas Company and the state Department of Labor, which are investigating the accident, Hudson Investments was in violation of state codes at the building because the scaffolding was within six feet of the wires.

Seymour Rubenstein, assistant director of the office of Safety Compliance at the Department of Labor, said representatives of Hudson Investments met with members of his office and Public Service

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Continued from Page 1.

In February. Lee said he requested that the pole be repaired at that meeting. He said he later gave Public Service a \$400 check to perform the work.

But Gene Murphy, a spokesman for Public Service, said that the company was "awaiting information" from the developer about when to deactivate the power lines so that the scaffolding could be safely removed.

Rubenstein said that the investigation by the Office of

Safety Compliance would determine if Hudson Investments could be fined for violations regarding the scaffolding. He said the maximum fine that could be levied against the company would be \$500.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is also expected to investigate the incident, although it has not yet announced an investigation.

Lee said that he was sure the truth about the accident "would come out in the wash" during the investigation.

ISSUE: VARIANCES

Zoning board in eye of storm

By GAIL FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Since a change in state law put it at the hub of decisions about development, the Zoning Board of Adjustment has been making builders happy and civic activists angry by approving the overwhelming majority of variance applications brought before it.

The controversy sets at odds community groups, who charge the board with eroding the quality of life, and developers, who say they need to build more densely than the letter of the zoning law allows to earn a decent return on their investment.

"If this trend of throwaway variances continues to occur, we fear that Hoboken will become an overbuilt, cavernous, congested, dark and altogether deplorable place," wrote Helen Manogue in a statement for the Hoboken Environment Committee, of which she is president.

"A developer who wants to get a variance the quick and easy way goes to the zoning board," said Thomas Newman, a board alternate and president of the 1st Ward Block Association, which has challenged several variance rulings.

Without a variance, "it's difficult, very difficult to do something that's profitable with land costs the way they are," said Daniel Gans, a principal of Westbank Construction, a major developer here. "None of us wants to lose the flavor of Hoboken. We all want there to be a larger tax base and to see the city prosper."

The board members "do a job;

For quick variance, see zoning board

there are arguments, and that's how government runs," Gans said.

"It's almost an obligation of the zoning board to permit development to proceed if it makes sense and benefits the community," said attorney Richard Seltzer, who represents a number of landlords and developers. "Otherwise, there wouldn't be a procedure for variances."

A variance is an approved exception to zoning standards. It lets someone construct a taller building, for example, or fewer parking spaces, than the zoning code ordinarily would permit. Both the planning and adjustment boards can grant variances, but of different types.

A change in state land-use law that took hold in the summer funneled most variance applications to the zoning board, and sent neighborhood watchdog groups scrambling there, too. The change essentially expanded the board's jurisdiction to include variances for parking, height, lot coverage and, above all, floor area ratio — the square footage of a structure in proportion to its lot.

The floor area ratio throughout the city — except for a small chunk of the business district — is 2.5. That translates into a building of up to 5,000 square feet sitting on the standard 20-by-100-foot lot. Securing a variance to raise the ratio to 5 would mean the difference between a five-story building housing 10 500-square-foot condominium units and a 10-story structure with twice the number of units.

Coupled with the city's revival, the change in the law has given an appointed board of laymen free rein to make decisions that are shaping the course of development here. In effect, the switch shifted control of major new projects from the Planning Board to the Board of Adjustment. Critics say the rule change left the zoning board the weak link in the regulatory process.

While the Planning Board has stiff review procedures and relies heavily on the advice of an expert consultant, the zoning board has been more accustomed to deciding whether someone should be allowed to "lengthen his front stoop," Newman said.

The environmental committee has urged that board to hire a consultant to curb what it says are variances issued without regard to traffic patterns, parking problems and overburdened public services.

Three variance applications in particular have come under fire from community activists. They are:

□ Park Plaza, a 14-story, 250-unit condominium complex proposed for downtown by local developer Patrick Reynolds. The application has been withdrawn.

□ A six-unit condominium conversion at 222 Bloomfield St. The 1st Ward Block Association had contended developer Peter Addison of Chatham built a penthouse addition without getting needed variances for height and floor area ratio. The board, after extended hearings, recently decided against granting the variances on grounds that would set a bad precedent. Addison is considering a court appeal.

□ Presidential Towers, a downtown condominium complex whose height has shrunk from 28 to 16 stories in various plans unveiled during the past year. The case is in court. ANAWIM Inc., its Jersey City developer, has argued a lapse by the board gives them the go-ahead to build. The board says ANAWIM, which intends to sell development rights to Reynolds and his partner, Joseph Brower, has not followed procedures.

Hoboken is considered the crown jewel of the revitalized communities along the Hudson River's "Gold Coast," and variance applications have soared in recent years, although no one is sure by how much.

Between September and March, the board heard 35 applications, according to unofficial records — the only records furnished in response to a request from The Dispatch. Of these, 25 were approved, three rejected, five postponed and two withdrawn. The nature of the projects and the reasons for the board's decisions could not be determined from the records supplied, but more than half of the applications were for floor area ratio variances.

"What people are doing is expanding their space," real estate broker Mark Singleton said. "They're going every way they can — up, out or down."

Singleton said a rough price tag could be put on a variance for a rehabilitation project by subtracting construction costs of between \$75 and \$100 per square foot from selling prices of \$150 to \$175. Under that formula, a single 600-square-foot penthouse addition would net \$45,000, he said. The profit margin on new construction is harder to calculate because land acquisition costs have to be taken into account.

The prospect of obtaining variances makes a property worth more, Singleton said, citing as an example a three-family home with an attached store in a prime downtown area on Washington Street. The property, ticketed at \$300,000 "in rough shape," would fetch \$100,000 less without the possibility of receiving variances that would enable the rental units to be converted into a greater number of condominium units, he said.

The profit margin on new construction is harder to calculate. Both land acquisition and building costs have to be taken into account,

Change in law expanded board's power

and they differ widely among projects.

Land acquisition cost is reckoned according to the number of dwelling units that can be built on the property. So, as the number of units rises, the cost of each drops.

Likewise, construction is cheaper when there is more of it, according to sources in the development community. And banks are more willing to finance units that will go on the market at moderate prices — less than \$150,000.

Developers usually have variances already in hand when they apply for a loan, said Ernest Badaracco, president of Elysian Federal Savings Bank.

Land acquisition typically costs between \$32,000 and \$35,000 a unit, and construction comes to \$80 or \$100 per square foot, Badaracco said.

Three years ago, developers enjoyed a profit margin of 40 to 50 percent, he said. Now, the figure is more like 15 to 25 percent, he said.

"The market is getting a bit saturated," he explained.

Builders happy, but activists grumble

Controversy swirls around Presidential Towers, now scaled down to 16 stories

Still, Badaracco acknowledges that the return is not bad when interest rates hover at 8 percent. Although his bank looks for condominium projects that can be rented as apartments if the venture falls through, none has so far, he said.

Until challenged by a coalition of community groups, the board was on the verge of granting the developers of Presidential Towers variances that would have let them build 500 condominium units. After the board failed to formalize a resolution approving the variances, the developers claimed the time lapse was tantamount to approval of the 346-unit plans submitted earlier.

This is a difference of opinion worth \$5 million in gross sales, based on the developers' estimate of a minimum \$135,000 per unit market price.

Zoning Board Chairman Frank Cameron, whose term expires in 1989, sits at the head of a seven-member panel in transition. Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti already has seated three of his choices, but appointees of his predecessor, Steve Cappiello, still hold an edge. Vezetti had hoped to install three more members, but their nominations became mired in a legal dispute over the length of board terms, and his opponents on the City Council moved to strip the mayor of his power to make the appointments.

As Cameron sees it, "in crucial areas" the board has been "giving away nothing at all," particularly when it comes to parking variances sought in crowded areas uptown.

Asked for more specifics, he said he would have to review records. Pressed for an answer some two weeks later, Cameron put the approval rate for variances at about 80 percent.

He said he tries to evaluate applications according to "what's good for the town," with a "main concern" of adding ratables to the tax rolls.

But he said a proposal also must stand on its own merit, defining a "good project" as "a beautiful building with plenty of parking" and "something that doesn't excite the people."

"Anything that's new is going to excite somebody," Cameron added. "On a rehab job, they mostly go along with it."

The board is required to consider any application filed and must give the developer a good reason if it is denied, he said.

Vezetti's idea of what's good for the city is "to keep it for the people of Hoboken." That means building "projects that not so enormous they're going to change the whole geographic set-up," said the mayor, elected in June with strong backing from voters wary of stepped-up development.

Developers "know it's the Gold Coast and all the rewards are there," Vezetti said. "They were distorting the city of Hoboken because of that great reward."

Project financial backers and builders have a different perspective on the board.

"There's a new interest in it," said Gans, the developer. "There has to be, because projects are much larger. There's a planning issue here."

Overall, he said he does not think the board has done anything "outrageous." Despite "all this fuss," no major projects have gone through, he said.

According to Badaracco, the banker, the Vezetti administration is fostering anti-growth sentiment that is driving developers to Union City, Jersey City or other parts of Hudson County.

Group of laymen is now in position to shape future course of development

dated. The draft plan being devised by the Planning Board in consultation with Seligman acknowledges the surge of gentrification in this former factory town.

It would open the industrial belt on the northern waterfront to residential projects that meet certain conditions, as well as to retail businesses the city would like to attract.

It also confines highrises to the outskirts of the city. One possible tradeoff is more open space and public access in return for increased

building density there, Seligman said.

But he said the underlying question is not only where growth should occur, but how much of it the city's roads, sewers and public services can support.

Given the current rate of development, and the supply of vacant or underused land, Hoboken, the square-mile city that numbered 70,000 residents at the turn of the century, could again become the most thickly settled city in the country, Seligman said.

"Does the city want to be larger than that?" he asked.

Church Square Park place of pride again

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken's Church Square Park certainly isn't new.

The two-acre, century-old park which faces Our Lady of Grace Church, the Public Library and the Demarest School has been photographed over and over and appeared in the film classic "On the Waterfront."

But when city and community leaders join tomorrow for a rededication of the park, they hope it won't be recognizable as the rundown "helter-skelter" and no-so-green area it had been for many years.

The City Community Development Agency has spent \$380,000 to refurbish the park and bring it back as a community centerpiece. Working with the Sixth Ward Block As-

sociation, the city will revive a Hoboken tradition this summer when concerts in the park return.

"Recently, morale vis-a-vis the park has been low," explained Jean Forest, principal planner at the CDA. "It has been throughout the day."

The park, bounded by Fourth Street, Willow Avenue, Park Avenue and Garden Street, is at the center of the city. It was built in the late 1800s, said Pierre Maneri, who is construction inspector and project manager for the CDA.

It boasts two historic statues. One, erected in 1905, is

See CHURCH SQUARE—Page 6.

Church Square Park to shine

Continued from Page 1.

the Fireman's Monument and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The other is of Guglielmo Marconi, the Italian inventor.

The physical rehabilitation of Church Square Park has focused on redoing pathways, planting shrubs and trees and installing "period" light fixtures said Maneri, who is construction inspector and project manager for the CDA.

The bulk of the work has been completed, but a modern "tot lot" — a play area for toddlers — has yet to be installed. Maneri said he expects all the work to be done within three weeks.

"We're getting the park a little greener," Maneri said, explaining that the CDA planted about 700 shrubs and replaced 22 dead trees and stumps with London plane trees and pear trees that will flower in the Spring.

The planning began about two years ago when the city started pressuring CDA to repair deteriorating pathways in the park, Maneri said.

CDA hired the Trenton-based architectural firm Clark and Caton to design a refurbished park and brought the blueprints to the community in a series of public hearings. The original plans were scrapped because the architects had made all paths straight and the community enjoyed the winding walkways of the old park.

The city had limited funds so it couldn't authorize curved paths because the cost was prohibitive, Maneri said. "In the end we reached a compromise," he said. The paths are generally straight but those around the edges form an ellipsis giving "the illusion of curves."

Chain-link fencing that had obstructed views of the park and was unattractive has been replaced by low iron rail fences, and modern lighting fixtures have been replaced by cast iron fixtures with lantern-like tops, he said.

The gazebo, built during the 1930s through federal Works Progress Administration, received a fresh coat of paint, and city efforts are aimed at keeping graffiti artists from defacing the structure.

CDA and Sixth Ward Block Association leaders have met with Police Chief George Crimmins and Director of Environmental Services and Facilities Roy Haack on park



The gazebo at Hoboken's Church Square Park, shown during recent renovations, is still a target for graffiti artists, has been freshly painted for park rededication.



A 1905 postcard shows the historic Fireman's Monument in Hoboken's Church Square Park. It will be one of many turn-of-the-century photo reproductions on sale tomorrow.

security and upkeep.

Crimmins has promised to have scooter police patrol the park from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. every day and to give summonses for littering, loitering, vandalism, and violations of the city pooper-

scooper law, Forest said.

Haack promised that at least two maintenance workers will be assigned to the park for daily cleanups and that signs against littering will be posted, she said.

"We already see the difference," she said, adding, "We'll do everything we can to not let them slacken."

Tomorrow's festivities begin at 10 a.m. The official rededication is set for 11:30 a.m.

All-day festival for rededication

By Margaret Schmidt

Hoboken officials will rededicate Church Square Park tomorrow during a daylong festival designed to reopen the park to community activities.

The festival, sponsored by the city Community Development Agency and the Sixth Ward Block Association, is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, Fourth Street and Willow Avenue.

The rededication ceremonies, led by Thomas Ahern, director of economic development for the CDA, are scheduled for 11:30 a.m., said John DePalma, president of the block association.

Mayor Thomas Vezetti and the City Council have been invited to participate in the ceremonies, he said.

The festivities range from a display of Hoboken memorabilia to a book and cake sale, and entertainment includes a clown, "polar bear" and magician.

Dokey the Good Food Clown and his sidekick, Pinky the Polar Bear, will give three shows, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Zanadu the Magician will give performances at noon and 1:30.

And a seven-piece Dixieland band will perform throughout the day.

The Friends of the Hoboken

Public Library will host a book fair and cake sale with hardcover and paperback books in good condition selling for 25 cents to \$1.50. Proceeds go to the library for new books.

The Hoboken Historical Museum will host a display of Hoboken memorabilia with reproductions of turn-of-the-century photographs for sale. Historian Jim Hans will be on hand to answer questions about the city's past.

Several artists and jewelry makers have signed up to show their works, and anyone interested in setting up a table may do so, DePalma said.

Several community groups — including St. Mary Hospital and private schools — will have displays and distribute information.

The Turtle Back Zoo will send a group of small live animals for children — and adults — to see and touch.

The festivities are set to continue throughout the summer with special events. Highlighting summer in the park will be a series of concerts every Wednesday, 7 to 9:30 p.m., June 25 through Sept. 3. Representatives of the Hoboken Chamber Orchestra will open the series, and a variety of musicians will follow, said Jean Forest, principal planner for the CDA.

Hoboken budget hearing is tonight

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken residents will have an opportunity to air their opinions on the proposed \$22.6 million municipal budget tonight as the City Council conducts its public hearing on the 1986 spending plan.

The hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

The budget, the first presented by the administration of Mayor Tom Vezzetti, includes a \$1.5 million spending increase

over last year and is expected to raise the city tax rate nearly \$50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The budget, which was presented by the administration on April 10 and introduced by the council on April 30, has met criticism from the mostly anti-administration council.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, who has labeled the budget "a fraud," maintained that the tax rate will soar to nearly \$300 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The administration has projected a tax rate of \$205 per

\$1,000 of assessed valuation, up from \$162 in 1985.

Ranieri told the council last month that the administration "misrepresented" the budget figures by including nearly \$1.5 million in anticipated revenue that has yet to be approved by the state.

Among the revenues included in the budget are \$1.3 million in railroad property tax money and \$450,000 from the municipal tax assistance fund.

See HOBOKEN — Page 10.

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On May 7, the council, in an attempt to counter increased spending and a possible loss of

revenue, unanimously froze all municipal hiring.

But yesterday, City Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the principle architect of the budget, said the city has received a "positive response" in its efforts to recoup the anticipated revenue.

"I'd say it looks real good, real positive," Chius said. "If all this comes through, we'll be in great shape. While the situation could be better, this is certainly more palatable than 1983."

In 1983, the state intervened in municipal spending after the

council failed to adopt the municipal budget.

"The city is experiencing growing pains and everyone from city employees to taxpayers will have to make sacrifices," Chius said. "My job is done and now it's up to the council to grapple with this."

Chius said the city's share of the budget has remained stable while school spending has increased. According to the budget statement, city schools account for 40 percent of municipal tax dollars.

In April, voters rejected the proposed school budget, which called for an \$11 million tax levy, by a 3-to-1 margin. Last week, the Board of Education, acting on instructions from the council, agreed to trim the tax levy by nearly \$1 million.

The bulk of the savings in the 1986-87 school budget, which amounts to 4.5 percent of the total budget, will come through attrition.

The board opted to leave vacant positions open, rather than lay off teachers and administrators.

Ranieri will head Vezzetti recall group

By Bill Campbell

Councilman Robert Ranieri has been elected chairman of the city-wide recall movement aimed at unseating Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

In another move, George Crimmins Jr., the former leader of the recall effort, has been elected to the organization's board of directors.

In an election two weeks ago, members of Recall '86, a five-month old coalition, unanimously selected Ranieri to head the recall movement.

The results of the election were not made public until yesterday.

Ranieri, a four-term councilman, called the group "a purely democratic movement out to stop a wholly non-democratic situation."

"We have a weak-willed mayor controlled by a junta of power-hungry mongers," Ranieri said of the administration. "He is surrounded by this junta who must tell him when to eat, dress and bathe," he said.

Crimmins, one of the founders of Recall '86, said the

reorganization was a result of expansion, not differing philosophies.

"All we're doing is making the structure more formal," said Crimmins who called the meeting two weeks ago. "We suspended operations during the school board election and afterward we had more people than ever," he said.

According to Crimmins, the membership has been reorganized to include a board of directors, committees and ward and district coordinators.

Movement organizers have

been circulating recall petitions requesting that voters oust Vezzetti on the grounds that he has "surrendered the duties and powers of his office to non-elected persons" and he has "proved to be not competent to conduct the functions of the office of mayor."

The organization needs to collect signatures from 25 percent of the city's registered voters to place a recall election on the ballot.

The election cannot be held until the mayor has served at

least one year in office. Vezzetti was sworn in on July 1, 1985. Recall '86 organizers would not make an estimate on how many signatures have been collected to date.

Neither Crimmins nor Ranieri would comment on possible mayoral candidates, but both said the group is in the midst of establishing a selection process.

"We are looking into several options, including nominations from the general membership as in a political convention

or nominations from each ward," Crimmins said.

Ranieri, who Vezzetti has said "wants to be mayor so badly that he can taste it," said he would accept the nomination "if it brings everyone together."

Vezzetti could not be reached for comment late yesterday afternoon.

Earlier this month, some City Hall sources considered the recall effort moot after council members could not unite in nominating a pro-tem candidate to fill the First Ward vacancy.

Judges are selected for design contest for Hoboken's flag

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's Cultural Advisory Committee recently announced the judges for the contest to design a flag for Hoboken.

Judging the more than 200 entries will be Ed Greene, owner of Hoboken's E. Greene Gallery; Ross London; artist Kevin McClosky; City Council President E. Norman Wilson; and Mayor Vezzetti.

The judges will select a winner based on the concept of the entry, giving children and amateurs a fair chance over professional artists. The winning design will be polished by a graphics artist before the city

"A number of Hoboken's finest artists entered," said Betsy Carpenter, chairman pro tem of the Mayor's Cultural Advisory Committee. "But they are getting a lot of competition from the school-age folk."

"I thought there were some interesting pieces submitted," Carpenter said. "I will be very interested to see who comes out first with our top-notch panel of judges."

The committee will announce the winner of the contest on June 14, Flag Day. All of the entries will be displayed at the opening of festivities during Liberty Weekend. Jim

Ranieri and Vezzetti tell each other to quit

By Jim Campbell

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri, the newly-elected chairman of Recall '86, urged yesterday that Mayor Thomas Vezzetti resign his office for "health and safety" reasons.

But Vezzetti, taking the offensive, said he has no plans to vacate the office he has held for eleven months.

"As a long-standing friend of his family I would say, 'Tom, for your own health and safety resign now before you crack up,'" Ranieri said. "And I

really mean that, sincerely, as a friend," he said.

"As a friend of the people of Hoboken," Vezzetti quipped, "I would suggest that Bob Ranieri should resign."

Vezzetti, who declared that he may be "the only honest mayor in the U.S.," criticized Ranieri for giving tax abatements to developers and voting for "excessive" overtime during the administration of former Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

"He's the one who wants to recall me and he's given abatements to his developer friends.

To that I would say, 'Mr. Ranieri, I don't use my office to give rewards,'" Vezzetti said.

"I admit being eccentric," said Vezzetti, "but I ain't no dope."

Ranieri, citing Vezzetti's failure to attend Thursday's council budget hearing, called the mayor's resignation "the only honorable thing to do."

"I can see the glaze in his eyes and the strain on his face," Ranieri said. "I would suggest that he immediately seek medical and psychological counseling."

Ranieri also attacked Vezzetti's advisors for "jumping ship."

"They see the handwriting on the wall," he said. "There are strong rumors that the city's princess, Laurie Fabiano, will leave her post voluntarily."

But Fabiano said she had no plans to leave her position as Vezzetti's executive secretary.

"Well, I was planning to leave," Fabiano joked. "But if he wants me to, then I'll stay."

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Continued from Page 1.

I'll resign the same day Ranieri does."

Ranieri warned that Vezzetti's failure to step down would likely result in a mayoral recall. "Legislatures realize that this type of situation can exist and that's why there is a proviso for a recall. The public interest is not being met and a recall is in the air."

Ranieri said the council would select a successor should a recall be successful and he would "abide by the wishes of the other seven council members."

"As for those who would say that Ranieri wants to be mayor,

I would remind them that there are eight people on the council. This is not a personal crusade and I would cast my vote for someone who is responsible."

Vezzetti called Ranieri's statements "hypocritical." He's a phony and it took Tom Vezzetti to show that," he said.

City Hall needs \$1M facelift

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken officials warned yesterday that "serious structural problems" with the brownstone facade at City Hall will cost about \$1 million to correct.

Earlier this year, workers installed scaffolding and barriers around the building at the request of the city engineer.

City Engineer James Caulfield instructed Roy Haack, director of Environmental Services and Facilities, to erect the protective scaffolding in April after portions of the brownstone facade collapsed onto the street.

Haack said yesterday that "serious structural problems" existed at City Hall and predicted that the restoration project would be "very extensive."

"We are still waiting for the engineering report," Haack said. "But I would say that the project will cost between \$700,000 and \$1 million."

Business Administrator Edwin Chius called Haack's estimate "realistic."

"We need a complete restoration," Chius said. "The ornamental railings, balconies

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and sidewalks should be restored."

He said the restoration project would have to conform to the specifications of the historical district. He added that the city would investigate issuing bonds to finance the project.

According to Haack, the damage to the building is a result of old age. "We've never really had a thorough maintenance program for the building. The brownstone is simply deteriorating," he said.

Chius said that Caulfield is expected to issue a complete engineering report in late June. "We really can't do anything without the report," he said.

At the City Council caucus session on Monday, Chius said the scaffolding surrounding City Hall would remain for "at least six months."

The council tonight is expected to approve a \$37,000 claim for the cost of erecting the scaffolding.

Last summer, city employees performed minor "cosmetic" improvements to the interior of the building, according to Chius.



Park gets new life

Church Square Park was rededicated yesterday in Hoboken, and local residents marked the occasion with balloons, a book sale, and some clowning around. Jimmy Pasquale, top, the city's parks superintendent, holds as many balloons as he can handle. Below left, Dokey the Clown, right, formerly Clorobell and Bozo on TV, meets with Maria Taikaboria, left, and Florence Dowling. Meanwhile, the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library, below right, staged a book sale to raise funds for the city's library.

Photos by Enid Farber

Ranieri names recall 'directors'

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of a group working to recall Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, announced yesterday the members of the "board of directors" of the recall movement.

The co-chairmen of the movement are George Crimmins, Michael Mulvaney, George Guzman and James Clifford, Ranieri said. The "board of directors" also includes City Council President E. Norman Wilson, Councilman Steve Cappelletto and Councilwoman Mary Francone, he said.

Vezzetti criticized the board members as part of "the same old political machine."

The first visible signs of the recall movement appeared last week as bumper stickers and posters with the "Recall Vezzetti" and "Recall '86" slogans started appearing throughout the city.

Ranieri said the group has already collected "a large number" of signatures on recall petitions from "friends and neighbors." He said workers will start collecting signatures at supermarkets, churches, and "anyplace else where there is a crowd" this weekend.

In order to launch a recall election, the group will need signatures from 25 percent of the registered voters in Hoboken, or about 5,000 people. The ballot in a recall election

would require that voters decide whether to recall the mayor as well as asking them to choose from the candidates for mayor. Ranieri said the recall group would decide on a candidate for mayor by pollings its members. He said he would welcome the opportunity to run for mayor if he is selected by the group.

Ranieri said that the group will be presenting a formal platform next week. He said there are also plans for fund-raisers, and noted that the movement has so far been sustained by donations from members.

The recall petition being used by the group cites two reasons for recalling the mayor. It states that Vezzetti has "surrendered the duties and powers of his office to non-elected persons" and that he is "not competent to conduct the functions of mayor."

While Vezzetti scoffs at the reasons the group lists, he does not doubt the threat of a recall. "In politics, you have to be prepared for anything," he said. "Let the people decide."

Ranieri said the recall group has "several hundred" workers. He said that such former elected officials as Sal Cimelli, Nunzio Malfeti and Edward McLaughlin are among them.

"I believe that the recall process should begin and end with the electorate," he said. Jim DeRogatis

REVISED LEGISLATION

Hoboken to reintroduce anti-warehousing law

HOBOKEN—An anti-warehousing ordinance will be reintroduced and voted on at the City Council meeting in two weeks, the prime sponsor of the measure said yesterday.

A move to bring the ordinance to a vote Wednesday was rejected because the proposal had been revised earlier in the week. The city's legal department and four council members agreed, after a five-hour council meeting, that the changes were substantial enough to require reintroducing the ordinance.

The ordinance was amended at a council caucus Monday after several council members suggested certain revisions. The amended ver-

sion, the legal department ruled, in essence constituted a new ordinance. The council will now publish the revised version and hold a third and final meeting in two weeks.

The amended ordinance still prohibits landlords from keeping apartments vacant for more than 60 days, but several exceptions have been added. Three family buildings that are occupied by the owner will not be affected by the ordinance. A possible 30-day jail term has also been deleted, among other changes.

The meeting Wednesday night drew close to 300 people, about 20 of whom testified for and against the measure.

Della Fave 'clarifies' anti-warehousing law

By Jim DeRogatis

Hoboken Councilman Joseph Della Fave yesterday announced several "clarifications" to the apartment "anti-warehousing" ordinance that he is sponsoring before the City Council.

Della Fave said he is making the revisions after meeting with other council members and

Ranieri calls it 'unenforceable'
See Page 13

discussing their problems with the ordinance. He said he believes the measures will make the ordinance more palatable to some members of the council as well as answer questions raised by the city Law Department.

The ordinance would require landlords of buildings with more than four units to rent all

Offers revisions to his proposal

vacant apartments within a 60-day period if they do not meet the requirements for a waiver. It is intended to prevent developers from speculating by holding apartments vacant to increase their value, or "warehousing."

The revised ordinance lists more clearly who is exempt from the law. It does not apply to:

- Units in owner-occupied buildings of three units or less.
- Units in newly constructed buildings until the unit is rented for the first time.
- Units in which the owners are participating in an affordable housing program approved

by the Hoboken Community Development agency.

• Units in a building in which the owner has properly given tenants notice of his intention to convert the units to condominium or cooperative units.

The revised ordinance lists specific examples of the type of reasons that will qualify for six-month waivers. They include:

- Landlords who wish to keep a unit vacant in order to rent it to a family member.
- Landlords who are improving conditions in a unit and need to keep it empty.
- Landlords who are keeping a unit vacant in order to correct code violations.

The ordinance specifies that

landlords must provide documentation in order to receive a waiver.

Della Fave also changed the penalty section of the law. The original penalty of fines up to \$500 per day per unit plus a 30-day jail term for landlords who did not comply was deemed too harsh by several council members.

The revised ordinance retains the fines but eliminates the jail term.

Della Fave said that many of the revisions were the result of work with Councilman David Roberts. Although the two are considered political rivals, Della Fave said Roberts has been supportive of the law.

The anti-warehousing ordinance was scheduled to be discussed at a City Council caucus last night. It will come before the council for a vote tomorrow

Anti-warehousing law put back to square one

By Bill Campbell

An attempt to call a vote on an amended anti-warehousing ordinance failed last night in the Hoboken City Council despite an emotional appeal by many in the standing-room-only crowd.

In a 4-to-4 vote, the council failed to override a decision by Council President E. Norman Wilson to put off a vote on the ordinance. Wilson said revisions in the ordinance warranted its reintroduction.

Wilson, citing modifications

Amended ordinance to be reintroduced

to the ordinance made during the Monday caucus, said the ordinance must be readvertised before a final vote can be taken.

Nearly 300 people, many of whom stood in the aisles and in the rear of the Council Chambers, attended the heavily publicized meeting.

The meeting was disrupted several times by chants of "Vote, Vote" as the council debated revisions to the ordinance.

"I understand why these people came here," said Councilwoman Helen Cunningham after the 2½-hour public hearing on

the ordinance. "The majority of people who spoke told us they are more concerned about what goes over their heads than what goes in their wallets."

The council heard from 17 speakers, most of whom supported the ordinance, which would prohibit the withholding of housing units from the rental market.

Representatives of both tenant and property owner organizations distributed notices

See ANTI-WAREHOUSING—Page 23.

Anti-warehousing

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Richard Seltzer, a member of Help Hoboken Housing, a coalition of property owners who object to the anti-warehousing ordinance, called the revisions representative of "the broken promises and lies of this administration," and criticized the ordinance for being "anti-private property."

"This administration ran on a platform of providing affordable housing," Seltzer said. "They promised this when we had a moratorium on building and when we had a housing plan. Eight months later, all we have is increased taxes."

Seltzer said HHH was prepared to introduce a plan to provide affordable four-unit houses on lots of 25 by 100 feet. Suzanne Warren, another member of HHH, said she was tired of "one worthless solution for affordable housing after another."

"This has become the most expensive and most unlivable city in the U.S.," she said. "We can't afford any more of your solutions," she told Councilman Joseph Della Fave, sponsor of the ordinance.

But the majority of speakers praised the ordinance which, according to Della Fave, is based on similar legislation enacted in West New York and Union City.

"Our tenants are hurting," said Helen Manogue. "I see people here with whom I am friendly, and they have spoken against the ordinance. I feel I'll lose some of my friends tonight, but I urge you to pass this."

Sister Norberta Hunnewinkle told the council, "We should not let people take advantage of our town. The housing crisis and displacement warrant action. How much do we have to let our people endure?"

Karen Peterson, a tenant, said developers were profiting at the expense of longtime Hoboken residents.

"Children are suffering the effects of breathing in plaster dust while buildings are being rehabilitated. This has become a human issue," she said.

Tom Oliveri, a representative of the Campaign for Housing Justice, said landlords engage in "tyranny against tenants" when they refuse to correct building code violations. Tenants and property owners applauded loudly as representatives from their sides spoke.

During the council discussion, Councilman Robert Ranieri, an early critic of the ordinance, called the modifications in the two drafts of the ordinance "significant" and urged

Della Fave to reintroduce the bill.

"We actually have to differentiate ordinances, both separate and distinct," he told Della Fave. "If you are proposing the second ordinance, then it must be introduced again."

At Monday's caucus, Della Fave outlined "clarifications" to the exemption, waiver and penalty provisions of the ordinance. Della Fave termed the revisions "technical" while Ranieri called them "significant."

The city's Law Department, which criticized the ordinance Monday, last night recommended the ordinance not be passed.

"The changes made in the amended ordinance go beyond being clarifications. The changes are of substance," wrote assistant city attorney Michael Mongiello.

"These changes are in response to the intent of the ordinance," Della Fave said. "These are the changes that other people asked for."

Della Fave and Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts developed several of the modifications last week following the ordinance's first reading in late May.

Roberts and Councilman Pat Pasculli said they supported a vote on the ordinance last night.

"I don't agree with the decision rendered by the Law Department," Pasculli said. "(Della Fave) has expressed the concerns we all had originally. In my opinion we should bring this to a vote tonight."

Wilson objected to the move and called for the ordinance to be reintroduced and readvertised.

"Monday was the first time we were made aware of these changes," he said.

After the council unanimously agreed to exempt all owner-occupied dwellings from the ordinance, Della Fave moved to override Wilson's decision that the ordinance must be reintroduced.

The motion failed when Ranieri, Wilson and council members Steve Cappiello and Mary Francone voted against the override.

Della Fave, Cunningham, Roberts and Pasculli voted to override the council president.

The vote met with a mixture of boos and applause from the spectators. As they filed out of the chambers, many chanted, "We'll be back."

A second public hearing and the final two readings are scheduled for the next council session later this month.

ELECTIONEERING CHARGED Dispatch 6-5-88

Hudson subpoenas Hoboken poll workers

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The Hudson County superintendent of elections yesterday served subpoenas to four poll workers here, at least one of whom may have illegally pushed a recall vote against Mayor Thomas F. Vezzeiti.

In Tuesday's primary election, nearly 200 recall Vezzeiti votes were filed here, although the issue was not on the ballot. The write-in votes are not illegal, but superintendent Joseph T. Brady is investigating charges that at least one poll worker tried to coax one person into voting for a recall.

All the anti-Vezzeiti votes were filed in two districts, one receiving 122 and the other 66. Brady yesterday would not reveal which districts were involved, but he said his investigation will center on the four poll workers, all women, who were stationed at these districts. The poll workers were not identified.

Brady said the concentration of write-in votes in only two districts showed that a concerted effort had been made, one that may have involved a poll worker. Under election guidelines, poll workers are forbidden from electioneering.

A voter, in a letter to the county See SUBPOENAS, Page 10

SUBPOENAS

Continued from Page 1

Board of Elections, said he had been told how to file a recall vote by a poll worker, Brady said.

"The person told the voter to push the top button on the ballot, slide one of the slides, and write in 'recall Vezzeiti,'" Brady said. The voter, whose identity was not released, immediately objected to the poll worker and to at least one other board official, claiming the sample ballot said nothing about write-in votes, Brady said.

The subpoenas, which were served last night, require the four poll workers to appear in Brady's office today.

Hoboken folks just can't lose in the Fourth of July lottery

Based on the number of entries so far in the lottery to view the July Fourth fireworks display from Pier A in Hoboken, every resident who has entered will be a winner, members of the Hoboken Liberty Weekend task force said yesterday.

The task force has so far received 4,000 ticket requests, according to Laurie Fabiano. The city plans to open the pier to 8,000 residents for viewing the festivities marking the centennial of the Statue of Liberty on July Fourth.

The city planned to hold a lottery in order to give all Hoboken residents a fair chance at getting tickets to see the spectacular, but as of now, everyone who sent a lottery entry form to City Hall will be a winner, Fabiano said.

The deadline for entering the lottery is Friday. Entry forms are available at stores throughout the city. All entries must be submitted with a check or money order for the ticket fee, \$5 per person.

City Business Administrator

Edwin Chius said that 2,000 tickets to the pier will be set aside for city employees.

Fabiano said that if the tickets are not all given away in the lottery, they will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis before the show.

The lottery is being coordinated by a non-profit group of Hoboken merchants, Hoboken Advantage. The money raised through ticket sales will go towards the cost of maintaining the pier and providing lighting and sound systems, Chius said.

Ranieri attacks 'anti-warehousing'

By Bill Campbell

A controversial ordinance aimed at prohibiting the withholding of certain residential units from the rental housing market, approved by the Hoboken City Council during its first reading last month, was attacked last night as "unenforceable" and a measure "with no heart."

Speaking at last night's City Council caucus session, Councilman Robert Ranieri criticized both the anti-warehousing ordinance and "clarifications" made by the sponsor, Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

In a related development, the Law Department, in a decision authored by assistant city attorney Michael Mongiello, ruled that the ordinance is "confiscatory and violates substantive due process rights."

According to Mongiello, the decision was rendered before Della Fave outlined clarifications to the ordinance which specified exemptions and waivers.

Mongiello said last night that the Law Department would issue a new opinion before tomorrow's council meeting.

The council is scheduled to conduct a public hearing and vote on the final two readings at that meeting.

"While questions still exist as to its constitutionality," Ranieri said of the ordinance, "I submit that there is nothing to it, it has no heart. The plan is unenforceable and a sham."

Della Fave maintained that

the ordinance would maintain and create housing units. He said it would also improve the health and safety of neighborhoods.

"This sets forth a plan of action and sets a clear position for landlords and tenants. It's not a sham," Della Fave said.

Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts, who consulted with Della Fave on the revisions, said he supported the ordinance "in the spirit of fairness."

"I'm a property owner, my family owns property and I support development," Roberts said. "We need to develop the city's tax base and, in the spirit of fairness, I support the ordinance."

Ranieri called the clarifications a "substantial change" to the original ordinance and requested that it be reintroduced at the next council caucus.

Della Fave said the revisions were not amendments. "These are simply clarifications based on discussion at the last meeting and they don't amount to substantial changes," he said.

In other business, an amendment to an ordinance requiring City Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte to work five days a week was strongly attacked by Della Fave and Councilwoman Helen Cunningham.

The amendment, labeled by sponsor Ranieri as the "what's good for the goose is good for the gander" provision, would require all city directors to work the same schedule as Monte.

"My amendment treats everyone fairly," Ranieri said. "They all fall into the same general pork barrel of life."

Della Fave said the tax assessor, who is regulated by the state, should be treated in separate discussion from directors.

"We have control over our directors," said Della Fave, sponsor of the ordinance defining Monte's work hours. "We don't have that same degree of control over the tax assessor."

During the discussion on departmental claims, Council President E. Norman Wilson warned that the city was ex-

periencing "problems with credit" due to a backlog of bills issued by various vendors.

According to Wilson, more than \$100,000 in bills were never forwarded by former Environmental Services and Facilities Director Peter Alicandri.

"Why were these bills piling up," Wilson asked City Business Administrator Edwin Chius. "They weren't turned in by the department head," Chius said. "I asked for them in late 1985 and didn't get them until March."

Chius said the last series of bills was processed last week.

2 councilmen reject role in Vezzetti recall

By Jim DeRogatis

Battlines are being drawn in Hoboken as a movement to recall Mayor Thomas Vezzeiti picks up steam, but two prominent councilmen said they plan to stay on the sidelines.

Councilman-at-large Patrick Pasculli and Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts said that they will not work with the recall group led by Councilman Robert Ranieri. The two, who are political allies, are generally perceived as anti-administration.

"I will not be getting involved in that recall movement in its current form," Pasculli said.

Pasculli, who was elected on the Vezzeiti ticket but split with the administration shortly afterwards, said he "believes that the recall process should begin and end with the electorate."

Roberts echoed his statement. "I don't feel it is right for elected officials to be in the forefront of a recall movement," he said. "If the community decides it wants a new mayor, it has the where withall to do it."

Political observers have speculated on the role the two councilmen would play in a recall election for weeks. Pasculli is considered a strong

candidate for mayor in future elections.

Four City Council members are among the leaders of the recall: Ranieri, City Council President E. Norman Wilson, former Mayor Steve Cappiello, and Councilwoman Mary Francone. Ranieri said the group would still welcome Roberts' and Pasculli's involvement.

Workers from the recall group were set to hit the streets of Hoboken today to begin gathering the approximately 5,000 signatures needed to launch a recall election, Ranieri said. The group must get the signatures of 25 percent of Hoboken's registered voters.

The recall petitions state that Vezzeiti has "surrendered the duties and powers of his office to non-elected persons" and that he is "not competent to conduct the functions of mayor." Ranieri said the group will release a formal platform early this week.

If petitions are successfully gathered, Vezzeiti could face a November election. Voters would be asked whether to recall the mayor, as well as to choose a candidate for mayor.

"The recall people are trying to go against a reform administration," Vezzeiti said. "I think the people of Hoboken will see that they're just part of the same old political machine."

"Let the people decide."

Condo planners get day in court

By Jim DeRogatis

The developers of the controversial Presidential Towers in Hoboken will "tell it to the judge" tomorrow in an effort to win approval for the \$25 million project.

State Superior Court Judge Dorothea Wefing will hear a case brought by the Anawim Investment and Development Corp. against the Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment and the city building inspector, Al Arezzo.

The developers of the controversial Presidential Towers in Hoboken will "tell it to the judge" tomorrow in an effort to win approval for the \$25 million project.

The motion failed when Ranieri, Wilson and council members Steve Cappiello and Mary Francone voted against the override.

Della Fave, Cunningham, Roberts and Pasculli voted to override the council president.

The vote met with a mixture of boos and applause from the spectators. As they filed out of the chambers, many chanted, "We'll be back."

A second public hearing and the final two readings are scheduled for the next council session later this month.

A group of residents opposed to the 22- and 24-story condominiums has also intervened in the case, which is scheduled for 9 a.m. in the County Court House on Newark Avenue in Jersey City.

Attorneys for Anawim contend that the firm should be allowed to go ahead with construction without approval from the zoning board.

They are citing a state law that if the zoning board fails to act on a completed application within 120 days, the application

is automatically approved. Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., a former partner in the project, has said that the developers "felt they weren't treated right by the board. They were fed up with the board."

Peter Daghljan, the attorney for the zoning board, has said that in his opinion the matter was still pending approval before the board.

A hearing on the project had been scheduled by the board for May 8, but on April 21, the

developers ran a legal ad in The Jersey Journal stating their intentions to go ahead with the project because the board had failed to act.

Controversy and confusion have surrounded Presidential Towers since the inception of the project. The original plan called for two 28-story towers on the site, which is bounded by Adams, Jefferson, First, and Newark streets in the southwest corner of Hoboken.

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Continued from Page 1.

At various times, the project has been decreased to 16 stories. But in the current case, the developers are contending that they have the right to build one 22-story tower and one 24½-story tower, containing 356 condominiums, 357 parking spaces, and 3,000 square feet of commercial space.

The scaled-down plans for the towers still drew criticism from neighboring homeowners

and community activists because the area is zoned only for buildings up to 14 stories. Newark attorney Phillip Elberg is representing a group of the residents attempting to block the project.

"It's been one thing after another, under various guises, to slip this thing through," Elberg said of the development.

"I have been practicing law for 17 years and I have never seen a case like this."

County will probe poll workers' recall campaign

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hudson County Board of Elections is investigating an alleged campaign by poll workers to have Hoboken voters write "Recall Vezzetti" on ballots in Tuesday's primary election.

County Superintendent of Elections James Brady said yesterday that he is investigating complaints that workers inside polling places advised voters to write "Recall Vezzetti" in the personal choice slot on voting machines.

Organizers of a movement

to recall Mayor Thomas Vezzetti denied sponsoring an attempt to have people cast a write-in vote for the slogan, however.

Approximately 102 voters wrote the slogan in slots intended to elect candidates for Congress, sheriff or register, according to James Farina, Hoboken city clerk.

Farina held many of the paper rolls with write-in votes in his office at City Hall yesterday, but he said that some of the rolls had not yet been taken out of the voting machines.

The largest number of votes

from the districts accounted for came from the Third Ward, third district, which had 42 write-in votes for "Recall Vezzetti." The ward is a stronghold of former Mayor Steve Cappelletto, Vezzetti's arch political rival.

Brady said he intends to subpoena pollworkers from at least one district today.

"I understand that some board members were advising people to pull a slot and write in 'Recall Vezzetti' as a vote," he said.

At least one person was allegedly approached by a board

member inside a polling place and told, "Don't forget to pull the lever and write in 'Recall Vezzetti,'" Brady said. He added that he received similar complaints from several different sources.

"It must have been a concerted effort," Brady said. "This has never been an issue in a primary election. There was no reference to a recall on the sample ballot."

Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the group moving to recall Vezzetti, said he "had no knowledge" of a concerted ef-

fort to solicit the votes. He said the votes were "a true expression of the populace."

"If we had made an effort, there would have been 5,000 votes," Ranieri said.

Maurice Fitzgibbons, chairman of the Hoboken Regular Democratic Organization, also said he had no knowledge of a group soliciting the votes. The Hoboken RDO had 168 challengers at the polls on Tuesday.

The challengers "were not there for that purpose," Fitzgibbons said. "We didn't forfeit Democratic votes for a write-in."

Our people were advised to vote the whole ticket."

Although Vezzetti appeared in Brady's office yesterday afternoon with his bullhorn to urge an investigation, he did not seem overly upset by the write-in votes. He said he cast a write-in vote to "Recall Ranieri."

However, Vezzetti did criticize pollworkers who allegedly advised people to write in votes. "It is the old administration's mentality," he said. "They still think they can rob elections from the people and intimidate people."

Garbage hearing faces delay Tenant ordinance provokes clash

By Bill Campbell

A final hearing scheduled for tomorrow with the two firms that bid on the city's garbage collection contract may be postponed, according to the Hoboken Law Department.

Assistant City Attorney Tom Calligy said that attorneys for Browning Ferris Industries, the firm that was awarded a one-year scavenger contract, have asked for a postponement of its hearing before Superior Court Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys.

The City Council awarded BFI the contract on May 7 after the firm presented a bid that was more than \$250,000 lower than the current contractor, LaFera Contracting of Newark.

Before the vote, Law Director Salvatore

D'Amelio Jr. urged the council to reject both bids because of a "substantial discrepancy" between the bidding form and the bid specifications.

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.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius advised the council to accept the one-year bid. He added that rebidding would cost the city about \$20,000.

On May 16, Humphreys ruled that

LaFera could continue providing garbage collection service at the price set in the BFI bid. The ruling was made after representatives of LaFera filed a complaint alleging that the bids were not clear.

Humphreys is scheduled to render a final decision today.

Calligy said yesterday that BFI attorney Arthur Robin requested a delay after new issues were raised.

Calligy said the new issues were "technical" and concerned defects in specifications relating to bid bonds and certified bids.

"There have been no factual changes in the case, but BFI's attorney would like time to study the technical issues," Calligy said. Calligy said the city has a "valid" argument in claiming that the bids for the one-year contract were made on "equal level."

He said the firms were not required to bid on all three years of the contract.

LaFera's contract was to have expired last month.

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The anti-warehousing ordinance, now in the midst of a great debate here, yesterday was called the last hope for middle income families and a draconian measure inspired by Communists.

More than 300 people crowded into the Municipal Court chambers here last night for the second public hearing on the measure, which effectively would prohibit landlords from keeping apartments vacant.

The sometimes raucous meeting, which drew opponents and detractors as well as four uniformed police officers, was by far the most contentious of the two public hearings on the ordinance. The City Council was not expected to make a final determination last night.

Speaker after speaker either ex-

coriated the council for considering what one opponent called an "illusory promise" or chastised it for not having the "guts or heart" to pass the measure. "It's a form of communism," said Carmine Petropole, an opponent. "Landlords have legal rights, and I urge them to pursue the matter legally."

The ordinance's future was cast into doubt Monday, when the city's legal department called it "unconstitutional." Nevertheless, supporters — including several council members — were confident last night that the ordinance would pass.

Opponents included owners of small buildings, developers and members of a landlord group. Some claimed the ordinance was simply

a political issue, proposed by Mayor Thomas Vezzetti to try to fulfill a promise to create and preserve affordable housing.

Supporters, among them tenants who live in buildings where a number of apartments are vacant, detailed what one called the "war" caused by empty units. They charged that some landlords renovate vacant apartments, and the construction results in water shortages, rodents, dust and other unsanitary and unsafe conditions for tenants.

Karen Petersen, who said her building on Washington Street now is being renovated, urged the council to pass the ordinance, calling it "a human issue."

"I understand that developers should get a fair return on their investment, but it should not be done at the expense of the tenants," she said.

The ordinance requires landlords to rent vacant apartments within two months of the previous tenant's departure. There are provisions for extensions and exceptions under the ordinance, but for the most part the measure would affect most of the estimated 400 to 500 vacant apartments here.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who authored the ordinance, revised it last week after several council members objected to a number of provisions they claimed were either too harsh or ambiguous.

The only properties not affected under the revision are buildings with three units or less; some buildings; affordable housing projects;

and buildings under condominium conversion.

A possible 30-day jail sentence for landlords who violate the ordinance also was stricken in the revision. Landlords, however, still may face fines of up to \$500 for each violation.

One of the main arguments voiced by opponents is that the measure would inhibit development in the city. Landlords no longer would improve their properties if they were required to meet such stringent rental regulations, the opposition has argued.

For tenant groups, the ordinance is seen as a partial solution to a severe housing crunch in the city. It is not clear how many apartments are warehoused — estimates run from 300 to 600 units — but supporters maintain that large blocks of apartments immediately would come on the market if the measure is passed.

At 805-821 Park Ave., for example, almost a third of an estimated 90 apartments are vacant, according to Vasudevar Trivedi, a tenant leader who has been living in one of the buildings for nine years.

The five-story buildings now are owned by Murray Connell and conditions have improved since he took over, Trivedi said. Building violations were corrected and tenants are living better than before, the leader said.

Still, the high number of vacant apartments is troubling to tenants, some of whom would rather see the units filled. They see vacant apartments as a sure sign that the build-

ing is slated for condominium conversion, Trivedi said.

"I think it will help minimize the housing shortage in Hoboken," Trivedi said of the ordinance. "It will also help to prevent the displacement of low income and middle income tenants."

Della Fave, who called the ordinance a "conservative" measure, disputes the contention that the measure is anti-development.

"It think it's just the opposite," he said. "If you have vacancies, you're telling the landlord: 'Use them or develop them.' You're not telling him to to develop them."

HOBOKEN

Review of apt. warehousing bill asked

By JEFFREY HOFF Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A proposed ordinance designed to curtail the growth of vacant apartments was termed "unconstitutional" and "arbitrary" in a letter sent yesterday from the city's Law Department to the City Council.

The letter, however, was written before Assistant City Attorney Michael Mongiello had seen amendments to the ordinance, originally proposed two weeks ago, that were

presented to a caucus of the council last night.

The council asked the Law Department to review the amendments before the governing body meets tomorrow night, when much public debate is expected concerning the issue of vacant housing here.

The ordinance, proposed by 2nd Ward Councilman Joseph E. Della Fave, is seen by tenant advocates as a means of combatting the shortage of affordable housing here.

It does so by placing guidelines on

the use of apartment units that have become vacant.

Councilman-at-Large Robert A. Ranieri expressed opposition to the ordinance as it was presented last night, saying it has no substance.

Della Fave countered, saying that by requiring a landlord who intends to convert a building into a condominium to present a full plan to the city clerk, the owner is placed under the guidelines of the state's anti-eviction law.

See REVIEW, Page 8

Hoboken borrows to pay bills

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council yesterday approved renewing \$3 million in tax anticipation notes for 60 days.

Meeting in special session, the council unanimously authorized the city comptroller to borrow the funds.

Comptroller Matthew Cannarozzi said the funds are needed to resolve a "cash flow problem." He called the

procedure a normal occurrence when the city is faced with a large tax increase.

The proposed Vezzetti administration budget would boost the tax rate by \$40 for 1988.

Cannarozzi said the money is to pay third and fourth quarter expenditures.

The funds will be borrowed from the Trust Company of New Jersey at 5 percent interest, Cannarozzi said.

"We need the money

because we haven't collected any taxes yet," Cannarozzi said. "We simply need this for our cash flow."

Cannarozzi said the loan would be paid off in late August.

Council members E. Norman Wilson, Robert Ranieri, Mary Francone, Steve Cappelletto, Pat Pasculli, Dave Roberts, Helen Canning and Joe Della Fave voted to support the resolution.

Vezzetti: Council is irresponsible

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti said yesterday that the City Council acted "irresponsibly" in not approving a controversial anti-warehousing ordinance.

The council Wednesday voted against a motion to conduct the final readings of the ordinance, which had undergone "substantial" revisions since its first reading last month. "The council is undermining my obligations as mayor," Vezzetti said yesterday. "And I don't agree with this undemocratic and irresponsible act."

Vezzetti criticized Councilman Robert Ranieri, an opponent of the ordinance, for being "hypocritical."

"He talks about creating housing and he undermined the

Warehousing vote irks him

ordinance," Vezzetti said. "It just goes to show you that I'm doing my job."

Ranieri yesterday said a vote on the ordinance would have been a violation of state laws. He said the measure must be readvertised before a final vote is conducted.

"It was wholly unacceptable," Ranieri said.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, sponsor of the ordinance outlined "clarifications" to the ordinance during the Monday caucus.

The revised ordinance outlined exemptions and waivers

not specified in the original draft. The provision outlining penalties was modified to exclude jail terms for violators of the ordinance.

On Wednesday, Ranieri refused to answer requests from Della Fave as to whether he supported the revised ordinance. Yesterday, Ranieri said he would issue a statement Monday on the revised document.

"Now that we are getting to the voting stage I will answer Della Fave's questions," he said.

Della Fave and council members Helen Canning, Dave Roberts and Pat Pasculli have already expressed their support of the ordinance.

Vezzetti said the ordinance

See VEZZETTI — Page 28.

Vezzetti

Continued from Page 1. represented his administration's efforts at providing low- and moderate-income housing.

Ranieri, who criticized Vezzetti for not attending the meeting, said the ordinance would not provide housing.

"I challenge any of those who spoke at the public hearing to show where this will produce housing," Ranieri said. "This is complete rhetoric and it won't produce one unit."

Mayo Lynch plan for sewage plant receives approval

By Bill Campbell

Mayo Lynch and Associates, designers of a proposed secondary sewage treatment plant in Hoboken, will receive more than three-quarters of a million dollars for design work on the project.

The Hoboken City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved a \$788,177 payment to the engineering firm.

Earlier that day, the Hudson County Utilities Authority and the state Department of Environmental Protection approved the firm's design plan. The move clears the way for state and federal grants of up to \$20 million.

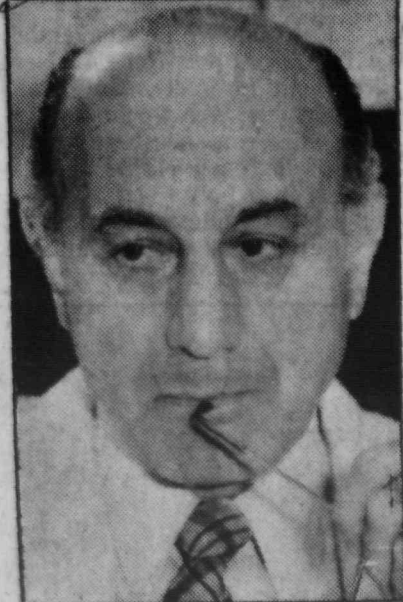
The project is expected to cost \$40 million.

"The design plan passed with flying colors," said Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the council's subcommittee on water and sewage.

Ranieri said that Mayo Lynch had become creditors to the city.

"We never paid them," he said. "Now that they have done their job, it is time for us to carry out our responsibility."

He said that grants for innovative technology result in aid of 75 cents on the dollar. The plant will serve Hoboken, West New York and North Bergen, communities which have been mandated to upgrade their sewage facilities by July 1988.



Robert Ranieri
Committee head

Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. said he was "very satisfied" with the outcome of the session with county and state officials.

He said that Mayo-Lynch had performed to the specifications of the contract.

In related developments, the council awarded an \$11,000 contract for soil analysis and Richard Talbot and Associates was awarded \$45,000 as valve engineer for the secondary sewage plant project.

Payments will come from \$2.5 million in bond anticipation notes approved by the council earlier this month.

Hoboken board fails to vote on controversial condo plan

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment denied two applications for variances and approved one other during a marathon meeting Tuesday night, but the board did not vote on the controversial Presidential Towers condominiums.

The zoning board must vote on Presidential Towers before July 3 or the project will automatically be approved, according to a ruling by State

Superior Court Judge Dorothea Wefing on Friday.

Board Chairman Frank Cameron was expected to make a statement about the development Tuesday, but he said he will reserve comment until the board's attorney can review a transcript of Wefing's ruling. The board has not yet set a date for the vote on Presidential Towers, Cameron said.

The board heard only three applications for variances dur-

ing Tuesday's meeting, which lasted more than five hours. A variance for two offstreet parking spaces was granted for 94 Bloomfield St. after a 15-minute discussion.

But arguments lasted for several hours over applications for variances at 122-28 Jefferson St. and 131-133 Washington St. Both buildings were seeking variances for floor-area ratio, as well as other variances, and were denied by the board by votes of 4-to-3.

Garbage collection hearing is postponed

By Bill Campbell

A final hearing on Hoboken's disputed garbage collection contract, originally scheduled for last Friday, has been moved to June 20 at 9 a.m. according to assistant city attorney Tom Calligy.

City officials and attorneys for LaFera Contracting and Browning Ferris Industries, the two firms that bid on the 1986 scavenger contract, were to have met before Hudson County Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys, but the hearing was postponed after new "technical

issues" were raised, Calligy said.

Calligy said the issues, which relate to bid specifications, have no factual bearing on the litigation.

LaFera, the highest bidder, is suing the city to keep the contract it has held since 1983. The

firm filed a complaint last month claiming that the bids were not clear.

The bidding form of the contract asked for bids of one, three and five years, while the specifications requested alternate bids of one, two and three years.

Last month, Humphreys ruled that LaFera could continue providing service at the price set in the BFI bid until the June 6 hearing. LaFera received another contract extension until June 20, Calligy said.

The City Council awarded

BFI the contract on May 7 despite warnings for the city's Law Department.

BFI's one-year bid was more than \$250,000 lower than LaFera's.

Calligy said he expects the dispute to be settled at the June 20 hearing.

Hoboken landmark begins a new career

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Once the home of the country's premier maker of precision tools — a factory that made the Brooklyn Bridge possible — the former K&E buildings are about to enter a new era.

After two years and \$11.5 million in renovations, only the exterior of the buildings between Grand and Adams streets remain as a testament to an elite industry that thrived here for 86 years — a company that produced drafting tools and surveyor's instruments and is credited with making the modern-day architectural blueprints possible.

The firm's precision surveying instruments are credited with making construction of the famed bridge possible. It also developed a way to update architectural blueprints quickly and easily.

The three interconnected buildings, considered classic examples of industrial architecture, have been transformed into 99 residential apartments, including duplexes and penthouses that boast private terraces, greenhouses and a view of the Manhattan skyline.

The Keuffel & Esser buildings are landmarks on the National Historic Registry, a distinction developer Richard Miller sought, in part, to preserve the architectural integrity of the building. The landmark designation also gave Miller a 25 percent investment tax credit — a saving of \$2.75 million — and required him to rent the units for at least five years.

The project is gargantuan compared to other factory conversions because the architects were faced with three entirely different types of construction, Miller said during a tour of the buildings yesterday. The first K&E building, constructed in 1880, had several additions later, including one as late as 1940. Some of the buildings have wooden beams, the others are of concrete. For the developer, this meant that constant revisions had to be made as the work progressed because problems invariably arose.

"You expected to work one way, and then you opened up the walls and had to work another way," Miller said.

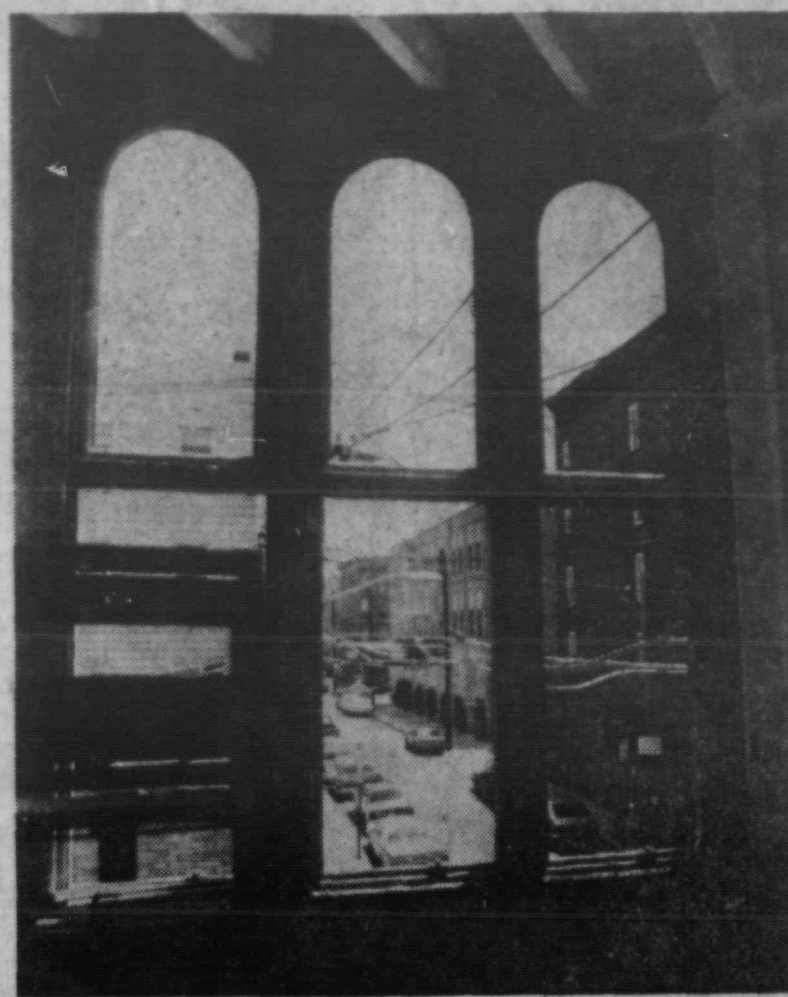


Photo by Don Smith

THE LARGE WINDOWS pictured will be a major feature of an apartment now being created on the historic Keuffel & Esser site in Hoboken.

The interior of the building — which had open floors containing as much as 3,000 square feet of space — has been partitioned into four apartments, each retaining the original 11½-foot ceilings. In some of the apartments, those located on the Adams Street side, the ceilings have small arches. All of them have wide-plank wooden floors and 9-foot-high windows, with some apartments having six windows in the living room. There is also an interior courtyard, which is to be converted into a Japanese garden.

The building on the west side of the project, facing Adams Street, is finished, and Miller said he will open a rental office at the end of next week. The apartments, which range from a one-bedroom to a two-

bedroom duplex with a fireplace and a terrace, are expected to be ready for occupancy by next month.

The prices will range from \$750 a month for a studio to \$1,150 for a duplex, and the buildings have two parking lots with spaces for a total of 91 cars.

That the units are to be rented rather than sold is seen as an advantage by Miller, who said that the city has not had any construction of new rental units since the 1970s. The target tenants are people who work in Manhattan, particularly those whose jobs are near the PATH stations from Wall Street up to midtown.

"People are starting to realize that New York is for the very rich or the very poor," Miller said.

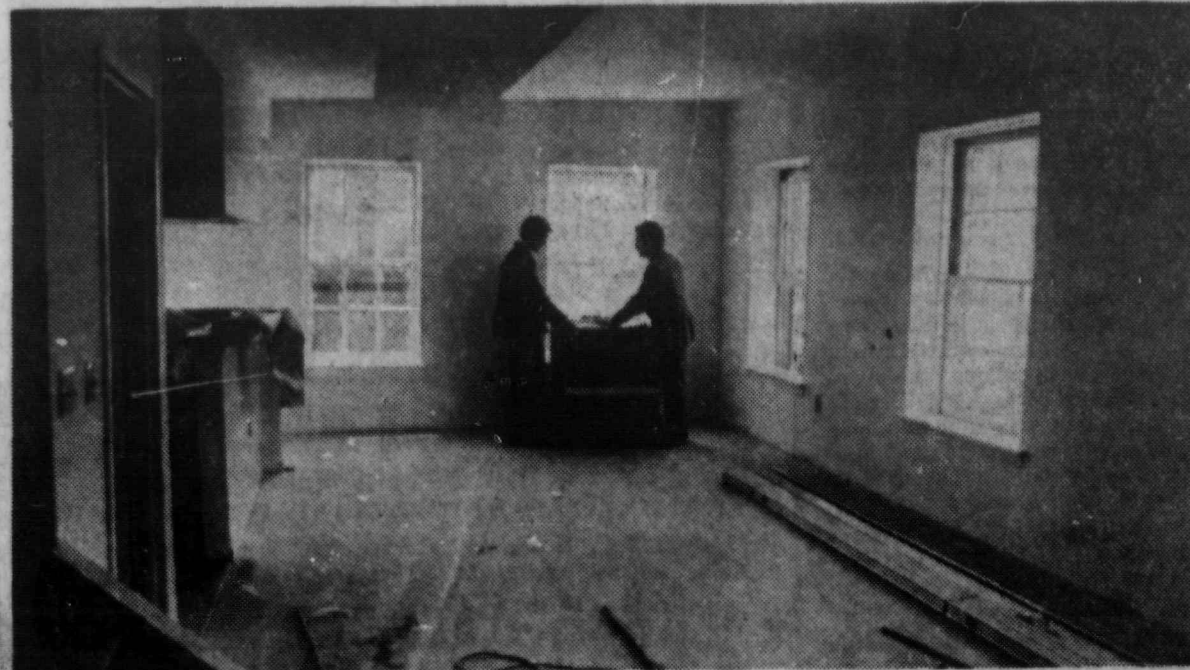


Photo by Don Smith

DEVELOPER RICHARD MILLER, left, and Aaron Biller of the development team confer yesterday in the old Keuffel & Esser complex in Hoboken.

Viaduct is out for Fourth

By Jim DeRogatis

The 14th Street viaduct has been removed from a list of public viewing sites for the Statue of Liberty centennial festivities because of the danger the 76-year-old bridge poses to spectators, a state official said yesterday.

The New Jersey Statue of Liberty Centennial Commission recommended the 14th Street

viaduct in Hoboken and the adjoining wings in Jersey City and Union City as one of the preferred public viewing areas for Liberty Weekend events in a press release last week.

But Rick Colby, a spokesman for the commission, said yesterday that including the Hudson County-owned bridge on the list "was a mistake." He said a press release will be is-

sued advising the public to avoid the viaduct.

"It had been mentioned as a possible site and someone slipped up and listed it as a definite site," Colby said.

Colby made the comments after numerous phone calls from The Jersey Journal inquiring about the wisdom of encouraging spectators on a bridge which

See VIADUCT — Page 10.



Photo by Mark Wyrille

This pothole on the 300-foot elevated roadway leading into Union City from the top of the viaduct has worn through two layers of asphalt, exposing the steel deck of the bridge and its iron reinforcing bars.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Todd Shipyards Corp. returning

By Anthony Baldo

Hans Schaefer has a far-reaching view of New York Harbor from his office near Battery Park in downtown Manhattan. He can look across the water to Governor's Island, to the right at the Statue of Liberty, and in the background at the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

"It is beautiful," says Schaefer, as a small smile begins to form. "But everything has its price."

Price is the main reason why Schaefer will soon be looking out his office window towards New York City instead of across the harbor to the Colgate clock in Jersey City.

Schaefer is the president and chief operating officer of Todd Shipyards Corp., which is moving its corporate headquarters next weekend from downtown New York City to downtown Jersey City. The company, the largest independent shipbuilding and ship repair firm in the country, will take flight from its current One State Plaza offices for new digs in the One Evertrust Plaza.

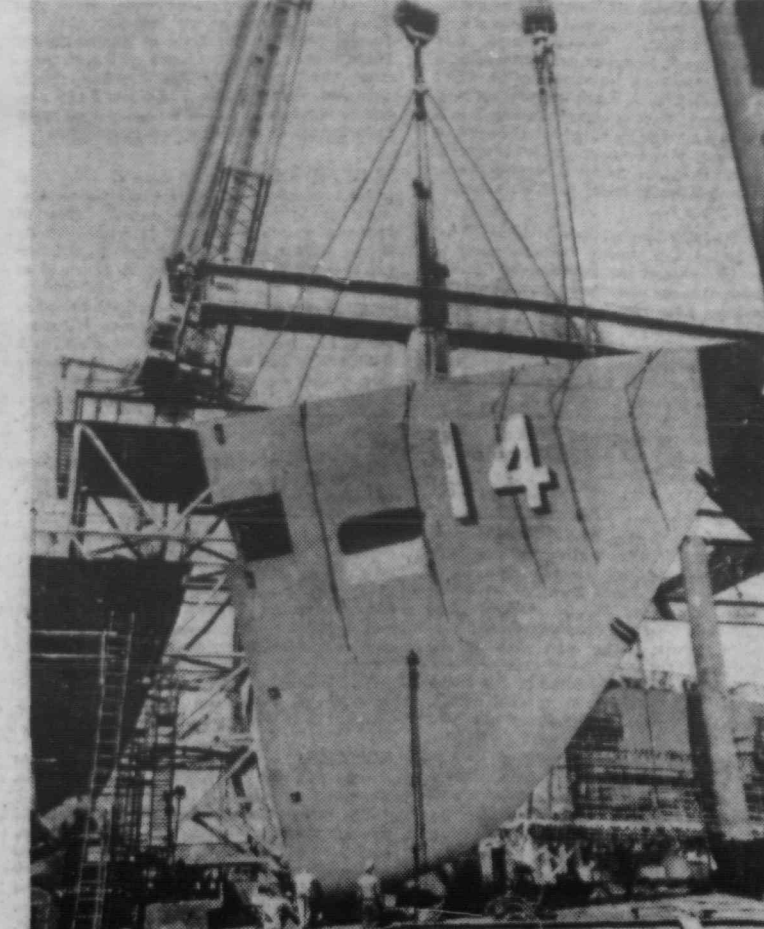
Todd will pay 25 percent less rent in Jersey City than in New York, will have more space, and will have better access to Newark Airport. Jersey City won out over Long Island, Westchester County, Connecticut, and other parts of New Jersey as the site for Todd's relocation.

But the move so far hasn't been smooth. Todd wanted to move June 1, but a strike by the pipefitters' union prevented that.

The pipefitters have been in a wage dispute with the Mechanical Contractors Association of New Jersey. The pipefitters must install condensed water pipes for the air conditioning for Todd's space in the Evertrust building.

A vote by the union's members was to be taken last Friday on a new wage proposal. Regardless of the outcome, Todd is planning to move into its 23,000-square-foot quarters. But the company is not new to Hudson County.

The company had major shipyard operations in Hoboken until 1965. Now the firm has full-service facilities in Seattle, San



Workers at Todd Shipyards Corp.'s Los Angeles facilities put the bow section of a guided-missile frigate into place so it can be lifted for assembly to the hull.

Francisco, Los Angeles, and Galveston, Texas.

Though the firm traces its roots as far back as the building of the first iron-clad battleship, Monitor, during the Civil War, Todd didn't officially come into existence until 1916.

The Tietjen & Lang shipyard, which was once on Jersey City's Morris Basin, before moving to Hoboken, came under Todd's control in 1916.

A company history, called Every Kind of Shipwork, notes that the founder of the firm, William Todd, referred to the Tietjen & Lang facility in Hoboken as "the second largest ship repair yard on New York Harbor."

The yard had approximately 1,300 employees, covered about

21 acres of land, piers, and basins, and was able to repair small and moderately-sized vessels.

Before World War I, the company was instrumental in building the (U.S.) Naval fleet. "All Todd subsidiary plants are operating at 200 percent of what would normally be considered their capacity," Todd was reported as saying in 1917.

Todd Hoboken became the Hoboken Division of Todd Shipyards on May 1, 1943. The Hoboken facility was on its way to being one of Todd's bellwether yards. Though its facilities were smaller, Hoboken at one point handled over 8,000 ships, compared to the Brooklyn yards' 3,000, and built vessels weighing an aggregate of 34 million tons, compared to the 30.5 million tons at Todd's Red Hook yards.

But the Hoboken yard was closed on Sept. 1, 1965 because there wasn't enough repair work available to keep the facility afloat.

Todd had a difficult time selling its property, finally signing it over to the city of Hoboken.

The company once reportedly had over 157,000 employees when its yards were bustling; now, the firm has approximately 4,000 workers.

In fiscal 1986, ended March 30, Todd had sales of \$414 million and a net loss of \$2.3 million. In fiscal 1985, the company had \$507 million in sales and net income of \$19 million.

Todd's difficulties during fiscal 1986 resulted from a \$21 million settlement with the U.S. Navy over workers' compensation insurance and a \$4 million allowance for closing its New Orleans yard. Both setbacks are non-recurring items.

Other factors, too, such as a seven-month strike at the New Orleans facility, less work, and higher costs on certain projects, hurt the company's bottom line.

But there were signs of life in the company's 1986 results. Todd had a strong fourth quarter, with sales of \$123 million, a marked improvement over the \$112 million for the period a year earlier.

More significant, perhaps,

was the contribution of Todd's Aro subsidiary, which manufactures air-powered equipment. Aro was acquired in November and, in the four months until the end of the fourth quarter, the division contributed \$35 million to Todd's results.

Todd bought Aro after looking at 65 companies, Schaefer says. Todd wants to diversify into more non-marine businesses, preferably in the manufacturing or light manufacturing areas, he adds.

Todd needs to look beyond shipbuilding and ship repair, even though they remain the company's core businesses.

The company is still working on a U.S. Navy contract to build 31 FFG frigates, which carry guided missiles.

The firm has only two of the vessels left to build, and the contract runs out in fiscal 1988, says Robert J. Daniels, the assistant to Todd's chairman, who is currently John T. Gilbride.

Once fiscal 1988 hits, Todd will just be operating in the repair, or "after," market, says John Simon, a senior vice president at Los Angeles-based Seidler Amdec.

The repair market for commercial vessels has already moved overseas because a strong dollar has meant lower costs elsewhere. One consolation: Simon believes the repair market has bottomed out, and Todd did show some improvement in this area as its fiscal year wore on.

Moreover, two new construction programs by the U.S. Navy may help Todd retain its prominence in the shipbuilding industry.

The Navy's CG 47 class of cruisers with guided missiles is being built by other companies. The ships are equipped with the Aegis system, a sophisticated radar, sonar, and control mechanism.

The Navy wanted a company with West Coast shipyards to work out the kinks in the cruisers after their six-month try-outs. Enter Todd, which will now get valuable experience with how the Aegis system operates.

That experience, Simon notes, will come in handy because the Navy is looking for a second contractor to build its DDG 51 Destroyers, which also use the Aegis system.

Bath Iron Works in Maine is one of the builders for the destroyers. Toss is bidding to be the second.

"It's the only program around," says Simon. "There's nothing else in town."

Simon notes that Todd will return "to the heights" if it lands the DDG 51 contracts, and the company knows it.

Daniels says that each destroyer could cost up to \$250 million to build. With a foot in the door regarding the intricacies of the Aegis system, the company feels it is well-poised to work on the destroyers.

But what if the deal falls through?

Daniels says there is enough Navy repair work available to sustain Todd. He notes, however, that the company is not negotiating to acquire any other firms and probably won't search for any until the fall.

Simon, who has recommended Todd's stock, feels that the company's decision to diversify is sound as long as it is cautious. If the Aro acquisition is any indication, Todd will likely be patient, and Simon notes that Schaefer is a careful chief executive.

"As long as they stay in manufacturing," Simon says, "they'll be all right."

City demanding safety guarantee

By Bill Campbell

A little more than two weeks before the first of 33 barges are expected to dock at the old Hoboken Shipyards, city officials are still seeking assurances that proper safety and security procedures will be followed.

In documents obtained yesterday by The Jersey Journal, city officials expressed concern over whether Liberty Weekend officials will honor

Continued from Page 1.

verbal assurances that safety and security is provided at the shipyards during the staging and storage of more than 10 tons of fireworks for the July 4th celebration.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius today issued a list of five requirements that must be met before permits are issued.

Chius instructed Joe Cangelosi, president of Enterprise Marine and Industrial Company, a division of Braswell Shipyards, to provide the following information:

• Adequate security be provided at the site satisfactory to Chief of Police George Crimmins. The cost of this security shall be paid by Liberty Weekend. Crimmins shall have full authority over security.

• All requirements of the Hoboken fire chief be met.

• The Coast Guard provide a safety zone beginning when the fireworks are delivered to the Hoboken Shipyards until the fireworks are all removed from Hoboken.

Fireworks for Fourth to go off as scheduled

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A rumor that the Hoboken Shipyards here had decided not to act as depot for the Liberty Weekend festival sent city officials scurrying for information yesterday.

But by late afternoon, organizers or the Fourth of July weekend spectacular denied the rumors, saying that as far as they were concerned the fireworks were going through as planned.

The 25-tons of fireworks, billed as the largest such display in history, will be stored and then loaded onto barges from the shipyards prior to the celebration.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who initially opposed the depot plan, is now awaiting assurances from Liberty Weekend organizers that the community will be insured in case there is a "catastrophe." These assurances are expected to be presented before the City Council on Wednesday.

Yesterday, speculation here was that the creditors in charge of the bankrupt Braswell Shipyards of

South Carolina had nixed the proposal, perhaps because they were informed that they would be liable in the event of an accident.

The shipyards have been bought by Anthony Dell'Aquila, a local developer. He said yesterday that he will not get control over the property until late July.

Elliot Braswell, owner of the shipyards, is in Europe and could not be reached for comment yesterday, a secretary in his Charleston office said.

Laurie Fabiano, an aide to Mayor Anthony F. Vezetti, said her office had tried unsuccessfully to reach Liberty Weekend organizers yesterday.

"The city has not received any official word," Fabiano said. "We tried to get it and couldn't."

But Omar Lehrman, who is in charge of the fireworks for Liberty Weekend, said late yesterday afternoon from his New York office that the fireworks would go on as planned.

"We have no indication there is anything untoward," Lehrman said of the rumors. "Everything is fine."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the bridge can hold many, many people as far as the safety is concerned," he said. With the exception of the viaduct, there is only one other public viewing site listed in Union City.

Both Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins and county Police Chief Joseph Nealon balked at Bolte's suggestion of closing the bridge to traffic. "The bridge has to be open as the main traffic artery to Hoboken," Crimmins said.

Nealon was also concerned about the safety of spectators if allowed on the bridge. "The safety of the bridge is very much in question," he said last week.

"When I'm out driving with another officer, we should or shouldn't go up it," Nealon said. "I'm exaggerating, of course, but I know the engineers are concerned about it."

Steinel said that the idea of allowing spectators on the

viaduct was "whacked out." He accused the centennial commission of "overemphasizing" Liberty Weekend festivities and the demand for viewing spots.

However, Steinel said that Hudson County police will be on hand on the viaduct over the July Fourth weekend to assure the safety of any spectators who arrive on the bridge.

"It's probably not such a good idea. The view isn't even that great," he said. "But how are you going to stop people?"

Alternate public viewing sites listed in the release from the statue centennial commission include:

- Stevens Park at 4th Street in Hoboken.
- Elysian Park at Hudson and 11th Streets in Hoboken.
- River Road in Hoboken (to be closed to traffic).
- Manhattan Avenue near Third Street in Union City.
- And Riverview Park near Ogden Avenue and Bowers Street in Jersey City.

Hoboken Council OKs \$2.5M sewerage bonds

By Bill Campbell

The first financial hurdle in implementing a proposed \$40 million secondary sewage plan was cleared Monday night as the Hoboken City Council approved an ordinance issuing \$2.5 million in bond anticipation notes.

In a 6-0 vote with one abstention, the council, meeting in special session, approved the second of two readings of the ordinance which provides start-up funds for the project.

The money is earmarked for engineers and financial and bond consultants, according to Councilman Robert Ranieri, chairman of the council's subcommittee on water and sewage.

The ordinance was in-

First step toward \$40M upgrading

introduced at a special council meeting on May 28.

City Council President E. Norman Wilson said yesterday that the comptroller's office can now solicit bonding to cover the project's start-up costs.

"This was an important move that will allow us to meet our deadlines," Wilson said. "The entire project was on the line with the vote," Ranieri said. "If we didn't get the funding, then we couldn't pay the consultants."

The city has been mandated by state and federal agencies to upgrade its sewage plant to secondary capacity by July 1988.

The hour-and-a-half meeting was interrupted by a recess as council members lobbied to attain the six votes needed to pass the bond issuance.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, a critic of the project's design engineer, Mayo Lynch Associates of Hoboken, agreed to support the ordinance.

Councilwoman Helen Cunn-

ing, a political ally of Della Fave, abstained.

Ranieri, Wilson and Council members Steve Cappiello, Pat Pasculli and Dave Roberts supported the ordinance.

Councilwoman Mary Francione was absent from the session.

"Had Della Fave not cast a positive vote, the city and this project would have been wiped out," Ranieri said. "This just illustrates the serious problem that exists in not having a First Ward councilman," he said.

The First Ward seat has remained vacant since Anthony Romano resigned in April.

The city is seeking \$20 million in state and federal grants to offset the cost of the project.

Liberty fireworks' bang in danger of being dud

By Jim DeRogatis

The much-ballyhooed "biggest ever in the U.S." fireworks display planned for the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary may go out with a bang, but a whimper.

The Fourth of July fireworks may fizzle, say Liberty Weekend organizers, if the Hoboken Shipyards cannot be used for storage and assembly of the pyrotechnics.

Jonas Halpern, director of public relations for Liberty Weekend, said that negotiations are still underway with the owners of the Hoboken Shipyards to store and assemble more than 20,000 pounds of explosives at the site.

The first of 42 barges bearing the explosives is due to arrive in Hoboken in less than two weeks, but Halpern said that Liberty Weekend organizers have not yet signed a contract

Staging area is key to making it sparkle

with the owners of the shipyards.

Susan Williams, another Liberty Weekend spokesman, said she could give "no definitive word" on the status of the contract. "Negotiations are still going on," she said.

The Jersey Journal learned on Thursday that Elliot Braswell, owner of the Hoboken Shipyards, is reconsidering an earlier agreement to allow Liberty Weekend organizers to store the fireworks on his property at 14th and Washington streets.

Braswell is reportedly concerned because Liberty Weekend organizers have been

unable to provide assurances about liability insurance, reported to be approximately \$500 million. Braswell, who is in Scotland, has been unavailable for comment.

Liberty Weekend organizers have said that the fireworks show may have to be canceled or dramatically scaled down if the Hoboken Shipyards cannot be used.

The group has been denied permission to store and assemble the fireworks at sites in Manhattan. Other sites, such as the Leonardo Munitions site in Monmouth County, have been ruled out because of the dis-

Halpern told The Jersey Journal several weeks ago that he was "surprised that Hoboken would want to miss the chance to be part of the greatest show of the last 100 years."

A local controversy over the fireworks was ignited when Liberty Weekend organizers first announced their plans to store the explosives in town. The City Council is set to vote on a resolution Wednesday condemning the fireworks.

Halpern said yesterday that it would be an "American tragedy" if the fireworks show were cancelled. He referred to several quotations from Abraham Lincoln and John Adams about the majesty of fireworks.

"Hopefully this will all be resolved," he said. "Men of reason will hopefully resolve

Continued from Page 1. their differences so that the event can take place."

Hoboken officials have been preparing for the arrival of the fireworks for several weeks. Fire officials are reviewing a permit application from Liberty Weekend and City Safety Director Edwin Chius recently provided the shipyard with a detailed list of safety demands.

But city officials were still uncertain about the status of the fireworks yesterday, and they were not surprised. "We're always the last to know about these things," said Laurie

Continued from Page 1. abiano, an aide to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

administrators, said he believed that federal pressure would be put on the owners of the shipyards to make sure the fireworks display goes on as scheduled.

The pressure could come from as high as the White House, Chius said.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, in response to the anger expressed by some Hoboken residents, is sponsoring a resolution before the City Council seeking to ban the assembly of the fireworks in Hoboken.

Ranieri has said that the

fireworks should be stored at the Navy's munitions site in Monmouth County and not in Hoboken. Liberty Weekend

Organizers ruled out the site because of the problems of transporting the fireworks over a long distance.

Liberty Weekend officials were turned away from other sites. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city of New York denied requests by the organizers to store the fireworks at other sites in the area.

Hoboken council coming to grips with budget snag

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council, facing a July 1 deadline to adopt a municipal budget, will meet Monday with City Auditor Frank Italiano to discuss revisions to the Vezzetti administration's proposed \$22.6 million spending plan.

Italiano will outline spending options at a budget workshop during the council's caucus session.

The council and the administration have been at odds over nearly \$2 million in anticipated revenue which has been included in the 1988 budget.

Italiano told the council last month that they would not be able to adopt the budget because of the uncertain status of the funds.

"We must look at our options in terms of the state deadline," Council President E. Norman Wilson said. "The state simply won't allow us to pass the budget if we include the funds."

At issue is \$1.3 million in back railroad property taxes owed to the city, as well as \$450,000 from the municipal tax purpose assistance fund.

The funds cannot be included in the city budget until the state budget is adopted, Wilson said.

The proposed city budget already includes a \$1.5 million spending increase over last year and is expected to raise the tax

rate by at least \$40 over the 1985 rate of \$162 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that Hoboken is one of about 80 communities statewide that included anticipated revenue in its budget.

He said the council would be allowed to adopt the budget if the funds were removed.

However, Wilson warned of massive layoffs or an additional tax increase of \$15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation if the state funds were removed from the budget.

"Basically, the state says you can't anticipate funds that are not realized yet," Wilson said. "But if we delay, the state will intervene."

Councilman Robert Ranieri, a critic of the budget, said the council was "duped" by the administration when the spending plan was introduced.

"They knew these funds weren't there when they threw us this false budget," Ranieri said. "But when we accepted the budget it became our responsibility."

Ranieri, who has predicted a 1986 tax rate as high as \$300 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, warned that state intervention would result in a further tax increase.

Chius, though, said the city has received a "positive response" from state officials in its efforts to recoup the anticipated revenue.

Judge in SC to rule on Hoboken fireworks

By PETER WEHRWEIN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A South Carolina judge is scheduled to decide next week whether the Liberty Weekend fireworks display will come off as planned.

The organizers of the Fourth of July extravaganza want to use the defunct Hoboken Shipyards as a staging grounds for 25 tons of fireworks. Barges carrying the fireworks would be floated out into the Upper New York Bay for what has been billed as the largest fireworks show in history.

But the organizers apparently did not figure on the complicated financial and ownership history of the shipyards, which shut down as a working shipyard two years ago.

The company that owns the yards, Braswell Shipyards, went bankrupt and is operating under federal court supervision. All agreements the company enters into must be approved by a federal bankruptcy judge, which in this case is Judge Bratton Davis of U.S. Bankruptcy Court in South Carolina.

"It is just that they assumed it would be routine, and it is not," said Morris W. Macey, Braswell's Atlanta attorney.

Yesterday, Macey filed a motion in the bankruptcy court, asking that the court allow the shipyards here to be used as the fireworks depot. He said he did not expect the judge to have any objections. A hearing on the motion is scheduled for Thursday.

No one involved in the fireworks part of the celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty was available for comment yesterday, but Omar Lehman, identified as the person in charge of the spectacular, was quoted earlier this week as saying everything is fine. According to Macey, the celebration's organizers — known formally as the Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation — have agreed to buy \$25 million worth of insurance to cover the possibility of an accident at the shipyards.

Even before getting court approval, Macey said he had to hustle this week to get other people with a stake in the shipyards to agree to a fireworks depot. The six banks and insurance companies who have brought to Hoboken, less than a part of the mortgage on the property had to give their approval.

Two weeks before the first of 33 barges is due to arrive. Sources said that Elliot Braswell, owner of the shipyards, has grown concerned over the fireworks organizers' reluctance to disclose information on liability insurance. Sources have said insurers are requesting more than \$500 mil-

Fireworks plans may just fizzle out

By Bill Campbell

and Jim DeRogatis

High-placed sources revealed yesterday that Liberty Weekend organizers are still seeking approval from the owners of the Hoboken Shipyards to store and assemble more than 10 tons of fireworks for the Statue of Liberty Centennial spectacular.

Liberty Weekend Organizers, representatives of Braswell Shipyards, which owns the Hoboken Shipyards, and state and local officials could neither confirm nor deny that the fireworks will be brought to Hoboken, less than two weeks before the first of 33 barges is due to arrive.

Sources said that Elliot Braswell, owner of the shipyards, has grown concerned over the fireworks organizers' reluctance to disclose information on liability insurance. Sources have said insurers are requesting more than \$500 mil-

lion in order to cover the liability of storing the fireworks in Hoboken.

Liberty Weekend organizers set off a local controversy last month when they announced plans to load and assemble 20,109 pounds of explosives on 33

barges docked at the Hoboken Shipyards at 16th and Hudson streets. The fireworks represent the largest display ever staged in this country.

Liberty Weekend spokesmen have said that if the fireworks are not stored in Hoboken, the show may have to be cancelled or dramatically scaled down.

Rep. Frank Guarini intervened in negotiations between Braswell and Liberty Weekend organizers. At that time, Braswell reportedly agreed to let the fireworks be stored on his property.

Joe Cangelosi, president of Braswell's Hoboken office, would only say that he "has no idea" when asked if he was still expecting the fireworks shipment.

A spokesman for Guarini, in contrast to statements two weeks ago, said there is doubt about whether the fireworks will be stored in the city.

See FIREWORKS — Page 20.

Continued from Page 1. Conrad Vuccolo, the

spokesman, said yesterday that Omar Lerman, associate producer for pyrotechnics for Liberty Weekend, called the congressman to ask him to intervene again in negotiations with the shipyard.

Lerman called and wanted the congressman to get involved again, but the congressman told him he'd gone as far as he could go," Vuccolo said.

Vuccolo stressed that the congressman "has the interests of the community at heart."

Guarini was concerned by the reactions of some Hoboken residents who were upset by the news of the fireworks, Vuccolo said.

In a letter to Hoboken City Council President E. Norman Wilson dated June 9, Lerman said Liberty Weekend

Organizers were "close to an agreement with Mr. Braswell and expect to have a contract shortly."

City officials said yesterday that they still believed the fireworks would be stored in Hoboken. Edwin Chius, business

Photos by John Decker

consideration as Hoboken's city flag. The winner is expected to be announced next Saturday.

Dispatch 6-7-86

Don't even think of parking here, sneakers and skywriting are only some of the designs submitted for

Hoboken has many candidates for its first flag

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—When the city unfurls its first official flag, chances are it won't display a pair of well-worn sneakers drawn on a blue backdrop.

But that certainly didn't stop at least two contestants from submitting drawings with a sneaker motif, making them among the most original of the 162 entries in the Design the Hoboken Flag contest.

There is also little chance that the city's flag will include — among other suggestions — the Empire State

City will receive state funding for police on Fourth

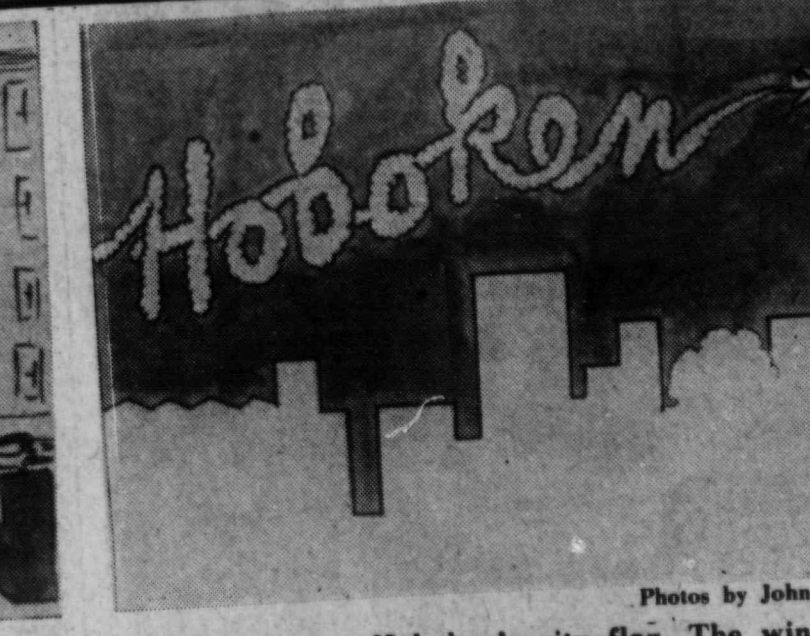
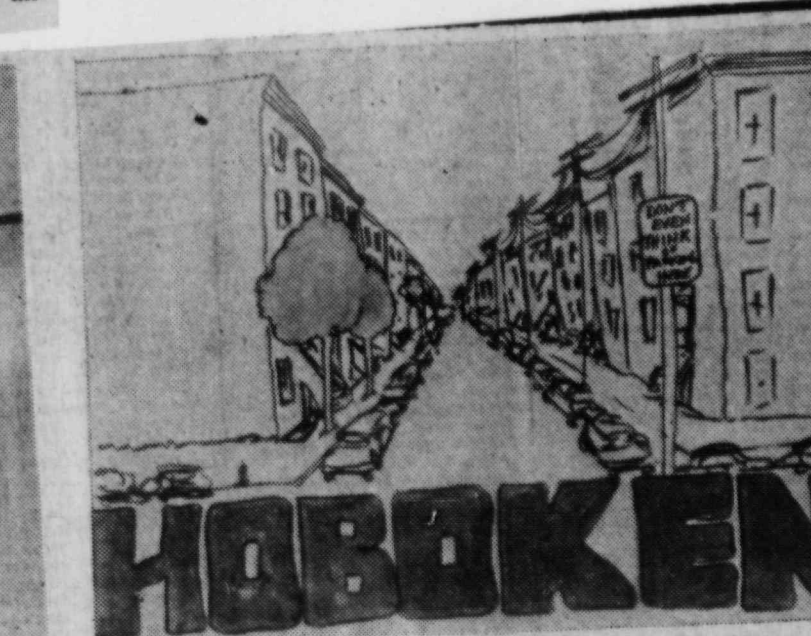
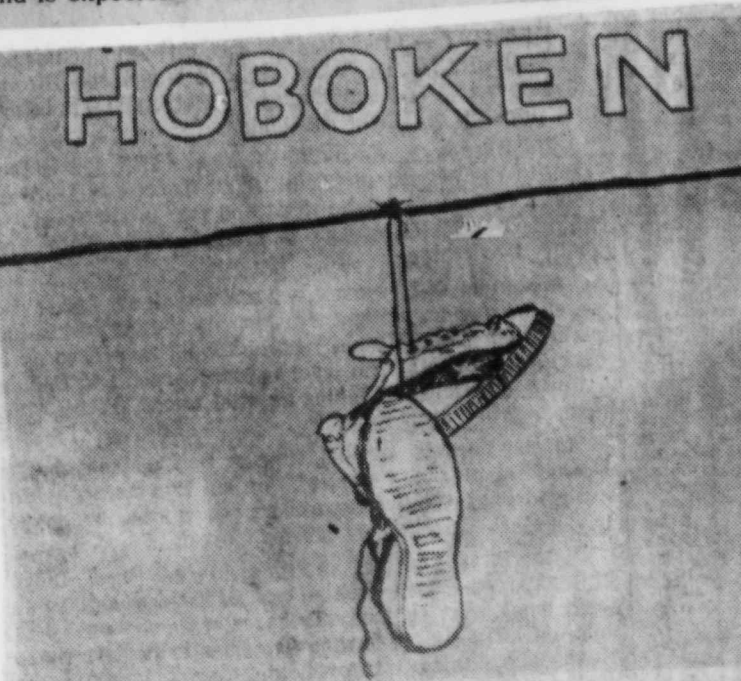
Hoboken will receive a special \$100,000 state appropriation for police overtime patrols and special uniformed patrols, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti announced yesterday.

The city will receive \$100,000 in discretionary funds from the state Supplemental Safe Neighborhoods program, Vezzetti said. The money will be used for police overtime created

by festivities on the July Fourth weekend.

A portion of the funds will also be used for increased police protection in the city's parks throughout the summer, Vezzetti said.

The mayor thanked Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Leonard Coleman for allocating the funds and Gov. Thomas Kean for approving them.



162 ENTRIES

Hoboken has many candidates for its first flag

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—When the city unfurls its first official flag, chances are it won't display a pair of well-worn sneakers drawn on a blue backdrop.

But that certainly didn't stop at least two contestants from submitting drawings with a sneaker motif, making them among the most original of the 162 entries in the Design the Hoboken Flag contest.

There is also little chance that the city's flag will include — among other suggestions — the Empire State

Building; a facsimile of a \$1 bill with the words "Ours to Buy and Sell" on it; or another that says "Condos are Us."

At least one observer yesterday admitted that some of the entries are a bit bizarre, although he said this was the exception rather than the rule. The five judges who will choose a winner are expected to announce their decision on Flag Day next Saturday.

The eccentric entries aside, there also are some designs that were overtly political, others a trifle too

abstract, and still others, well ... minimalist.

The \$1 bill idea, for example, was submitted by Help Hoboken Housing, a tenant group. Another, a street scene with a sign that reads "Don't Ever Think of Parking Here," addresses a familiar problem.

The contest, sponsored by the Mayor's Cultural Advisory Committee, was open to everyone, city resident or not. Some of the entries are clearly the work of professional artists, although the majority were submitted by local schoolchildren.

Pasculli wants to trim Hoboken department

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken second largest municipal department may be trimmed down if a reorganization ordinance sponsored by Councilman Pat Pasculli is approved by the City Council.

Pasculli tonight will in-

roduce an ordinance to reorganize the two-year old Department of Environmental Services and Facilities under the Department of Administration.

Pasculli is also seeking to shift Public Safety from the business administrator to the Department of Law.

Environmental services has just grown too big," Pasculli said. "We are attempting to restructure it to be more productive and cost effective."

The ESF, is a continuation of campaign pledges to restructure municipal government.

Pasculli said the move to place Public Safety under the Law Department was "logical."

"Law enforcement and Public Safety belong together," He said.

Pasculli said the reorganization would "cost taxpayers nothing" since department

heads would continue in their present capacity.

However, administration sources, critical of the performance of Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., have called the Public Safety shift a "political move."

But Chius said he welcomes

the administrative shift. "I already have enough to do," Chius said last month when the ordinance was first proposed.

The ordinances will have their first reading at tonight's council session at Hoboken High School.

Hoboken unfurls its new official flag

6-14-86 Dispatch

By TOM GISSEN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The city that boasts 42,000 people and calls itself the birthplace of baseball now has what many smaller and less famous cities take for granted. Hoboken, at long last, has its very own flag.

As members of the press and proud relatives watched, the winner of the city's flag contest was announced and the new banner unveiled Thursday afternoon. Teofilo "Tom" Olivieri Jr., a 21-year-old with a dream of studying at New York's School of Visual Arts, had beaten out close to 200 other contestants, several of them professional artists.

Olivieri said colors and unity were the artistic focus of his flag's design. The flag is composed of three horizontal bands, red over white over blue. The center white band is designed to look like cobblestones, which Olivieri said represent the city's historic streets. In the center left section of the flag, stands the city seal.

Asked if winning surprised him, Olivieri responded, "Yes, of course. You don't expect to win things like that."

Olivieri was not alone in his surprise. Both runners-up expressed surprise, and one said the experience had been frightening.

After all, the first runner-up, Anthony Flora, is only 8 years old. The third grader's mother, Adele Flora, said her son drew the flag as part of an art assignment and only learned his entry was picked during a harrowing experience at the Calabro School. Anthony said he was sitting in class when, without explanation, his teacher told him to go to the principal's office.

Flora said her son was sure he must have done something wrong, when the already bad situation appeared to take a turn for the worse. Upon arriving at the office Anthony was told the principal did not want to see him — but the mayor did.

"I went to answer the phone, and it was the mayor. I was shaking," Flora said her son told her.

"I am so proud of him. He surprises me sometimes," the beaming



Photo by Gary Higgins

THIS BANNER, created by Teofilo "Tom" Olivieri is to become the official flag of Hoboken. Nearly 200 artists entered the competition to create the city's flag.

mother said. "I couldn't believe it. He was so happy. I was so happy. I didn't even know" he was in the contest, she added.

Flora's flag is divided into four quadrants, each with a historical representation of the city's past. In one section there is an Indian on horseback, representing the true first settlers of the land. Two other quadrants are occupied by representations of a train and a boat, signifying the importance of the city's early rail and shipping commerce. In the fourth quadrant, a batter at the plate pushes the city's arguable claim as the birthplace of professional baseball.

Although Major League Baseball generally accepts the notion that Abner Doubleday invented the sport and that the first game was played

in Cooperstown, N.Y., there also is evidence indicating that the game was invented by Alexander Cartwright and first played at Elysian Fields here in 1846.

Third-place winner Jo Ann Altomare, 19, also laced her flag with historical references, such as an early train and an old clock tower. Altomare, who just completed her freshman year as an art student at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y., will spend her summer taking art classes at The School of Visual Arts in Manhattan.

Olivieri said he too would like to attend The School of Visual Arts, but cannot afford it on his salary as a mechanical artist, pasting-up pages for a medical publisher. "I'm trying to get into an art school, but

I need some kind of aid. It's tough. It's so expensive," he said.

Even if Olivieri does not get into art school soon, he hopes that by Labor Day he will see his flag flying over the town where he grew up.

Laurie Fabiano, the mayor's representative to the Cultural Advisory Committee, said a graphic artist will transpose Olivieri's design to a cloth flag. Because of the requirements of printing on woven materials, Fabiano said some minor changes may have to be made in the design.

All flag designs submitted — nearly 200 — are scheduled to be displayed on the second floor of City Hall from 11 a.m. Flag Day, today, until the end of the Fourth of July weekend.

Fireworks opponents can blow off steam in court

6-16-86 JG

By Jim DeRogatis

Hoboken residents who are upset about plans to store more than 10 tons of Liberty Weekend fireworks at the Hoboken Shipyards must present their case to a South Carolina judge on Thursday, an attorney for the owner of the property said yesterday.

Judge Bratton Davis of the Federal Bankruptcy Court in South Carolina is set to decide on Thursday whether to allow Liberty Weekend organizers to store 20,100 pounds of explosives at the Hoboken Shipyards near 14th and Hudson streets.

The court challenge is one of a number of obstacles that may prevent the fireworks from being stored at the shipyards. If the site is ruled out, organizers of the July Fourth festivities have said that the much-ballyhooed "biggest fireworks display in the history of the United States" may be cancelled.

The Hoboken Shipyards, which stopped serving as a working shipyard two years ago, is owned by Elliot Braswell and Braswell Shipyards. Because Braswell filed bankruptcy, all contracts and agreements regarding the Hoboken shipyards must be approved by a federal bankruptcy judge.

Morris W. Macey, an Atlanta attorney representing Braswell, filed a motion before Judge Davis on Friday asking whether the court will allow the fireworks to be stored at the shipyards. "If the judge decides (the fireworks) are not in the best interest of Hoboken or the Hoboken Shipyards, he can deny permission," Macey said.

Macey said that he was "very concerned" to learn that some Hoboken residents were upset at the prospect of having the fireworks stored in Hoboken. The Hoboken City Council is set to vote on Wednesday on a resolution condemning the fireworks.

"If that is the case, maybe we shouldn't do it," he said. "We're not getting a nickel out of this."

In fact, Macey added, the fireworks have meant "nothing but aggravation." The attorney was required to send out some

600 notices that the property would be used to store fireworks. All of the shipyards' creditors had to be notified under federal bankruptcy laws, he said.

Macey also expressed concern that Liberty Weekend organizers are not providing enough liability insurance. He said that they have agreed to provide \$25 million in coverage.

"I don't know if that's enough, but they said that it is all they can get," Macey said. "We have urged them to get more."

The Jersey Journal reported

last week that Elliot Braswell was reconsidering his agreement to allow the fireworks to be stored on his property because of concerns over insurance. Braswell has been unavailable for comment because he is in Scotland.

"We did not intend to play an active role (in storing the fireworks)," Macey said. "Mr. Braswell and the Hoboken Shipyards and myself just wanted to cooperate with the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and insure the success of the weekend."

"The judge is having a hear-

ing on Thursday. That is the time for the people of Hoboken to express their views. I'm sure he'll be very receptive," Macey said.

Despite the number of challenges Liberty Weekend organizers must overcome in the less than two weeks before the first of 42 barges bearing the fireworks arrives, a spokesman for the group was optimistic on Friday and said that negotiations are "going well."

"Hopefully, this will all be resolved," said Jonas Halperen, director of public relations for Liberty Weekend.

Mystery shrouds cops' suspension

JG 6-17-86

By Raul Vicente Jr.

Two lieutenants in the Hoboken Police Department were suspended without pay yesterday in connection with an arrest last week, but officials will not give a clear picture of the charges against the officers.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins yesterday said, "I can only tell you that the two superior officers have been suspended. Charges will be made public after the investigation is completed."

However, Crimmins also said that preliminary portions of the investigation have been handed over to the Hudson

County prosecutor's office for further investigation.

Crimmins said that the two officers were suspended after an investigation into the arrest of Michael DiNatale of West New York, who was taken into custody last Tuesday. However, Crimmins would not say what the officers' involvement was.

DiNatale was arrested, according to Crimmins, for driving an uninsured vehicle, making an improper turn and for being in a crosswalk.

However, other sources close to the investigation said that DiNatale had to take a breathalyzer test for sobriety.

Crimmins would not comment on anything else.

The other sources also said there appeared to be tampering with a log book in which police entries are made. According to Crimmins, Capt. Paul Tuers and Patrick Patera, who have been conducting the investigation for the Hoboken Police Internal Affairs office, have not completed their investigation. They were informed of the incident involving the two officers last Friday.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale said he had "no comment" to make regarding the matter.

OVER TRUMP 'NEPHEW'

Hoboken suspends 2 police veterans

Dispatch 6-17-86
By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Two city police lieutenants were suspended indefinitely yesterday amid allegations that they allowed a possible drunken driver to go free. Police Chief George Crimmins said.

No formal charges have been filed against the two, both of whom are veteran police officers, but each faces "many departmental charges," Crimmins said.

City officials said yesterday that the two lieutenants — Kenneth McGurk and Edward Skelly — were rumored to have allowed the suspect to go free after he claimed to be a nephew of Donald J. Trump, the New York City millionaire developer.

Crimmins said he was aware of the rumor but would not comment further, saying the police inquiry was not complete. Any reference to Trump's nephew remains unsubstantiated, Crimmins said.

Norman Forderer, a spokeswoman for the Trump Organization in Manhattan, said it was "extremely unlikely" that a relative could have been involved. More likely, Forderer said, is that a person claimed to be Trump's nephew to elude possible charges.

Trump has only one nephew of driving age and he was in Connecticut or upstate New York all week, Forderer said. Moreover, the nephew, whose name Forderer did not release, does not own a car.

The incident allegedly took place last Tuesday at 1:30 a.m. when a driver was stopped here. The police See POLICE, Page 8

LIBERTY WEEKEND

Hoboken gets grant for police overtime

Dispatch 6-17-86
By GABRIEL ESCOBAR
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Part of a \$100,000 state grant awarded to the city will be used to pay for increased police patrols during the July Fourth weekend, Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti announced yesterday.

The grant, which yesterday was approved formally by the state Department of Community Affairs, is among those awarded to municipalities so they can supplement police services.

In the city's case, part of the grant will be used to pay for police

State awards \$100,000 to city for increased police patrols

overtime during Liberty Weekend. Without the grant, the city would have to foot the bill alone.

There were no estimates yesterday on how much the extra security patrols will cost. But since the city will be one of the main sites for viewing the festivities, the police here are expected to work overtime.

Not all of the money will be spent on Liberty Weekend, Vezetti said yesterday, and any surplus will be used to increase police patrols in the city's parks throughout the summer.

Vezetti applied for the grant several weeks ago and was notified yesterday that it had been awarded.

The grant was made available through the state's Supplemental Safe Neighborhood Program and was approved by Community Affairs Commissioner Leonard Coleman and the Governor's Office.

Money allocated to the state program often runs a surplus, as it did this year, because some municipalities do not apply for the grants, according to Richard Harpster, a spokesman for the state agency.

Additional grants then can be made at the commissioner's discretion.

Main break cost schools \$10,500

6-16-86

Critic says ed board overspent

By Jim DeRogatis

A critic of the Hoboken Board of Education has charged the board with overspending by authorizing \$10,500 in emergency repairs on a water main at Hoboken High School.

But some board members and school officials have denied the charges and claimed the fee was justified because the contractors, Ram Enterprise Excavators of Jersey City, worked for three days over a holiday weekend.

According to Tony Curko, acting board secretary, a

water main leading into Hoboken High School burst at about 2 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18. City workers were forced to shut off valves on Clinton and Grand streets, depriving businesses and homes in the area of water, he said.

A crew from Ram worked through Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, to repair the main and restore water, Curko

said. They presented the Board of Education with a bill for \$10,500.

Curko and Director of Environmental Services and Facilities Roy Haack both said that Ram had been chosen to do the work because they were readily available. Ram workers had passed by as city officials examined the broken pipe and offered to do the job, they said.

Frank "Pup" Raia, a frequent, vocal critic of the board, accused Ram of overcharging the board for the work. "It shouldn't have cost more than \$3,000," said Raia, a developer who said he is familiar with the cost of plumbing work.

"They had five guys working three days to dig a five-foot-by-eight-foot hole," Raia said. "And why were excavating guys chosen to do the job rather than plumbing experts?"

Haack said that he did not believe the bill from Ram was unreasonable. He said private contractors have often charged the city more for similar jobs.

The bill from Ram has been a source of argument at recent meetings of the Board of Education. Board member Eugene Drayton charged that Raia and Steven Block, another critic of the board, were making the bill into "a political football."

City risks state intervention

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council, facing a repeat of the 1983 fiscal crisis, was told last night to amend the proposed municipal budget by Friday or risk state intervention.

City Auditor Frank Italiano, speaking at the council's caucus session, said the 1986 budget must be amended to exclude \$1.6 million in anticipated revenue. The anticipated funds, about

\$1.1 million in back railroad taxes and \$500,000 from the municipal tax purpose fund, cannot be included in the municipal spending plan until they have been approved by the state, Italiano said.

Italiano said the loss of revenue would reflect in an additional tax increase of \$13.60. He projected that the 1986 tax boost would be \$33.64, bringing the rate to \$196 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

See HOBOKEN — Page 13.

Continued from Page 1.

Italiano said that state officials informed him last week that the council must act to amend the budget by Friday or the state will move to adopt the \$22.6 million spending plan.

In 1983, the state intervened when the council failed to adopt a budget.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who drafted the budget for Mayor Thomas Vezetti, said he would submit an amendment to exclude the municipal tax purpose assistance funds, but did not recommend adjusting the railroad property tax money.

"We don't have to eliminate the appropriation, we simply have to eliminate the revenue," Chius said.

Italiano said that if the railroad tax money is approved by the state after the city budget is amended and adopted, the funds would be available for the 1987 municipal budget.

He said that state approval of the tax assistance funds could be "reflected" in the 1986 budget.

Italiano called the inclusion of the two items in the 1986 budget "not common" and "extraordinary."

The Friday deadline to amend the budget angered Council President E. Norman Wilson, who blames state officials for the delay.

"Here we are at the zero hour and we haven't received official comment from the state," he said to Italiano. "All we have operation is being run on hearsay. This is one hell of a way to run a railroad," he said.

Wilson said the budget was "dumped on the council's lap" by the state's failure to communicate with members of the council.

Italiano said the state would extend the deadline if the council set "a target date for action" by next week.

Wilson and Italiano agreed to recess Wednesday's council meeting, scheduled to be held at Hoboken High School, until the following Wednesday. Wilson said the budget amendments

would be proposed at that meeting.

During public comment on the budget, Joe Lisa, a CPA and former council budget examiner, suggested that the council weigh the alternatives of state adoption.

"We should see if we're better off including the anticipated revenue," Lisa told the council. "What would happen if the state adopts the budget? Maybe we should give the mayor and business administrator a shot."

Lisa said, though, that the state will likely reject a budget which includes the disputed funds.

"That would result in a more disastrous situation than we now have," Italiano answered.

In other business, the council is expected to act next month on a \$250,000 bond ordinance to finance a proposed sewer line along Washington Street between Sixth and Seventh streets.

Councilman Dave Roberts, who will sponsor the ordinance, said the current line, which runs between Washington and Bloomfield streets, has collapsed.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the ordinance can be introduced in July.

Environmental Services and Facilities Director Roy Haack said he recommended that the city begin the project.

Roberts said the project is expected to cost \$187,000 and residents would have to pay \$2,000 to hook up to the new line.

He said that 23 structures along Washington Street would have to hook up to prevent a "health hazard."

Under the ordinance passed last night, landlords who fail to make apartments available within 60 days of their being vacated will face fines of up to \$50 a day for each day they refuse to rent empty units.

An earlier version of the ordinance, amended two weeks ago, had penalties of up to \$500 a day and a 30-day jail sentence for each day an apartment remained unavailable for rental.

WAREHOUSING

Hoboken OKs limits on apt. vacancies

Dispatch 6-19-86
By TOM GISSEN
and STAN EASON
Staff Writers

HOBOKEN—Applause, cheers and a standing ovation greeted the passage of the city's first anti-apartment-warehousing ordinance last night.

Although the City Council vote was unanimous, opinions voiced during the public session that preceded it were not.

Cheers and clapping were intermixed with boos, hoots and calls of "stupid" and "jag," as some of the more than 130 people in attendance at Hoboken High School readily aired their opinions. It was a highly emotional meeting, interrupted at one point for a bomb scare.

Under the ordinance passed last night, landlords who fail to make apartments available within 60 days of their being vacated will face fines of up to \$50 a day for each day they refuse to rent empty units.

An earlier version of the ordinance, amended two weeks ago, had penalties of up to \$500 a day and a 30-day jail sentence for each day an apartment remained unavailable for rental.

POLICE

Continued from Page 1
have impounded the log for that night, and it is not clear where the encounter took place or whether any other officers were involved.

On Friday, three days after the incident, a police officer who was on duty last Tuesday filed a report, apparently claiming that the two lieutenants had failed to follow through with an arrest.

Capt. Patrick Totaro, the commanding officer of the uniform police division here, and Capt. Paul Tewes, the internal affairs officer, are conducting the inquiry with Crimmins. The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office has been informed of the suspension yesterday, although it was not clear whether they will conduct their own investigation.

Acting County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale could not be reached for comment yesterday. Crimmins declined to comment.

on other aspects of the case, saying the matter still is under investigation. It is not clear if the suspect was brought into the station, whether he was administered a Breathalyzer test and whether he was set free immediately.

Asked if the police log for last Tuesday lists the incident, Crimmins said, "It's not there."

The two lieutenants are both in their 30s, and each has at least 15 years on the force. McGurk is a desk lieutenant, which makes him the officer in charge on any given tour of duty. Skelly is a lieutenant assigned to a patrol car, Crimmins said.

Formal charges against the two officers will be filed as soon as the inquiry is completed, Crimmins said, adding that a report has been sent to the city's Law Department. No one in that department could be reached for comment late yesterday.

Larry Holmes both gives and gets key

By Jim DeRagatis

Former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Larry Holmes visited Hoboken High School yesterday afternoon to tell students about the joys of drug abuse and to laud the merits of an education.

The former champion, undefeated in 48 fights until he lost his title to Muhammad Ali, stopped in Hoboken as part of a tour of Hudson County yesterday. Although Holmes seemed confused about his location, referring to Hoboken as Jersey City, his message was clear.

"Get all the education you can get," he told students. "I fought in the ghetto of a small Pennsylvania town. He encouraged students to get a job — any job — rather than turn to drugs or alcohol."

Other story on Page 16

A seventh-grade dropout, Holmes told students that he fought to overcome problems in his youth in the ghetto of a small Pennsylvania town. He encouraged students to get a job — any job — rather than turn to drugs or alcohol.

Ranieri criticizes former consultant to campaign

Councilman Robert Ranieri has criticized payments of \$2,520 to a media consultant who was connected to his own city council campaign.

Ranieri released a statement yesterday that criticized payments to two consultants hired by the Hoboken Community Development Agency, Frank Borsky, a public relations consultant, and Diane Glauber, a housing specialist.

The councilman called for an investigation into the payments by the City Council's CDA subcommittee, of which he is a member.

According to CDA records, Borsky earned \$2,520 and Glauber earned \$1,875 for work they performed for the agency in April. CDA Director Michael Coleman said that the work performed by Borsky and Glauber was vital for the progress of the city.

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Dell'Aquila makes a bid for city land

By Jim DeRagatis

Hoboken developer Anthony Dell'Aquila is looking to buy an undeveloped area of city-owned land at the site of the old Shipyard, near the Weehawken Cove.

In a letter to the mayor and City Council dated June 12, Dell'Aquila asked that the city consider selling him land in the area. He said that the land is particularly interesting in purchasing land that abuts property he already owns on the waterfront near the old Franklin-Baker building.

In reply to Dell'Aquila's request, city attorney Mary Gar-

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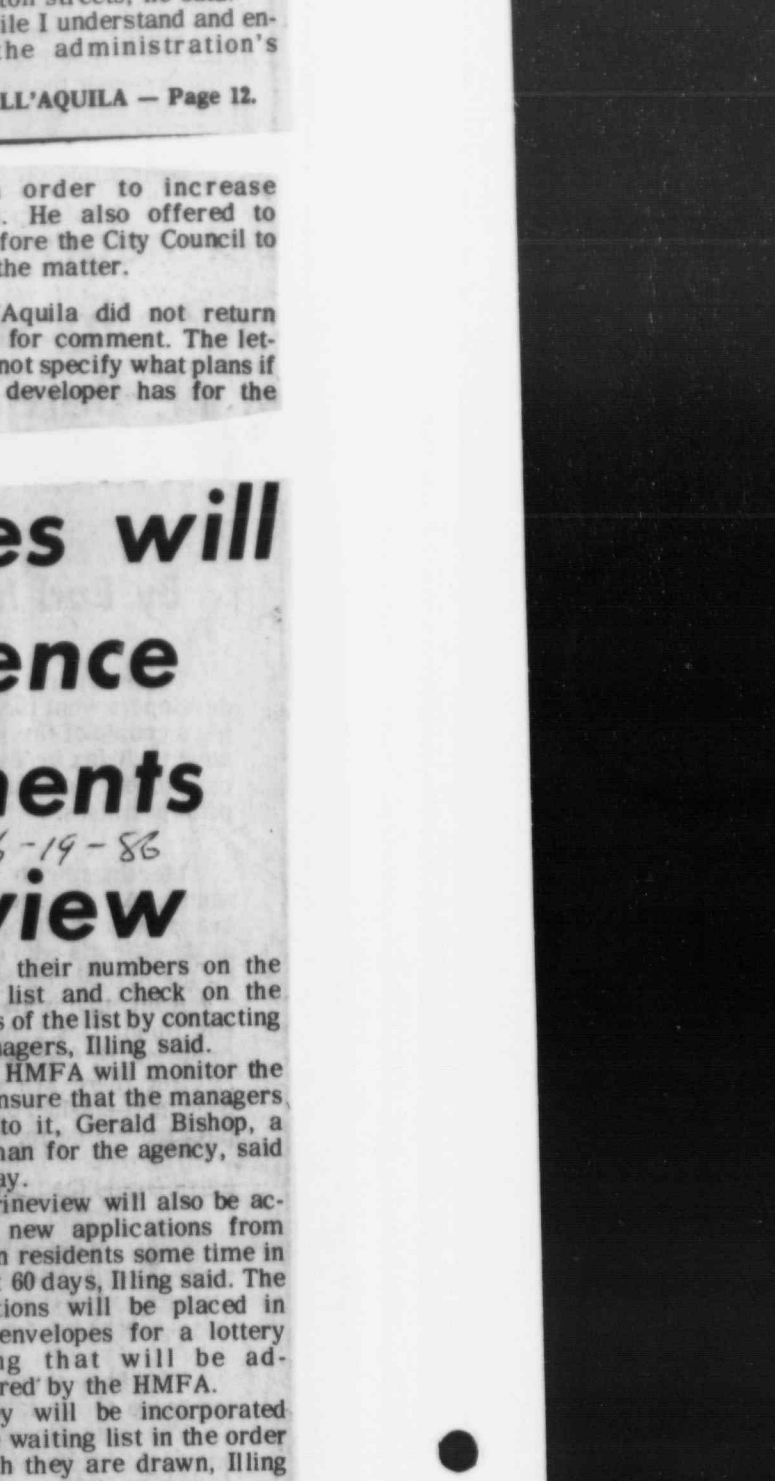
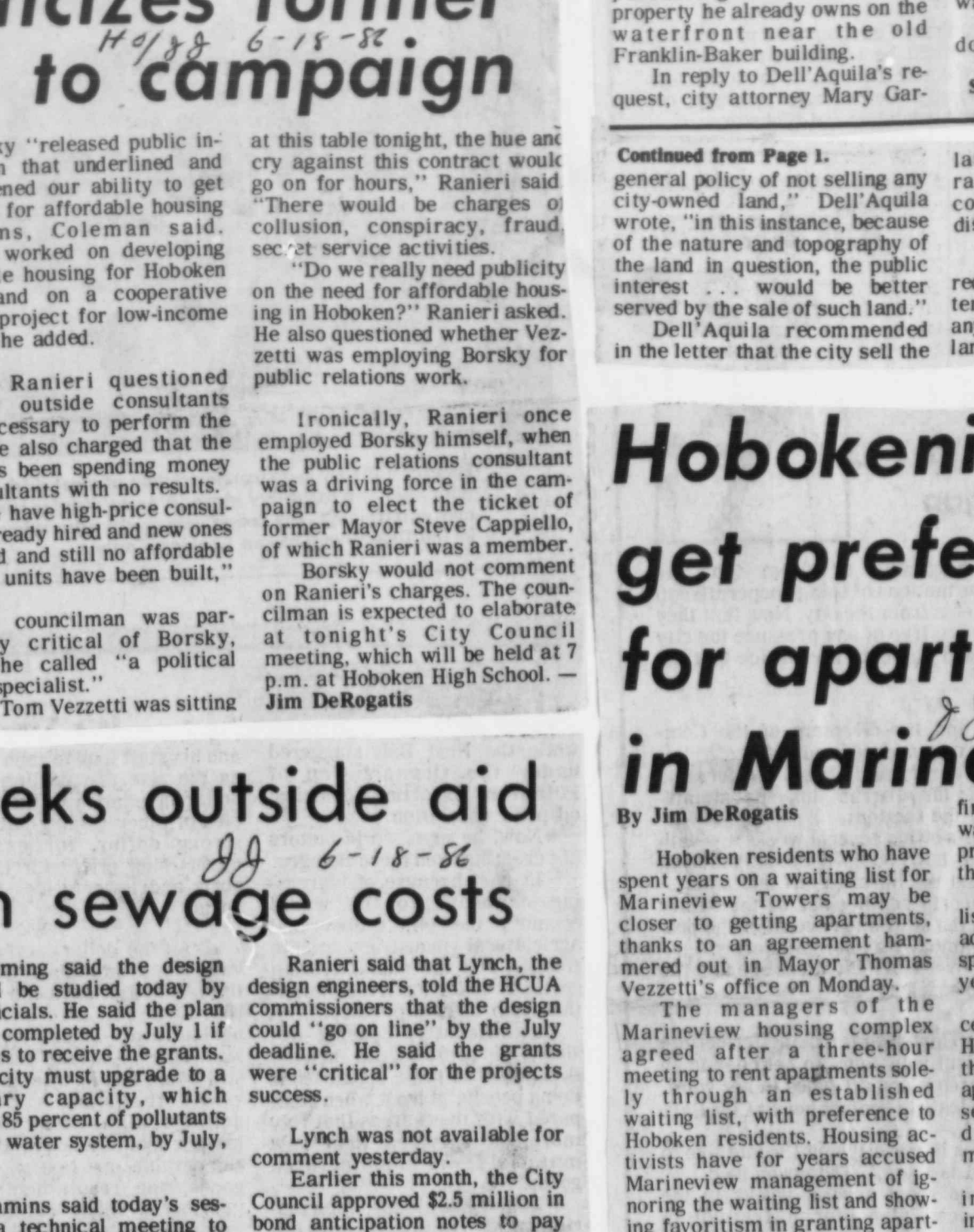
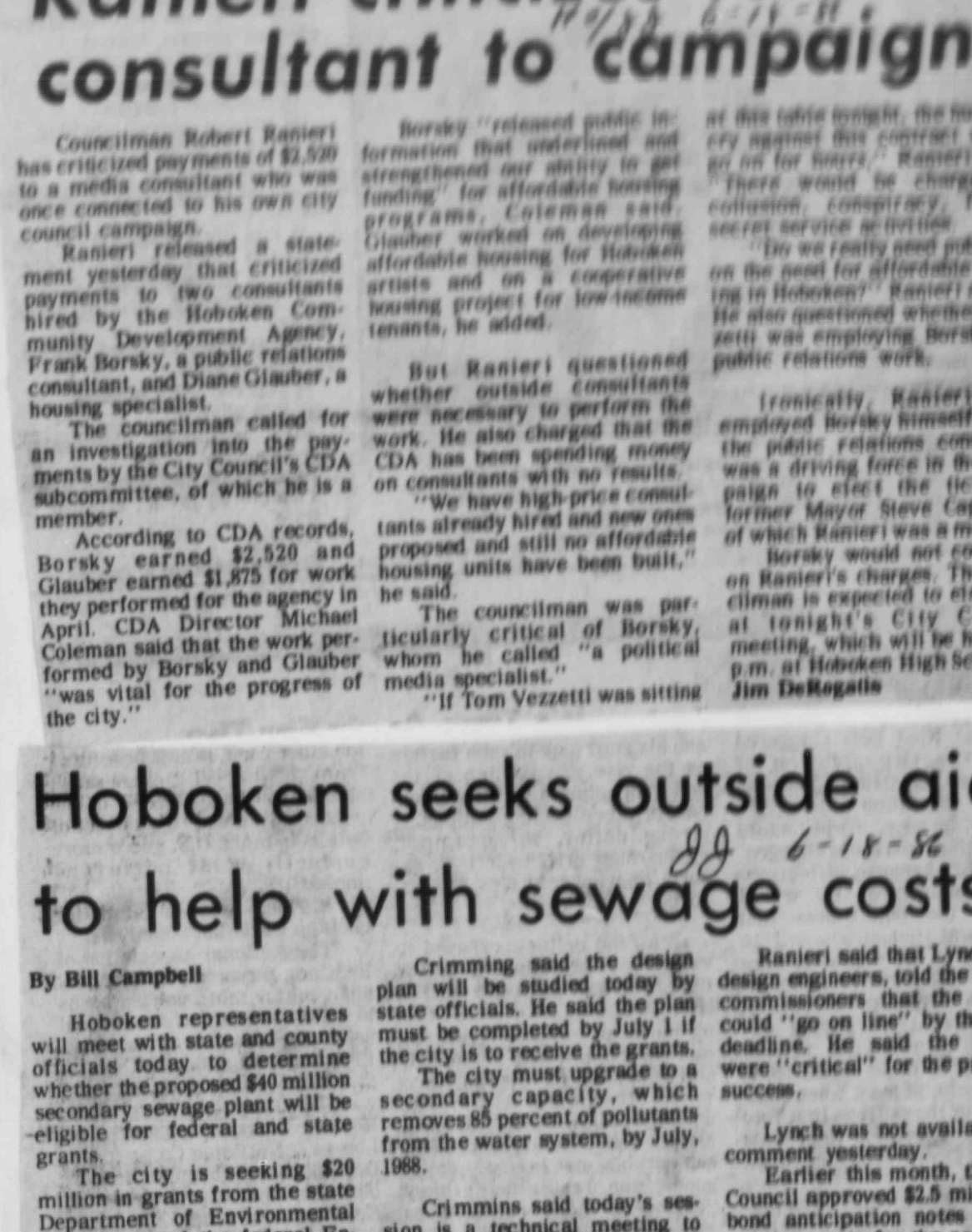
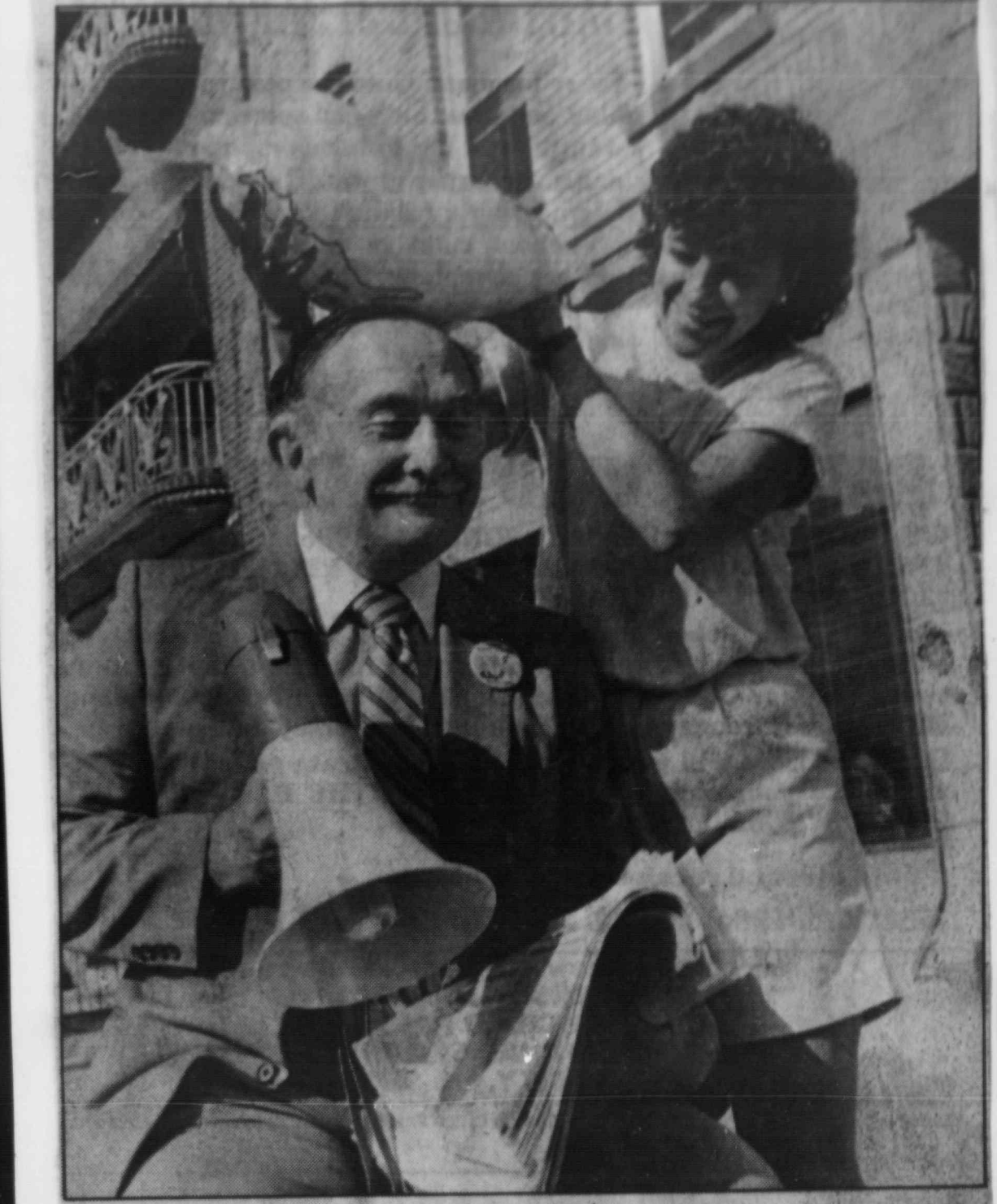
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Suspended lieutenants face police charges

By Jim DeRagatis

Two veteran Hoboken police lieutenants who were suspended Monday are facing a total of 27 departmental charges as well as possible criminal charges, Police Chief George Crimmins said yesterday.

Lt. Edward Skelly and Kenneth McKurt were suspended in an ongoing investigation into the arrest last Tuesday of Michael DiNatali, a business associate of Donald Trump, Crimmins said.

Crimmins has refused to relate the specifics of the investigation because of the investigation. But sources close to the investigation said there appears to be a log book in which police entries are made.

DiNatali was arrested, according to Crimmins, for driving an uninsured vehicle, making an improper turn, and for being in a crosswalk.

Hoboken fire official ready to issue permit

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken fire code official who will sign a permit authorizing more than 10 tons of fireworks to be assembled at the old Hoboken Shipyard said yesterday that he was "relieved" if the design plan is rejected a resolution condemning the storage of explosives in the city.

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Zone board to vote at last on disputed condos plan

By Jim DeRagatis

The Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment is finally set to vote tomorrow on the controversial Presidential Towers development.

The \$25 million project and the developers of the condominiums are expected to address the board during the meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The Anasim Investment and Development Corp. of Jersey City, the developers, is seeking a number of height and density variances to build two density condominiums. The

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Judge defuses threat to Liberty's fireworks

By Jim DeRogatis

A South Carolina judge yesterday approved a motion to store more than 10 tons of Liberty Weekend fireworks at the Hoboken Shipyards.

Judge Bratton Davis of the Federal Bankruptcy Court in Columbia, S.C., ruled that Braswell Shipyards, Inc., owners of the Hoboken Shipyards, can allow Liberty Weekend organizers to store 20,100 pounds of explosives at the site prior to the July Fourth festivities.

The shipyards, located at 14th and Hudson streets, filed for bankruptcy two years ago and are under the supervision of the Federal Bankruptcy Court. All contracts regarding the site must be approved by a federal bankruptcy judge.

The court challenge was one of numerous hurdles faced by Liberty Weekend organizers, since the group announced their plans several weeks ago to store and assemble the fireworks on 42 barges at the shipyards. Spokesmen for the group said

that if the Hoboken site was ruled out, the much-ballyhooed "biggest fireworks display in the history of the United States" could have been cancelled.

The Hoboken City Council rejected a resolution condemning the fireworks at a meeting Wednesday night. An attorney representing Elliot Braswell,

Bd. of Ed probing repair bill dispute

By Jim DeRogatis

The Hoboken Board of Education has appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate whether a Jersey City firm overcharged the board for repairs on a water main at Hoboken High School in January.

Board President Richard England appointed the committee last week to determine if the board overspent by authorizing \$10,500 for "emergency repairs" performed by Ram Enterprise Excavators of Jersey City on the weekend of Jan. 18.

The \$10,500 bill has been a cause of controversy at board meetings for several months. Some board members have charged that the bill was exorbitant, while others have defended it because the work was performed in an emergency and on a holiday weekend.

A water main leading into Hoboken High School burst at about 2 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18, according to school officials. Acting School Board Secretary Tony Curko said city workers

were forced to shut off valves at Clinton and Grand streets, depriving area homes and businesses of water.

Workers from Ram worked through Saturday, Monday, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and Tuesday to repair the main and restore water, Curko said. Curko said the firm was chosen because Ram workers passed by and offered to do the job as school officials were examining the broken pipe.

England appointed board members Raul Morales, Eugene Drayton, Zelma Lugo and Joseph Rafter to "conduct an in-depth investigation and determine what really happened" with the repairs to the water main.

Morales, chairman of the committee, said that he believes the firm overcharged the board. Morales presented an estimate for the work prepared by another plumber, Dominick Leone of Hoboken.

Leone estimated that the work should have cost no more than \$5,400.

"I don't know if that's enough, but they said that it is all they can get," said Morris W. Macey, the attorney.

The last hurdle facing the fireworks is the granting of a permit by the Hoboken fire code official, Deputy Chief Richard Tremittedi. Tremittedi said he will issue the permit if Liberty Weekend organizers meet state safety codes and fulfill a list of safety demands made by Public Safety Director Edwin Chius last week.

Liberty Weekend organizers plan to transport the fireworks from Long Island, where they are manufactured, to Hoboken via truck in the early hours of the morning, Chius said. The group has not yet announced the route the trucks will take.

The first of the trucks bearing the fireworks is scheduled to arrive early on the morning of July 1, Chius said.

Bd. of Ed probing repair bill dispute

Continued from Page 1.

Morales questioned whether emergency conditions existed when the repairs were made. He inspected the site with Leone and found that several valves that were reportedly inoperative were in fact in working condition.

Morales, who said he is familiar with the cost of plumbing work through his experience as an administrator with Applied Housing, also questioned certain charges in the Ram bill. The bill includes charges of:

- \$993.75 for 53 yards of sand
- \$2,968.40 for five pipe-fitting clamps
- \$170.97 for a compressor hose
- \$512 for eight hours' work by one foreman (\$64 an hour)
- \$350 for use of a backhoe
- \$225 for use of a dump truck
- \$60 for use of a pickup truck

"It is highly unusual for a company to charge for the use of such equipment" as the backhoe, dump truck, and pickup truck, Morales said.

"And after all, we're talking about digging a hole that's 5 feet by 8 feet."

Morales criticized the nearly \$1,000 charge for sand and said that "53 yards of sand is enough to build another school."

Board members requested a more detailed bill with more specific information from Ram almost two weeks ago, but the company has not yet provided it. Managers of the company could not be reached for comment.

Drayton has defended Ram, however, and charged that the board members criticizing the bill are making it into "a political football." He has also charged that some board members are guilty of racism because "Ram is a black firm."

Vezzetti and Council ask Reagan and superpowers to ban nuclear weapons

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken Mayor Tom Vezzetti and the eight-member City Council are urging the leaders of five nuclear superpowers to "end the threat of nuclear annihilation."

In a letter to President Ronald Reagan and the ambassadors of China, France, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, the Hoboken legislators and mayor are calling for a comprehensive test ban treaty "as a matter of utmost urgency."

The letter, signed by Vezzetti two weeks ago, is expected to be signed by the City Council today.

"As part of our activities to mark this July 1, 1986 as the first International Year of Peace, I join with the elected officials of the Nuclear Free Zones of the world to declare our joint opposition to the nuclear weapons and the arms race, be that on earth or in space," said the letter.

The City Council approved a resolution June 4 to commemorate July 1 as the first

International Nuclear Free Zone Day.

On Sept. 20, 1984, the council adopted a resolution proclaiming the city a Nuclear Free Zone. Currently there are 115 nuclear free zones in the United States, according to Judith Karpova of Hoboken Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

Karpova said the city will celebrate the occasion at a July 1 ceremony in Church Square Park. She said the mayor and council would dedicate the park to International Nuclear Free

Zone day.

HAND is also expected to present the city with a flag to commemorate the nuclear free zone.

Karpova and HAND member Allison Valentine urged the council earlier this month to support a nuclear weapons test ban and conduct a ceremony in the park.

Karpova said the event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

She said the letter to the leaders of the five nuclear superpowers would be sent today.

Red tape on 'sidewalk' menu

By Bill Campbell

A Hoboken councilman who has proposed legislation to allow open sidewalk cafes to operate during the summer months says he's a bit surprised at all the fuss his request has caused.

"My God, all I wanted was to allow a deli to be able to serve sandwiches outdoors," said Councilman Steve Capiello. "We'd be able to employ some teenagers during the summer and you'd be able to enjoy lunch

outside. That's all I was asking for."

What started as a "simple" resolution earlier this month has turned into a "complex" ordinance that involves a web of city agencies including the Planning Board, the Building Department and the Health Department.

"Sure, this has been blown out of proportion," Capiello said. "If a guy wants to sell a piece of pizza out on the street during the Fourth of July

weekend he should be able to."

Capiello originally sponsored the resolution in May to enable Hoboken restaurants to take advantage of the large crowds expected during the holiday weekend.

However, city attorneys researching the legislation found the matter was not as simple as first thought.

"City and planning laws governing outdoor cafes are in-

See PROPOSAL — Page 6.

BASEBALL BIRTHPLACE

Assembly goes to bat for Hoboken

By TOM GISSEN
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The state Assembly yesterday affirmed this city's claim to being the birthplace of professional baseball. But some still were unimpressed.

In part the Assembly's resolution reads: "The first baseball game was played at Hoboken's Elysian Fields, and by this action reminds the citizens of this state and this nation that New Jersey is the birthplace of America's pastime."

But Bill Guilfoile, the associate director of the Baseball of Fame in

Cooperstown, N.Y., said he was unmoved by today's action.

"I don't think it has any meaning today. We're here in Cooperstown, and we're not about to move to Hoboken," Guilfoile said from professional baseball's other recognized birthplace.

Hoboken long has claimed that professional baseball was invented by Alexander Cartwright and first played here on June 28, 1846. On that date, the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York and the New York Base Ball Club met at Elysian Fields, part of which is believed to

be occupied by the Maxwell House Coffee factory.

But Major League Baseball recognizes modern baseball as first being invented by Abner Doubleday — a distant relative of Nelson A. Doubleday, publishing magnate and owner of the Mets — and played in Cooperstown in 1839.

In 1900, a commission was formed to pick a site for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Although some people have contended that the rules for the game played in Cooperstown differed significantly from those of

See HOBOKEN — Page 6.

HOBOKEN

Continued from Page 1 today's professional baseball, the commission determined that Doubleday had in fact invented modern baseball, and it selected Cooperstown as the sport's birthplace and host to its hall of fame.

Today's resolution was introduced by Assemblymen Jose O. Arango, R-West New York, and Ronald A. Dario, R-Union City, and was passed unanimously by a voice vote, according to Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.

The mayor was in Trenton yesterday morning for the passage of the resolution. Vezzetti said he thanked the Assembly for the honor and after the session, was given a baseball cap with "Play Ball — June 28, 1846, Hoboken, N.J." printed above the brim. The hat was autographed by Alexander M. Haig Jr., a former secretary of state who was in New Jersey to visit his sister, Princeton attorney Regina Haig Meredith. He addressed the Assembly on the issue of terrorism earlier in the day.

Vezzetti said he took the opportunity to introduce himself to the retired general.

"I was wondering if he really felt for my charm," Vezzetti joked of his introduction to Haig.

By Jim DeRogatis

TRENTON — Mayor Thomas Vezzetti yesterday accepted a copy of a resolution passed by the State Assembly honoring Hoboken as the birthplace of baseball.

The resolution, sponsored by Hudson County Assemblymen Jose Arango and Ronald Dario, was accepted by Vezzetti on the floor of the Assembly on the 140th anniversary of the first baseball game, which was played in Hoboken at the Elysian Fields on June 19, 1846.

Vezzetti dressed in a relatively conservative grey suit for the occasion of his first ap-

pearance on the floor of the Assembly. Although he did not bring his famous bullhorn to Trenton, his flamboyant style was still in evidence when he addressed the legislators.

Vezzetti, sporting a baseball cap emblazoned, "Play ball?" introduced himself to the Assembly as "wackiest mayor in America." He thanked the assemblymen for passing the resolution, and joked that, although he is a Democrat, the resolution was sponsored by two Republicans.

The resolution relates the history of the first baseball game, which took place when the Knickerbocker Baseball

Club of New York met the New York Baseball Club on the Elysian Fields. A plaque at Washington and 11th streets commemorates the approximate site where the game was played.

The resolution "recalls with pride and commemorates with distinction that sunny day of June 19, 1846, when the first baseball game was played at Hoboken's Elysian Fields, and by this action reminds the citizens of this state and this nation that New Jersey is the birthplace of the American pastime."

Copies of the resolution signed by Chuck Hardwick,

governing outdoor cafes.

The Site Plan and Review Committee of the city's Planning Board, at a meeting earlier this month, requested the right to review the ordinance.

"It's their right by statute," Bado told the council on June 16. "They have 35 days to review the ordinance and raise questions."

He said the board, whose opinion on the legislation is not binding, will next meet July 1.

The ordinance specifies that tables be covered by umbrellas or awnings; that a movable planter or railing separate the tables from the sidewalk; that cafes only be permitted in front of existing restaurants, and that waiter or table service be provided.

In addition, applicants must certify liability insurance of at least \$100,000 and pay a \$50-a-month fee for a license.

On the advice of the Planning Board, the ordinance specifies the need for at least 6 feet of sidewalk space for pedestrians.

The provisions were included to meet the various health and building codes, Bado said.

"I didn't think it would be this complex," Capiello said. "The summer will just about be over by the time this is approved."

The ordinance had its first reading last Wednesday and is due for a final vote at the July 2 council session.



Employees and customers seem undisturbed by City Council efforts to make outdoor cafes illegal in Hoboken as they enjoy the mild weather.

Proposal for sidewalk cafes served with Hoboken red tape

Continued from Page 1.

consistent," said City attorney Fred Bado at the council's June 16 caucus. "The Planning Board says cafes must be enclosed by some type of structure, but the city ordinance says you can go out onto the sidewalk."

Bado also said that planning laws specify that restaurant owners must enter into a contract with the board, but city regulations allow cafes at an unspecified fee.

"The existing ordinances that govern cafes, like many other issues, are a little complex," Bado concluded.

At the request of the Law Department, the resolution was drafted as an ordinance to amend the current ordinance

'Wackiest mayor' bats in Trenton

By Jim DeRogatis

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Copies of the resolution signed by Chuck Hardwick,

speaker of the Assembly, will be sent to the city of Hoboken, the Baseball Hall of Fame, and the office of the Commissioner of Baseball.

Vezzetti was preceded on the Assembly floor by another colorful governmental figure, former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig. Haig spoke to the Assembly about the dangers of terrorism.

Vezzetti met Haig after his address. "I turned on the charm," the mayor said. "I gave him the full reprieve of Vezzettisms."

Haig, in return, autographed the mayor's baseball cap.

Fireworks OKd despite bomb scare

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council, meeting in the auditorium of Hoboken High School, acted on two controversial pieces of legislation last night, but not before a bomb threat forced the evacuation of the substitute council chamber.

The council unanimously adopted an anti-warehousing ordinance and rejected a "symbolic" resolution condemning the storage of "high explosives" in the city.

The public hearing on the anti-warehousing ordinance ended abruptly at 7:30 p.m. after police received the bomb threat. The auditorium was cleared for

And Council passes warehousing law

about 15 minutes as police and fire personnel searched the building.

About 175 people, most of whom supported the ordinance, attended. On June 4, during the first hearing on the anti-warehousing bill, about 300 people crowded into the council chambers.

Unlike the earlier meeting when chants and cheers punctuated speakers' emotional appeals on the ordinance, last night only six speakers expressed their opinions on the ordinance. "We have already suffered

the effects of not having this ordinance," said the Rev. Paul Hagedorn. "Many tinderboxes have fallen prey to the match. Now, at this late date, we are offering this safeguard."

"Children have been exposed to trashy halls and dead rodents. It's no wonder that many parents have felt compelled to move. Thanks to (ordinance sponsor Councilman Joe) Della Fave and (Councilman Dave) Roberts, we are moving ahead for the benefit of all the people of the city," Hagedorn said.

Tenant activist Tom Oliveri advocated passage of the ordinance, which critics labeled "tyrannical" and "unconstitutional."

"The consensus seems to be that this is a watered-down ordinance," Oliveri said. "I don't see this as a solution or as a way to create new housing units, but it will make available units for those who might otherwise not have any. It's up to us to show that this ordinance is not weak."

Lorenzo Ramos, a tenant, told the council that he supports the ordinance because

"everyone should have a right to live in a decent place."

Ramos, speaking in Spanish, said he has searched three years for an apartment for his wife and children.

"Now we all sleep on one bed," said Oliveri, translating Ramos' statement. "The children are sick and I injured my spine at work. No one wants to rent to me."

Michael Flanagan told council members that "a great deal of energy has been wasted on the anti-warehousing issue."

"When we can't rule, we go

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into social engineering," Flanagan said. "I suspect this measure will not be successful because we have a problem in our priorities. The housing situation is real, but we need long-range plans."

Della Fave called the ordinance part of the continuing effort to bring "serious" issues to the table.

The anti-warehousing bill is not seen as a total solution to all our housing problems. It is part of an ongoing effort," he said.

At the first public hearing, some landlords blasted the ordinance, which regulates vacant

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Fireworks get OK despite bomb scare

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apartments, as being an "anti-property ordinance."

The ordinance was subsequently amended to exempt all owner-occupied buildings to gain support from a majority of the council members.

Anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri, an early critic of the ordinance, agreed to support the bill because of the amendment.

Ranieri said, "The main thrust, albeit constitutional or unconstitutional, provides a forum for tenants and landlords to negotiate. Previously, tenants had no status. Tenants now know they can negotiate (in the event of condominium conversion)."

Ranieri, Della Fave and council members Helen Cunniff, Pat Pasculli, Dave Roberts, E. Norman Wilson, Steve Cappiello and Mary Francane voted to support the ordinance.

Della Fave tabled a resolution allowing the measure to take effect upon approval of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, because of legal questions.

Della Fave said he plans to amend the ordinance to eliminate "loopholes" in the owner-occupied clause.

In defeating the resolution to condemn the storage of "high explosives," the council eliminated a hurdle faced by the organizers of Liberty Weekend who plan to assemble 20 tons of fireworks in the old Hoboken Shipyards.

In a 6 to 1 vote, the council cleared the way for the city's fire code official to grant permits to the organizers of the Statue of Liberty Centennial.

"I'm concerned that the action we take might throw a monkey wrench into the Statue of Liberty celebration," said Steve Cappiello. "I'm really concerned that we will spoil this holiday."

Organizers have billed the fireworks display as the largest ever.

"A Fourth of July without fireworks is un-American," said Councilwoman Cunniff.

Previously, Liberty Weekend spokesmen said the display would be scaled down or cancelled if the Hoboken site were eliminated.

"All I'm asking about is the health and safety of our residents," said Ranieri, sponsor of the resolution. "Why do they have to be stored in Hoboken in this day and age?"

"I'm not talking about anything mythical. The concern is so great that they are shipping these fireworks in the middle of night, between 2 and 4 a.m. This is not a delivery of custard pies. No. This is a delivery of fireworks," Ranieri said.

Ranieri cast the sole "yes" vote, while council members Cunniff, Della Fave, Roberts, Cappiello, Francane and Wilson voted against. Pasculli abstained.

Streets cleanup near end

City officials said yesterday that a \$1.1 million cleanup of several streets in the northwest industrial section of the city is almost completed.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti praised the efforts of the Hoboken Community Development Agency and the city Department of Public Works in cleaning up several streets that had been impassable for years because of mountains of illegally dumped garbage.

By cleaning up the northwest industrial section in general and the area from 15th to 17th streets between Jackson and Jefferson streets in particular, the CDA hopes to attract new businesses to the area and expand the city's light industrial base.

The funding for the cleanup project was provided in part by a \$720,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Agency, according to Tom Ahern, CDA representative in charge of the project. Other funds came from CDA monies and money from the repayment of Urban Development Action Grants, Ahern said.

The project was originally conceived in July, 1983, Ahern said, but difficulties in securing the funding delayed its start until about a year ago. The cleanup of the area has already been responsible for attracting several new businesses, Ahern said.

Several businesses that recently moved into the area were forced to relocate last year because of the fire at the Levelor Lorentzen window blind manufacturing factory.

The cleanup of the area included the removal of several tons of garbage that had been illegally dumped for years, according to Roy Haack, city director of Environmental Services and Facilities. New sidewalks, sewers and catchbasins were also installed and streets were repaved.

Several streets in the area that had been completely impassable will soon open to traffic, Haack said. Private contractors blacktopping the streets are currently completing the work and the project should be finished in two weeks, Haack said.

Vezzetti has cited the rehabilitation of the area as one of the highlights so far of his administration. "I was screaming about that area for untold years," he said, "and something was finally done."

— Jim DeRogatis

Police lts. face charges

By GABRIEL ESCOBAR

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Departmental charges were filed yesterday against two veteran police lieutenants here, both of whom are believed to have erased an arrest report and allowed a possible drunken driver to go free, Police Chief George Crimmins said.

Kenneth McGurk and Edward Skelly may be dismissed from the force if found guilty of any of the 26 charges filed against them yesterday. Each also may face criminal charges, pending the results of a separate inquiry begun yesterday by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Crimmins said.

Despite the announcement of the departmental charges, most of the circumstances surrounding the arrest and subsequent release of the suspect remain a closely-guarded secret. Crimmins said the department's investigation is still ongoing, and it remains unclear why the two lieutenants erased the arrest report.

The incident that led to the police

inquiry occurred shortly after 1:30 a.m. on June 10. Skelly, who was alone in a patrol car, stopped a man now identified as Michael DiNatale at 14th and Bloomfield streets. DiNatale was taken to police headquarters, issued four traffic summonses and then released, according to Crimmins, who declined to comment further.

Crimmins also would not comment on whether DiNatale was the person cited in the arrest report as a notation made on a separate blotter lists the names of suspects who are booked at the station house. He did say, however, that both McGurk and Skelly are charged with "erasing the blotter."

Police became aware of the erasure last Wednesday, when an officer on duty the night of the arrest informed his superiors. An internal inquiry was begun, and that culminated in the department charges, which accuse each officer of subversive conduct, neglect of duty, failure to make reports and not properly guarding evidence, among other charges.

On Tuesday, city officials were saying that DiNatale was released after he told Skelly and McGurk that he was the nephew of Donald J. Trump, the millionaire New York City developer. That rumor, according to Crimmins, proved false, although he did say DiNatale told the officers that he had had business dealings with Trump.

Sources familiar with the investigation and witnesses to the arrest say DiNatale was taken to the station house and administered a Breathalyzer test to determine if he was under the influence of alcohol. Crimmins would not comment on this aspect of the inquiry, declining to say whether the test was administered or whether it showed DiNatale was charged with driving while intoxicated. He did say, however, that drunken driving suspects are booked and an arrest notation is made in the police log.

A friend who was with DiNatale June 10 also showed up at the station house later that morning, Crimmins said. The name of the friend was not released by police, but Crimmins

Hoboken garbage hearing off

By Bill Campbell

Superior Court Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys yesterday postponed a hearing with representatives of the Hoboken law department and the two firms that bid on the city's 1986

garbage contract.

The hearing has been rescheduled for July 3, according to assistant city attorney Tom Callig.

Yesterday's postponement marks the second time the case has been put off this month.

City attorneys and representatives of Browning Ferris Industries and Lafera Contracting are awaiting a decision on which firm will be awarded Hoboken's scavenger contract.

In May, the City Council awarded the contract to BFI, after it presented a bid that was \$250,000 lower than Lafera's.

Lafera protested the decision, citing a "substantial discrepancy" between the bidding form and the contract specifications.

Humphreys ruled on May 16 that Lafera, the firm which has held the city contract for the past three years, could continue to provide garbage collection service at the same price set in the BFI bid.

Lafera attorneys are arguing that the one-year contract is invalid because the specifications of 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.

Callig said the city will claim the bids for the one-year contract were made on an "equal level."

Mayo Lynch and Associates of Hoboken, the design engineer, was authorized last Wednesday to receive payment of \$788,777. The City Council last week also hired a value engineer and a soil analyst for the project.

Funding cleared for sewage plant

By Bill Campbell

The Hudson County Utilities Authority has cleared the way for Hoboken to receive at least \$14 million in federal grants to upgrade its 16th Street sewage plant.

The HCUA board of commissioners, at a meeting Friday, agreed to enter into a joint contract with the city to seek funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, according to HCUA Comptroller George Crimmins.

Crimmins said the HCUA commissioners also authorized similar contracts with West New York and North Bergen.

"For Hoboken, this is significant because we had been at loggerheads," Crimmins said. "There were so many problems and so many deadlines, but everything just fell into place," he said.

The HCUA, the county agency responsible for seeking the federal grants, met twice last week with Hoboken and state officials to review the city's sewerage design plan.

Crimmins said the city has until July 1 to revise the plan to meet EPA guidelines.

"The Hoboken plan did not conform to EPA standards," Crimmins said. "The city said that this was because they didn't know the grant money was available."

The project, which will upgrade the sewage plant to secondary capacity, is expected to cost \$40 million. Hoboken and other Hudson County municipalities have been mandated by the DEP to upgrade their plants by July 1, 1988.

Crimmins said the city may receive an additional \$2 million in grants if state and federal officials approve a plan for "innovative technology."

He said the innovative technology involves sludge removal and gasification currently being performed by Hoboken Waste Water Management.

According to Crimmins, the

terms of the contract specify that Hoboken must finance 45 percent of the project's construction cost. He said the city must pay all sewerage costs arising from planned development such as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's proposed waterfront development.

However, he said the city could pass along some of the costs of the plant to Union City and Weehawken, the two other communities which use the Hoboken facility.

Crimmins said that West New York and North Bergen would receive \$6.6 million and

\$1.6 million respectively if state and federal officials approve those contracts.

Crimmins said the HCUA should know the status of the grants by Sept. 1.

Last month, the Hoboken City Council approved \$2.5 million in bond anticipation notes to provide start-up funds for the project.

Mayo Lynch and Associates of Hoboken, the design engineer, was authorized last Wednesday to receive payment of \$788,777.

The City Council last week also hired a value engineer and a soil analyst for the project.

Passage expected for Hoboken budget

By TOM GISSEN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The 1988 budget is expected to be passed tomorrow following a yesterday's late afternoon closed caucus, which reportedly focused on how to finance a 4 percent pay hike for almost 200 municipal employees that is due next Tuesday.

When this year's budget was introduced, the 4 percent pay increase had been negotiated two years earlier as part of a three-year contract. However, this year's budget line item delineating overall salaries failed to show the pay increase, said Councilman Robert A. Ranieri.

Instead, a message appearing at the top of the budget said the cost of the increases "must be absorbed within the present appropriations."

According to two City Council members and James Fisher, president of the 110-member Hoboken Municipal Employees Association, which represents most of the city's non-uniformed employees, there are several ways the council could make up the shortfall. The pay increase might be deferred until more money is available, and then paid retroactively. There could be layoffs to cover the increased salaries, or the money might be cut

from the supplies allocation.

But if the city decides to delay the pay increase, Fisher said he may take the issue before the state Board of Mediation or the Public Employment Relations Commission to seek an arbitrated settlement. "I don't see how we can lose it in arbitration. It's there in black and white," Fisher said of the contractually agreed increase.

Ranieri, a leader in a coalition seeking to oust Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, blamed him for the lack

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of funding. "It is the responsibility of the mayor squarely and flatly," he said.

But Councilwoman Helen A. Cunniff disagreed, saying the shortages are attributable to "years and years of mismanagement."

Vezzetti also blamed the preceding administration of Steve Cappiello, noting that it had negotiated the contract.

The issue should be decided at the council's special public meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at City Hall.

Vezzetti, squelches plan to curb Monte

By Jim DeRogatis

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti yesterday vetoed an ordinance that would increase the work hours of Tax Assessor Woodrow

Monte, who then announced that he is suing the city for a raise he claims he is owed from last year.

The City Council passed an ordinance last week that would require Monte to report to his City Hall office five days a week, eight hours a day. Monte, who is technically a state employee, currently does much of his work from his Brick Town home.

But Vezzetti vetoed the ordinance yesterday, claiming

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Vezzetti vetoes bill to curb Monte

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that its language was confusing and unclear.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, a Vezzetti ally, originally sponsored the ordinance, but anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri successfully amended it to specify not only Monte's hours, but the hours of all city directors.

Ranieri claimed yesterday that Vezzetti vetoed the ordinance because the mayor "wouldn't want his directors working those long hours."

The Vezzetti administration has been at odds with Monte for

several months. The mayor has frequently criticized Monte's inaction in reevaluating the city's homes.

Monte wouldn't comment on the mayor's veto of the ordinance yesterday other than to say that the ordinance "was asinine in the first place." Monte said that even if the ordinance were upheld, it would not have applied to him since he is employed by the state, not the city.

"I guess they're trying to get me to quit," Monte said, "but I'll be around for awhile."

Monte announced yesterday that he is suing the city for a

raise he claims he is owed from 1985. State law specifies that the tax assessor must be given any raise that the city gives to its directors.

The directors were granted a 14 percent salary increase in 1985, but Monte said he was only given a 5 percent raise that year. Monte's salary is \$37,000 a year.

"I was not too concerned about my salary at the time, and I just assumed that I got what everybody else did," he said. "But when I found out that wasn't the case, I decided I shouldn't take this sitting down."

Ranieri wants Hoboken layoffs

By TOM GISSEN

Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—At least 25 city employees would be laid off, under a proposed amendment to the city's 1986 budget.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said he plans to introduce the amendment at the City Council's next special budget meeting, Monday at 7 p.m.

At a special council meeting on the budget last night, Ranieri said the amendment and the layoffs are necessary because \$1.3 million in revenues anticipated from the state

will not be forthcoming.

In an attempt to cover part of the loss, Ranieri directed city Business Administrator Ed Chius to prepare an amended budget that does not include the \$1.3 million and that accounts for the lay-off of all temporary city employees hired after July 1, "that are not absolutely and critically needed."

Ranieri estimated that 44 non-uniformed employees had been hired since that date and that his resolution would result in 25 to 30 of them losing their jobs. He also estimated the layoffs would save

the city about \$275,000 in salaries and \$25,000 in benefits.

But Councilman Joseph Della Fave pointed out, and Ranieri agreed, that because those employees had been on the payroll during the first half of 1986, the savings would be roughly half of Ranieri's first estimate.

Ranieri is part of a coalition that is trying to recall Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, who took office July 1.

Councilman Patrick Pasculli, who was elected on the Vezzetti slate, asked that Chius also examine

the effect of laying off other temporary employees hired since Jan. 1, 1986, a date that began the last six months of the mayoral administration of Steve Cappiello.

One official of the Hoboken Municipal Employees Association, the union representing the affected workers, said he would "bet dollars to doughnuts" that if 44 employees were laid off since July 1, then 64 employees were hired from January to July of 1986.

A public hearing on the proposal probably will be scheduled for July 8.