

# Market plunge jars Hudson yuppies

*Dispatch 10-26-87*  
By JUDY TEMES  
Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Steven Renaud, a 27-year-old stockbroker who lives here, is planning to put his order for a Saab on hold in wake of last week's stock market plunge. Instead, he plans to buy a Volkswagen.

"Everybody was devastated," said the young broker, "brunching with his model girlfriend yesterday at East L.A. on Washington Street."

Like most other young professionals, Renaud has seen only

a bull market since entering the business in the last five years. "My first thought was that I have to get a new job," he said.

Last Monday's 506-point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average is likely to hurt many young urban professionals like Renaud, who have made this city party in recent years. Many likely will reassess their spending habits, putting luxury goods and big-ticket items on hold, economists say. And that could cut into the fast growth of com-

munities like this one, where yuppie restaurants and gourmet stores have flourished up and down Washington Street since the yuppies moved in.

"Maybe people who thought money was everything will reassess their values," said Rosemary McLaughlin, 33, who does not put herself into the yuppie category and cringes when merely hearing the word. "Maybe they'll realize that money and investments are not the only goals in life."

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## YUPPIES

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But the mood among most young city residents remained upbeat yesterday in wake of last week's Wall Street gyrations.

Kim West, the model with Renaud at East L.A., said she still plans to spend \$500 on Ralph Lauren clothes, even though she suffered substantial paper losses last week. "I'm still spending money," she said.

And most remained positive that the market's loss will not eat away their investments in high-priced brownstones and condominiums.

"If Hoboken, which we're all in trouble," joked one young professional, while talking with neighbors on a street corner. But the market will have little direct impact on their spending habits, they said.

Most young professionals who live here have put a large percentage of their money into their homes, not the stock market, said Noel Thompson, a market consultant who lives here. "Our greatest asset is in our homes," he said. "We've put most of our money into fixing it."

Some real estate agents predict that the Dow Jones plunge will reduce real estate values in the entire New York metropolitan area, including Hudson County.

Mati Marcus, an economist at Rutgers University, said luxury purchases, including expensive

condos, will dry up in coming months. Others disagree, saying more investors will put their money into real estate, a safer haven than the stock market.

Thompson and his friends are not worried. "We have the most stable economy in the world," said one. "Even if stocks in other markets fall, our government makes ours a good haven for others."

The stock market plunge was good for interest rates last week, added another of Thompson's friends, who is a bond broker on Wall Street. If that keeps up, real estate values only will continue to climb, she said.

While the market for big-ticket purchases—from cars to houses to health club memberships—slowed last week, merchants here said they have not noticed a change in spending habits.

Maxwell's, a popular local dining establishment among yuppies, was having trouble finding enough tables for brunching customers yesterday. Asked to comment about the impact of the market plunge on business, a manager at the Washington Street club-restaurant said she was too busy even to talk. Unless customers were drowning their sorrows in omelets and orange juice, everything was business as usual.

Joe Bergstein, who just

opened his second gourmet food shop on Washington Street last month, said business has not suffered.

"People still have to eat," he said. "If all they want is a provolone and salami sandwich, we still do that."

"My outlook is sanguine," he said, "except if we really find ourselves in some dire depression." Although one specialty food shop has closed here and the market for gourmet food may be shrinking, he said demand for convenience foods will remain, and those who go after the market aggressively will flourish.

Much of the impact will depend on what happens in the stock market during this and coming weeks, said a Wall Street executive dining at Maxwell's. It also depends on what the government does, and if Congress and the president are able to settle their differences and take steps to end the massive federal budget deficit.

If not, many people will be hurt, said the executive who did not want to give his name, especially those in places like this city and Jersey City, which feed on events in New York.

"If you see your stocks decline by 25 percent, I think you'll put that \$300,000 condo on hold for now," he said. "And if it continues, a lot of people will lose their jobs."

## STUDY PUSHED

# Hoboken may relax its restrictions on parking

*Dispatch 10-27-87*  
By FELIPE ALBUQUERQUE  
Special to The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—The City Council will consider an amendment to the new parking ordinance that would allow residents with out-of-town registrations and driver's licenses to obtain permanent parking permits.

In order to receive a permit from the Parking Authority, residents first must present either a driver's license or registration listing a local address. The amendment, which has yet to be brought before the council, would broaden the ordinance to accept other forms of proof of residence, such as gas and phone bills bearing an address here.

Councilman E. Norman Wilson Jr. said yesterday that, before the amendment can be brought before the entire council, the Transportation Committee first has to determine what other types of identification will be acceptable.

Though Wilson could not give

a date for the council's review of the amendment, he said that it would "definitely" be before the end of the year. In an effort to accommodate residents who cannot provide the proper identification now, the Parking Authority will grant temporary permits valid through December.

The city began enforcing the ordinance, which prohibits non-residents from parking on un-metered spots for more than four hours, on Wednesday, ticketing more than 60 cars in a four-block test area that includes: River Street between Third and Fourth streets, Hudson Street between 10th and 11th streets, Washington Street between Ninth and 10th streets, and Bloomfield Street between 11th and 12th streets.

Parking Authority Director Pat Caufield said yesterday that the test area will be expanded to the first block of Bloomfield Street by the end of the week,

and the city will begin immobilizing or "booting" cars parked illegally in those areas as early as next week.

More than 8,500 residents out of an estimated 12,000 already have been given permit stickers or visitor placards, creating what Caufield calls "a tremendous amount of paperwork."

As a means of lessening the workload and cutting costs, Caufield said that, next year, the authority will issue two-year permits as opposed to the year-long stickers now being granted.

Caufield added that he expects it will take at least a year to work out all aspects of the ordinance.

"We have to give it at least a year, or maybe 18 months, to determine the impact of the ordinance and if it's like going at all," he said. "It's like going from a manual system to a computerized system in a brokerage office. It takes a while to work out the glitches."

# Hoboken and EPA agree on sewer fines settlement

*J.J. 10-27-87*  
By Bill Campbell

Hoboken and the federal Environmental Protection Agency have reached a tentative settlement in a six-year dispute over city violations of the Clean Water Act.

Hoboken was facing \$18 million in fines and the threat of a sewage ban for violating federal standards for effluent discharged into the Hudson River.

City officials announced yesterday that the EPA will drop its action if Hoboken pays \$225,000 in fines and complies with its timetable to upgrade the beleaguered 35-year-old sewage treatment plant.

"We are very happy about the resolution of the EPA fines, both in terms of the money and eliminating the threat of a sewer

ban," said Ken Laptook, a special counsel who acted as the city's top negotiator.

The settlement, reached before U.S. District Court Judge Harold Ackerman in Newark, still needs municipal and federal approval. Laptook said the U.S. Attorney's office and the local DEP office have already agreed to the terms.

The EPA suit was the last of two major environmental actions related to the city's attempts to upgrade the municipal sewage plant. In August, Hoboken and the state Department of Environmental Protection reached a settlement in a year-old suit over infrastructure repairs.

Hoboken received a reprieve from a state sewage ban when it settled its DEP litigation. Although the state ban

has not been recinded, repairs to the existing plant will allow the city to increase capacity at the plant.

The plant, which must be upgraded from primary to secondary treatment by late 1990, was classified as "unacceptable" last year by the DEP. The agency said the facility suffered from "serious" operational deficiencies and an official close to the investigation called it "the worst case scenario I've ever seen."

The EPA said the plant has suffered from chronic deficiencies, ranging from decrepit conditions of the facility to poor management. Last December, federal inspectors said the effluent discharged into the Hudson River "was always very

# Parking Authority OKs appeal motions

*J.J. 10-28-87*  
By Earl Morgan

The Jersey City Parking Authority will allow its attorneys to file post-trial motions for the appeal of a \$120,000 court-granted damage award of a discrimination and endangerment case it lost in Superior Court two weeks ago.

Authority commissioners, however, are waiting to receive and read copies of the trial transcript before deciding to actually authorize an appeal.

The commissioners also reorganized several committees including the personnel and finance committees. When questioned by a reporter about the reorganization, the commissioners conceded the action was taken because several employees, including the former assistant director, left the agency in the past or were transferred without their knowledge.

The commissioners huddled with their attorneys for nearly three hours last night during a closed caucus of an emergency meeting called to discuss the court decision and its ramifications last night in the agency's office on Bergen Avenue.

The award was granted to Tyrone Reynolds, 27, of Jersey City, who is black who claimed he was beaten unconscious by a white co-worker who constantly used racial epithets in his presence in 1984.

The altercation took place in the Jersey City Parking Authority building. Reynolds says he was hospitalized overnight because of injuries he received.

During the public portion of the meeting it was announced that the JCPA Attorney, Edward Van Dorn, will be allowed to proceed with post trial motions that have to be filed 15 days after a court decision has been rendered.

But the commissioners agreed not to approve an appeal until they have a chance to read transcripts of the trial. The authority counsel said the transcripts won't be available until the first week in December.

According to sources there is some concern among the commissioners that the cost of the case, already nearing the \$200,000 mark, will be an even heavier burden on the agency if the appeal is lost.

Ralph Cole of the Jersey City Branch of the NAACP attended an earlier emergency meeting the commissioners held last week to discuss the matter and delivered a scathing letter suggesting that authority executive director, John Vicari be dismissed. Commissioner Gloria Esposito said she and her colleagues are waiting to read the transcripts before responding to the NAACP's demands. Coles and NAACP President Tom Taylor met with Jersey City Mayor Anthony Cucci Tuesday to deliver the same letter they gave to the JCPA to the mayor.

Coles and Taylor claimed Cucci told them he sent a letter to the JCPA urging them to appeal the case based on a conversation he had with Vicari. He said the JCPA can win the case on appeal. But Cucci said he was not aware that the award decision was made by a jury. Coles said the mayor told them he was under the impression, after his discussion with Vicari, that it was a decision rendered solely by the Judge.

Coles also claimed that the mayor said since the JCPA is an autonomous agency he has no jurisdiction to fire Vicari and said that he couldn't do that in any case because of an "iron clad," five year contract Vicari was given by former Mayor Gerald McCann.

# Hoboken, EPA agree on sewerage fines

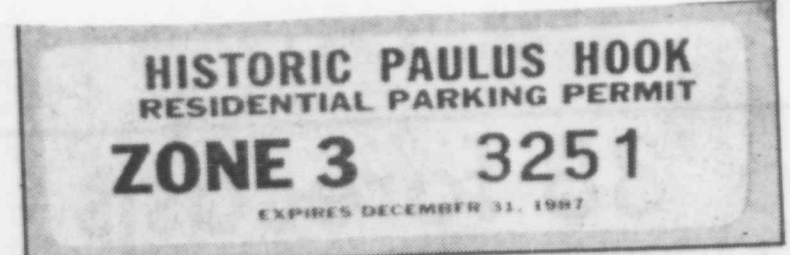
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dark, either brown or black."

Hoboken's constant failure to comply with federal treatment guidelines prompted the EPA to hit the city with the millions of dollars in fines. The EPA report concluded that the Hudson River will be subject to blackened effluent until the secondary plant, which removes 85 percent of waste water pollutants, is constructed.

Municipal officials have said the existing plant, which is undergoing repairs, removes less than the 30 percent of pollutants currently required by federal law.

According to Laptook, the EPA fines were levied at a rate of \$10,000 a day since 1981. He said fines from 1975 to 1980



Permits like these do not assure a parking space nor — residents complain — does the absence of such a permit assure a parking ticket.

## Is parking-by-permit law too permissive?

*J.J. 10-26-87*  
By Emily M. Smith

More often than he would like, Dan Katz has to park a block or two away from his Sussex Street home.

"I'm not saying I have a right to park right in front of my house," he says. But parking on the same street would be nice.

Parking is the bane of Jersey City living. It turns running a simple errand into a quest for the Holy Grail. It eats away at the quality of home life. It is the link that binds strangers. Everyone can relate to a tale of parking woes.

In an attempt at least to improve the quality of residen-

Related story on Page 19.

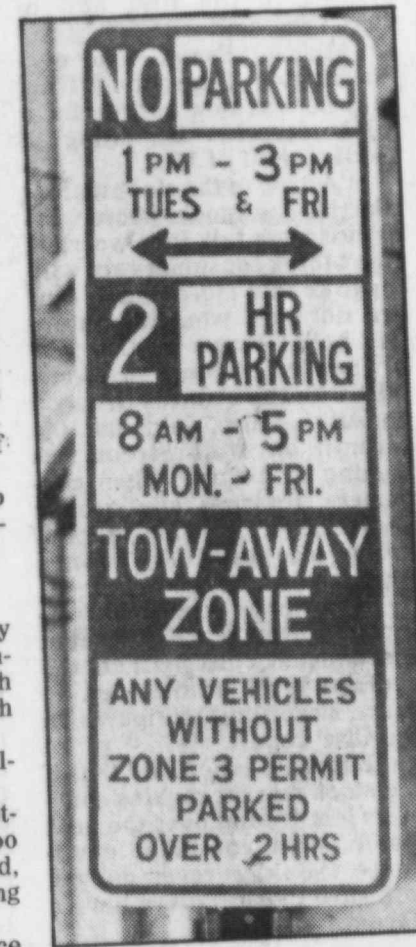
tial life, Hoboken and Jersey City recently initiated residential parking programs which supply area residents with parking stickers.

So, how much has the quality of life been improved?

In Hoboken, where ticketing began Wednesday, it's too early to tell, says Pat Caufield, director of Hoboken's Parking Authority.

Even if the city ordinance establishing residential parking doesn't work, at least the city tried, Caufield says. "It's that bad, we would be negli-

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The sign seems definite, but Jersey City residents say non-residents ignore it with impunity.



Residents say Jersey City's residential parking program is not relieving the crunch on their neighborhood streets and Hoboken residents have the same complaint.

## Permit parking too permissive?

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gent if we didn't try something," he said.

The first two days offered a good omen. In Hoboken's four test areas, 29 tickets, at \$25 apiece, were issued Wednesday. Thursday, only 19 were written. Booting, a device that immobilizes cars, starts in November and carries a \$25 removal fee. That should bring even better results, Caufield says.

The five-month-old Jersey City program has kept Aristides Pappidas in shape and on his toes.

"I try not to use my car very much. I use a bicycle," he says. An independent contractor, Pappidas works out of his Essex Street home.

Sometimes, such as when Pappidas needs to pick up large piece of lumber, a bike won't cut it. Then, finding a parking space on the return home is tough.

"I'll double-park," he says. "I'm not happy about it. I've been ticketed." Double-parking means automatic participation in the parking game. Pappidas spends the rest of the day at his window, spying for legal parking spaces.

Jersey City's parking program allows two-hour parking for non-residents in three zones. Zone 1 is the City Hall area. Zone 2 covers Cottage Street from Kennedy Boulevard to Herbert Place and Zone 3 affects parking near the Ex-

change Place PATH station. In the past four weeks, about 1,200 tickets have been given for violating residential parking in those zones, says Ron Buonocore, director of Jersey City Public Works, which supervises parking violation officers.

Residents complain that many more should be given.

Katz, president of the Sussex Street Block Association, said life around there would be wonderful if Jersey City's program were enforced.

"The program in its implementation is awful," he said. "It didn't take but a couple of weeks for commuters to discover that there was no enforcement."

"It's an insult to us," Katz says. "It's literally a slap in the face to go through this charade of passing a law and then not enforcing it. Did they think we wouldn't notice?"

Mark Kennedy and Joseph Cosenza, both Sussex Street residents, say parking regulations are enforced but inconsistently.

Sporadic enforcement exists because the Jersey City City Council didn't consult the Public Works Department about its ability to enforce the parking ordinance before the council passed it, Buonocore says.

Buonocore says five of the city's 25 parking violation officers are on long-term sick leave.

"Our main concern is the

street sweepers and metered posts," Buonocore says. The department is allowed some police officers but those are being used to crack down on dumping of debris and cars.

The shortage of parking violation officers will be corrected in November when between five and 10 people will be hired, he said.

A teacher at Cornelia F. Bradford school, 96 Sussex St., said the program has helped but not solved parking troubles.

Permits are given to people who work in the area. Arriving 45 minutes before school starts at 8 a.m. does not guarantee a space. "Now, how much earlier am I supposed to get here and have it be safe for me?" she says.

Despite its hit-or-miss nature, the program has interrupted one New York woman's visit to her son. No provision for visitors in the three zones exists.

Ever since she was ticketed on Grand Street, she's been playing the parking game — keeping eye on the clock and moving her car every two hours.

"It isn't easy," she said, parking her car on Warren Street. "I try to be on my guard."

Despite the lack of consistent enforcement, Jersey City residents have one consolation, Katz says: "It's nowhere near as bad as Hoboken."

## ANNUAL PARADE

# Hoboken awaits ghouls

*Dispatch 10-28-87*  
HOBOKEN—The city is bracing for an onslaught of goblins, ghosts and ghouls set to descend on Washington Street Saturday afternoon.

Halloween plans for the traditional Rag Muffin Parade are in full swing.

"The whole purpose of the parade is the children," Angelo Valente, former City Council member and current Assembly candidate, said yesterday.

Valente was the driving force behind the move to reinstate the parade when, as a councilman in 1985, he organized its re-emergence after a 10-year hiatus.

In the two years since, the parade has resumed its former status as a centerpiece of the city's observance of Halloween. Last year, some 2,500 children marched in the parade, and Valente said he expects a similar number this year.

"There will be floats and a prize for best costume," Valente said. "We've gotten full cooperation from the city... the Police Department, private merchants, the Fire Department. Everybody's working together."

Any child in a costume is eligible to march in the parade. Potential spooks are asked to gather at 14th and Washington streets at 11:30 Saturday morning.

The parade is scheduled to begin there at noon and proceed south to Fourth Street, then east to Hudson Street.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE



# 12 officials are indicted

## Drugs, misconduct are among charges

By JOHN ROFE  
Staff Writer

Prosecutors unsealed indictments yesterday of 12 public and law enforcement officials, including two Hoboken firefighters charged with dealing drugs on duty and a Hudson County official accused of stealing up to \$100,000 in quarters from a copy machine.

The indictments, handed up in Jersey City by a Superior Court grand jury Wednesday, also name six police officers from Jersey City, Union City, Hoboken and Bayonne on charges ranging from aggravated assault to possession of cocaine.

In the most bizarre of those indictments, two Bayonne police officers are charged with beating a Brooklyn man with blackjacks after he asked them to

stop making sexual advances on his daughter, and then arresting him and his wife and accusing them of pimping the girl.

Also charged in the indictments is a campaign aide to Steve Cappiello, Hoboken City Council member. The aide, Antoinette Calabrese, allegedly voted twice in six elections dating back to 1984.

Also, a Jersey City welfare official is accused of possessing large quantities of heroin and cocaine, which his son is charged with selling out of their apartment. A Hoboken police officer is accused of tipping off the three city firefighters that they were the subject of an investigation.

A Jersey City police officer is charged with possession of cocaine, and a county employee is

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PAUL M. DEPASQUALE  
Cites violations of trust.

## May be just the tip of the iceberg

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
and BRENDAN NOONAN  
Staff Writers

The indictments of police officers and firefighters on narcotics and misconduct charges signal deeper troubles in local public safety departments, Hudson County Prosecutor Paul M. DePasquale said yesterday.

"If the question is whether they are symptoms of a larger problem," DePasquale said of the indictments, "the answer to that is pretty clear."

Some officials in Jersey City, Hoboken and Union City supported DePasquale's contention. Few expressed surprise at the indictments of seven local police and fire officials announced yesterday.

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## Businesses struggle to keep up the pace

By JEFFREY RUBIN  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—In bathrooms, kitchens and workplaces throughout the city, people were wondering yesterday where the water went.

It went to Iris Araujo. Araujo, owner of Araujo Tire and Brake Corp. at 1414 Willow Ave., got a call from city officials yesterday morning to get down to her place of business as soon as possible. When she arrived, she was greeted by swirling torrents of icy water a foot deep, even deeper puddles of stagnant, oily water in her garage, and appalling visions of a huge repair bill for car lifts and electronic repair equipment that

had been damaged or destroyed in yesterday morning's water main rupture.

The 5 a.m. break, which sent water streaming onto the streets for about seven hours, was the second one to hit Araujo's garage this year. The first, in January, did far less damage and was contained rapidly. This time, however, her business was a magnet for media representatives who wanted to document the worst effects of the major water main break.

"I feel like crying," said Araujo, who has run the business since her husband died three years ago. "I feel bad for my customers because we've al-

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ready had 50 calls for service today."

Others in the garage were quicker to adapt to the disaster. By 1 p.m., they were dancing with their mops as they began the long process of drying out the garage. And as PSE&G officials and reporters visited the garage in a steady succession, Araujo's daughter Myra light-heartedly documented the visits with Polaroid snapshots.

"I was thinking if it was nicer weather, I would have put on a bathing suit and gone swimming outside," she said.

Throughout the city, people and businesses struggled to maintain a similar business-as-usual attitude about the break. In some cases, that struggle was unsuccessful, particularly among some of the larger factories which were shut down during the crisis.

At General Foods' Maxwell House coffee plant on River Drive, production came to a standstill for eight to 12 hours. According to plant manager Frank Meegan, 400 laborers did little more than clean up their posts during that time. The loss of production cost the plant \$100,000 to \$150,000, Meegan said. He added that the coffee plant was expected to pick up production last night.

St. Mary Hospital had water for bathing and drinking, but not for making steam to sterilize surgical instruments. According to spokesman Ed Capparucci, the hospital was able to rely on reserve supplies of sterile instruments yesterday. However, all but critical surgeries were postponed during the water crisis.

At schools, meanwhile, education officials were able to avoid cancellation of classes, a situation which delighted them but disappointed students who had hoped for an early end to the school day.

"We were hoping it was canceled," said Clara Rios, 17, a senior at Hoboken High School. "It's not fair."

## INDICT

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accused of laundering \$60,000 in county funds through a phony bank for herself and her boyfriend in other indictments.

County Prosecutor Paul M. DePasquale said the indictments — many from separate investigations — are part of a crackdown on officials who violate the public trust, and said the indictments reflect a widespread problem among local police and fire departments. He added that they underscore the problem of drugs in public safety departments.

"There is a real concern for public safety when the man who responds to the alarm at your house is on drugs," DePasquale said at a press briefing in his office yesterday afternoon. "You obviously can't do your job if your mind is blown on narcotics."

"You have to treat violations of trust very seriously," he said. "It is the representation of the type of attitude you can't have."

The indictment of the two Hoboken firefighters — Capt. John Lisa, acting Capt. Ralph Corrado and Firefighter Michael Sheehan — had been expected since April. In separate incidents, Lisa is accused of selling small quantities of hashish, and Corrado of dispensing marijuana. Sheehan is charged with possession of cocaine and is accused of trying to buy the drug.

DePasquale would not comment on to whom the drugs were being sold, but said the investigation is continuing. All three have been suspended, according to city fire officials.

Michael Coppinger, the Hoboken police officer whom DePasquale said tipped off the firefighters to the investigation, was suspended yesterday afternoon without pay, according to police Chief George Crimmins Sr.

In the other indictments: John Hampton, 48, the assis-

tant register of deeds and mortgages for Hudson County, is accused of stealing quarters from a copy machine at the Administration Building in Jersey City every day for five years while his supervisor was on a break. DePasquale said Hampton, who earns more than \$25,000 in his job, could have made off with as much as \$100,000, but stole at least \$60,000. The supervisor could not be reached for comment.

Nicholas Esposito, 35, a Jersey City police officer, is accused of accepting \$100 from a motorist in exchange for ignoring a traffic violation. DePasquale said the motorist, when solicited for the bribe, told the officer he would return with the money in an hour. He returned with bills marked by the Prosecutor's Office.

"I never said you had to be a rocket scientist to be a police officer," DePasquale said. Esposito, an eight-year veteran, has retained his job for now but his weapons have been confiscated, city police officials said.

Paul D. Berman, another 35-year-old Jersey City police of-

ficer, has been suspended since August after his arrest on cocaine possession charges. He was named in an indictment yesterday.

Vincent Fego, 24, and Corrie Szatkiewicz, 22, off-duty Bayonne police officers moonlighting as security guards at Robin's Reef Yacht Club, allegedly beat Edward McGuiness of Brooklyn with 18-inch hard-plastic clubs after McGuiness told them to keep away from his daughter. The officers then also arrested McGuiness and his wife, Florence, and accused them of pimping for the daughter, according to law enforcement sources. Those charges are pending. The officers have not been suspended.

James Ray Sr., 44, the acting deputy director of the Jersey City Welfare Office, is charged with possession of cocaine and heroin. Arrested with him was his son Ray Jr., 25, and Honorio Yont, 27. The son is accused in the indictment of selling the drugs, which included 3.5 ounces of pure cocaine. DePasquale said Yont was a buyer.

Police Officer Charles Dombrowski, 37, of Union City, is ac-

cused of assaulting two motorists after their car was involved in a traffic altercation with the officer's van. He allegedly beat Khalad Bedaway and then pointed his gun at him. When two Jersey City police officers responded, he told them to arrest Bedaway and a companion. Further investigation revealed the two men had done nothing wrong. Union City's public safety director, Bruce D. Walter, could not be reached for comment.

Sarah Welborn, 47, an \$11,000-a-year clerk in the county Treasurer's Office, is charged with laundering \$60,000 in county funds through a phony bank set up by her boyfriend and then spending the money to live in an \$1,100-a-month North Brunswick apartment and make \$26,000 in down payments on three luxury cars. She was suspended from her job when she was arrested in June.

Calabrese, 52, Cappiello's campaign aide, is charged with voting under her married and maiden names in six elections dating back to 1984. She faces 18 months in jail on each charge, and DePasquale said the investigation is continuing.

The prosecutor said that

evidence was gathered for many of the indictments using video and audio recorders. He said he believes the state has a "solid case" in each of the indictments.

The indictments remained sealed until yesterday to prevent compromising an investigation into the Jersey City Police Department that resulted in three arrests Friday.

DePasquale said all of those named in the indictments will be arraigned tomorrow in Superior Court.

## REACTION

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In Jersey City, Mayor Anthony R. Cucci called the news "disheartening," but said it strengthened the case for an outside review of the Police Department. Cucci has hired Patrick V. Murphy, a former New York City police commissioner, to conduct such a review, over the objections of some city officials.

Hoboken City Councilwoman Helen Cunniff said she would consider supporting a move to bring in an outside consultant as Jersey City did.

"I have no problem with bringing someone in from outside to investigate," Cunniff said. "I think our departments could use a little help."

Cucci said that without changes, public confidence in the police will be eroded and good police officers will feel "like they're on the wrong ballteam."

Police Director Walter Adams, reached at a police convention in Toronto, said the cases of Officers Nicholas Esposito and Paul Berman were well known, adding that Berman had been suspended following his arrest in August on charges of cocaine possession. Esposito, charged with trying to extort \$100 from a motorist in exchange for ignoring a traffic violation, was not suspended as of last night.

Chief of Patrol Raymond V. Blaszczak said Esposito had been the object of investigations before, but declined to elaborate. But he said top police officials were "shocked" at the charges against Berman, a bugler who performed at many police ceremonies.

In Hoboken, Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti said the Fire and Police

departments were fortunate to find that only four officials were charged.

"First of all, they are not guilty until proven so," Vezzetti said. "Beyond that, I think that it is a very, very low number in today's promiscuous world."

Hoboken officials facing 10-year prison sentences on various charges filed yesterday are: fire Capt. John Lisa, a 15-year department veteran charged with possession and distribution of marijuana; acting fire Capt. Ralph Corrado, a six-year firefighter charged with possession and distribution of hashish; Firefighter Mark Sheehan, a two-year veteran charged with possession of cocaine; and police Officer Michael Coppinger, charged with official misconduct.

Fire Chief James Houn said none of the Fire Department employees had previous records for drug-related offenses, and said none had entered the department's drug-abuse treatment program, run by the Jersey City Fire Department.

City Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. said he had no comment on the indictments or any ongoing investigations.

In Union City, police told a reporter that the assault and weapons charges against Police Officer Charles M. Dombrowski were trumped up.

Several officers, who spoke only on the condition that they not be identified, said the law made it too easy to file assault charges against police.

Public Safety Commissioner Bruce D. Walter said Dombrowski was charged in an off-duty incident in Jersey City involving alleged misuse of his firearm.

## Hoboken freeze ordered

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—In the wake of recent Wall Street jitters, Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti yesterday ordered a freeze on promotions in the Police and Fire departments.

The heads of the two departments, however, said the immediate effect of Vezzetti's action would be minimal.

Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. said he was not aware of any scheduled promotions in near future. Fire Chief James Houn said the next scheduled promotion is not until Feb. 1 of next year, when two deputy fire chiefs are expected to retire.

Both officials said they expected the freeze to be lifted by then.

In a letter to the City Council declaring the freeze, Vezzetti cited ongoing arbitration between the city and various unions of the two departments over a new contract. He also listed the "volatile effects on Wall Street."

"I have instructed the director of the department of law to refrain from approving any promotions until the affects of arbitration and the volatile effects on Wall Street are analyzed," the letter states.

The action follows resolutions passed by the City Council last week which relax Tables of Organization for the two departments. The tables require certain upper-level staff reductions in the two departments; the council decided to allow the reductions to be fulfilled by voluntary retirements instead of by demotions.

## \$1.25M cut OK'd in school budget

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council and the Board of Education have approved a \$1.25 million cut settlement of the disputed school budget, ending a five-month battle.

The board and council, in separate closed door meetings, ratified the agreement late Monday. The action will likely end a budget dispute which began last May when the council mandated that the board trim its \$26 million 1987-1988 spending plan by \$3 million, officials said.

The agreement was reached in Newark Friday after three days of intensive negotiations before state Administrative Law Judge Ward Young.

The settlement is still pending approval by Young

and state Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman. Officials said final approval is expected within 45 days.

The cuts to this year's school budget will be reflected in the 1988-1989 fiscal year, according to City Business Administrator Ed Chius, but just how is unclear.

The council had recommended that the board reduce its budget by reducing staff and closing two schools. The board argued the increase was necessary to offset the loss of state funding.

Anthony Curko, school business administrator, said he will meet with School Superintendent Walter Fine this week to develop a plan to implement the cuts. He said it was "unlikely" that the board would agree

See \$1.25M — Page 26.

## \$1.25M cut OK'd in school budget

Continued from Page 1

to close a school during the current fiscal year.

"We are caught between a rock and a hard place," Curko said. "The city says our budget is too big and will hurt taxpayers and the state's Level 3 report says we have to implement changes." Curko said the system will have to spend money to follow recommendations in the report.

The school system has failed to attain state certification the past three years and is under Level 3 monitoring by the state.

Concerning the budget settlement, Curko said, "We are pleased with the outcome. We would not have been able to continue the school year with the entire \$3 million cut."

The agreement is seen as a small victory for the school board which was deadlocked in earlier negotiations with the City Council.

Both sides were reportedly

\$1 million apart, with the council refusing to accept less than a \$2 million cut.

"I was surprised by the compromise," said City Council President Pat Pasculli. "However, on the advice of (Law Director) William Graves, we decided it would have been too much of a gamble not to accept."

Graves, the governing body's chief negotiator, said his side had few options; agree to the settlement or risk all the cuts during the lengthy state appeal process.

"Had the council not accepted the settlement, we'd likely be in the next fiscal year before resolving this budget," Graves said.

City voters rejected the board's budget by a 3-to-1 margin last April, prompting the council to make the cuts. The budget would have increased the amount to be raised through local taxes from \$9 million to \$12 million for the current fiscal year.

## 4 cops, 3 firemen freed after arraignment

By Raul Vicente Jr.

Four policemen and three firemen were released yesterday on their own recognizance after arraignment in Superior Court on charges they violated the public trust. The charges stem from two separate cases in Hoboken and Bayonne.

Two other suspects, who appeared and were charged before Superior Court Judge Maurice Walsh, are being held in jail and two others were carried over and given new arraignment dates pending finalization of paperwork required by the courts. A warrant was issued for another suspect already in the Manhattan Correctional Facility in New York.

A total of 12 Hudson County residents, mostly police, firemen and public officials, were to appear yesterday after sealed grand jury indictments against them were released Tuesday by Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePasquale. The indictments were all unrelated.

Acting Captain Ralph Corrado, Captain John Lisa and Mark Sheehan, all Hoboken firemen, were each released on a \$10,000 recognizance bond. Corrado was charged with possession and distribution of hashish. Lisa was charged with possession and distribution of marijuana, and Sheehan was charged with possession of cocaine and attempting to buy the drug.

Hoboken policeman Michael Coppinger, 30, was released on a \$10,000 recognizance bond and charged with official misconduct. Coppinger allegedly tipped off firefighters to the prosecutors' investigation.

In an unrelated case, Bayonne policemen Corrie Szatkiewicz, 22, Charles Dombrowski, 37, and Vincent Fego, 24, were also released on \$10,000 recognizance bonds. Szatkiewicz and Fego are each charged with aggravated assault, official misconduct, unlawful possession of a weapon and conspiracy to commit official misconduct. Dombrowski is charged with aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and official misconduct.

Paul D. Berman, 35, a Jersey City policeman charged with possession of cocaine and official misconduct, was ordered held on \$10,000 bond or \$1,000 cash bail in a separate case.

In yet another of the cases, James Ray Jr., son of the former acting deputy director of the Jersey City Welfare Office, was ordered held on \$3,300 bail on charges of possession of cocaine and possession with the intent to distribute cocaine.

Former acting deputy welfare director James Ray Sr. was charged along with his son with possession of 3.5 ounces of pure cocaine. Ray's arraignment was carried over for one week.

Nicholas Anthony Esposito, 35, a

Jersey City cop, was charged with attempting to extort \$100 from a motorist, also in a separate case. Esposito was not arraigned yesterday because his paperwork had not been completed.

Honorio Yont, 27, who was picked up by Jersey City police in a raid at Ray's home, was described by the prosecutor as a buyer. He was not present at his arraignment yesterday because he is being held at the Manhattan Correctional Facility in New York. However, Walsh ordered a warrant for his arrest to insure his return to Jersey City if he is released. Yont was already out on bail from a municipal arraignment held just after his arrest.



# Hoboken under water

## Pipe rupture leaves many residents dry

By JEFFREY RUBIN  
Staff Writer

*Dispatch 10-30-87*  
HOBOKEN—An early-morning water main break here left virtually all the city's residents and many of its businesses with little or no water for several hours yesterday while officials conducted a hectic search for the valve to turn the water off.

The break at Willow Avenue and 14th Street, which occurred at 5 a.m. and bled millions of gallons of water until the shut-off valve was found at noon, is the fourth here since July 1986 and the third since January on Willow Avenue between 14th and 16th streets.

Like the previous bursts, yesterday's flooded local establishments and tied up traffic from the Lincoln Tunnel in Weehawken and the Holland Tunnel in Jersey City. Even after the break was isolated, the pipe shut down, and water pres-

sure restored to most of the city, police continued to direct traffic away from the broken asphalt on Willow Avenue. A police spokesman said yesterday that rerouting was expected to continue throughout the night.

Unlike the previous pipe breaks, however, yesterday's incident confounded officials at the Public Works and Water departments for hours, prolonging a situation that saw the city waste as much icy water as its denizens actually used yesterday morning.

According to Roy Haack, the director of public works, inaccurate maps of the city's underground water system was one of several obstacles his 20-man work crew confronted as it scoured roads from 11th to 16th streets, and from Willow Avenue to the edge of the Hudson River, looking for the source of the

Please see **BREAK** Page 14



Water rushes along Clinton and 14th streets in Hoboken after a water main break yesterday on nearby Willow Avenue.

DON MCCOY THE HUDSON DISPATCH



Jimmy Araujo tries to sweep away some of the water that flooded the Araujo Tire and Brake Corp. on Willow Avenue in Hoboken after a nearby water main break as P.J. Lopez moves some equipment to drier quarters. The water there filled a 9-foot compartment in the floor in which mechanics stand to do repairs under cars.

DON MCCOY THE HUDSON DISPATCH



Vick Lucetorto, kneeling, and two other Hoboken workers, attempt to shut off water gushing from a burst main at 14th Street and Willow Avenue yesterday.

AP LASERPHOTO

### BREAK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gushing water.

"We're trying to shut the gates down and isolate this thing," said Haack, who was called in to handle the emergency only minutes after the break apparently occurred.

The search went on so long that the city, which normally draws 9 million gallons of water from a Morris County reservoir, went through 18 million gallons, according to Tom Neilan, water director for neighboring Jersey City. Water pressure dropped by more than 33 percent, leaving residents of some highrises dry.

According to a Fire Department spokesman, several trucks carrying 500-gallon water reserves patrolled the city during the crisis, keeping the city prepared in the event of a fire.

Also, school officials held meetings to decide whether or not to close the schools in the afternoon. Although the schools remained open, Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti declared a state of emergency, calling upon resi-

dents and officials to cooperate during the crisis.

Haack, who joined the search for the valve and looked on as his men popped a succession of manhole covers, said the workers also stumbled across a half-dozen inoperative water valves and water gates designed to stem or reroute the flow of water during such emergencies. He said he does not know how the damage occurred, but ruled out vandalism.

The appropriate shut-off valve finally was located at 13th Street and Bloomfield Avenue. Shortly after the flow of water to the 14th Street break was halted, workers from the Department of Public Works moved in to excavate the gutter and get to the ruptured pipe. Haack said he is not yet certain which of three mains ruptured — a 30-inch main, a 16-inch main, or an 8-inch one. He also did not know how long repairs would take.

As the rupture was isolated and later excavated, work crews drew an occasional audience of

residents and workers from some of the nearby industrial plants, which were shut down throughout the seven-hour crisis.

"We're shut down until we get water," said an employee from the Maxwell House coffee plant on River Drive.

In many respects, yesterday's incident was a re-enactment of a Jan. 7 water main break a block north of the most recent rupture. A week later, a second, less serious burst at nearly the same location created traffic disturbances, although no water service was disrupted.

During the past several years, Hudson County has cited this city for wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars in water revenues a year, partly because of frequent leaks. There have been dozens of breaks, both major in minor, throughout the city during the past decade, contributing to the city's high expenditures on water and water-main repairs.

## On a midnight dark and dreary

Continued from Page 1

to get to the "cave," where an endless spring offered crystal-pure drinking water.

Some even believed the water held medicinal properties, and crowds would gather daily for a taste of its magic.

More than 150 years later, there are no crowds. . . there is no crystal spring. . . there isn't even any cave. Just cliffs dotted with empty soda cans, the usual flour and eggs of mischief night, and the Maxwell House Coffee plant a little down the road.

But if the maps were right, I was standing right where the cave once was . . . and right where Mary was beaten, strangled with a piece of lace from her undergarment, bound and dragged a few yards into the Hudson River on July 25, 1841.

The mysterious slaying of this 19-year-old femme fatal has inspired much conjecture by historians and crime buffs. Most notably, this Hoboken horror tale served as the inspiration for Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Mystery of Marie Roget."

As a tractor trailer zoomed by the "cave," stirring up a cloud of dirt, my eyes traced a path from the cliff over to the water's edge and I imagined I had been there when it happened.

Who killed Mary Rogers? Was it her lover Daniel Payne?

Was it the naval officer she once eloped with, who then jilted her at the last minute?

Was it the wealthy tobacco store owner who employed Mary as a counter girl, a man who used Mary's good looks to attract business?

Was it her mother, infuriated to learn of Mary's abortion?

Or, could it conceivably have been Edgar Allan Poe himself, as some have theorized?

Mary, the daughter of a widow who ran a Manhattan boarding house on Nassau Street, told her mother she was going to visit an aunt one Sunday.

Her fiancée, Payne, would escort her back home safely, she assured her mom.

Because of a violent thunderstorm, Payne never kept his appointment to pick Mary up.

Several days went by with no sign of the young woman. . . until the following Wednesday.

Several fishermen discovered a woman's body floating off Hoboken, her face battered. She had been choked by a piece of lace from her underwear, her wrists revealed corl burns, her clothing was ripped, her dress tied about her waist like a sling so that the body could be dragged. Evidence also suggested she had been raped.

Her mother made a hasty identification of the body and quickly arranged for burial to avoid a scandal.

But a young and rumor-hungry press learned of the murder and triggered a massive — though clumsy — police investigation.

The immediate suspect was Payne, but he provided several verified alibis and was released.

Strangely enough, however, the dead girl's fiancée committed suicide by taking poison. A note he left behind declared his love for Mary and his unwillingness to go on without her.

An innkeeper from Hoboken told police she saw a dark-colored gentleman and a young lady at her place that night. They had some refreshments, left and entered the woods at Elysian Fields.

A short time later, according to the innkeeper, a group of troublemakers came to the inn for drinks, then left without paying their bill. She saw them enter the woods by the same path.

A little later, she said she heard a scream.

Several months after the murder, some children playing near the fields found Mary's parasol, her initialed handkerchief and white petticoat near Sybil's Cave.

Broken bushes and footprints suggested a struggle. Police also found a trail in the dirt leading to the river, indicating the body probably was dragged along that path from the cave.

Police concluded that a group of thugs abducted Rogers. But there was never any definitive proof in the case, and it has remained open-ended.

Poe, in his short story, concluded that the naval officer Mary once planned on marrying was the killer.

Raymond Paul, author of the book "Who Murdered Mary Rogers?" concluded it was Payne. His theory was that Payne arranged for Mary to have an abortion, and was then summarily dumped by his lover upon her return. The result: a heat-of-the-moment argument that led to murder.

Author Irving Wallace, in his book "The Fabul us Originals," suspected Mary's mother. He theorized that Mrs. Rogers employed Mary "for the pleasure of her guests" at the boarding house, and that she insisted on the fatal abortion.

Some have speculated that the corpse found floating down the river wasn't even Mary at all. . .

So then who did it? Who killed Mary Rogers?

The egg yoke was hardening on my windshield. . . an NJ Transit bus beeped at me for standing where there was no sidewalk. . . a traffic helicopter whirled its way toward the West Side Highway. . . it was 1987. . . it was getting late. . . much too late to be looking for any clues.



JOHN PETRICK

## REPORTER'S JOURNAL



Photo by Wally Henning

Does the solution to the mysterious murder of Mary Rogers lurk in the shadows of Sybil's Cave in Hoboken . . . or does her restless spirit find shelter in its depths?

## On a midnight dark and dreary

*J.J. OCT 30 - 87*

It was Halloween eve and I stood at the legendary murder scene. . . the wind howled through the trees atop the Hoboken cliffs. . . the sky was a foreboding gray. . . egg yoke dripped down my windshield.

I scanned the awesome Palisades leading down to Sybil's Cave, where it all happened one dismal night in 1841. From a distance I heard some rustling, some jingling, a bit of haunting laughter. Could it be the Ghost of Mary Rogers?

A daring walk around the bend of Frank Sinatra Drive revealed no apparitions. Just four Steven's Tech co-eds getting their pictures taken against the cliffs, their hair dyed purple and standing on end in punk-rock tradition. Halloween costumes, I guess.

Then again, maybe not.

The styles and sites have changed since pretty Mary Rogers' beaten, blackened, disfigured corpse was dragged from this picturesque nook tucked away on the waterfront below Castle Point.

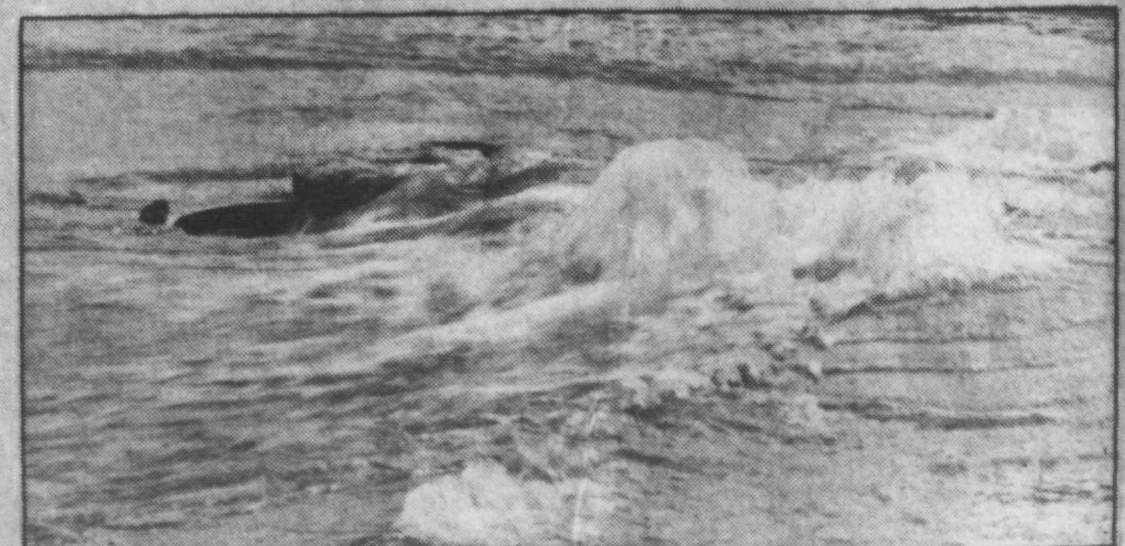
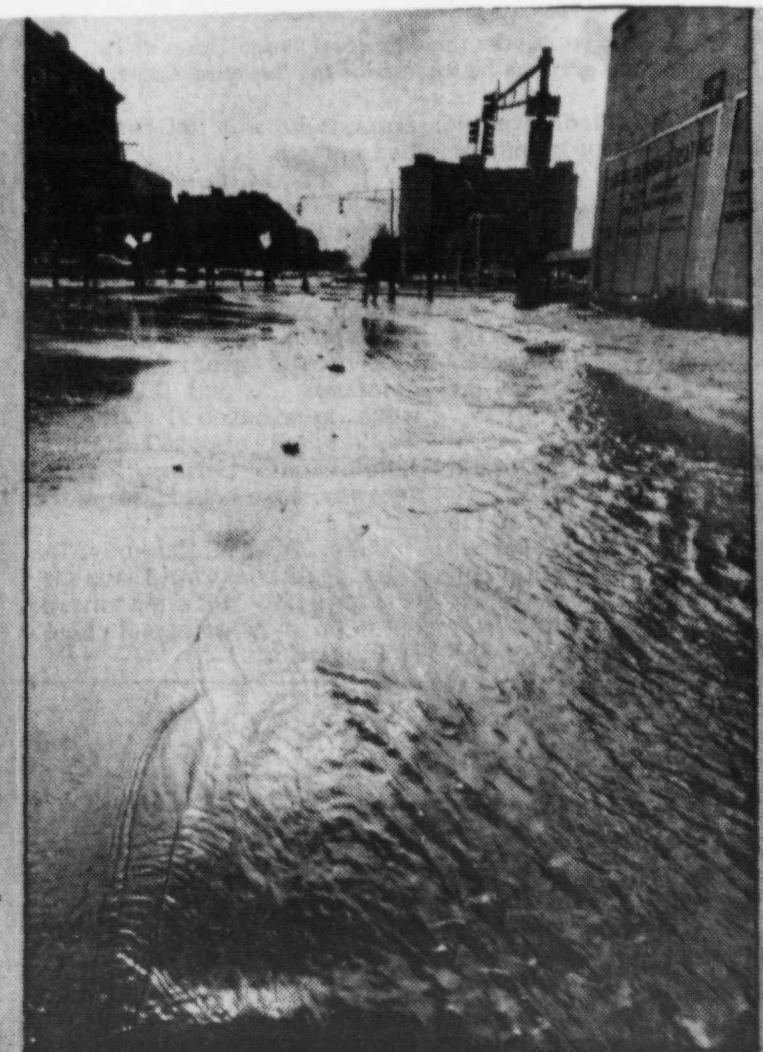
In Mary's day, people would line up along the cliffside

See ON A MIDNIGHT — Page 6.

## High tide in Hoboken

Water gushes through the streets and surges around a manhole after a 30-inch transmission main at the base of the 14th Street Viaduct in Hoboken erupted yesterday morning. Millions of gallons spewed out of the 80- to 100-year-old main before workers located the shutoff valve some six hours after the 5:30 a.m. break. Traffic was disrupted throughout the area and at Lincoln Tunnel approaches and homes and businesses, including several major industries, did not have water pressure restored until evening. (Story on Page 14.)

Photos by Mark Wyble





# Must the public be protected from the public's protectors?

Bayonne Hoboken Cops, firemen indicted Jersey City Union City

Two Bayonne police officers have been indicted on charges they assaulted a 49-year-old man who prevented them from picking up his daughter at a bar.

Officers Vincent Fego and Corrie Szatkiewicz have been charged with conspiracy to commit official misconduct, three counts of official misconduct, four counts of aggravated assault and two counts of unlawful possession and use of a weapon.

Neither officer, however, will be suspended from the force, said Public Safety Director Joseph M. Pelliccio.

The incident occurred on Aug. 16, according to Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale, when the officers were working off-duty as bouncers at Robin's Reef Yacht Club in Bayonne.

The officers allegedly assaulted Edward McGuinness and his wife Florence, both of Brooklyn, with hard rubber sticks known as blackjacks.

According to officials, McGuinness's daughter went

A Hoboken police officer and three firefighters were indicted on charges relating to drugs.

Police Officer Michael Coppinger was charged with official misconduct charges for allegedly passing along confidential police information in July to a person believed to be connected to cocaine trafficking in Hoboken.

The officer allegedly provided the license plate number used by an undercover police vehicle conducting surveillance on the suspect, according to Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale.

Coppinger, 30, faces a maximum jail term of 10 years if convicted.

Acting Fire Captain Ralph Corrado was charged with possession and distribution of hashish; Firefighter Mark Sheehan was charged with possession and distribution of marijuana; and Captain John Lisa was charged with possession and attempted possession of cocaine. Each charge carries a five-year maximum sentence.

Stories by John Petrick with James Kopchans and Maureen Nolan

"The public confidence in the ability of law enforcement has to be upheld."

With those words, Hudson County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale yesterday revealed the indictments of public safety officers in Bayonne, Hoboken, Jersey City and Union City on an assortment of charges including drug possession, aggravated assault and official misconduct.

The indictments, which DePascale said were all in unrelated cases, were handed up by the Hudson County Grand Jury last Wednesday but sealed until yesterday.

Two Bayonne police officers were indicted on charges they assaulted a 49-year-old man who prevented them from picking up his daughter at a bar.

A Hoboken police officer was indicted on official misconduct charges after he allegedly warned other individuals that the police were about to discover narcotics activity.

Three Hoboken firemen were indicted on drug charges in an unrelated case.

Hoboken and Jersey City officials react — Page 19.

A Jersey City police officer was charged with possession of cocaine and official misconduct stemming from his arrest on those charges Aug. 28.

Another Jersey City police officer was indicted after allegedly soliciting \$100 from a motorist in return for not issuing him a moving violation summons.

A Union City police officer was charged with aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and official misconduct after he allegedly attacked a van driver while off-duty in Jersey City.

A Jersey City police officer was indicted on drug and official misconduct charges and another was indicted on extortion and official misconduct charges.

Officer Paul D. Berman, 35, was charged with possession of cocaine and official misconduct stemming from his arrest on those charges Aug. 28.

The grand jury charged the officer with official misconduct because he allegedly failed to report or investigate violations of narcotics laws.

In a separate indictment, Officer Nicholas Anthony Esposito, 35, was charged with allegedly soliciting \$100 from a motorist in return for not issuing him a moving violation summons.

The officer allegedly pulled the motorist over near the Holland Tunnel on May 22, telling the driver he would not issue a summons if he were paid.

The motorist, according to DePascale, then told the officer he would think about it and get back to him.

Union City Police Officer Charles Dumbrowski was indicted on charges of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and two counts of official misconduct after he allegedly attacked another driver in Jersey City.

The charges stem from a motor vehicle incident at Journal Square in Jersey City on June 14. Dumbrowski, while off-duty, was reportedly driving a van when he was cut off by motorist Khalad Bedaway.

As Bedaway tried to park, the defendant allegedly got out of the van and attacked him and Adel Mahmoud, a passenger. The officer also allegedly pulled his gun on the victims.

Jersey City police arrived on the scene, and Dumbrowski filed disorderly persons charges against the two men.

"He (Dumbrowski) was clearly the aggressor," DePascale said.

If convicted, the officer faces a maximum 10-year jail term for aggravated assault, five years on the weapons charge and 10 years for each count of official misconduct.

## Indictments stun officials in 2 cities

By Bill Campbell

Despite rumors of a widespread prosecutor's investigation of the Hoboken Police and Fire departments, local officials said they were surprised with the indictments of four public safety officials.

In Jersey City, where two police officers were indicted on unrelated charges, one was suspended and one remained on duty.

Hoboken Police Officer Michael Coppinger, Fire Captain John Lisa, Acting Fire Captain Ralph Corrado and Firefighter Mark Sheehan were indicted on drug and misconduct charges.

Jersey City Police Officer Paul Berman was indicted on possession of cocaine and official misconduct charges. Police Officer Nicholas Esposito was indicted on a charge of soliciting \$100 from a motorist in return for not issuing him a moving violation.

"Anytime a law enforcement officer is indicted it's a surprise," said Hoboken Public Safety Director William Graves. He said the men have been suspended without pay pending the outcome.

City officials became aware of the investigation last month after a source in the prosecutor's office said a "major sweep" of the police and fire departments was underway. According to the source, as many as 15 indictments were forthcoming as a result of an ongoing investigation that also involved the FBI.

Graves said he did not know if more indictments were pending or if they were related to the much rumored probe. "I don't know anymore than anyone else. I just received a phone call but no formal notification," he said.

Police Chief George Crimmins said he could not comment on the indictments and referred questions to the prosecutor's office. He said Coppinger was suspended at 12:40 p.m. when the papers were served.

Fire Chief James Houn was unavailable to comment, but last month said he had "suspicions" of drug use on the force. Another fire official said the department would not comment on the indictments.

Jersey City Chief of Patrol Raymond Blaszczak said, "This comes as a shock, and we grieve. It's bad news for any law enforcement agency."

## Vezzetti OKs police, fire staffing

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti yesterday signed into law the City Council's amendments to the tables of organization for the Police and Fire departments, ending nearly a week of speculation that he would veto the measures.

Upon signing the ordinances, Vezzetti announced the city will institute a freeze on all promotions within the departments until financial

## Veto by mayor had been feared

and contractual uncertainties are resolved.

The controversial tables of organization were approved last November as a means of warding off a budget shortfall in the 1986 fiscal year and reducing the ratio of officers to superiors in both departments. The ordinances, which

were scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 1988, set limits on the number of personnel by rank in the departments. The measures were strongly opposed by Police and Fire personnel who claimed the freeze on promotions would damage morale.

The amendments were proposed last month by the council's subcommittee on public safety, which concluded that a sufficient reduction has occurred this year through attrition.

The council last Wednesday approved amendments to the ordinances which would promote two fire captains to the rank of deputy chief and

raise the ceiling on the minimum number of police captains and sergeants.

As recently as Wednesday, Vezzetti said he was undecided about whether he would veto the legislation which raises the number of ranking officers in the departments. His top aid, Laurie Fabiano, said earlier

this week the odds were 50-50 that the mayor would sign the law.

Administration officials wanted to hold off any amendments to the measures until after all police union negotiations have concluded.

"We wanted to see what the financial ramifications of the new contracts will be before making any changes," said Business Administrator Edwin

See VEZZETTI — Page 20.

## Hoboken water main break dampens seven-block area

By Dominick Calicchio

P.J. Lopez of Hoboken couldn't believe his eyes yesterday as he stepped across six rusty fire rims leading from the middle of Willow Avenue to the sidewalk.

"It's like 'The Bridge Over the River Kwai,'" he said, jumping to avoid the water rushing below his feet.

Lopez was on his way to join some friends at Araujo Tires & Brakes Inc., 1414 Willow Ave., who were left stranded when a water main erupted at 5:30 a.m., less than half a block away.

Roy Haack, the city's director of Public Works, said a 30-inch transmission main broke at the base of the 14th Street Viaduct. Workers finally found the valve connected to the main at noon, he said, but by then six hours had elapsed and "millions of gallons" had flowed through the streets.

The break affected homes and businesses in a seven-block radius, Haack said, and forced shutdowns at the Maxwell House coffee plant, Stahl Soap Corp., United States Testing Co. and American Coffee Systems Inc.

Traffic was also severely affected. The thousands of cars that stream down the viaduct each day from Jersey City Heights and Union City had already been hindered since the summer by viaduct construction. The road was cut to one lane each way instead of two.

Yesterday cars headed for the Lincoln Tunnel were detoured by traffic cops stationed at Willow and Park avenues. Holland Tunnel police said it was difficult to discern any noticeable difference in the amount of cars approaching the tunnel this morning.

"The access roads through Hoboken may have been bad but once they got here it was a normal rush hour for us," said an officer.

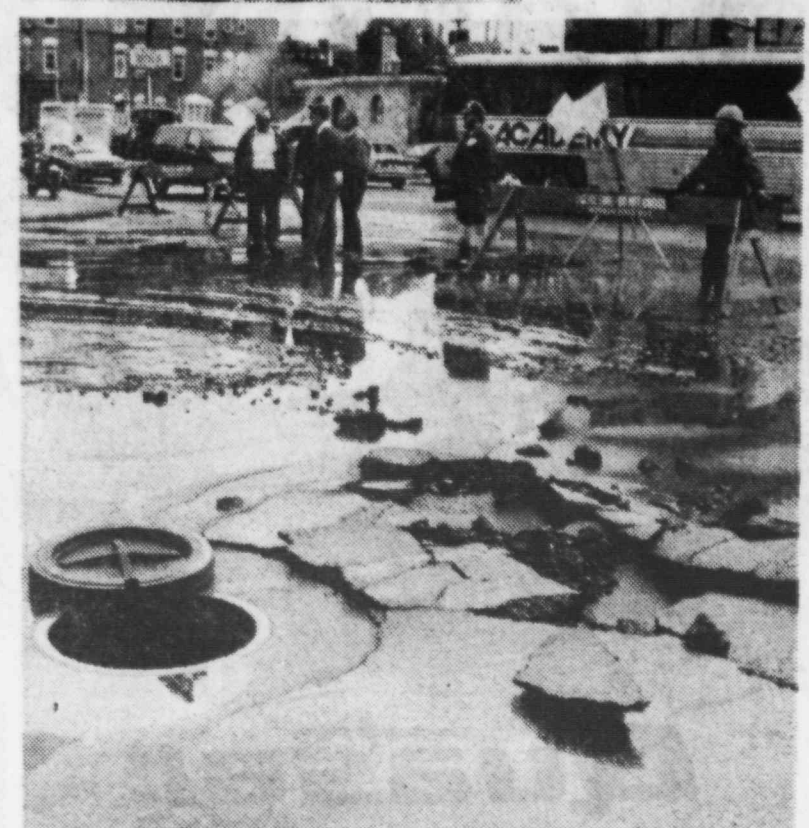
Many smaller businesses, like Araujo, however, were forced to close.

"I feel I could cry," said owner Iris Araujo. "I got about 50 calls from customers today. I lost a lot of money. The pit for



A Public Works Department employee slowly closes the valve, photo left, to reveal the cracked and broken pavement above the leak.

Photos by Mark Wyllie



the wheel alignment is full of water."

Small signs in the darkened front and side windows of the Bloomfield Laundrette at 10th and Bloomfield streets simply read, "No Water."

At the Harbor, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center on Clinton Avenue, Henrietta Grover, the director of nursing, was concerned there wouldn't be enough water to perform medical tests. Workers there spent much of the morning filling

buckets with water to be used to flush toilets.

"These pipes here, every time you turn around they're breaking," said Grover.

Haack said Hoboken's "ancient" water system is to blame for the break. Most pipes in the system are from 80 to 100 years old, he said. City officials have estimated it would cost tens of millions of dollars to make adequate repairs.

Water levels were restored to full pressure last evening.

## Vezzetti approves cop, fire staffing

Continued from Page 1

Chius, the city's chief negotiator.

A mayoral decision to veto the ordinances would likely have created a major rift between the council and Vezzetti. Several councilmen said they had the six votes necessary to override the veto.

After signing the measures Vezzetti said he had no comment about reports his decision was based on intensive lobbying efforts by public safety employees.

Vezzetti said he decided to sign the ordinances on the advice of Chius and Law and Public Safety Director William Graves.

"There is no necessity to make any promotions," Vezzetti said.

"These ordinances leave the moves at the discretion of Bill Graves," he said.

Vezzetti, in a statement to the City Council, said he had "reservations" about signing the measures, but stressed there was no mandate to actually promote personnel. He said no moves would be made until the effects of contract arbitration and the "volatile crisis" on Wall Street are analyzed.

Chius said he favors reduction in rank in the departments through attrition rather than demotion.

He said the tables had accomplished their goal of reduction in rank in both departments and believes demoting police officers would be "humiliating" to the men.

## 11 cops and firefighters indicted Bayonne

Continued from Page 1

Though the incidents were unrelated, DePascale said the drug charges all seemed "symptomatic of a larger problem."

"There is a real concern for public safety here," he said.

"When you have a man who is charged with saving lives and has the right and obligation to carry firearms, and you combine that with substance abuse, it's an extremely dangerous situation to the public," De Pascale said.

"Your judgment has to be sharp. You have to make split-second decisions. You obviously can't do that if your mind is blown on narcotics."

The indictments had been sealed, he said, so that news of the charges would not interfere with the arrest of three Jersey City narcotics squad officers on Thursday.

"This is not an attempt to headhunt police officers," DePascale said. "We are not focusing on police as opposed to any other aspect of the public trust."

charge; and 10 years for each count of aggravated assault.

Pelliccio said the officers, both of whom became members of the department on Aug. 28, 1985, will be relieved of patrol duty and placed in "non-sensitive positions" at police headquarters.

William Dautrick, president of the Bayonne Police Benevolent Association, said the men must hire their own attorneys because the union only provides representation when departmental charges are made against its members.

The city will have to foot the legal bill if the officers are acquitted; if they are found guilty, however, Fego and Szatkiewicz will have to pay their lawyers, he said.

Police Chief James F. Sisk, said, "We have been aware of their (the Hudson County Pros-

ecutor's Office's) investigation and have conducted our own internal affairs investigation," he said. "We have cooperated with the prosecutor's office on this."

Sisk said it is important for the public to be aware that the officers "are presumed innocent at this point in time."

"These are allegations, charges in the indictment," he said. "They have not been convicted of anything."

## Jersey City

Continued from Page 1

He then went to prosecutor's office and told investigators what happened. The investigators sent him back to the officer with money to make the payment while they observed it all from a distance. The motor-

ist reportedly made the payment under police surveillance, according to DePascale.

"In a case like this, you have to react quickly to what's happening on the street. The victim simply came to us."

He noted that officers need not issue summonses for motor vehicle violations on the spot but can wait up to 48 hours after the incident.

The motorist was "an average citizen" who had no connection with the prosecutor's office, DePascale said.

Esposito has been charged with official misconduct and theft by extortion, and could face a maximum 20-year prison term if convicted.

## Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

Despite the suspicion that some of the drug activity was conducted while on duty, DePascale said official misconduct charges were not leveled against the firefighters because the amount of drugs was small and the defendants' official duties were not used to perpetrate the crime.

DePascale would not say to whom the firefighters allegedly sold the drugs.

All of the suspects will be served summonses to appear in court tomorrow for arraignment.



## Vezzetti fumes at hiring of attorney

By Bill Campbell

After months of relatively good relations with the Hoboken City Council, the administration of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti is bracing for another stormy period with the city's top legislative body.

Vezzetti, whose fragile coalition controlled the council for nearly a year, said he is outraged and disgusted that the council hired a special attorney to investigate municipal contracts prepared by his administration.

The outburst, a reaction to Thursday's council meeting, is the mayor's first public criticism of the council in many months. The meeting also marked the first time in nearly a year the council has taken direct aim at the administration.

"By definition, fragile things are intended to shatter," Vezzetti's nemesis Councilman Robert Ranieri said of the council coalition.

At issue is the awarding of several professional service contracts for sludge removal at the municipal sewage treatment plant and the council's hiring of Frederick Woekener to investigate the pacts.

Woekener is a former Vezzetti administration law director who resigned, in part, over policy differences with the mayor and his staff. He told the council his new assignment would not entail prosecuting administration officials, but Vezzetti allies are skeptical.

"Hiring a special attorney is nothing but a witch hunt," said Councilman Joe Della

Fave, the administration's most vocal supporter on the council. "This is nothing but a factional issue and it will turn into a kangaroo court."

The administration is upset at the council's need to hire an attorney and the selection of Woekener. Top administration officials like mayoral assistant Laurie Fabiano see the hiring as politically motivated, while Vezzetti said he will refuse to sign paychecks.

Woekener will be paid \$125 an hour by the council to investigate contracts "our own administration showed ineptness over by not looking into," Ranieri said.

However, Law Director William Graves said that despite some "sloppy bookkeeping" on two contracts and an technical error on another, he said he has conferred with state officials on one contract and is baffled by Ranieri's allegations.

"These are all valid contracts and I assume that Fred Woekener will come to the conclusion that I have. It's just too bad it will cost the city about \$5,000," he said.

The contracts, awarded to A&B Trucking, Ozonics, Inc. Garden State Laboratories and Boswell Engineering, are all related to sludge removal; from pretreatment to shipping the waste byproduct to landfills.

According to Ranieri, the administration acted "improperly" for authorizing the work for three of the contracts before council authorization was issued. Moreover, Ranieri charged that the issue points to a "lack of respect" for the council by the administration.

Unlike many other moves by the solidly anti-administration Ranieri, the council majority, by a 5-to-2 vote, agreed to hire Woekener. The measure was opposed by Della Fave, and Councilman Thomas Newman, both administration supporters.

Councilwoman Helen Cunningham and Councilman Edwin Duroy, both who have voted with the Vezzetti coalition, were absent.

Councilmembers Pat Pasculli and Dave Roberts, key swing votes in the coalition, voted with Ranieri to hire Woekener.

Roberts said his vote was not based on political maneuvering, but said he was not satisfied with the administration's handling of the contracts. "I listened to the debate and its appears if there may be some wrongdoing and solid grounds for hiring an attorney," he said.

Late last year, after a state Superior Court judge ruled a \$2 million engineering contract awarded by the city to Mayo Lynch & Associates invalid on technical grounds, the city ratified numerous professional service pacts with similar errors.

"There wasn't this screaming and yelling over the other contracts," said Fabiano. "This is a total waste of money and I hope the move emanates from the council's stupidity and nothing else."

She and Della Fave said they feared the motive to hire a special attorney was to "get back" at Graves and Public Works Director Roy Haack who

both opposed the Mayo Lynch contract, which Ranieri supported.

Mayo Lynch, which was the design engineer for the proposed secondary sewage treatment plant, was replaced by another design firm after months of litigation and millions of dollars in law suits and environmental fines.

"Isn't it ironic that the contracts which are being looked into have to do with sewage," Della Fave said. "And the people who are the targets, Roy Haack and Bill Graves, both opposed Ranieri and Mayo Lynch."

He said he feared the council majority would "go on a witch hunt" and try to oust the two directors similarly to former Environmental Services Director Peter Alicandri who was fired when he openly objected to the Mayo Lynch contract.

"I object to the need to hire a special attorney to resolve this matter and their choice," Della Fave said.

He said he was not assured that Woekener would act objectively since the attorney once was employed by Mayo Lynch to handle a Jersey City sewage application.

But Ranieri said the council discuss all grounds of any possible conflicts during a closed session and the "matter was resolved to everyone's satisfaction." He said Woekener would function only as an advisor and defended the attorney as "a much sought after individual who has demonstrated he can work with both the administration and council."

## Fire a tragedy for tenants but windfall for landlords

By Jim DeRogatis and Bill Campbell

A fire in two Hudson Street buildings seems to be paving the way for the legal displacement of 21 families.

Fire damaged two buildings at 316 and 318 Hudson St. two weeks ago, claiming the life of one woman. The fire could result in tragedy for the other families who live in the buildings and a financial windfall for the buildings' owners, according to city officials and real estate experts.

Savitaben Amin, a 55-year-old woman died in the Oct. 20 blaze, which damaged the common areas of 318 Hudson St. and caused smoke and water damage to 316 Hudson St.

Fire investigators blamed the blaze on a faulty electrical system.

Local tenant advocates said the situation at 316 and 318 Hudson St. is a model of the

way a landlord can turn an accidental fire to his advantage. The city is powerless to monitor the repair of fire-damaged buildings and landlords can legally bar tenants from returning while they make repairs.

Residents of the buildings and some municipal officials charged that the owners, Dorothy Capiello and Goya Marciano, have been dragging their feet on repairs in an attempt to discourage residents from returning. Several realtors, who spoke on the condition they would not be identified, said the buildings, if sold empty, could fetch as much as \$2 million.

Councilman Steve Capiello, Dorothy's husband, and former city attorney Frank Marciano, Goya's son, said there are no plans to sell the buildings. Although Dorothy Capiello and Goya Marciano own the buildings under the corporation name of Mon-Tut-

the councilman and the attorney have functioned as spokesmen for the corporation.

Capiello said that the residents of 318 Hudson St. will not be allowed back into the building until major repairs are completed, which he said may take as long as 18 months. He is also attempting to convince city officials to block the residents of 316 from staying in the building, claiming that the same electrical problem that caused the fire in 318 could plague its sister tenement.

During a meeting with the tenants at City Hall last Monday, Capiello and Marciano said work in the building would take as long as 18 months to complete. Capiello said he "has no idea" how long the repairs will take because "I've never filed an insurance claim before."

But Laurie Fabiano, execu-

See FIRE — Page 6.

## Vezzetti refuses to sign contract for contact probe

By Bill Campbell

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti said yesterday he will refuse to sign a contract awarded by the Hoboken City Council last month to an attorney who is investigating municipal contracts.

Vezzetti said he will not sign the \$5,000 contract awarded to special counsel Frederick Woekener "even if it means going to court." Woekener's past involvement in municipal affairs disqualifies him as an objective investigator, he said.

Reports of Vezzetti's refusal prompted his chief critic, Councilman Robert Ranieri, to charge the administration with "perpetrating a cover-up."

Woekener was hired by the council to investigate several professional service contracts prepared by the administration. Mayoral approval of the contract is needed before Woekener can launch his investigation.

Three of the four disputed contracts — all involving sludge removal at the sewage treatment plant — were prepared by Law Director William Graves and ratified this year by the council. The other was approved by the council in 1984.

Graves admitted to "sloppy bookkeeping" on two of the contracts and a "technical error" on another, but said they have since been corrected.

Ranieri, though, said the administration acted "improperly" by authorizing work on three contracts before council approval was granted.

The hiring of Woekener, a Vezzetti administration law

See VEZZETTI — Page 8.

## Vezzetti won't sign contract

Continued from Page 1

director who resigned last year over policy differences, was roundly criticized by the mayor and his aides.

Vezzetti said Woekener's appointment was political, claiming that the council was attempting to undermine the administration.

"Fred Woekener was my attorney and he worked for the city. I simply was not satisfied with the things he did," Vezzetti said.

He said he would consider approving the council's request to hire an independent counsel if the attorney was not involved in local politics.

But Woekener said yesterday he could conduct the investigation without bias. "I can do the job but I don't want to get caught in the middle of a squabble between the mayor and council," he said.

"I'm just going to write my report for the council and hand

it over to the council. They can do whatever they want with it," Woekener said.

He said he is willing to meet with Vezzetti and the council in closed session to iron out differences, but said he had no intention of stepping away from the investigation.

Ranieri said the administration is trying to block the investigation by refusing to authorize Woekener's contract. He said he is not satisfied with the administration's explanations of the deficiencies.

"I feel that if Vezzetti does refuse to sign the contract, it will be clear evidence of a cover-up," Ranieri said.

## 28 murders by arson still unsolved

Continued from Page 1

had one. "Not bad for a Mile-Square City," said Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tremietti.

Many of the buildings damaged by fire were converted into condominiums or rehabilitated into luxury housing shortly after the flames chased tenants out. The question remains: were the fires caused by gentrification and soaring real estate values, or were there other factors at work?

Arson for Profit?

Por La Gente (For the People), a Hoboken community group that formed to combat the wave of fires, released a study in 1982 that concluded that "there is a high correlation between major fires which displace and sometimes kill tenants and conversion of these properties into condominiums."

Hine, a former New York arson investigator who became involved with Por La Gente, said Hoboken property owners who were victims of fire had a "double payoff. They collected the insurance money, and then they sold their buildings, empty of tenants, at a profit."

Ironically, the state's strict condominium conversion laws may have spurred the fires because they made it extremely difficult for landlords to evict tenants without buying them out, Hine said.

A 1982 report by the arson investigation squad of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms stated, "In the past couple of years property values as well as rents have skyrocketed in Hoboken. This change in the housing market appears to have been accomplished through a rash of major fires."

The ATF, which is reputed to have the most thorough arson investigators in the country, probed several of Hoboken's worst fires, including an October 1981 blaze that killed 11 people at 1200 Washington St. and an April 1982 fire that killed 13 people at Pinter's Hotel, 151 14th St.

The services of an ATF team were offered on the night of the Pinter Hotel fire and declined by city safety officials, according to the ATF report. But a nine-man team from the bureau began an investigation shortly afterwards, setting up shop on the third floor of City Hall in May, 1982.

The investigators never turned up enough evidence for a grand jury indictment, however, and the probe was closed "at a standstill" in January, 1983, according to the reports.

While ATF believed the fires were arson for profit but lacked proof, Hoboken safety officials were quick to discount the profit motive.

They strongly downplayed speculation that the fires were arson for profit, and criticized tenant groups for spreading the theory. They attributed the cause to vendettas against the tenants who lived in the buildings, most of whom were poor Hispanics.

Arson for Revenge?

"I'd give my right arm to

know who set those fires," said Hoboken Police Sgt. James Behrens, who investigated many of the fires with Lt. John Howe. The officers said the Pinter Hotel and 1200 Washington St. arsons are among the fires still listed as arson in Hoboken police files.

The vendetta theory may have developed because of a 1973 fire at an 11th Street tenement that killed 11 people was said by authorities to have been started by an Ecuadorian immigrant involved in a love triangle. Authorities did not uncover enough evidence to bring the man to trial. He was later deported.

"The truth is that those fires are still a mystery, and I think a lot of things may have been covered up in those days," said Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, who was elected in 1985 with the support of many of the city's poor.

Regardless of what the authorities said, poor residents believed the fires were arson for profit, and they feared their building could be next.

"If the fires were not arson for profit, the result was the same," Howe said. Tenants abandoned their legal rights and "got out when they got an eviction notice. They left because they thought they'd get burned out."

And if property owners were not connected to the fires, they often moved quickly to capitalize on them.

"With the Pinter Hotel, they knocked the buildings down there immediately after the fire," noted Vezzetti. One condition on the sale of the American Hotel, finalized shortly before a fire claimed two lives on Oct. 11, 1981, was that the building be empty of tenants — a condition the fire quickly fulfilled.

The Fires Return

The number of fires in Hoboken tapered off in late 1982, about the time the federal investigation began.

There were no fatal fires until last October, when a new wave of fires began: an Oct. 9

arson destroyed 121 Willow Ave. and claimed four lives; an Oct. 15 suspicious blaze heavily damaged 132 Jefferson St.; and, most recently, an Oct. 20 accidental fire at 318 Hudson St., a building partially owned by the wife of Councilman Steve Capiello, claimed the life of a grandmother and displaced ten families.

Vezzetti vowed that the city would thoroughly investigate the current rash of fires. "People may not have had confidence in the previous administration, but they can trust us," he said.

## 9 fatal fires in 4 years

By Jim DeRogatis

There were nine fatal fires in Hoboken from 1978 through 1982, as well as other blazes that displaced hundreds of tenants. Here is a chronology of the major fires:

- 500 Marshall Drive, Housing Authority Projects, March 10, 1978. Authorities believe the fire was started after a man committed suicide by opening his gas jets.
- 70 Washington St., May 6, 1978. A fire that started in the basement of a building that is currently owned by Applied Housing claimed two lives and is still listed as arson.
- 131 Clinton St., Jan. 20, 1979. Twenty-one people died in a fire that officials said was started by children who set fire to garbage in the hallway, then went to bed. The building was converted to condominiums.
- 309-311 First St., Oct. 25, 1979. Two people died in a fire that was started by votive candles.
- 224 Jefferson St., Sept. 28, 1980. A fire started by a blanket placed over a spaceheater claimed two lives. The building was converted to condominiums.
- 67 Park Ave., Oct. 12, 1981. A blaze that destroyed the building claimed two lives. The cause of the fire is listed as arson. The building was razed and the site is now a playground.
- 1200 Washington St., Oct. 24, 1981. Eleven people died in an arson fire that still remains a mystery. The building had been the target of one prior arson attempt, when police found several bottles filled with gasoline. The building was converted to condominiums by Eldorado Associates, a firm that includes Hoboken developer Murray Connell.
- 76-80 River St., the American Hotel, Oct. 11, 1981. A fire that killed two tenants is still listed as an unsolved arson. The building was purchased by Hawthorne developer Ray Lemme, who rehabilitated the hotel into commercial office space.
- 151 14th St., Pinter's Hotel, April 30, 1982. Thirteen people died in an arson blaze that still remains a mystery. The building was razed and the site is now an empty lot.

— Jim DeRogatis

## 28 arson murders in Hoboken still unsolved

By Jim DeRogatis

Twenty-eight people were murdered in Hoboken between 1978 and 1982. They weren't killed by bullets or knives, but by a much more frightening weapon — fire.

"Twenty-eight people lost their lives in arson fires in a short time span in this city. That's 28 murders," said community activist Ron Hine. "At the same time, there were a series of murders in Atlanta. Only about half that number died there, but a whole city, and people throughout the country, mobilized to find the killer."

Authorities have never arrested anyone in connection with the Hoboken arsons, and their cause remains one of the

biggest mysteries in the city's history.

Some people refer to the four-year period as Hoboken's "renaissance," but others are haunted by memories of what they call "the years of the fires."

Those memories hang over the city like a dark cloud. They have been stirred recently by a new rash of fires that claimed

five lives in less than three weeks.

Baffling Statistics

Nine fires tore through the city's aging tenements and single-room-occupancy hotels between 1978 and 1982, claiming a total of 56 lives. Five of the fires are still listed as arson. Hundreds of other fires, many of them arson, displaced thou-

sands of tenants over the same time period.

Fire experts are baffled by the statistics. In the ten-year period between 1973 and 1982, Hoboken led the country for the number of fires with more than 10 fatalities: four. Los Angeles was next on the list with three fires, and New York only

See 28 MURDERS — Page 6.

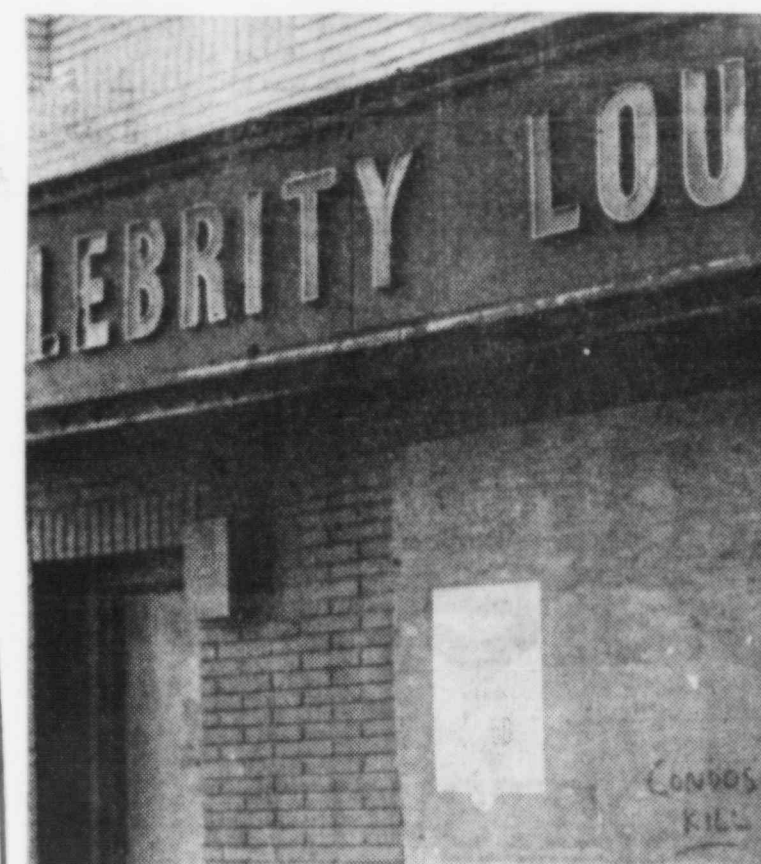


Photo by Steve Golecki

"Condos Kill" is an ominous message left by an unknown graffiti artist on a vacant building at First and Garden streets.

## Fire: tragedy or windfall?

Continued from Page 1

tive assistant to Mayor Thomas Vezzetti who has been assisting the displaced tenants, said the landlords cannot expect the tenants to live elsewhere for 18 months. She said most of them would effectively be forced to find a new place to live.

Local rent control laws prevent the owners from removing tenants for the purpose of sale or use conversion, and condominium conversion laws make it difficult to evict tenants. City officials have no power to pressure Mon-Tut to make the repairs, said Nellie Moyeno, the director of Hispanic and Minority Affairs.

"We don't have the power to make the owners do the work to the buildings," she said. "It's very frustrating because we want to get all the tenants in."

The victims have all moved in with relatives in Hoboken, although one family is planning to move temporarily to Indianapolis, she said.

Capiello said the residents at 316 Hudson St. have been without heat, hot water and hallway lights since the fire because the buildings are interconnected, but tenants say they do not see why the owners can't make prompt repairs.

"In this city they can put up a building in seven months.

Don't you think they can do a small job like this in a month or two?" asked Dilip Patel, a resident and architecture student. "They can do it if they want to do it." A local real estate broker, who asked not to be identified, noted that, "Given their position, it wouldn't be smart for the owners to fix up the building and put rent-controlled tenants back in."

Several realtors said the two 10-family buildings, located about four blocks from the PATH station, could be valuable properties if placed on the market without tenants. Most agreed that they could be sold for as much as \$2 million, based on current market values.

Marciano said Mon-Tut "has no intention" of ignoring tenants' rights, but Fabiano said the owners have not assisted the city at all in helping to find housing for the displaced tenants. Marciano called the pressure from City Hall to repair the building an attempt to "crucify" Steve Capiello. Capiello is a political opponent of Vezzetti often at odds with the mayor.

Fabiano said the city is only fighting for the tenants' best interests. She said she is hoping that Capiello and Marciano will realize the difficulties the tenants face and move quickly to make the repairs.

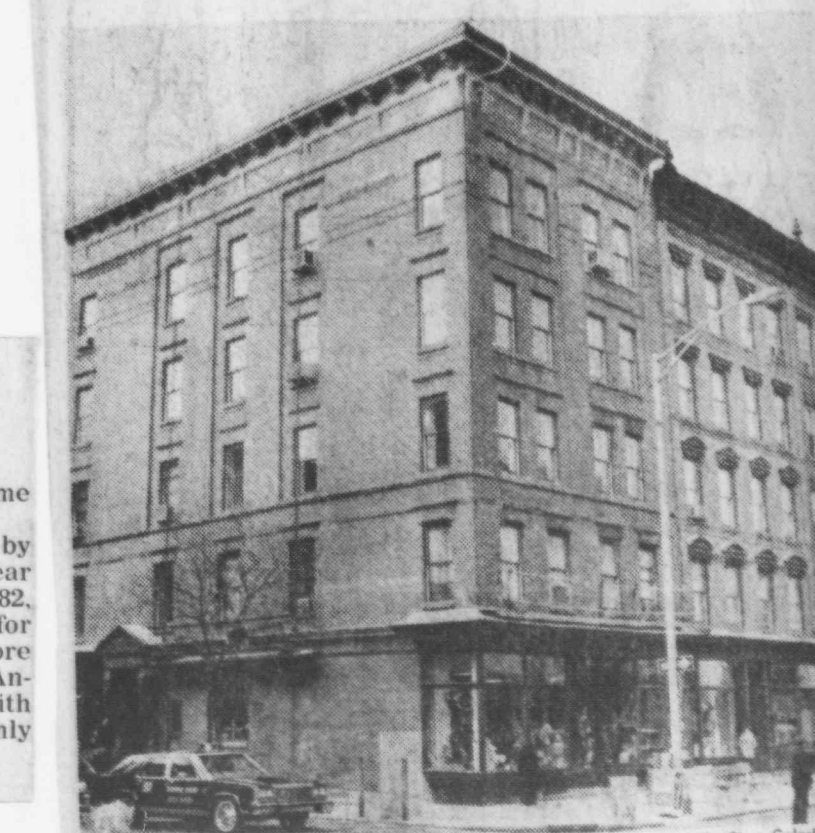


Photo by Steve Golecki

Eleven people lost their lives in a 1981 fire that tore through this building at 1200 Washington St. The cause of the fire is listed as arson, and it remains a mystery. The building was converted to condominiums shortly after the fire.



# Hoboken pays sludge costs under protest

By Bill Campbell

Under the threat of a lawsuit, Hoboken has agreed to make back payments to the firm it hired to remove solid waste from the municipal sewage plant.

The City Council also authorized the Law Department to prepare a counterclaim against the firm, Ozonics, Inc. of Freehold, to determine its responsibilities under the contract.

The Ozonics contract is one of four professional service pacts under investigation by the council for irregularities. Several council members claim the firm has not lived up to its 1985 contract with the city.

The council investigation centers on contracts approved by the administration for various phases of sludge removal. It signals a major division between the mayor and council majority.

Ozonics, which receives \$40,000 a month from Hoboken to treat and remove sludge from the sewage plant on 16th and Adams streets, has not been paid since September.

The firm, through its attorney, said it would file suit in state Superior Court for \$80,000 and remove its equipment from the plant if the council did not authorize the payments during its Wednesday session.

"That would have opened up a whole host of environmental problems which could have ultimately threatened our federal grant money to upgrade the plant," said City Councilman Joe Della Fave, explaining the council's vote, under protest, to approve the payment.

Ozonics treats the sludge, the solid waste byproduct of sewage, through a secret process which dries and processes the material so that it is acceptable for landfill disposal.

Hoboken does not have the resources to treat the material, and the withdrawal of Ozonics could leave the city vulnerable to state and federal environmental violations.

However, anti-administration Councilman Robert Ranieri said Ozonics has shirked its responsibility under the contract to ship the material to the landfill, thus justifying the council's vote.

"The administration is not providing answers and they are stonewalling us every step of the way," he said. "This is a Watergate-style coverup."

The city contracted A & B Trucking to haul the treated sludge to a Pennsylvania landfill after state facilities were ordered closed last summer. City officials said A & B Trucking submitted a bid lower than the contractor hired by Ozonics.

The council is also investigating the A & B contract, which was authorized by the administration before council approval was granted.

City Law Director Edward Graves denied all charges of wrongdoing, but admitted that several of the disputed contracts contained technical errors which have since been corrected.

The council will continue its discussion of the contracts and the hiring of a special attorney on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

## Vezzetti ailing

Continued from Page 1

from the hospital by tomorrow. "He's fine," Della Fave said. "He's resting and talking away as usual."

Vezzetti was hospitalized for a cardiac arrhythmia or irregular heart beat just 15 days after his 1985 inauguration. He was subsequently put on medication and a strict diet.

Vezzetti was again hospitalized in 1986 for two days to correct his heart beat and to lower his blood pressure.

Recently, Vezzetti has looked pale and often complained of fatigue, according to observers.

Sources said the mayor normally takes a nap for an hour or two after lunch in his office.

# 10 school employees rehired

By Dominick Calicchio

The rehiring of 10 Hoboken Board of Education employees and the restoration of promotions to two other board employees will result in the expansion of remedial classes in the system.

The board has begun allocating the \$1.75 million restored to its budget.

The board voted Tuesday to rehire 10 employees and to

restore promotions to two employees affected by the original \$3 million budget cut ordered by the City Council in May.

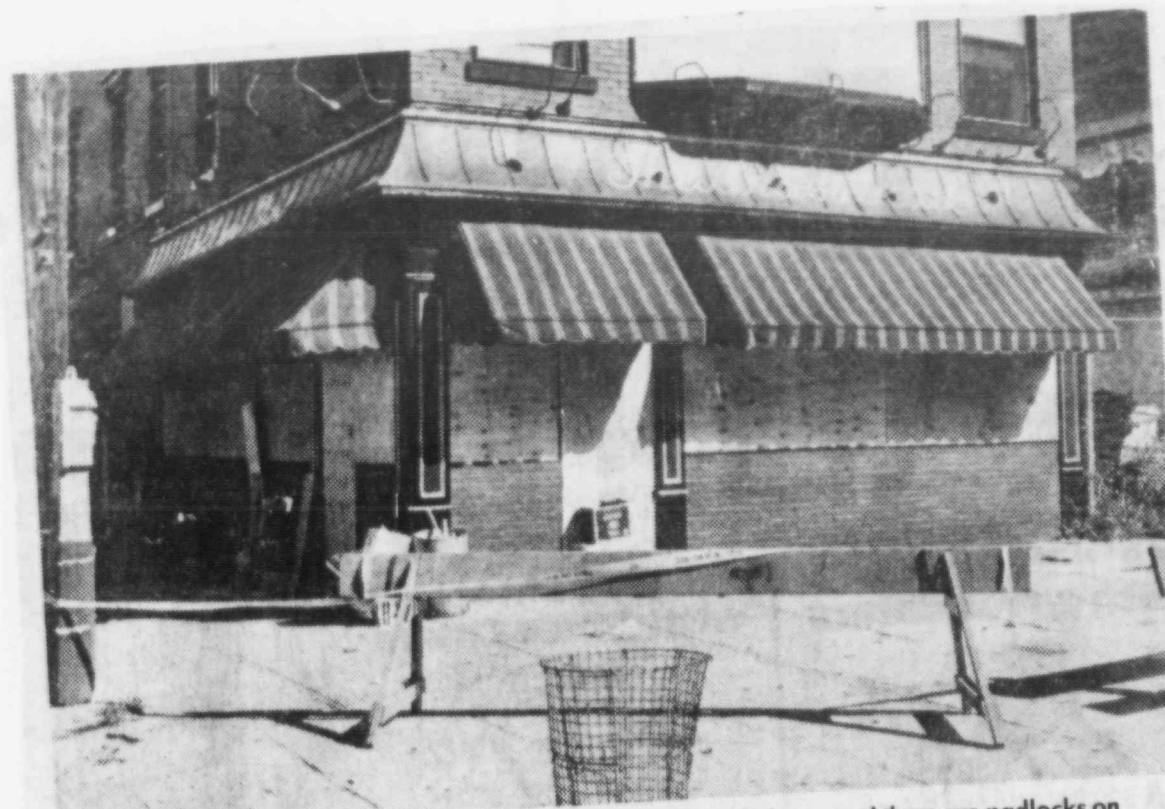
The council and the school board have since agreed on a \$1.25 million cut after the school board appealed to the state Administrative Law Court in Newark.

Schools Superintendent Walter Fine said the personnel moves take effect Monday. It hasn't yet been decided just

how the restored teacher hirings will affect students, Fine said, except for the expansion of remedial classes.

School Business Administrator Anthony Curko said rehiring affect two teacher aides, two security guards, three maintenance workers and three teachers. Two teachers were also reinstated as activity coordinators. The job

See 10 REHIRED — Page 38.



The police barricades are gone but the windows are still boarded over and there are padlocks on the doors of Hoboken's Brass Rail restaurant, which was damaged by fire in mid-August.

## Brass Rail's future looks dim

Continued from Page 1

that the restaurant would reopen in a month or two. But the windows on the first two floors of the building are still boarded up and the doors are padlocked.

The restaurant's principle owner, Michael Peters, has been unavailable to comment on the status of the restaurant. The phone in his residence above the restaurant has been disconnected.

According to municipal tax records, the building is owned by Mark Peters Realty, also located at 135 Washington St. There is no phone listing for the firm.

Sources in the business and real estate communities said the building which houses the restaurant is up for sale.

Several said the building is being listed secretly by a real estate firm outside Hudson County. They say the owner is offering the property for about \$1 million.

Others, however, say the

property has been sold to an unnamed Bergen County attorney for \$700,000. They say the new owner plans to open a Mediterranean seafood restaurant.

"As of last week, the building was still on the market," said a Hoboken realtor who asked not to be identified. "We were asked if we wanted to list the property, but as far as I know everything is being handled secretly."

Several other realtors confirmed that the building was up for sale, but could not provide further information.

"I've heard the property has been sold to a Bergen County man for \$700,000," said Dave Roberts, a local restaurateur. "He wants to make it a seafood restaurant."

"It's going to be a Mediterranean seafood restaurant," said another restaurateur who asked not to be identified. "Some big shot bought the joint."

Most long-time residents

and former patrons of the Brass Rail simply shrug their shoulders when asked about the restaurant. "Who knows what's going to happen?" asked Jerard Clauson, a stockbroker from Hoboken. "It was one of my favorite restaurants."

The closing of the Brass Rail will usher in the end of an era in Hoboken. The two-level restaurant — with the bar and brasserie downstairs and the French bistro upstairs — represented, to many, the beginning of the Hoboken renaissance.

"There are a lot of good restaurants in Hoboken, but there was just one Brass Rail," Clauson said.

## Future looks dim for the Brass Rail

By Bill Campbell

A mid-summer fire which destroyed the ground floor of the Brass Rail restaurant seems to have spelled doom for the landmark Hoboken bistro.

Rumors about the fate of the restaurant, which has been ranked by several statewide publications as one of the 10 best French restaurants in New Jersey, have been swirling since the fire.

More than three months after the blaze, local observers and devotees of the restaurant at 135 Washington St. have drawn one clear conclusion about the fate of one of the city's most famous haunts — it's

unlikely the Brass Rail will reopen.

The status of the restaurant has been a mystery since a three-alarm fire damaged the three-story brick building in the early morning hours of Aug. 16. The tin ceiling on the ground floor contained the flames, but the fire damaged the antique bar and an historic mural.

Fire officials blamed the blaze on carelessness: either smoldering cigarette butts or an overheated coffee pot probably started the fire, they said.

Officials and employees who saw the damage predicted

See BRASS RAIL — Page 14.

## Ranieri wins sludge battle

City investigation launched

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night launched a formal investigation of allegations by Councilman Robert A. Ranieri that city sludge-removal contracts were awarded improperly.

The council hired former city attorney Frederick L. Woeckner to assist in the investigation. The vote was 6-3.

In declaring a full council investigation, the council majority thumbed its nose at Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, who two weeks ago refused to approve of Woeckner's hiring as special counsel to the city. Vezzetti said then that Woeckner's past involvement in city affairs would prevent him from completing a fair investigation.

Vezzetti has repeatedly called Ranieri's allegations politically motivated. Ranieri has denied the mayor's charge, saying that the city has the obligation to investigate itself in cases like this.

Last night the council authorized the investigation without mayoral approval, citing the Faulkner Act, a state statute which gives municipal governing bodies full subpoena power in investigations.

"We have found roadblocks, obstructionism, stone-walling," Ranieri told the council. "That contract has sat on the mayor's desk for two weeks. It's time we get it out in the open."

The council rejected arguments by pro-administration council members Joseph Della Fave, Thomas Newman and Helen Cunningham that Ranieri's charges were largely unfounded, and that Woeckner was tainted by a previous job representing Joe Lynch, who heads an engi-

neering firm currently enmeshed in a lawsuit against the city.

At the heart of Ranieri's charges are sludge-removal and sludge-testing contracts that administration officials have executed with four companies: A&B Trucking of Sewall, Ozonics Inc. of Freehold, Garden State Laboratories Inc. of Irvington and Boswell Engineering Co. of Ridgefield Park.

Ranieri conceded that the contracts with Boswell involve minor, technical errors. But he repeated his insistence that the remaining three contracts contain major problems worthy of investigation.

Ranieri charges that city Law Director William Graves allowed the three companies to work for the city without contracts. The companies were carrying loads of sludge for the city.

The total amount of all four contracts this year is approximately \$100,000.

Earlier yesterday, administration officials linked Ranieri's attack to his past support of Mayo Lynch & Associates, a local firm headed by Lynch that once had a contract to begin building a planned secondary sewage treatment facility for the city. Vezzetti, convinced that the company was stalling, balked when Ranieri and the council agreed to award it a \$2 million contract.

Vezzetti's decision was upheld by Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court on Oct. 24, 1986, and the firm lost the contract.

"I think (Ranieri) is desperately afraid that a lot of the errors of the past are in the wind," mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said.

GRAVES, HAACK

## Vezzetti puts freeze on probe of 2 directors

By JOHN CURTIS  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti has stalled an investigation into allegations of improprieties by the city's law and public works directors by refusing to sign the investigator's contract.

Attorney Frederick L. Woeckner, who had begun a review of four sludge removal contracts, said he will not continue his work until his own status is resolved.

"I don't know what the (City Council) wants to do," Woeckner said. "I suggested they try and work something out with the mayor. I would hate to see the city waste its resources in litigation over it."

Last month, the council awarded Woeckner a \$5,000 contract to investigate allegations that Law Director William Graves and Public Works Director Roy Haack acted improperly in authorizing contracts for sludge removal without council approval.

Vezzetti, however, said Monday that he will not sign the contract. The mayor has charged that the investigation is politically motivated and that Woeckner's appointment involves a conflict of interest. Woeckner was Vezzetti's first law director and his personal attorney.

"It is obvious there was some wrongdoing in the way the contracts were let," Councilman David Roberts said yesterday. He said an investigation could determine if there were merely technical errors or "a serious problem."

Mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said the council will have to take the mayor to court to force the contract. Roberts

said of the contract yesterday. "Maybe it is in limbo." And Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said the council has the legal authority to pursue the investigation.

"The council has full, total rights to investigate city business, has full subpoena powers," Ranieri said. "It is incumbent on those powers that there be staff."

Ranieri, a Vezzetti foe who investigated the investigation, said the council will continue discussion of the contract in a closed session at its meeting to night. He has accused the mayor of trying to cover up the alleged improprieties in the sludge contracts.

Graves prepared three of the four sludge removal contracts, and has admitted to errors on them. He said the errors have been corrected.

In one case, Graves and Haack failed to declare an emergency in order to have sludge shipped to a treatment facility. An emergency was declared after the fact.

Ranieri said work orders and contracts may have been backdated, and said the administration acted improperly in awarding the contracts without council authorization.

The contracts — with Ozonics Corp., Boswell Engineering, Garden State Trucking and A&B Trucking — total about \$100,000 this year. Graves approved the contract with A&B, but subsequently informed the state Attorney General's Office that the firm's bid seemed unrealistic. The Attorney General's Office then launched an investigation of the trucking company.

BUDGET DEAL

## Hoboken rehires 10 school workers

HOBOKEN—The Board of Education has rehired three teachers and seven other employees in the wake of a settlement last month concerning the board's \$26 million budget.

The employees — rehired at Tuesday's board meeting — will allow some of the district's remedial programs, cut during the summer, to be reinstated. Other effects of the rehiring are unclear, according to district officials.

The personnel and programs were cut after the city in May ordered some \$3 million trimmed from the budget. The board appealed, and the two sides negotiated last month before a state administrative law judge in Newark. An agreement was reached providing for a \$1.25 million cut in the budget request, allowing the board to make the reinstatements announced Tuesday.

The board rehired two teacher aides, two security guards and three maintenance workers along with the three teachers.

The reinstatements come as the district is striving to follow directives mandated in a Level III review of the district released by the state during the summer.

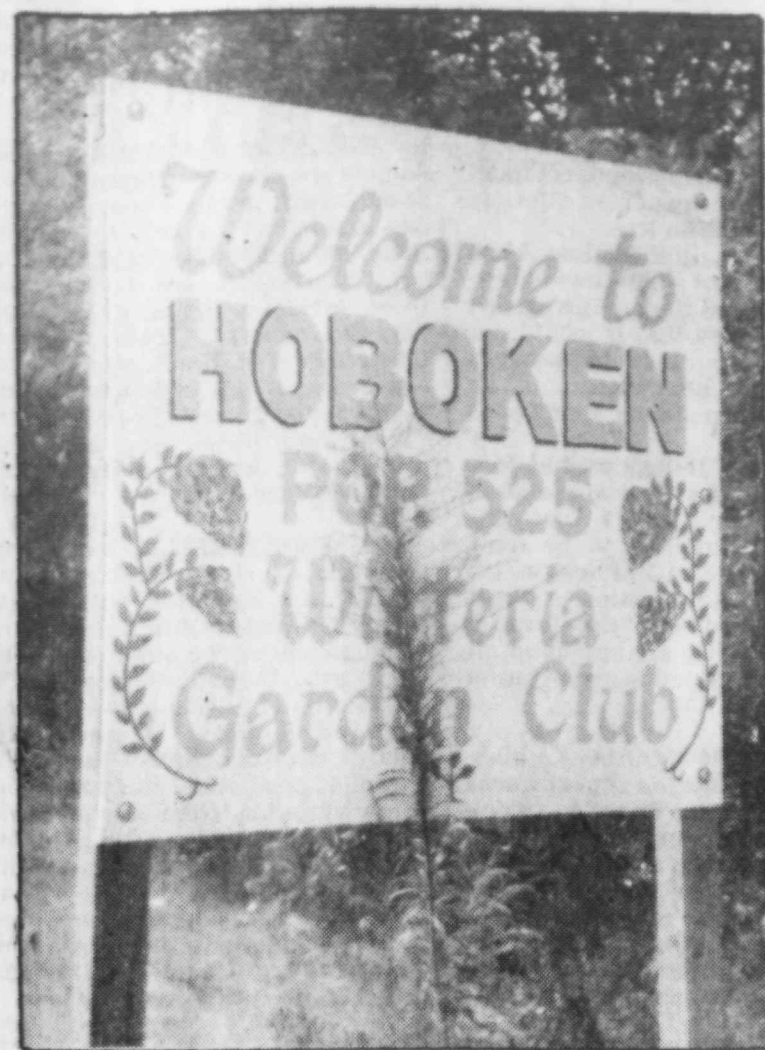
Neither Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine nor board President Richard England were available for comment.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE



# A tale of two very different Hobokens

By Mary Fitzgibbons



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Condos, Maxwell's, yuppies and no place to park are just a few of the things that come to mind when people think of Hoboken — New Jersey, that is.

But the story is a bit different in another Hoboken — the Hoboken down south, Hoboken, Ga.

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A steady population of 525 make up the five and one-half mile city's inhabitants. That's a bit less than Hudson County's Hoboken with its 42,000 residents in just over one square mile. And a police force of 120 strong in New Jersey is a bit out of line down Georgia way.

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said in a telephone interview. "Once again, the rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

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Vezzetti vowed to adhere to a low sodium diet recommended by his doctor.

## Test scores rise in Hudson schools

Continued from Page 1

Rosemarie Viciconti, in charge of curriculum, distributed HSPT handbooks among elementary school teachers to help them orient their students.

Jersey City, which has an estimated dropout rate of between 40 and 50 percent, needs to "fit a program oriented to dropouts and disaffected students," Accella said. "Their dropout rate is of concern to me," he added.

Students' knowledge of basic skills is all the more important today, Accella said, because of the commercial development taking place in

the county. "Developers tell me they have to go out of the county to get help," he said. "We have to have apprenticeship training programs organized through our local unions — programs that can link up schools with future jobs for our young residents."

More than 90 percent of Kearny's third-graders and sixth-graders passed reading, math and language arts. They were tops in Hudson County.

In Union City, where more than 80 percent of the students speak a language other than English at home, scores generally improved, particularly at the Roosevelt School where

smaller classes due to reduced enrollment seem to have benefited students, noted Assistant Superintendent Ann Ipomeni. The Edison School, with the largest population in the district and a highly transient census, slipped badly in sixth-grade math results, she said.

Bayonne Schools Superintendent James Murphy said that Bayonne teachers went through in-service training at the start of this school year to orient them to the demands of a newly revised California Achievement Test, the instrument Bayonne used to measure the knowledge of its third- and sixth-graders.

"We've been realigning our curriculum to reflect the things our students will eventually have to know when they take the (state-mandated) High School Proficiency Test as ninth-graders," he said. "We're pushing our kids more and it seems to be paying off."

North Bergen Schools Superintendent Leo Gattoni said his district is "working to realign our curriculum to the HSPT."

"Teachers will be held accountable for making sure their students learn the skills they need to know. We need to work harder in grade three, especially in math."

## HOBOKEN

### New highway plan will be discussed

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council will hear a presentation from the state Department of Transportation about a plan to build a highway around the western boundary of the city when it meets in special session tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

The special session was scheduled because the council did not finish its agenda during last week's meeting, which continued until nearly 2:30 a.m. on Thursday. At that meeting, the council put off acting on a proposal by Hartz Mountain Industries to re-pave part of 17th Street to improve access to the developer's Lincoln Harbor project in Weehawken.

Opponents of the plan want to hold off on approving it until the

state DOT makes a commitment to the new highway, referred to as the Perimeter Highway.

Helen Manogue, an unsuccessful candidate for the 5th Ward City Council seat held by E. Norman Wilson, said she would attend the meeting and speak against the Hartz plan. She said that the Perimeter Highway is necessary because of the increased traffic flow through the city that the Lincoln Harbor project is expected to bring. She added that the Hartz plan would only bring more traffic through the city.

The City Clerk's office also announced that the council meeting scheduled for Nov. 18 will be moved up to Nov. 16 because of the League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City, which many city officials plan on attending.

## Hoboken heads for gridlock

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and Bill Campbell

Hartz Mountain Industries' Lincoln Harbor development in Weehawken is expected to make Hoboken's bad traffic situation even worse.

Phase 1 of the project, which is nearly completed, is expected to generate 1,800 cars during peak weekday commuter hours.

Forty-three percent of those cars are expected to use Hoboken streets, according to a report by city traffic consultants Wilbur Smith Associates. Intersections in the northern

end of the city are already overcrowded and operating at capacity, city planners said.

As a result of increased traffic from Lincoln Harbor, congestion at key intersections such as 14th Street and Willow Avenue is expected to get even worse, reaching a level of "overcapacity to forced flow," according to the Wilbur Smith report.

The Hoboken City Council is expected to vote tonight on a proposal to utilize 17th Street as a southern entrance to the Hartz project.

While Wilbur Smith recommends the plan, the firm calls

on Hartz and the city to work together to improve overcrowded intersections and apply pressure on the state to build a proposed bypass highway around the Palisades.

Located on the Weehawken Cove near the Hoboken border, the first phase of Lincoln Harbor will contain more than 1.1 million square feet of office space and 5,000 parking spaces. The project will draw approximately 4,500 employees, many of whom will work for Paine Webber, which is relocating its back-office operation

See HOBOKEN — Page 13.

## Kids annoying merchants

By Bill Campbell

What's fun for some Hoboken youths is becoming no fun at all for local merchants along a midtown section of Washington Street.

Hoboken police, spurred by the complaints of shop owners and residents, are stepping up efforts to prevent vandalism and public drinking by local youths along Washington Street between 5th and 7th streets.

According to merchants and at least one city councilman, teenagers have long used the two-block stretch of Washington Street as an evening hangout, creating a disruptive atmosphere for local business-

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"Basically, the kids are rude and obnoxious," said John Lawton of the Lawton-Turno Funeral Home at 631 Washington St.

"They throw footballs up and down the street, harass passers-by and occasionally break bottles. At times it has really gotten out of control," he said.

About a half dozen merchants and property owners issued a letter outlining prob-

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"A lot of these people were really outraged so I encouraged them to write a letter addressing their various problems," said Roberts, who also owns East L.A., a Mexican restaurant at 508 Washington St.

Roberts said he will attempt to arrange a meeting with police, store owners and youth representatives in an attempt to curb complaints.

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On the plus side, more than 90 percent of the third-graders tested at School 28 passed reading and math.

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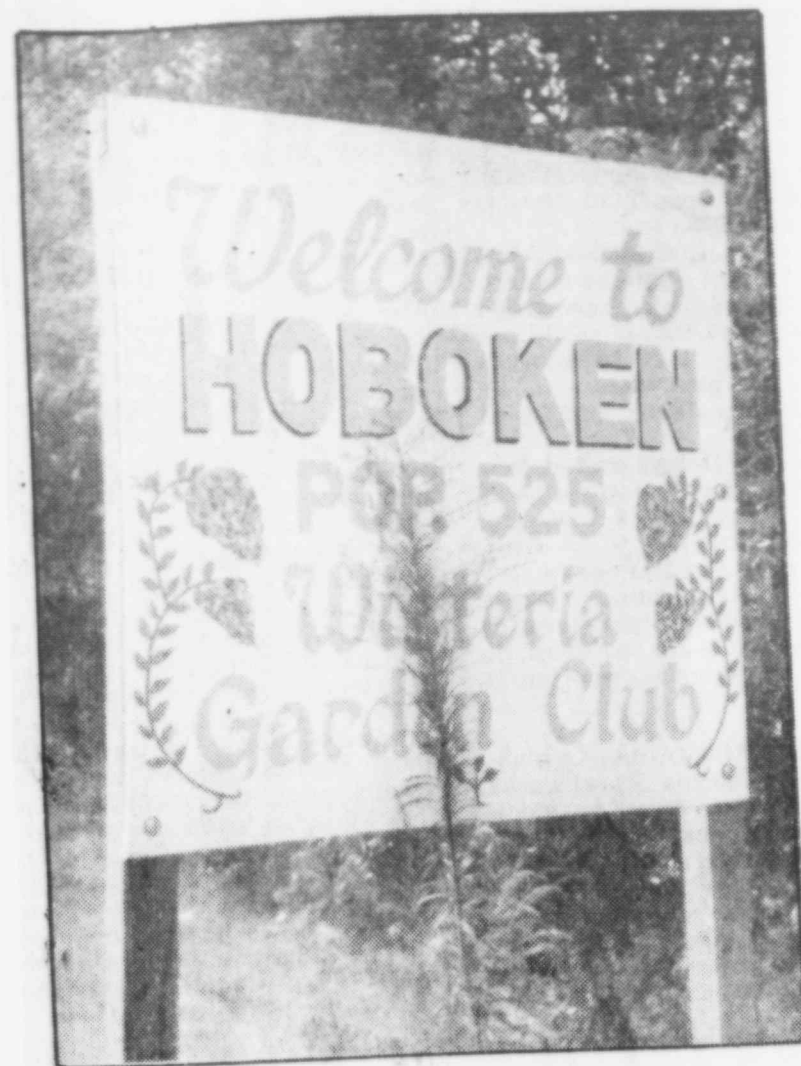
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See TEST SCORES — Page 10.



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See KIDS — Page 8.

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Continued from Page 1

ton Street and the proximity of Stevens Park contribute to the abundance of teenagers and double-parked cars. Many also say the problem is a result of a lack of evening recreation programs throughout the city.

"I grew up here, but I don't remember ever hanging out on Washington Street," said Lawton. "At times it's like a game. The cops tell the kids to leave and 20 minutes later they're back again."

Corrado Detrizio, owner of Hoboken Lock at 624 Washing-

ton St. said the youths "shift" from location to location to avoid police patrols.

"They argue that they're here because they have no place to hang out, but Washington Street is where we do business and this is not good for us," he said.

Already police have begun posting officers along Washington Street to "make every effort to eliminate this constant complaint," said Crimmins in an internal memo.

However, Crimmins said the department lacks the man-

power to post a full-time officer in the section each night. Moreover, police can do little to prevent youths from gathering on street corners.

"You can't do that much if they just hang out," he said. "That's not against the law."

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<b>Weehawken</b>			
Grade 3	93	83.3	92.9
Grade 6	91.5	93.3	90.3
<b>West New York</b>			
Grade 3	97	88	99
Grade 6	87	96	96

See TEST SCORES — Page 10.



# Hoboken delays decision on 'inevitable' gridlock

By Jim Kopchans

The Hoboken City Council has put off decision for two weeks on expanding 17th Street as the southern entrance for the Lincoln Harbor project in Weehawken.

The council had been expected to approve the project, which has been strongly advocated by the city's new traffic consultant. However, Councilman Thomas Newman asked for the postponement so that the city can talk with state officials about the

prospects for a new highway on the western boundary of the city.

The Lincoln Harbor developer, Hartz Mountain Industries, wants 17th Street extended to ease traffic pressure heading to the project.

Located on the Weehawken Cove near the Hoboken border, the first phase of Lincoln Harbor will contain more than 1.1 million square feet of space and 5,000 parking spaces. The project will draw approximately 4,500 employees, many of whom will work with Paine Webber.

The city's traffic consultant, Wilbur Smith Associates, recommended the widening to help the city cope with an expected increase of traffic that will be caused when the Lincoln Harbor project is constructed.

Robert Jurasin represented Wilbur Smith Associates before the council last night. He told the members that the proposed street expansion would ease the flow of traffic travelling from Hoboken and Jersey City to the project as well as cut down on the congestion that already

exists at the intersections of 14th Street at Willow and Park avenues.

According to Jurasin, expanding 17th Street would create a third bridge connecting the city with Weehawken and allow the traffic headed for Lincoln Harbor to by-pass the two congested 14th Street intersections altogether.

Walter Smith, vice-president of development for Hartz, urged the council to permit the expansion, for the city.

"You have heard the testimony

of your own traffic consultant and have read their traffic study. This project can only help but benefit both the city of Hoboken," Smith said.

However, Michael Coleman, director of the city's Community Development Agency, said it would be better if the city just let the traffic situation grow worse once Lincoln Harbor begins operations. Once this occurs, Coleman said, the pressure

See HOBOKEN — Page 16.

## Hoboken postpones gridlock

Continued from Page 1

created by an intolerable situation would force the state to finally approve funding for the highway on the western boundary of the city.

That highway, titled the Perimeter Highway, would follow the route of Conrail train tracks running along the city's boundary. City officials have sought a highway there for over 50 years as one way to alleviate car and truck traffic on city streets.

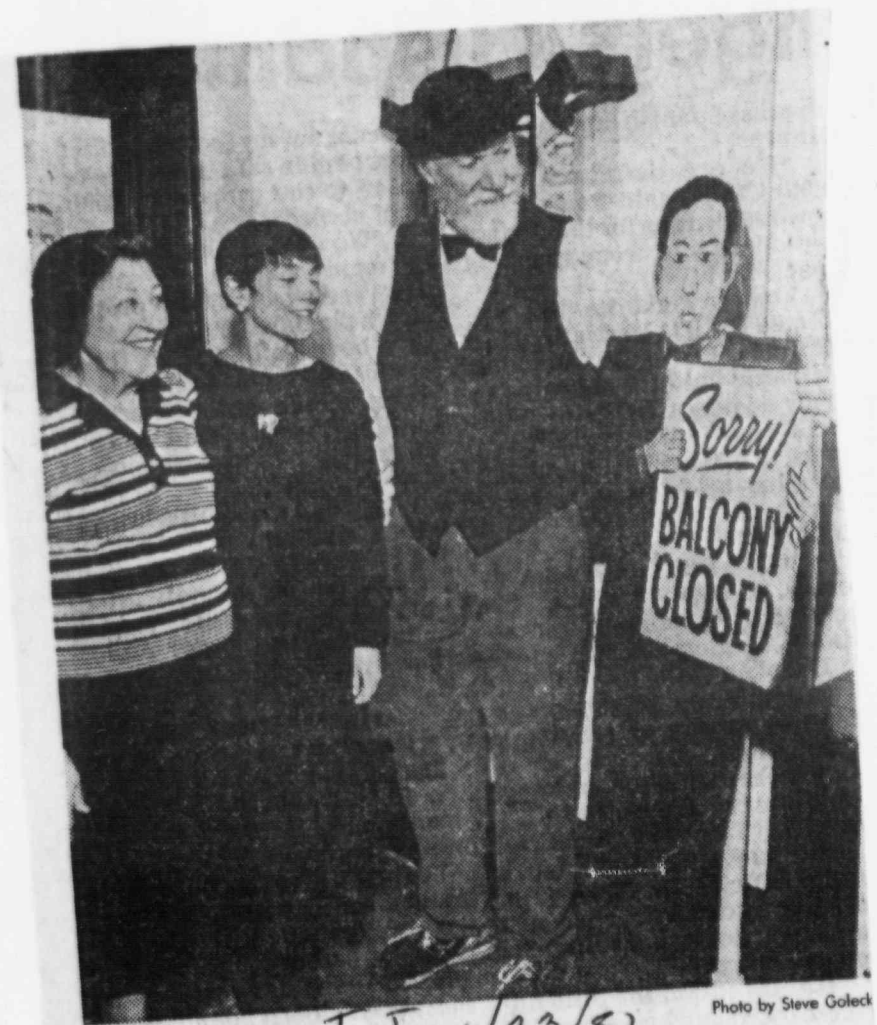
One of the speakers, Dr. Robert King said the city should vote on the street expansion only when as much information as possible could be collected. He also suggested that all the conversation with Hartz should be done in special workshops rather than at public meetings.

At present, Hoboken officials have said they wanted the highway built to handle the extra traffic that the waterfront

developments would bring. Coleman said that if the city alleviated the traffic situation by expanding the road, the state would not feel any need to make plans for either the highway or a proposed light rail system along the waterfront.

Council President Pat Pasculli became angry at Coleman's idea. "Do you mean to tell me that in order to get the state to do something you would rather have Hoboken residents put up with massive gridlock that will occur?" he said.

Newman suggested that the vote be tabled after several residents asked that it be delayed until more information is known. He said the extra weeks would allow the council more time to consider the request as well as grant the city administrators time to contact the state and discover how the prospects are for funding the highway and light rail project.



ALBEE SEEING YOU — Elia Borelli, veteran of the vaudeville circuits, remembers the old three-act routines as she regards a rather wooden youth, right, who has changed hardly at all since those days. Between them are Mary Monhardt of the museum staff, and James Hans, museum curator and president, at the second annual Hoboken Museum Gala at Hoboken City Hall.

## Vezzetti puts freeze on probe of 2 directors

By JOHN CURTIS  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti has stalled an investigation into allegations of improprieties by the city's law and public works directors by refusing to sign the investigator's contract.

Attorney Frederick L. Woeckner, who had begun a review of four sludge removal contracts, said he will not continue his work until his own status is resolved.

"I don't know what the City Council wants to do," Woeckner said. "I suggested they try and work something out with the mayor. I would hate to see the city waste its resources in litigation over it."

Last month, the council awarded Woeckner a \$5,000 contract to investigate allegations that Law Director William Graves and Public Works Director Roy Haack acted improperly in authorizing contracts for sludge removal without council approval.

Vezzetti, however, said Monday that he will not sign the contract. The mayor has charged that the investigation is politically motivated and that Woeckner's appointment involves a conflict of interest. Woeckner was Vezzetti's first law director and his personal attorney.

"It is obvious there was some wrongdoing in the way the contracts were let," Councilman David Roberts said yesterday. He said an investigation could determine if there were merely technical errors or "a serious problem."

Mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said the council will have to take the mayor to court to if it seeks to enforce the contract. Roberts

said of the contract yesterday. "Maybe it is in limbo." And Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said the council has the legal authority to pursue the investigation.

"The council has full, total rights to investigate city business, has full subpoena powers," Ranieri said. "It is incumbent in those powers that there be staff."

Ranieri, a Vezzetti foe who instigated the investigation, said the council will continue discussion of the contract in a closed session at its meeting tonight. He has accused the mayor of trying to cover up the alleged improprieties in the sludge contracts.

Graves prepared three of the four sludge removal contracts, and has admitted to errors on them. He said the errors have been corrected.

In one case, Graves and Haack failed to declare an emergency in order to have sludge shipped to a treatment facility. An emergency was declared after the fact.

Ranieri said work orders and contracts may have been backdated, and said the administration acted improperly in awarding the contracts without council authorization.

The contracts — with Ozonics Corp., Boswell Engineering, Garden State Trucking and A&B Trucking — total about \$100,000 this year. Graves approved the contract with A&B, but subsequently informed the state Attorney General's Office that the firm's bid seemed unrealistically low. The Attorney General's Office then launched an investigation of the trucking company.

## Residential qualifications

Hoboken city officials are going to consider a change in the permit parking ordinance that would let residents with out-of-town driver licenses and registrations obtain residential parking permits. However, that doesn't seem to be a change worth making.

The Hoboken parking permit ordinance is directed primarily against those people who drive in to Hoboken, park on the streets and then take public transportation in to Manhattan. People who don't live or work in the city are subject to penalties for staying too long on the local streets. Some Hoboken motorists are enraged when they see cars with out-of-state plates taking up precious street parking spots. But a complication, according to local officials, is that some of those out-of-state plates are on cars driven by people who also live in Hoboken.

Apparently a considerable number of people who have been insisting they do reside in the city have out-of-city and often out-of-state licenses and registrations.

Rather than changing the city parking permit ordinance, though, Hoboken officials should tell those motorists who choose to live in the city to get their car registered to reflect that fact.

That would seem to be totally consistent with state law. A spokesman for the Motor Vehicles Department says anyone who makes a new principal residence in the state has only 60 days to change his or her car registration and license plate.

The spokesman concedes that proving what constitutes a principal residence is often difficult, and that the department itself, which is not a law enforcement agency, makes no effort to get the law enforced. It also makes no attempt to check the claims of people applying for a registration to determine how much of the year they live at their claimed principal address.

However, it's difficult to think of a Hoboken apartment being used as a secondary residence, such as a vacation or weekend home.

Our guess is that some people merely delay changing their registration out of inertia or to gain an insurance advantage.

No one should expect Hoboken to launch its own drive to enforce the state registration requirement.

But by the same token, there's no reason people evading or stretching the state's registration requirements deserve special protection in Hoboken's residential parking ordinance.

### Landlord fined \$93G

Continued from Page 1

partments. "He always acted like he had these big guns behind him," said Fearon. "It ended up being us against this big system of his."

Skarantonakis' system was set back, however, when in February, after a lengthy legal challenge, the anti-warehouse ordinance was finally cleared for enforcement. The case against Skarantonakis was filed in May and, after numerous postponements, was decided yesterday.

## Landlord fined \$93G for warehousing

By James Efstathiou

A Hoboken landlord was found guilty in municipal court yesterday of warehousing five apartments and was slapped with a \$93,750 fine for the violation.

Aris Skarantonakis, owner of a nine-unit building at 233 Grand Street, Hoboken, requested a stay pending an appeal of the decision rendered by acting Judge Ignacio Perez. Perez ruled that Skarantonakis was in violation of the city's anti-warehousing ordinance by not renting five units in his building.

The city's case asserted that the apartments were vacant for 187 days beginning May 2.

Under the ordinance, an owner has 60 days to rent a vacant apartment unless a waiver is granted by the rent leveling board, according to assistant Hoboken attorney Maureen Schweitzer Parrott who tried the case for Hoboken.

Skarantonakis was fined \$50 per apartment for the first day and \$100 subsequently for each day the five units were vacant during the period, said Schweitzer Parrott.

Skarantonakis' troubles

began when he attempted to persuade tenants to relocate by sending each a letter in March, 1986. The letter stated that he wished to renovate the building and would offer each \$300 for moving expenses, according to Maureen Fearon, a tenant for 14 years who testified against her landlord.

"He told me that he wanted to renovate the building and that I would be entitled to move back at a rent of \$700 per month," said Fearon who had previously paid \$390 a month for her apartment.

Between March and July of 1986, five tenants left their

apartments leaving Fearon and Dianne Balesterri, another tenant, the sole occupants, excluding Skarantonakis who also lives in the building. According to Fearon, Skarantonakis has since gutted the empty apartments.

"After they left, it was just the two of us between him and breaking down walls," said Fearon.

The landlord stepped up his efforts to clear the building, eventually offering Fearon and Balesterri "several thousand" dollars to vacate their a-

See LANDLORD — Page 14.



THOMAS F. VEZZETTI  
Salt was the culprit

### FLUID IN HIS LUNGS

## Vezzetti may leave hospital today

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Proclaiming himself fit and relaxed, Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti said he expected to be released this morning from Christ Hospital in Jersey City after a weekend spent recovering from an accumulation of fluid in his lungs.

The increase of fluid, Vezzetti said in a telephone interview from his hospital bed, apparently was the result of several transgressions of his low-sodium diet.

Vezzetti was hospitalized Fri-

day evening after complaining of shortness of breath. He called Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who drove him to the hospital.

"I was white as a sheet — I couldn't breathe at all," Vezzetti said.

Vezzetti has had arrhythmia, a sometimes irregular heartbeat, for years, and the mayor was placed in a telemetry unit to measure his heartbeat. Administration officials, however, said his heartbeat was completely normal and that the fluid buildup did not affect his heart condition.

Vezzetti's doctor, Howard Rubenstein, refused to comment on the mayor's case.

The mayor, who has been known to stray from his strict low-sodium diet, said he thought the culprits were two quadruple-servings of chicken soup he ate last week at Esposito's, a restaurant and grocer on 12th Street.

"It was so delicious — I can't tell you," Vezzetti said. "I ate four or five soups on Thursday, and I had four the day before." The mayor said he did not realize the soups could contain

salt. "I think Esposito's has the best soups in the United States — but I can't have it anymore," he said, a bit wistfully. He added that he would try to be more disciplined in following his diet in the future.

Dr. Nick Homer, a cardiologist at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, said a fluid build-up could cause problems for someone with arrhythmia.

"Potentially, it could be a serious problem. It depends on his heart rate and the seriousness of

the arrhythmia," Homer said.

"His heart rate was perfectly normal, but his blood pressure was a little high," she said. "So we're going to put up huge diet signs everywhere around the office."

Anthony Esposito, the owner of the restaurant, said he puts no salt in his homemade chicken soup, adding that Vezzetti easily could have picked up the extra sodium elsewhere.

"He eats all over the place — you can't stay in one place when you're mayor," Esposito said.

## Bitter battle raging

### Ranieri's charges divide the council

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night debated the merits of hiring a former city law director to investigate Councilman Robert A. Ranieri's allegations that some city contracts were awarded improperly.

The council argued behind closed doors late into the night, discussing how it would respond to Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti's refusal earlier this week to approve hiring attorney Frederick L. Woeckner.

Vezzetti on Monday balked at signing Woeckner's \$5,000 contract, which the council awarded last month. The council acted at the request of Ranieri, who is accusing the Vezzetti administration of hiring four sludge removal companies without first obtaining council approval.

No council decision had been announced as of press time last night. Officials had said earlier that the council might wait a week or more before deciding what to do.

After opening its regular meeting, the council voted to go into closed session. Sources said the council would discuss charges by Councilman Joseph Della Fave that Woeckner had been too involved in previous sewer-related matters as the city's law director to be an impartial attorney.

Woeckner disputed those charges in an interview before last night's meeting, but said he was prepared to withdraw from the job if he thought he was a "roadblock" to the investigation.

"If I'm the only roadblock, I would certainly be willing to step aside," he said.

Administration officials say that hiring Woeckner was a politically motivated move by Ranieri, a frequent Vezzetti foe who is mentioned as a mayoral candidate in 1989.

"He wants to be mayor," Vezzetti said of Ranieri. "It's all political horse."

Ranieri has called Vezzetti's refusal to sign Woeckner's contract a coverup and he contends it is the city's responsibility to investigate itself.

The contracts at issue involve four companies: A & B Trucking, Boswell Engineering Co. of Ridgefield Park, Garden State Laboratories and Ozonics Corp. Three of the disputed contracts were prepared by city Law Director William Graves.

Graves has admitted technical errors in the initial stages of preparing the contracts, but maintains that the errors were corrected and that no problems exist with the contracts.

The controversy is developing in the shadow of a complex series of lawsuits brought by the local firm of Mayo Lynch & Associates against the city and Ozonics. Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City on Oct. 24, 1986, ruled that Vezzetti was correct in refusing to approve payment on a \$2 million contract with Mayo Lynch to design the city's secondary sewage treatment plant. In the same decision, Humphreys invalidated the contract, and Mayo Lynch responded with a host of lawsuits.

Sources said Della Fave had planned to attack Woeckner for his part in approving city contracts with Mayo Lynch, and for former clients Woeckner had. He represented Joe Lynch, the top executive of Mayo Lynch, in an unrelated case, and was the attorney for seven demoted police officers in an action against the city.

Woeckner said he was not responsible for previous city contracts with Mayo Lynch, and said his previous jobs representing Lynch and the police would not affect his impartiality in the new city post.

Tuesday, November 10, 1987



# Hoboken parade was badly bungled

J.J. 11/7/87

A lot of tricks were played at local residents who attended Hoboken's Ragamuffin Parade on Halloween — and it was no treat.

Participants could have easily forgiven the fact that the parade started about 40 minutes late, leaving parents to calm already restless children. What is unforgivable is the lack of concern parade sponsors showed for our children's welfare.

The parade began at 14th and Washington Street, a two-way thoroughfare. Traffic on the avenue was never stopped in one lane during the parade. This meant that marchers had to remain huddled to one side of the yellow line, as cars, buses, and vans whizzed just inches away.

I saw no police on duty to divert traffic until the parade reached Eighth Street. Cars crossed intersections in front of the marchers and divided the parade several times. Needless to say parents began to strap children into carriages, carry them in their arms or grip their hands, fearing the little ones might stray into oncoming traffic.

The traffic on the other side did occasionally come to a halt. Motorists stopped their cars in the middle of the street to greet marchers. One guy left his van idling to jump out and say "hello."

What appalled me most was the scene at the Hoboken fire house on 13th and Washington Street, where a Santa Claus atop a fire engine threw candy to children. Since the firehouse was on the same side as the moving vehicles, the children had to dash between the flowing traffic to get the treats. What did the firemen do to remedy this? They began throwing the candy over the traffic to the crowd on the other side.

The judging at the little league

field posed a second hazard. The event started nicely. The Hoboken High School Band played as cheerleaders and strutters danced. Costume-clad contestants waltzed passed judges on the field. Winners were pulled aside to collect their prizes.

In the end, only the strong survived to claim their rewards. While the winners waited patiently in the corner, an unruly mob began to storm the prize area. Some of those chosen never collected their prizes. They left empty-handed, fearing their children would be hurt in the tug of war that took place.

This happened at last year's judging too. Parade sponsors should try issuing "collection tickets" to the winners as they are selected to insure the tickets can be traded for a prize rather than a push.

And parade sponsors have to plan ahead to insure the safety of our children during such outdoor events for children. I don't remember these problems existing at any other parades in our city.

At the Memorial Day Parade, when our police and firemen and city officials march, you can bet advance towing notices are posted, tickets issued, traffic supervised and rerouted and unruly behavior from the crowd quashed.

But the Ragamuffin Parade. That's only kid stuff. — HOBOKEN MOTHER

## COUNCIL'S TARGET

### Graves relaxed as storm swirls

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

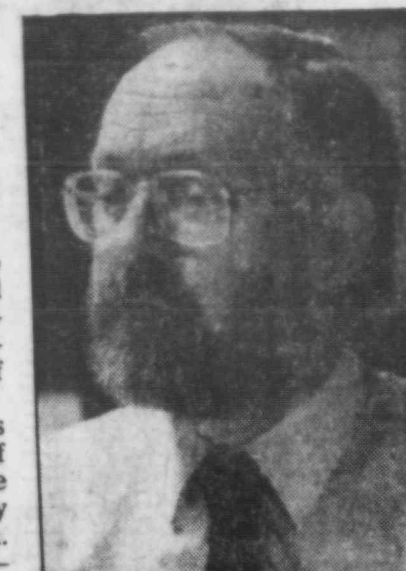
HOBOKEN—Hands locked behind his head, leaning back in his chair, peering over his cluttered desk, city Law Director William Graves is the picture of nonchalance.

"If I can defend a woman who beat to death her 3-year-old son," the former public defender says calmly, "I can certainly defend the city of Hoboken."

But Graves, who has in his year-long tenure won millions of dollars for the city in favorable judgments, is being forced by City Councilman Robert A. Ranieri to do something else — defend himself.

In the face of allegations from Ranieri that Graves improperly executed four sludge-removal contracts, the City Council last month hired former Law Director Frederick L. Woeckner to investigate.

Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti refused to sign Woeckner's contract last week, and the council argued until nearly 2:30 a.m. at last week's meeting



WILLIAM GRAVES  
Hoboken is his client

over what to do about it. The council is expected to renew the discussion at tomorrow night's meeting. Ranieri, an ardent Vezetti foe, said it is possible the council will declare a formal investigation and hire

Please see GRAVES Page 16

## GRAVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Woeckner on it's own, without Vezetti's approval.

Graves, the center of the maelstrom, appears unruffled by it all. The 48-year-old former Newark assistant corporation counsel has maintained that only technical mistakes — "glitches," he calls them — were made in preparing the contracts.

Ranieri's attack comes after a string of impressive victories by Graves on the city's behalf, including:

□ Winning a \$9.3 million judgment against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in an insurance suit over a pier that was damaged by fire.

□ Coming to separate settlements with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency over the city's decrepit sewer system that saved the city from paying some \$40 million in fines.

□ Obtaining a federal grant of nearly \$30 million for rejuvenating that system.

□ Coming to an agreement with the Board of Education in which the board agreed to a cut of \$2.25 million in its budget request.

"Every case he has tried has been successful," mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano says. The bespectacled, bearded law director accumulated much of his courtroom acumen from his previous jobs as an attorney for

Newark, and as public defender. Out of four people he defended against murder charges, three escaped death row, and the fourth is confined there.

Graves' record here is one that even his opponents find hard to fault. But for Ranieri, Graves has been too protective of the Vezetti administration for the city's good.

"He is beholden to his employer, Ms. Fabiano," Ranieri said with thinly-masked disdain.

"His primary interest is not in protecting the city government, but in protecting the city administration. 'I would observe that he is a good soldier in the defense of the administration,'" Ranieri continued. "But I don't believe that should be his prime concern."

Ranieri concedes that two of the disputed contracts — with Garden State Laboratories Inc. of Irvington and Boswell Engineering Co. of Ridgefield Park — involve technical errors made in good faith that can easily be rectified.

But in two other situations, involving A & B Trucking of Sewall and Ozonics Inc. of Freehold, Graves has left "heavy questions," according to Ranieri.

The councilman charges that Graves allowed both companies to work for the city without contracts — A & B Trucking for six months, and Garden State for two years. The companies were treating or carrying loads of sludge for the city.

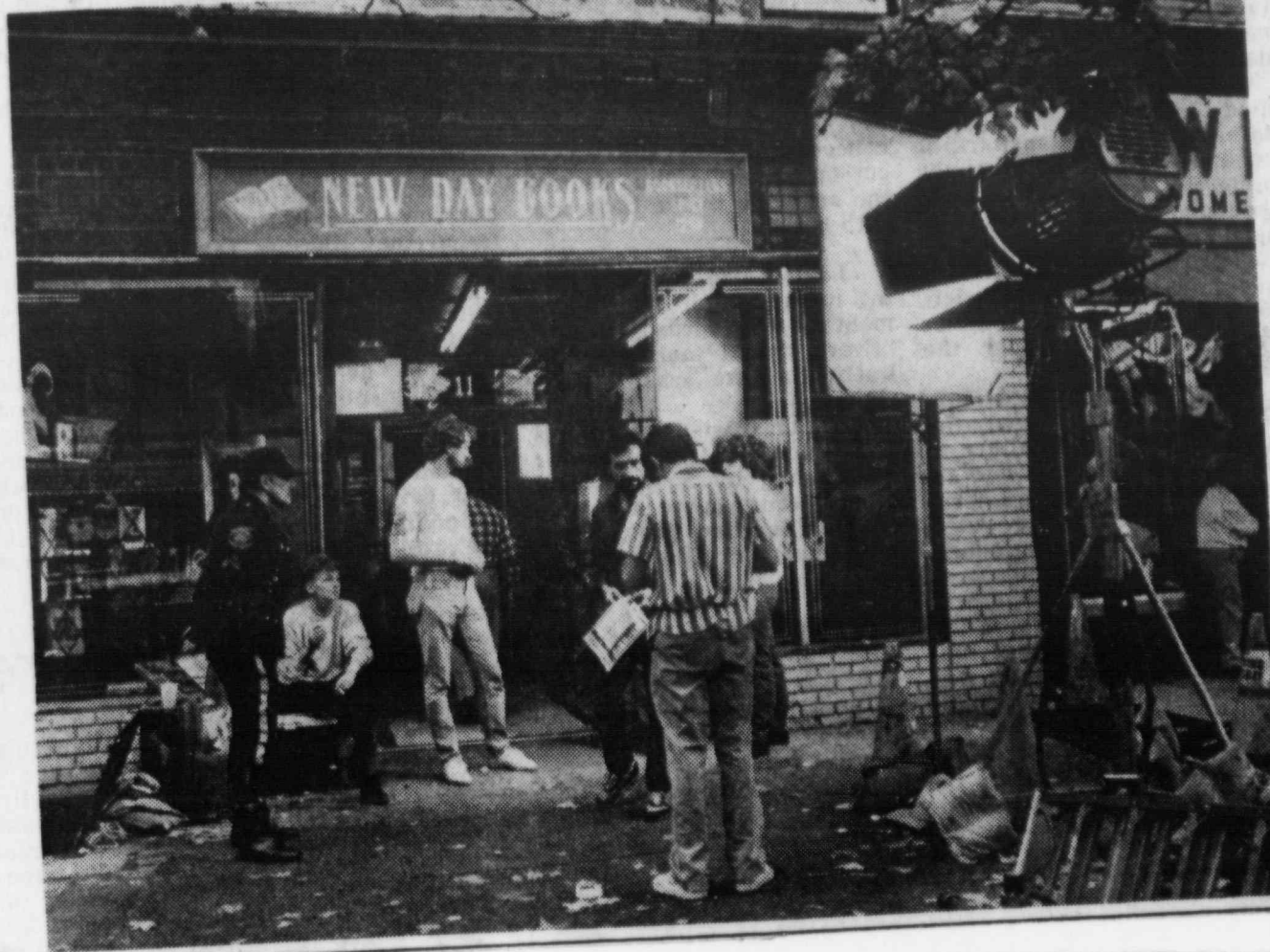
"This is not a glitch. This is a government within a government," Ranieri charged.

Graves, for his part, admitted technical errors but said no harm has been done.

"It was sloppy and it shouldn't have been done," he said. "But no real harm was done to anyone, because in all instances, services were rendered. That's why they put erasers on pencils."

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## Hoboken storefront used as New York movie set



Film crew prepares for shooting on Washington Street in Hoboken

By Dominick Calicchio

Washington Street in Hoboken apparently looks more like the Upper West Side of Manhattan than does the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Set designers for the film, "Crossing Delancey," starring Amy Irving, have transformed a vacant storefront between Fifth and Sixth streets into an old-fashioned Manhattan bookstore. Producers said the Hoboken set, where filming began Monday, looks more authentic than anything they could find across the Hudson.

"They all look like Steve's Ice Cream," said producer Michael Nozik, referring to the Manhattan locations considered for the film.

Filmmakers said the building at 518 Washington St. was selected to be "New Day Books," the fictional store where Irving's character works, because much of the shelving needed to store books was already in place. The building had housed Unicorn Books until 1984 and has been vacant ever since.

Ironically a real bookstore, Rogers & Cogswell Books, is only two doors south of the movie set. Co-owner Maureen Kennedy said many long-time customers, seeing stacks of books in the windows of 518, were concerned that a competing store was moving in.

"Most people were, like, upset," said Kennedy. "They said, 'How can they open another bookstore next door to you?'"

The filming two doors away has instead been a minor boon to Rogers & Cogswell, she said, because members of the film's technical crew have stopped in to browse while waiting for

shooting to begin.

Kennedy said she was one of the lucky observers to spot Irving's husband, director Steven Spielberg, among the crowd at Monday's session.

"He's taller than I thought," she said.

Bert Laiken, owner of the L. & G. Laiken Electrical Contractors at 526 Washington St., said his is another business to have benefited from the film crew's presence. He said technicians have purchased light bulbs, electrical tape and other supplies.

"They've been nice, polite, and I hope they make a good movie," he said.

This week marks the second film-related assignment for Hoboken Police Sgt. Ronald Clark. The officer said he was on duty a few years ago during shooting for the gangster film, "Once Upon a Time in America," and had coffee with the film's star, Robert DeNiro.

"He was ace," Clark said. "Crossing Delancey" is at least the second Hudson County experience for actress Irving. Film fans will recall that scenes for her film, "Voices," were shot in the Stanley Theater in Jersey City.

Assistant director Frank Serrano said Irving portrays "Izzy," a young woman from Manhattan's Lower East Side who works in the bookstore. She falls for a famous author while her mother tries to match her with a local pickle dealer.

What results is "a little Lower East Side Jewish romantic comedy," Serrano said.

The film also stars Peter Riegert, Jeron Krabbe and Riezl Bozyk. The screenplay was written by Susan Sandler, who wrote the off-Broadway play of the same name.

## Hoboken seeks lawsuit over sludge

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken Law Department is asking the City Council for permission to file a lawsuit against a sewage contractor, charging that the firm has failed to live up to its municipal contract.

Hoboken is charging that Ozonics, Inc. of Freehold violated its contract by failing to transport sludge from the municipal sewage treatment plant to landfill facilities.

The city, which subsequently hired an independent sludge hauler to transport the solid waste to a Pennsylvania landfill, is asking for damages due to the alleged violation to the \$1.44 million Ozonics contract.

City officials have not specified the damages they are seeking from Ozonics.

Representatives of Ozonics were not available to comment on Hoboken's charges. Last week, the firm threatened to sue the city for \$50,000 and remove sludge processing equipment at the sewage plant, if back payments from September and October were not approved by the City Council.

The council last Wednesday authorized the payments and Ozonics has withdrawn its legal threat, said Hoboken Law Director William Graves. He said the city would have filed its suit yesterday if Ozonics had not withdrawn its complaint.

The Ozonics pact is one of four sewage contracts under in-

vestigation by the council for irregularities to the state Local Public Contracts Law.

The Ozonics contract, approved by the City Council in 1984, authorizes the firm to process city sludge and transport the byproduct to landfill facilities for disposal.

However, after the state Department of Environmental Protection closed the Hackensack Meadows dumping facility for sludge disposal, the city contracted A&B Trucking to haul the material to a landfill in Pennsylvania. Officials said Ozonics would no longer transport the material due to the increased cost of shipping.

But City Councilman Robert Ranieri, a critic of the administration of Mayor Thomas

Vezetti and an advocate of the probe, said there are no provisions in the Ozonics contract authorizing the city to pay additional hauling costs.

Ranieri further contends the entire contract is invalid because the original recipients, James Federline, Inc. of Maryland, subcontracted the project to Ozonics without City Council approval.

The City Council is also investigating the A&B contract, charging that the administration authorized the pact before council consent was given.

The City Council is attempting to hire former Hoboken Law Director Frederick Woeckner to investigate the four sewage pacts but Vezetti has refused to sign his contract.

## Woman says nun wants her money

By Dominick Calicchio

A homeless woman in Hoboken says the operator of the city's only shelter tried to confiscate her Social Security funds in exchange for food and a place to sleep.

Sister Norberta Hunnewinkle, operator of the Bishop John Mahurter Shelter, 300 Bloomfield St., denies the charges.

The homeless woman, Estelle Boyington, 66, told police Monday that Sister Hunnewinkle demanded that Boyington sign over her \$341 November Social Security check to the

shelter. Boyington said she was also asked to sign over a \$1,355 Veterans Administration check.

Hunnewinkle said Boyington probably made the complaint to police out of anger for being removed from the shelter last week. She said Boyington had remained in the shelter past the 30-day limit and hadn't been saving her money in accordance with shelter rules.

Hunnewinkle said she requests that each person accepted into the shelter maintain a regular bank account or have the shelter save money for them.

"The whole philosophy of the shelter is that we can help fully work with the people to get them back into the mainstream of society," said Hunnewinkle.

All money collected in the shelter account is returned to the homeless persons when they find places to live, she said, and the homeless are given receipts for each deposit.

None of the money collected from the homeless is used to operate the shelter, she said; expenses are paid solely through donations.

A spokesman for the Social Security office in Hoboken said

the shelter isn't officially designated as a legal payee for monthly checks.

The agency may authorize checks to be turned over to a family member or guardian of a recipient deemed to be mentally or physically incapable of handling the money properly, said the spokesman.

Designation of the payee comes only after interviews with the recipient and the guardian, and after an examination by a physician, the spokesman said.

Hoboken police are investigating Boyington's charges against Hunnewinkle.

## HOBOKEN

### \$93G fine is levied

#### Landlord penalized for apt. vacancies

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—In the biggest fine yet levied under the city's anti-warehousing ordinance, a building owner was ordered to pay \$93,750 by a municipal judge yesterday.

The fine was imposed on Aris Skarantonakis for keeping five apartments in his nine-unit structure at 243 Grand St. unrented for 187 days. Under the ordinance, building owners must rent vacated apartments within 60 days of vacancy or apply for a waiver.

Acting Municipal Judge Ignacio Perez, a former Jersey City tenant lawyer, said Skarantonakis had done neither and is liable for the fines.

Skarantonakis, who lives on the ground floor, could not be reached for comment last night. His telephone number is unlisted.

City tenant activist Thomas Olivieri said he expected the landlord to appeal the decision. He added that he was delighted at the ruling.

"This is by far the largest fine ever issued against an owner in the history of Hoboken," Olivieri said. "The next largest was \$5,000."

Olivieri has spent the last couple of months helping the remaining three tenants in the building fight a possible condominium conversion there.

Skarantonakis' case had been pending for six months due to delays in the Municipal Court, and Olivieri had been pressuring the court to move more quickly on the case.

The ordinance, written by City Councilman Joseph Della Fave 1½ years ago, has been the subject of a lengthy and complex legal battle. The law first was challenged in August 1986, by a local developers' group, which called it unconstitutional. But a judge in U.S. District Court in Newark dismissed the case last November, and the city began enforcing the law in February.

However, cases are pending against the city's law and a similar Jersey City ordinance. The cases are to be heard by Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

Humphreys is expected to decide if the cases against the cities' laws can be heard together.

Warehousing is commonly used by landlords to raise the value of their property when selling to developers, who convert the buildings into condominiums or cooperatives. Empty apartments save the developer the time and expense of evicting tenants before conversion.

## P.A. gets deadline on Hoboken piers

By John Petrick

Hudson County's top judge yesterday gave the Port Authority 30 days to negotiate terms to end its lease of three Hoboken piers that were to be the site of a \$500 million development.

If no progress is made after 30 days, Superior Court Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys will appoint a mediator.

Eleven Hoboken citizens from People Advocating Safe Solutions went before the judge yesterday to try to evict the Port Authority from the piers, charging the agency broke its lease, which called for a marine terminal that would have generated revenue for the city.

The project never got off the ground.

The P.A. retains control of the piers for the next 15 years under the 1952 lease. Hoboken

receives \$70,000 rent annually from the agency. Last month, the P.A. announced it would pull out of the site and scrap its \$500 million Hudson Center development.

The P.A. and the city began negotiating a restated lease in 1984 that would have allowed a massive, mixed-use development that included several high-rise office buildings, 1,600 housing units, hotels, shops and restaurants. Negotiations broke off last year in the midst of a controversy over \$9.5 million in insurance funds, however.

Port Authority attorney Michael Jankoski suggested to Humphreys yesterday that the agency is reluctant to abandon its lease, having invested some \$15 million in preliminary plans for the property.

See P.A. — Page 8.

## P.A. gets deadline on Hoboken piers

Continued from Page 1

Humphreys questioned his position, noting that it runs contrary to last month's announcement and that it appears the P.A. has not invested in the property since 1960. He said he had "difficulty with the Port Authority holding the property hostage" much longer.

The P.A. removed the aging wood structure that covered Pier A and currently uses the site for parking. The other two

piers have been unused for more than a decade.

The attorney said the P.A. might be willing to surrender its lease on certain unspecified conditions.

The Port Authority is likely to expect compensation from the city for giving up the remaining years of its lease.

Representatives of PASS, Hoboken and the Port Authority are to contact Humphreys within the next month on the negotiations' progress.



# \$100G sought from D'Amelio

By John Petrick

Hoboken officials challenged yesterday the propriety of a real estate sale involving former city attorney Salvatore D'Amelio.

They asked Superior Court Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys to give the city the profits D'Amelio made from that sale.

D'Amelio and two business partners bought property at 201-203 Bloomfield St., Hoboken, on May 30 last year for \$265,000.

They then contracted to sell the property the following month. According to the contract, the sale was contingent on the sellers' obtaining all zoning approvals and building permits for the planned construction of a nine-unit residential building.

D'Amelio, under the contract, received \$100,000 from the sale.

City Zoning Officer Alfred Arczzo gave the buyers preliminary zoning and plan review and issued building permits.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti fired D'Amelio on Oct. 7, 1986. While the sale was not consummated until three weeks after his dismissal, the plaintiffs argued that D'Amelio was still city attorney when he signed the contract.

City attorney William Graves argued before Humphreys that D'Amelio's signing such a contract while a public attorney gave the appearance of impropriety.

Graves said that a "reasonably informed citizen" reading about the transaction in a newspaper "would question it."

Graves cited a section of the bar's Rules of Conduct, which were adopted by the Supreme Court. It states:

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The attorney also argued that although D'Amelio did not divert any money from the city's pocket into his own, professional conduct rules allow the city to receive monetary damages because of the defendant's "breach of duty" to Hoboken.

William Shulman, attorney for D'Amelio, argued that preliminary zoning approvals were actually obtained by John Saracco, one of the buyers. D'Amelio, he said, never represented the buyers in obtaining zoning approval. "Does this mean that anybody who is a city attorney is not allowed to buy or sell property? ... Are we so august? So shrouded by supreme cloaks?"

## Romano resigns his housing post

J.J. 11/13/87

By Bill Campbell

Long-time Hoboken politician Anthony Romano yesterday resigned his seat on the seven-member municipal Housing Authority.

Romano's departure, effective immediately, leaves the City Council with two seats to fill on the board. Commissioner Clayton Anderson, who has served in a holdover capacity since May, will be replaced by the council later this month.

City Council President Pat Pasculli said he was surprised by Romano's sudden resignation and would not speculate on whom the council would nominate for either of the vacancies.

The commissioners are the

policy-making arm of the Housing Authority, which maintains about 1,500 federally subsidized apartments for low-income families and senior citizens.

Five of the commissioners are appointed by the City Council, while the other two are appointed by the mayor and the governor. Commissioners serve a five-year term and do not receive a salary.

Earlier this month, Mayor Thomas Vezzetti appointed Felix Rivera, a Port Authority police officer and unsuccessful Board of Education candidate, to a seat on the board. Rivera's seat, which does not need council approval, had been occupied by Romano.

See ROMANO — Page 16.

## Romano resigns his housing post

Continued from Page 1

pied by Matthew Pastore, whose term had expired.

Romano was unavailable for comment on his resignation. His two-sentence letter of resignation to Pasculli did not specify his reason for leaving.

Until last year, Romano was considered by many to be an influential but highly controversial political figure. He served three terms as the First Ward city councilman, while also serving as secretary to the Board of Education. He was also an unsuccessful mayoral candidate in 1977 against then incumbent Steve Cappelletto.

Romano abruptly resigned from the council in January 1986 amidst reports he had moved out of the ward, and resigned from the school board a year later.

Last month, the council stripped the Housing Authority of redevelopment powers in an effort to speed up a plan to develop several parcels of city-owned land along Observer Highway between Garden Street and Willow Avenue.

The council members accorded themselves redevelopment powers and are currently seeking bids from developers to construct a 450-unit apartment project on Observer Highway.

## Hoboken delays 17th Street improvement

By CHRISTOPHER AVE Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night again delayed a decision on a proposal by Hartz Mountain Industries to improve 17th Street.

In tabling the ordinance, which would have eased traffic to and from a Hartz office development planned in neighboring Weehawken, council members said they would devise a set

of city improvements that the company would have to finance.

The demands for improvements will be added to the ordinance as amendments, council members said. The final draft of the ordinance will be voted on within 30 days.

The council agreed to the delay — the second in the last five days for the proposal — after hearing a presentation by the state Department of Transportation about the state's traffic construction plans. A state planner told the council that a long-awaited road around the city's western perimeter might not be constructed for as long as 10 years.

"In the best of circumstances, it's going to take a long time," DOT planner Joe Martin told the council. "You've been talking about this road for 30 years — I can't deliver it in 30 days."

Council members said before the meeting that they hoped the state could make a firm commitment to the road, which is expected to ease traffic through the city.

Councilmen Robert A. Ranieri, Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman said that neither Hartz nor the state was promising enough in return for their approval of the street improvements that are expected to

add to the city's rush-hour traffic. The councilmen said they had devised separate sets of possible amendments to the ordinance.

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Opponents of the Hartz plan pointed out that the figure assumes that between 30 and 50 percent of those employees

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## Drayton's appointment may not be legal

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Drayton, a police officer and member of the local school board, was appointed to a five-year term by a 6-to-2 vote. He replaces Clayton Anderson, whose term had expired.

The city's Law Department said that Drayton's appointment violates a state law which prohibits having more than one municipal employee on the board of commissioners.

Under the statute, NJSA 55:14-6, "not more than one officer or employee of the municipality" may serve on the commission. Edwin Duroy, an elementary school teacher and City Council member, has two years remaining on his term as a commissioner.

"The law in this instance seems very clear," said assistant city attorney Thomas Callagy. "Both Duroy and Drayton are employed by the city and they can't serve on the Housing Authority unless one of them resigns his municipal job."

Plans to swear Drayton in yesterday as a commissioner were put on hold pending an official determination of his status.

The appointment marks the second time in two years Housing Authority commissioners have become embroiled in a dispute over municipal job holders. In 1985, a controversy erupted when two members of the City Council served on the Housing Authority at the same time.

Commissioner Angelo Valente was appointed to the vacant Sixth Ward council seat while First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano served as the council's delegate on the authority.

The dispute, however, became moot within weeks when Valente lost a bid to retain the council seat, leaving Romano as the only city employee on the authority.

Yesterday, neither Drayton nor City Council President Pat Pasculli

were available to comment on the appointment. Duroy was also not available for comment concerning reports that he would step down from his seat on the authority.

The appointment was supported by Pasculli, Duroy and council members Robert Ranieri, Steve Cappelletto, Dave Roberts and E. Norman Wilson.

Councilmen Joe Della Fave and Thomas Newman opposed the appointment. Councilwoman Helen Cunningham, who unsuccessfully nominated another person for the post, left the meeting before the vote.

Drayton is the second person this month to be appointed to a term on the authority. Mayor Thomas Vezzetti appointed Felix Rivera, a Port Authority

police officer, to the authority on November 2 to fill the seat occupied by Matthew Pastore.

The council is expected to fill Romano's vacant seat on the authority next month. Romano submitted his resignation to Pasculli in a letter last week.

The commissioners are the policy making arm of the Housing Authority, which maintains about 1,500 federally subsidized apartments for low income families and senior citizens.

Five of the commissioners are appointed by the City Council, while the other two are appointed by the mayor and governor. Commissioners served a five-year term and do not receive a salary.

Chiusi, at the council's request, said he has identified \$15,000 from the 1987 budget which can be used to fund the program. He said he has outstanding bills from September, including back rent payments.

Continued from Page 1  
Council may give CUNA \$15G  
He criticized us for something and then goes ahead and does the same thing."  
Ranieri, who as a state assemblyman two years ago hired Garcia as an Hispanic affairs advisor, said CUNA and the Hispanic community have received "second rate" treatment from the city, and believes Garcia's program warrants funding. He said he already has the necessary two-thirds council majority to authorize the budget line-item for CUNA. If the administration does not see fit to fund this program, we have the option to do it ourselves," he said.  
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### SHOW GOES ON

## Macy's parade boss gets set

### All-night task to prepare 30 floats

By CHRISTOPHER AVE Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Manfred Bass, the architect of the legendary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tomorrow in Manhattan, has a full itinerary.

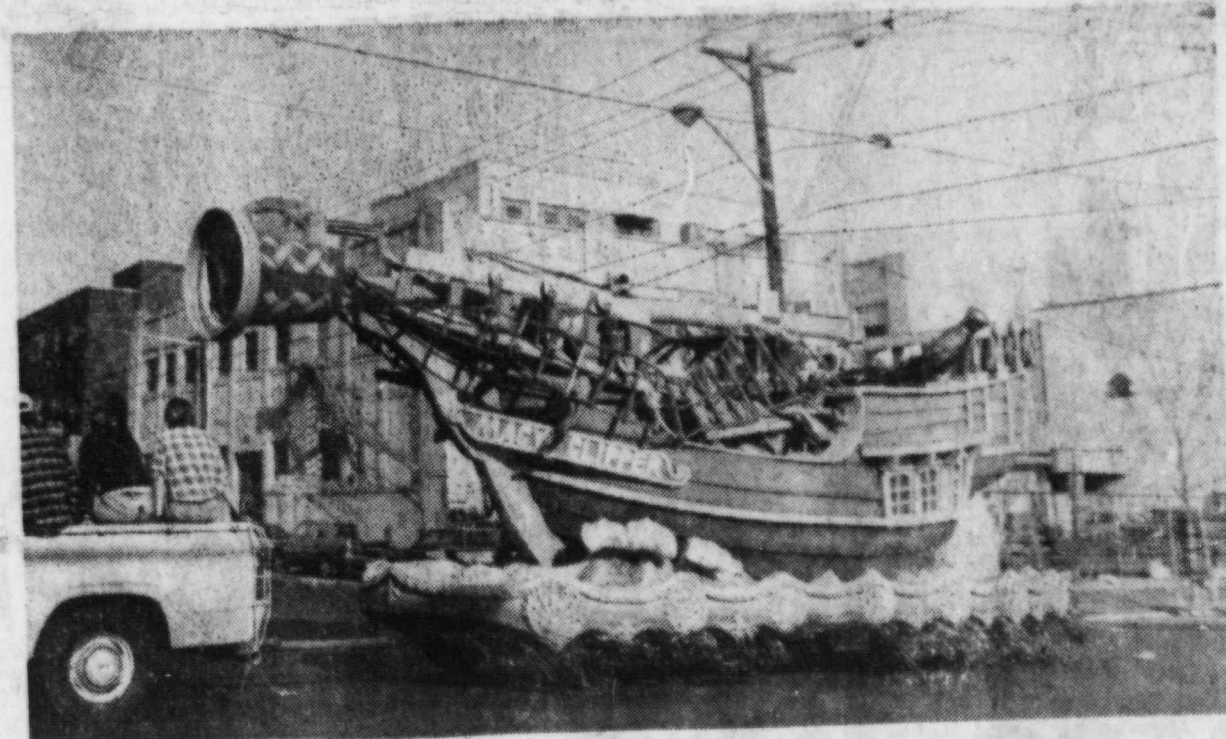
He's got a telephone interview in ten minutes, a reporter standing in front of him now and — not the least of his worries — some 30 mammoth floats that have to be packaged and driven to Manhattan in the next 48 hours.

But Bass, who has built the parade's floats in his studio on Willow Avenue and 15th St. since 1960, wants everyone to know that the parade's the thing.

"That's not important," he says of his 27-year record. "The parade has been going since 1927. It's the longest-running show on Broadway."

Bass and his crew of 20 will spend today packing up the floats for a midnight run through a closed-off tube of the Lincoln Tunnel tonight.

The floats — including a Peanut butter ice cream, an American Indian, Spiderman, Snoopy and the traditional Santa Claus —



A float for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade heads out of Hoboken yesterday on the way to Manhattan. USA TODAY SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

will be driven to the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West, where Bass and company will work all night to get them ready for tomorrow morning's start.

The parade will stretch some two-and-a-half miles through

Manhattan, requiring a total of 100,000 cubic feet of helium and 2,500 Macy's employees to keep the whole thing going. And, Bass points out, his work will continue through the parade and after it is over.

"When the last unit, Santa

Claus, is assembled, the first unit is already being dismantled," he says.

And does Bass ever get tired of his job?  
He cracks a smile and answers: "Why get tired?"

## Council may fund agency that state deemed unworthy

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken City Council is expected to authorize the use of local taxpayer dollars to fund a controversial youth program which was previously denied state money for not providing proper services.

The council next month will appropriate \$15,000 from reserves in the 1987 municipal budget to fund the embattled Ciudadanos Unidos pro Nueva Accion program until the end of the year, according to council members.

CUNA, which has offices at 918-920 Willow Avenue, has been hit hard financially this year, and its executive director, Juan Garcia, has been under investigation by local and county law enforcement agencies.

But Council President Pat Pasculli said he has authorized city Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi to identify reserve items in the municipal budget which could then be transferred to pay for CUNA activities. Councilman Robert Ranieri said he will sponsor the resolution to fund the group.

CUNA, which received a six-month \$15,000 grant from the Hoboken Community Development Agency in March, has not received funding since August, according to Garcia.

Garcia has been lobbying the council for more than a month to fund his program, and last week he presented the council a petition with more than 2,700 signatures of residents who he said support the program.

The organization became the center of controversy last February when the group was denied an \$18,394 grant by the state Department of Community Affairs and a \$56,559 matching grant by the state Division of Youth and Family Services for "offering a low level of service," according to a DCA spokesman.

Garcia, who says he is an active Democrat, said the decision to halt state funds was a political move by the Republican administration in Trenton.

This summer, after receiving the CDA grant, Garcia became the target of an investigation by local police for possible misuse of the funds when it was discovered that he lived in the CUNA headquarters.

Garcia, who was convicted in the past on charges of rape and narcotics possession, said he lives at the CUNA "to be available 24 hours a day to the community." He denied his residing in the office violated the terms of the grant and said his past convictions "help me in talking to the kids and dealing with their problems."

Plans to fund CUNA drew sharp criticism from Mayor Thomas Vezzetti who vowed to do "anything I can" to prevent the allocation of city funds for the program.

"I think it's totally unfair to strip the city budget to pay for a program for Juan Garcia," Vezzetti said. "We already have one of the highest tax rates in the state and I don't think it's fair for the council to squander municipal funds to pay off political debts to Garcia."

Mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said providing back payments to CUNA was "totally inappropriate" in light of Ranieri's investigation of city contracts which he claimed the administration improperly back-dated.

"How many sides of his mouth can Ranieri talk out of?" she

See COUNCIL — Page 10.

## Fast move thwarts arson attempt

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A quick-thinking tenant saved his Hoboken home Sunday from becoming the latest entry in the city's grim history of arson fires.

Before city firefighters could arrive at 333 Jefferson St., fourth-floor resident Frank Rossano raced down the stairs and stomped out a fire burning in the building's vestibule at midnight.

Hoboken police and fire officials said some newspapers and old books in the hallway were deliberately set ablaze.

Rossano, 29, a construction worker, said it was the first fire he could recall after living in the building for seven years.

"My daughter, Michele, smelled smoke in the hall and I started searching around, knocking on people's doors," Rossano said.

Moments later Rossano determined where the smoke was coming from and ran down the stairs, he said.

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door," he said. Burn marks on the vestibule floor and on the bottom of the building's inside front door were still visible yesterday.

Rossano said seven families live in the building, with one apartment vacant since last month.

The building was recently purchased by Ray Fiore, a Hoboken realtor.

Fiore said yesterday that police and fire officials did not notify him about the fire.

The Jefferson Street building is a rundown four-story tenement, similar to other buildings in the city where fires — both intentional and accidental — have started.

On Oct. 9 four people died in an arson fire at 121 Willow Ave.

The Hudson County's Prosecutor's Office still has no suspect.

Between 1978 and 1982, 28 people were killed in arson fires in Hoboken. No suspects were ever arrested.

In the period from 1973 to 1982, mile-square Hoboken had more fires with 10 or more deaths than New York or Los Angeles.



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See ROMANO — Page 16.

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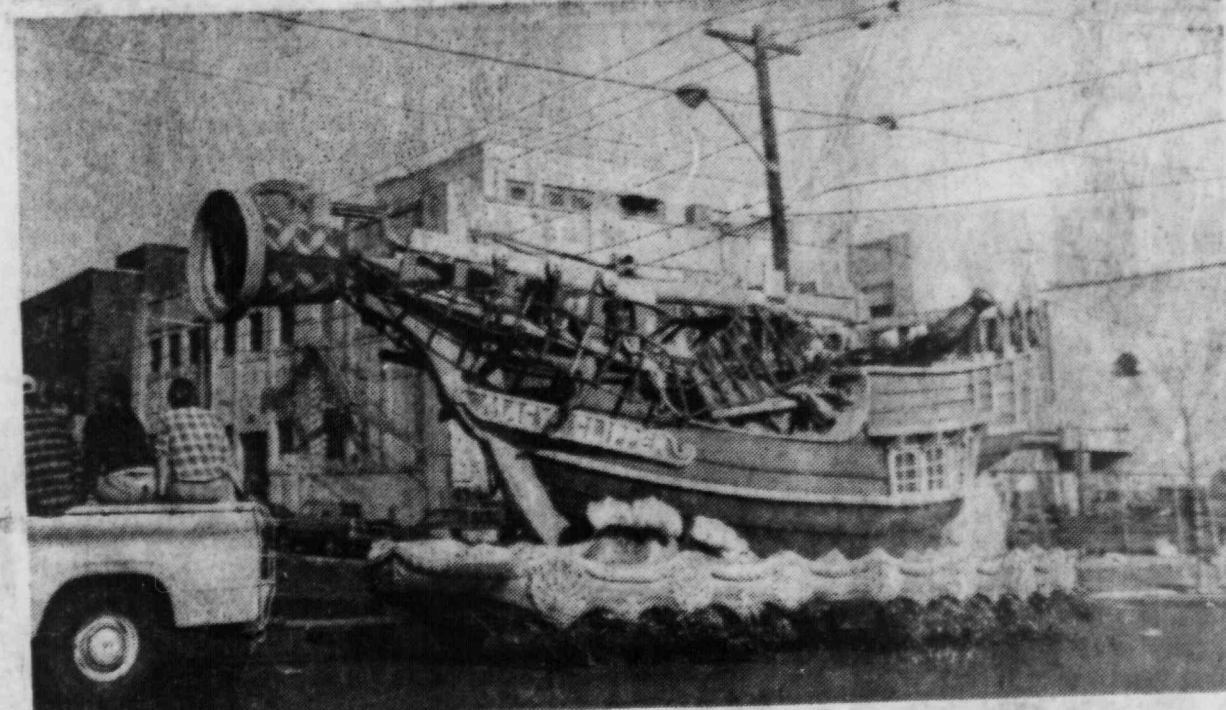
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See COUNCIL — Page 10.

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The building was recently purchased by Ray Fiore, a Hoboken realtor.

Fiore said yesterday that police and fire officials did not notify him about the fire.

The Jefferson Street building is a rundown four-story tenement, similar to other build-

ings in the city where fires — both intentional and accidental — have started.

On Oct. 9 four people died in an arson fire at 121 Willow Ave.

The Hudson County's Prosecutor's Office still has no suspect.

Between 1978 and 1982, 28 people were killed in arson fires in Hoboken. No suspects were ever arrested.

In the period from 1973 to 1982, mile-square Hoboken had more fires with 10 or more deaths than New York or Los Angeles.



# Council votes to defy Vezzetti, presses probe

By Jim Kopchans

The Hoboken City Council has defied the city's mayor and pressed ahead with an investigation into alleged irregularities involving four sludge removal contracts.

The council voted 6-to-3 to authorize a full investigation and to name controversial attorney Fred Woeckner to serve as its special counsel.

The members had voted last month to hire Woeckner as a special advisor on the legality of paying bills on the four contracts.

The vote followed a stormy debate between Councilman Robert Ranieri, supporting the probe, and Council Members Thomas Newman, Joseph Della Fave and Helen Cunningham, opposed.

Last night's vote freezes Mayor Thomas Vezzetti out of the investigation. Last month, the council had directed the mayor to approve a personal services contract with Woeckner for up to \$5,000 and allow him to begin reviewing the contracts.

Instead, Vezzetti balked and refused to sign the contract, announcing that he felt Woeckner was a poor choice to conduct any review because of his role in representing Mayo Lynch Inc. in an illegal city contract to design the city's secondary sewerage plant.

The four contracts in question stretch over the past three years and relate to sewage level testings and sludge removal at the city's sewer plant. The firms involved are Ozonics Inc., Boswell Engineering, A.P. Trucking Co., and Garden State Laboratories.

Ranieri said many of the contracts appear to have been signed but not dated, and that some of the work the firms performed appeared to have been done by the firms prior to the contracts' approval.

Each side accused the other of stretching reasons to fit personal political positions.

"We have more than enough information to warrant a full allegation. The mayor has refused to accept this. Call this 'stonewalling' if you like; I call it a cover-up," Ranieri said.

"What you (Ranieri) have done is take a simple matter of procedures and inflate it to your purposes to create a 'sludge-gate,' here," Newman said.

"In my mind there appears

to be a 'government within a government' operating in this city," Ranieri said, explaining that he believed individual directors make deals and sign contracts without seeking council approval.

Both city attorney William Graves and Director of Public Works Roy Haack, answered questions from council members, explaining that the work was based on previous contracts and personal services agreements rather than the new contracts.

After the vote, the council voted down a resolution, by 6-to-3, that would have directed Graves to investigate whether Woeckner and his wife, Doris Palumbo, should be held responsible for fines of up to \$10,000 for violating the city's disclosure laws regarding zoning variance applications.

Newman, who sponsored the resolution, said he was prompted by a decision by Superior Court Judge Dorothea O'Wefing that said Palumbo was not correctly identified by developers Daniel Gans and George Vallone as a 10 percent owner of a housing development proposed for 16th Street.

In the decision, Wefing said the variance applicants could be fined anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for the infraction. Wefing did not call for any action against the developers because she said the omission was not meant for malicious purpose.

Woeckner said he believed the resolution was designed to place him in a possible conflict-of-interest situation with the council. Newman denied this, saying, "If the council wants to keep everything proper, it should be willing to investigate any notice of impropriety, including this decision."

# His parade marvels begin in Hoboken

By Andrea Hamilton  
The Associated Press

Manfred G. Bass works all year to delight children on Thanksgiving Day — and then goes home and collapses.

Bass designs the giant helium-filled balloons and floats that will leave Hoboken tomorrow for Thursday's annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. But to the 52-year-old Mountainside resident, the holiday is just another work day.

But he describes vividly the festive atmosphere that descends on New York City as hundreds of thousands of spectators line the 2½-mile parade route to watch the extravaganza along with millions of television viewers nationwide.

"Parades are for the young at heart and there are a lot of big kids like me out there," said Bass, a sculptor and illustrator by training.

This year, the parade will feature 10 huge balloons and more than 30 floats, all designed and constructed at Macy's studio in an uptown Hoboken warehouse by Bass and 20 artists, carpenters and others.

Bass, who attended the New York Phoenix School of Design, joined the studio in 1960 after spending two years sculpting monuments in the service at the Infantry Museum in Fort Benning, Ga.

He said he likes putting together the Thanksgiving parade because it allows him to create "special moments."

"A parade is a special event. It's done on a very special scale using all the elements of fantasy that make up a parade," he said last week as workers put the finishing touches on floats such as the Marvel Universe, featuring characters from the popular comic book series.

As an example, he pointed to the Peanuts ice rink, a float with a Teflon rink with snow-laden trees, icicles and a snowman for a backdrop.

"When you look out the window at the first snow of the year, the snow sparkles, and as we grow older we all have those precious, special moments. We try to capture them," Bass said.

"It's like looking through a stained-glass window — the color is a little different for all of us."

Bass is excited about the ice rink, which will make its debut Thursday with Jill Schulz, daughter of Peanuts comic strip creator, Charles Schulz, on skates.

Like all the floats, it is constructed of fiberglass and steel and painted in bright colors. The floats also are collapsible

so they can be transported more efficiently through the Lincoln Tunnel to New York City.

The balloons, up to 100 feet long and 35 feet wide, start with a creative meeting to choose a subject, usually a storybook or cartoon character.

A blueprint and clay models are used to guide workers as they lay out urethane-coated nylon on massive tables and cut pieces of material that are sealed together to create up to 30 chambers in one balloon.

Artists then hand-paint the balloons, the chambers of which are filled with helium on parade day.

Spider-Man and Snoopy will make their debuts in the 61st annual parade, and an old favorite, Kermit the frog, will make his 11th appearance.

"The only thing that can go wrong is the weather," Bass said.

High winds make it difficult for the 25 to 40 people assigned to maneuver each balloon.

"Other than the weather, the biggest challenge is getting everything assembled and then putting it all away," Bass said.

More than 2,500 Macy's employees participate in the parade, from handling balloons to driving floats. Fourteen marching bands from across the country also will take part this year.

Bass and others will begin transporting the floats and balloons to New York City tomorrow, the night before Thanksgiving.

"I set up the whole parade," said Bass, adding that after the Santa Claus float — always the last — begins to roll, he hurries to the end of the route to dismantle the traditional parade beginning, the turkey float.

"And after it's all over, I go home and collapse. My wife is very good about it. She doesn't know Thanksgiving as a holiday," Bass said.

"The next day, the ham-



Special coatings make this holiday snow scene sparkle like the real thing.



This Cabbage Patch couple will surely delight many young spectators at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Photos by Mark Wyllie

# MAXWELL MAY CLOSE

Declining sales cited as 800 face job loss

By JUDY TEMES  
Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Lagging coffee sales and high production costs are making the shut-down of the Maxwell House coffee plant here a possibility, the plant's manager disclosed yesterday.

If the plant closes, more than 800 people could lose their jobs. It also would represent a devastating blow to the local economy, which has come to depend on the blue-collar jobs here since 1939.

The plant's management will decide in the next month if a cost-cutting strategy can help keep the operation going. If not, a phase-out will be announced by Dec. 1, said plant manager Frank Meegan.

Talk of closing the Maxwell House plant is not new. According to city Business Administrator Edwin Chius, the rumors surface periodically when the union, which represents plant

## EXCLUSIVE

employees, begins contract negotiations.

A three-year contract is due to expire in April for members of Local 56 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

But a union representative said yesterday that the shut-down option is being weighed more seriously this time.

"The rumor of a shut-down has been there for years," said Charles Volk, a business agent for Local 56. "But with the present situation, it's a serious consideration. Demand (for coffee) has fallen off steadily — that's not new. But if it keeps falling, it will be critical. The need to change is critical."

Early last month, the plant began a strategy to cut costs and improve efficiency. Meegan

Please see MAXWELL Page 6



The Maxwell House Coffee plant, a fixture on the Hoboken waterfront since 1939, may close.

FILE PHOTO

# ONCE-PROUD PLANT FALLS INTO DECLINE

By JUDY TEMES  
Business Writer

HOBOKEN—It's been said that long-time city residents can tell the weather just by sniffing the air. If you can smell the coffee, be prepared for rain.

A constant, like the weather, the Maxwell House plant has been a staple of the community here since it was built in 1939.

At its peak in the early 1960s, it employed more than 2,000 people.

At one time, the coffee cup that glows on top of the huge plant represented a symbol of industrial might in Hudson County. But this institution on the waterfront may now go the way of other manufacturing facilities here.

With coffee sales lagging, and costs high, executives are considering shutting

down the plant, although labor and management are working hard to cut costs to avoid that fate.

The plant was built in 1939 as part of a move from Brooklyn, said plant manager Frank Meegan. For many years, it was considered the world's largest coffee plant. Some oldtimers are still proud to call it that, although the phrase probably no longer applies, Meegan said.

Production peaked in the 1960s, when the plant produced more coffee than the three Maxwell House plants in the country combined. At that time, the plant made mostly regular coffee. As tastes changed, it concentrated more on decaffeinated coffee, then the freeze-dried variety.

It was the freeze in Brazil during the

Please see PLANT Page 6

# Asbestos won't quit

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken Board of Education hopes to launch an asbestos-removal program at Brandt School by next spring, nearly two years after the carcinogenic fiber was detected there, officials said yesterday.

And it is expected to touch off a probe of a \$100,000 contract awarded six years ago for removal of asbestos from the school.

The board is expected to begin removing the asbestos from the grammar school at Ninth and Garden streets during the Easter recess in April, said school board Business Administrator Anthony Curko.

## Ed board still trying to clean up Brandt

The state Department of Health is expected to release a report on its inspection of the Brandt School as well as the city's seven other elementary schools by the end of the month.

A state Department of Health inspector unofficially confirmed the presence of the fiber at Brandt during the inspection, Curko said. He said there is no evidence that asbes-

tos exists in any of the other schools.

Asbestos was discovered in several classrooms, hallways and the boiler room at Brandt in April of 1986 after the building was inspected by a private environmental consulting firm.

The substance was also located in air vents leading to classrooms, the nurse's office and the basement, school officials said.

That discovery, confirmed by the Hoboken Health Department and the Hudson County Regional Health Commission, was made nearly two years after the board declared the city's grammar schools asbestos-free.

At least one member of the Board of Education said he will ask other trustees to investigate previous asbestos-removal contracts awarded by the board, including a \$100,000 contract in 1981 to remove the material from Brandt.

School officials said they delayed removing asbestos from Brandt this year to enable

See ED BOARD — Page 12.

# Ed board tries to rid Brandt of asbestos

Continued from Page 1

state health officials to inspect all schools in the district. However, the board decided the problem did not warrant closing the building.

Local and county health officials required school administrators to contain the areas where asbestos was found, including the air vents. Last month, the board hired a contractor to wet mop and vacuum asbestos in several rooms at Brandt.

Curko said U.S. Testing of Hoboken later tested air sam-

ples in the building and determined quality to meet minimum safety standards.

"We hope to go out to bid on asbestos removal at Brandt by March, depending on how quickly the state releases its report on the schools," Curko said. Officials from the state Department of Health were not available to comment on the inspection.

Curko said two other private firms were surveying the schools in conjunction with the state inspectors. The board may receive matching funds

from the state to pay for removal, he said.

The board will remove asbestos from other grammar schools next summer if the state inspection detects the presence of the material, Curko said.

School officials and many board members have defended the policy of keeping Brandt school open by calling the asbestos problem minor. "The asbestos issue is only important to those in the media and school board members," said trustee Perry Belfiore.

"The general hysteria of this past fall has passed as most parents seem to realize there is no danger inside the school. Our job as trustees is to now insure that the asbestos is removed," he said.

Asbestos is a mineral that was used as insulation in many older buildings. When the material begins to decompose, small fibers can easily become airborne.

Health officials have linked an accumulation of asbestos in human lungs to lung cancer.

Leandro, Calif., — all have lower utility and labor costs, making them more efficient to operate, he said.

A cost-cutting program now in place is intended to make the plant competitive with its sister plants elsewhere, Meegan added. If the program works, coffee production could be diverted here. If not, the plant will be phased out of operation.

As one of the largest taxpayers here, the plant paid almost \$1 million in taxes to the city last year on property valued at \$4.4 million.

## PLANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

70s that killed the coffee market. As prices increased drastically, people cut back on consumption, hitting the plant here hard. Production volume has since been on the down grades, Meegan said.

Changing tastes also are responsible for the decline. People are more careful about their eating and drinking habits today, consuming only about half the coffee they drank 20 years ago.

At the same time, the Maxwell House plant here is the most expensive to maintain, Meegan said. Three others — in Jacksonville, Fla., Houston and San

Leandro, Calif., — all have lower utility and labor costs, making them more efficient to operate, he said.



# Affordable housing plan ready

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti is scheduled to unveil a proposal today that would require developers here to set aside a percentage of residential units for affordable housing.

The Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinance, if passed, would represent the first such law in Hudson County and the fulfillment of Vezzetti's major campaign promise of two years ago.

"I believe that we now have a strong, well-thought-out ordinance which will withstand any challenge," Vezzetti said in a prepared statement. He added that he welcomes comments from City Council members, and said he anticipates bipartisan support.

Council members agreed they probably will pass the measure but after some revision. The

proposal also will require the approval of the Planning Board because the ordinance would amend the city's zoning laws. Both bodies are expected to review the inclusionary ordinance this week.

"There's no question that it will be passed," said Ira Karasick, an attorney here who helped draft the ordinance. "The question is, what will it be?"

At the heart of the proposal is a requirement for all developers of residential projects with five or more units to provide 10 percent of them for affordable housing. The ordinance allows developers to ask the board for permission to provide the units away from the site of the project. However, the developers would have to make 15 percent of the units affordable if they are built off-site.

Additionally, developers may ask board per-

mission to pay a fee in lieu of constructing affordable units. The fee, according to officials, would be about \$10,000 a unit.

The ordinance would be the first in the county to require construction of affordable units. West New York has a law requiring waterfront developers to make a cash contribution to an affordable-housing fund, and Jersey City encourages developers to contribute to a similar voluntary fund. A stronger ordinance will be submitted to the Jersey City Council in the next two months, according to Councilman George Aviles.

Hoboken Councilman David Roberts, who is seen as a firm supporter of development here, said he would support the ordinance if changes could be made in certain areas.

Roberts took exception to an ordinance provision that requires waterfront projects to include at least half of the affordable units to be built, on-site.

11/30/87  
"That is not the place to put low-income housing," he said. He added that the waterfront represents the city's most lucrative property, and said the city should extract the highest possible tax revenue from it.

Mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said it is too early to speculate on the results of negotiations on the ordinance. But she said the administration is "absolutely" willing to negotiate, and called the waterfront provision negotiable.

Roberts said he does not expect a partisan fight over the ordinance.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, a strident opponent of "over-development" and an administration supporter, agreed with Roberts that the ordinance will gain passage.

"The final version is the only question that's left," Della Fave said. "I don't anticipate a difficult procedure at all."

## Hoboken surveys industry in 3 towns on chemical waste

By Bill Campbell

11/24/87  
Hoboken will soon implement the first phase of an industrial pre-treatment program aimed at preventing businesses from dumping hazardous chemicals into the city sewage system.

Hoboken, whose plant serves Weehawken and Union City, is mandated by the state Department of Environmental Protection to develop an industrial pre-treatment program within two years.

The city has authorized Boswell Engineers of New Jersey to require firms from Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City to supply lists of industrial chemicals discharged into the sewerage district.

By next summer, engineers will attempt to verify the data to determine which industries must pre-treat their sewage before flushing it into the system.

Currently, the city has no safeguards to prevent industries from discharging harmful or hazardous chemicals into the system, said Public Works Director Roy Haack.

The 35-year-old sewage treatment plant on 16th and Adams streets has been plagued with chronic operational problems over the years, and a federal Environmental Protection Agency inspector last December called the facility "the worst case scenario I've ever seen."

The inspector criticized the city for the lack of an industrial pre-treatment program, saying that the sewage discharged into the Hudson River was usually either black or dark brown.

"This is a situation which is particularly bad in just about every industrial city," said Haack. "There has never been enforcement of sewage discharge."

He said the statewide industrial pre-treatment program must be implemented in all municipalities by the end of the decade, but Hoboken must develop its plan before the treatment plant is upgraded and fully operational in 1989.

"There are about 150 items, ranging from organic waste to heavy metals, which the state says must be pre-treated by industry before they are discharged into the system," said Neil Sullivan, who operates the city's treatment facility.

"Boswell will be putting together a preliminary list of business we should talk to to determine ways of preventing harmful chemicals from reaching the plant," he said.

Last summer, the City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the development of a pre-treatment program, and the city has already met several times with representatives from various industries, Haack said. He said the next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3.

## Drayton sworn in as commissioner of Housing Authority

By Bill Campbell

11/27/87  
Controversial Hoboken activist Eugene Drayton was sworn in as a commissioner of the municipal Housing Authority in private ceremonies earlier this week, despite warnings from city attorneys that the appointment is illegal.

Drayton, who was appointed to the seven-member authority by the City Council last week, was sworn in to the post Tuesday.

Plans to swear Drayton in last week were put on hold after legal questions surfaced over Drayton's standing on the authority. State law prohibits more than one city employee or officer from serving on the board of commissioners.

City attorneys are contending that Drayton, who is a Hoboken police officer and member of the Board of Education, cannot sit on the commission because Edwin Duroy, a city councilman, is also on the board.

Their opinion is supported by the authority's attorney who, in a letter to City Council President Pat Pasculli, argued the appointment violates state law.

The law states that "not more than one officer or employee of the municipality" may serve on the commission. Duroy, who is also an elementary school principal, has four years remaining on his term.

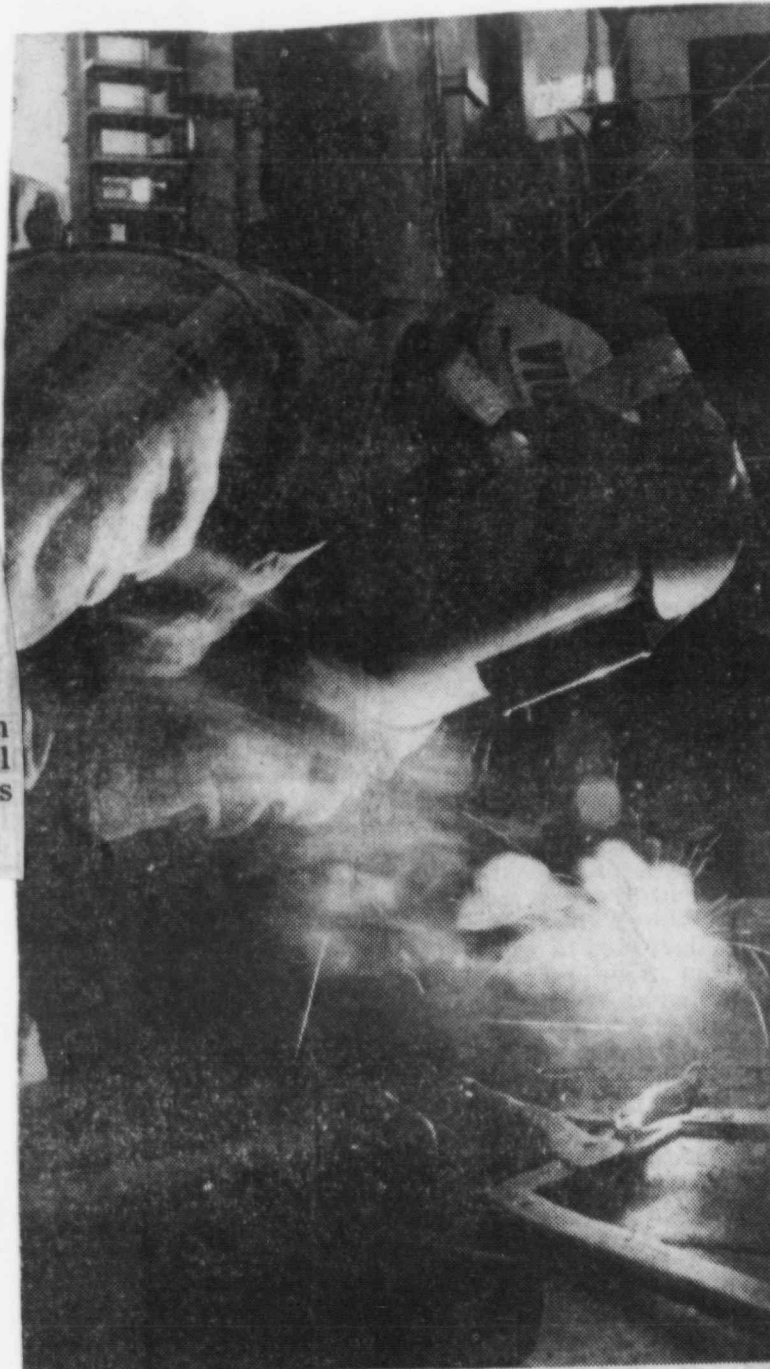
According to Pasculli, the council will ask the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to make a determination of Drayton's standing.

"If the appointment is in violation of the law, we'll rescind it," Pasculli said.

Drayton was not available for comment on the appointment nor was Housing Authority Executive Director Dominic Gallo whose offices were closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

However, Drayton's attorney, former Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., issued a memo to the council last week claiming the appointment to be valid. D'Amelio said that Drayton's position as a police officer makes him a public officer, not a municipal officer.

Nonetheless, both Hoboken Law Director William Graves and Assistant City Attorney Thomas Calligy are arguing that state law clearly defines police officers and fire fighters as municipal employees. Graves further maintains that under the state's doctrine of incompatibility, Drayton may have to leave the police department if he insists on holding his seat on the authority.



Mark Eldrenkamp welds the framework of one of the floats.



This pooch looks cuddly enough to take home after the parade.



## Creation of fantasy is a very serious job

By Dominick Calicchio

11/20/87  
A visit to the Macy's Special Production Studio in Hoboken is an education in the boundary between fantasy and reality.

The studio, a huge, gray warehouse at the corner of 15th Street and Willow Ave., is where painters, carpenters, sculptors and other craftsmen work year-round to prepare for Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in Manhattan.

A first-time visitor is at initially awed watching massive floats being constructed and decorated.

But looking at the workers' faces, intent in their task, and listening to the hammering, the sawing and the welding, brings home this isn't all just fun and games.

Reminders of the real world of facts and rules are posted throughout the warehouse:

"Danger. Do not watch arch welder at work. The light may blind you."

"All guards must be kept on saws and machines."

"Do not use materials or liquids without understanding them. Read labels. Ask questions first. Think."

"Nobody's irresponsible," said chief designer Manfred Bass of his 30-person crew.

"You can't be in this business."

"We're all careful, especially with people walking around all day. You'd have an accident just like that if you weren't."

Bass has been running things in Hoboken for the Macy's parade for almost 30 years. He says the work usually begins the day after Thanksgiving, when planners are already pondering the next year's parade.

Like every year, this year's parade features participation from the students faculty and alumni of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken.

Volunteers come primarily from "GRAB," the Graduates' Activities Board at Stevens.

Former GRAB President, Dr. Michael Murphy, said building the floats and helping launch the balloons is something Stevens has been involved in for about 20 years.

"It's done for the fun of it," he said. "When you actually get



Charlie Walsh adjusts the spectacles on Peter Rabbit.

in there and do some work on it, it's incredible. I think it's not often the average person gets to join in on such an enormous, national event."

Murphy said Stevens originally got its graduate students involved in the parade because they were the students most likely to be remaining on campus during the holidays.

It was a way to help them avoid the holiday blues, he said, because the parade organizers "keep you working your tail off."

According to Bass, floats, like this year's skating pond scene, often take three-to-four months to build. But prior to that there's agreeing on the idea, making thumbnail sketches, renderings, models and blueprints.

Macy's spokesman Robert

Metz said there's another important consideration.

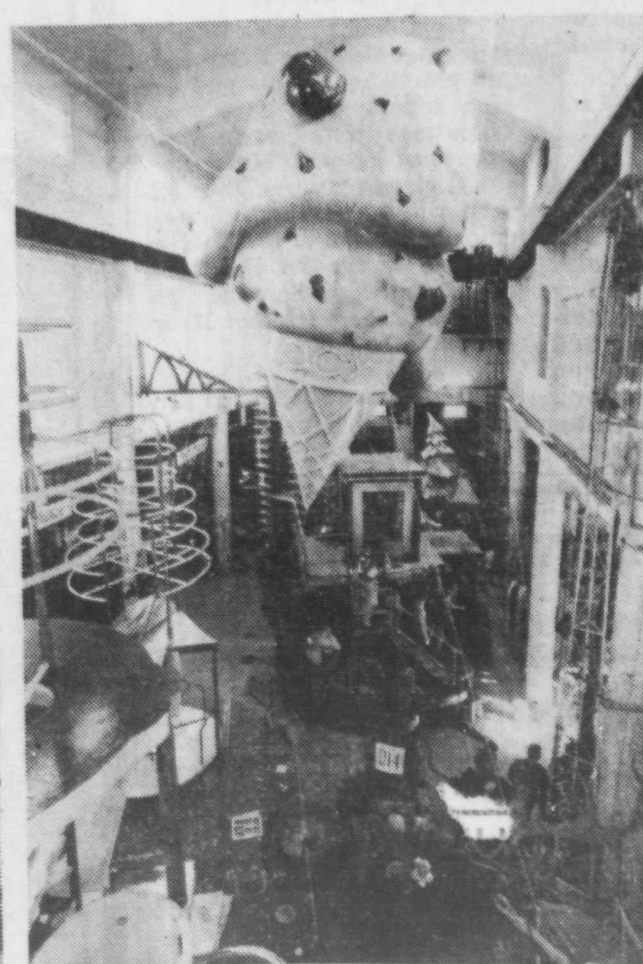
"All the floats have to collapse," he said. "They have to be able to fit into the entrance of the Lincoln Tunnel."

This Wednesday, Metz said, all the floats and all the balloons used in the parade will be disassembled and transported through the tunnel, then set up in Manhattan, near the American Museum of Natural History, where the parade begins each year.

Balloons featured this year include Snoopy, Spiderman and Ronald McDonald, he said.

Live performers will include the Oak Ridge Boys, the Rockettes from Radio City Music Hall and Ben Vereen.

The parade will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday at 77th Street and Central Park West.



At left, workmen inspect Frosty the Snowman, while in the center photo, the Macy's Ice Cream Cone balloon hugs the ceiling. Above, Brian Cook and Amy Novelli put the finishing touches on the Cabage Patch float.



# Hotel Victor May Be Renovated As Hotel

## Or Costs May Make It Into An Office Building

Jersey Journal 11/14/87

By Toni Giovannetti

The Hotel Victor stands in decrepit majesty, dark still. Its barfront window all bears the news of two years ago on a blackboard reading: "GOODBYE HOTEL VICTOR. BAR SOLD."

Built about 92 years ago, the building located at the corner of Hudson Street and Hudson Place was converted from tenement housing to a hotel in 1928. From then on it served as Hoboken's answer to Harry Hope's place in the play "The Iceman Cometh." The down-and-out men of the play boarded in the hotel, ate cheaply in the first-floor restaurant and drank at the bar to take the edge off their loneliness.

Kenneth Rivara was the gruff man with the heart of gold who spent most of his life running the hotel. Before him, his father, Victor, operated the hotel, which drew the sailors who docked in the busy port during the heyday of the Roaring '20s. As years passed, nearly all of the dozen or so "Barbary Coast" hotels closed, except for the Victor and the nearby Hotel Edwards. The Edwards is the only remaining single room hotel left in Hoboken.

Time wore down the Hotel Victor and Rivara. He decided to close the hotel, sell it and retire. He and his brother and two sisters, who jointly owned the hotel, struck a \$1.5 million deal for the property. Yet even after the closing of the sale on Feb. 7, 1986, he still thought about the men who were forced to leave the hotel. Rivara, who was granted use of the vacant building, went there almost every day to talk to men who would stop in to see him and get their checks cashed.

This year the Iceman came or Rivara. When he died at age 89 last August, the era of the Hotel Victor was gone forever. A new one is about to begin, with a renovation of the building for either hotel or office space.

### Ghosts Of The Past

Inside the Hotel Victor, light filters through the dusty windows in the late afternoon, casting an unkind glare on the chipped brown paint of the walls. The room is musty, and faded like a letter left in the sun too long. Window panels with stained glass coats of arms add shadows and color to the floor.

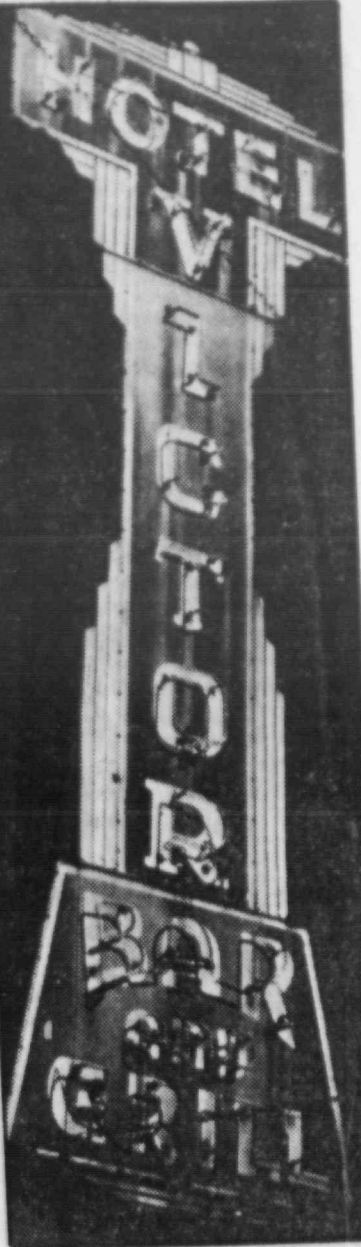
The hand-lettered menu above the grill is yellowed and spotted with stains. It lists the price of hot dogs at \$1, hamburgers at \$1.25, along with the prices of other sandwiches. The counter and a few scattered metal tables are covered with pale green formica.

The wear of the years is written throughout the room, in the chipped away areas of the concrete floor, the layers of old paint coated last by institutional dark brown about 6 feet up the walls and columns, a mustard yellow up to the ceiling. The ornate tin ceiling is also brown.

But the dark wood of the bar shows the most wear. The boards of the footrest are splintered and gray, the bar littered with gouges. The original cabinetry and mirrors remain, small three-tiered shelves in the corners for display of liquor bottles.

If the building could remember, perhaps it would recall the tales that '20s-era seamen told in the bar, characters like those in O'Neill's play "Anna Christie." O'Neill's sailors spun stories of how they battled the elements in their ships, told raunchy jokes and talked longingly about their distant families. More likely, the hotel would conjure up ghosts of the men in recent memory, who eked out their existence within its walls, eating greasy lunches at the counter or playing pool games at the lone table.

Despite its rundown state, local historian Jim Hans remembers that the bar and grill attracted people throughout the community up to the time it closed, including intellectuals who liked to drink there and watch the steady stream of people passing in front of the picture windows. Hans says turn-of-the-century playwright Christopher Morley was fond of



the Victor as a drinking spot. Morley sometimes leased the Lyric Theater next door for productions of his plays. (The theater, also owned by Victor Rivara, was sold for back taxes during the Depression and torn down in the early '40s.)

"I remember there was a fellow living there who translated Russian at Stevens Institute," Hans says. "He liked it because he didn't have to pay much."

Many long-time Hoboken residents remember when the hotel and bar were alive with railroaders and soldiers returning from World War II who needed a place to stay while they searched for work. During the '70s, nearly all who stayed there were permanent residents.

Mayor Thomas Vezzetti remembers the Hotel Victor through the years, especially since his uncle Fred ran the bar in the '20s until Victor Rivara bought the building.

"It was considered as being for people who were poor, but people outside of the hotel would come there for lunch. It was good food and economical. I had a couple of meals there. It was an old-fashioned type of waterfront hotel and bar."

Vezzetti, like many in town, knew Kenneth Rivara well. "He was a very generous person. The way he took care of people was symbolic of the old-style Hoboken."

Among the people in Rivara's care was Frank Siadak, who describes himself as a reformed alcoholic who worked for his keep in the hotel by cleaning up. Siadak still works in the hotel as one of the security guards. He describes Rivara as "our godfather." Rent at the hotel before it closed was \$15 a night, \$90 a week.

With its similarities to Harry Hope's Bar, some townspeople began to believe playwright Eugene O'Neill based his drama in the Hotel Victor. O'Neill scholar Barbara Gelb says not, but adds: "He took a typical old dive where derelict people would hang out and be as despairing as those in 'The Iceman Cometh.' But I've never heard that he's taken anything from locations in New Jersey — he always used New York locales."

### A Haute Hotel?

Developer Patrick A. Reynolds, who bought the Victor, had grand visions of its renovation. He says in two to three months he'll know whether the five-story hotel will be reincarnated as an upscale Hotel Victor, or instead become an office building with space for his real estate office. The cost of converting the building will determine his decision.

"People have been under the mistaken impression that we were going to build condominiums on the Hotel Victor site," says Reynolds, of P.A. Reynolds & Associates. "That has never been the case, simply because with the limited amount of space it does not make economic sense. The present space will work well for a newly renovated hotel or new office space. We are currently reviewing both options to see which makes for a more viable project."

Reynolds plans to seek approval from the historic commission and city planning board to add two to four more stories. Architect Dean Marchetto is working on designs for the building and the accounting firm Pannell, Kerr, Forster is doing a marketing study on the profitability of creating a "boutique" hotel.

If the building returns as a hotel, it first would be gutted. Forty to 50 posh hotel suites containing bathrooms in each would be created. The building now has only one bathroom to each floor, once adequate accommodations for the men who roomed there.

If the hotel became an office building, it would be renovated, except for the bar. Reynolds says the ground floor bar and grill will be refurbished and opened in any case, with a greenhouse extended outward four to five feet along Hudson Street and Hudson Place.

### Symbol Of An Era

The Hotel Victor apparently has no claim to literary immortality through the plays of O'Neill, but the building has been captured on canvas and sketchboards by local artists.

Artist Kevin McCloskey selected a drawing of the hotel, with its sign showing prominently, for the cover of his book, "Walking Around Hoboken." The pitched roofs and decorative arches of the Victor were rendered by local artist Judith Watson, who had her painting displayed in the window space of the Hudson Legal Center on Newark Street last September.

"As you come down Observer Highway, it's one of the first things you see when you come out of the tunnel," Watson says, adding that she immediately was taken with the building when she moved to Hoboken eight years ago. "I love the arches and the detail work in it. There's something very almost like Venice about them. And I like the strong horizontal lines."

The building also attracted the interest of a major film company that may be interested in leasing it for use in a film starring Tom Berenger. Reynolds says. The film company plans to inspect the site soon to see if it would work as a movie location.

The Queen Anne-style building is considered a landmark by members of the Hoboken Historical Commission, because of its architectural beauty and historical significance. The building stands out on a street lined with older structures, despite the cracking simulated stone facade, the graffiti, the tattered green awnings and layers of grime.

"This is an extremely important structure in the business district," says Helen Manogue, chairman of the Hoboken Historical Commission.

The eight-year-old commission, which seeks to preserve the integrity of historical buildings, oversees requests for renovations or additions to downtown buildings. The commission turned down a preliminary plan for the parking lot next to the Hotel Victor one and 1/2 years ago because it clashed aesthetically with the other buildings in the area. The plan, presented by architect Jim Lindemon, called for a 24-story structure next to the hotel that would wrap around the back of it.

Lindemon says he is preparing plans for a scaled-down version of the building that should come before the city planning board within a month. One proposal would be for a residential building with parking, another would be for an

office building with some ground-level commercial space and some parking.

Terry Castellano, also a member of the historical commission, says she was relieved that the original building proposal was rejected.

"(The Hotel Victor) probably, as an example of Queen Anne architecture, is regarded as a valuable monument and we hope to keep it that way," Castellano says. "It's one of our proudest possessions in the district."

### Piece Of The Future

The plot of land where the Hotel Victor stands was surveyed and first owned by the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company, registered in a deed dated May 20, 1870 in Hudson County records. A lease of mortgage was taken out on the land by Nov. 1, 1890 and construction on what is now the Victor was completed no later than 1895, the historical commission estimates. The land and "premises" were sold to Jennie A. Soulier on May 2, 1898. Her widow transferred the property to Rivara on Feb. 15, 1926.

After converting the tenement house to a hotel, the original Rivara added a flourish of

his own — an Art Deco style sign on the corner of the building that reads Hotel Victor Bar & Grill. The blue-black sign with white lettering, outlined with neon that has been turned off, gives the building a sense of '30s style that meshes with its Victorian design.

Reynolds says he intends to maintain the sign, particularly since the bar will once again be in operation. He envisions the bar and grill transformed like magic from squalor to a warm, inviting atmosphere.

"I'd like to do a 'Cheers' kind of bar where people can go without wearing a suit and tie," Reynolds says. He says he also intends to have the gray paint cleaned off the building and have the brick repointed. The bar would be situated in the center of the ground floor room, tables and chairs around it. The wall next to where the old bar is may be stripped down to the bare brick for ambience.

Reynolds is not alone in wanting to see the building preserved, whether as an office building or as a hotel.

"It's a nice bar with the way it's laid out," says Joan Torino, owner of Red Heads Saloon, in the ground floor of the Edwards Hotel across the street. She said after opening her bar about four years ago,

she often visited the Victor for ice because her bar's ice machine broke down. "Oh, you could do so much with the Victor."

Manogue of the historical commission says she would be delighted to see the building return to serving the community as a hotel, particularly one catering to overnight guests.

"Actually there's a great need in Hoboken for hotel space," says Manogue. "If you have people here from out of town it's very difficult to find a place to stay. You usually have to go as far out as Jersey City or in North Bergen."

The hotels that lined the streets of Hoboken disappeared with the creeping spread of gentrification, except for the tiny Edwards Hotel. Around the corner from the Hotel Victor, what was once the American Hotel now contains restaurants and office space. The old Meyers Hotel, at Third and Hudson streets, has been renovated for condominiums.

The Victor is one of the last buildings of its kind in transition. To commuters passing by on their way to jobs in New York and home to condos in Hoboken, the building is a beacon of progress. To others, it is a solitary memory of a bygone era.

## Affordable housing formula proposed

By Jim DeRogatis 11/30/87

Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti will propose an ordinance this week that would require developers of new or rehabilitated housing to provide affordable units or cash contributions to an affordable housing trust fund.

The proposed rule is the first in Hudson County that would require uniform contributions from all developers. Jersey City and other municipalities have been negotiating affordable housing contributions with each developer on a per-project basis.

"I believe that the limited

availability of affordable housing is the most critical issue in our city, and indeed our region," Vezzetti said in a statement. "As mayor, I have been inundated with request for housing."

"Each day homeless people and families on the verge of being displaced come to my office desperate for assistance. Usually we are unable to help."

City housing advocates have estimated that more than 2,500 people are in need of affordable housing in Hoboken. Vezzetti pledged during the 1985 mayoral campaign to re-

See AFFORDABLE — Page 8.

## Affordable housing

Continued from Page 1

quire all developers to provide affordable units for longtime Hoboken residents.

"The reason we have waited so long is because we wanted to come up with something that is legally sound. This is going to stand up in court," the mayor said.

Vezzetti announced some of the requirements of the ordinance in a statement released Friday, but he did not reveal specifics. The full ordinance will be presented to council members, tenants groups, developers and the public today.

The "inclusionary housing" ordinance will give developers the choice of contributing 10 percent of the total number of units of their project for low and moderate income housing on-site or 15 percent of the total number of units off-site.

The mayor did not define "affordable" in his statement, but the city's request for proposals for the Observer Highway development set affordable rents at \$695 a month for one-bedroom units to \$975 for three-bedroom units. The statement also avoided addressing how the law would be enforced, or how long the affordable units would have to remain affordable.

If developers do not want to actually build the affordable units, they can make a cash contribution to the city. The funds would then be delegated by the city for use on affordable housing projects.

Cash contributions range from \$10,000 per unit city-wide to \$15,000 per unit on the waterfront, according to the ordinance.

The high cash contribution is designed to encourage developers to donate rental units. "Our goal is to get developers to provide the actual units," Vezzetti said.

The ordinance applies only

to developers of new or rehabilitated housing projects. Commercial developers are exempt, although they will be expected to contribute to an infrastructure improvement fund. The city is currently developing an ordinance to establish that fund, according to mayor's assistant Laurie Fabiano.

The mayor said the ordinance is the result of six months' work by Peggy Thomas and Robert Armstrong of the city Community Development Agency, city attorney Maureen Schweitzer and housing consultant Ira Karasick. He added that he will be introducing a second ordinance that will set up a similar formula for donating middle-income units.

"We wanted to introduce this now instead of waiting for the other ordinance," said Fabiano. "We believe that ordinance is also important because the city is faced with having large numbers of luxury units and subsidized, low-income units with nothing in-between."

But Fabiano added that the middle-income ordinance will be more susceptible to legal challenges from developers because there's no precedent for it. She said the low-income inclusionary ordinance has solid legal precedents in the state and "should stand up to any court challenge."

Vezzetti said the ordinance will be simultaneously presented to the City Council and the Planning Board this week. The ordinance would require approval from both bodies to become a part of the city's zoning law.

In an effort to gain support from the anti-Vezzetti council, the mayor welcomed all members as co-sponsors.

"My door is open and I welcome and value the council people's input," the mayor said.



# Police crisis hits Hoboken

Dispatch 12-2-87  
Shortage may go on for a year

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The Police Department is down more than 30 patrol officers, and it could be a year before the positions are filled, the police chief warned concerned merchants yesterday.

Department guidelines provide for 96 officers, but Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. said only 60 are employed on active duty. He told a group of merchants and officials yesterday that real help with safety problems could come only from increased appropriations from the City Council.

"I could promise you anything in the world, but I just don't have the men," Crimmins told a dozen business owners and two councilmen gathered yesterday at Arthur's Steakhouse on Washington Street.

The business leaders, members of Hoboken Advantage and the Hoboken Retail Organization, had been invited by Councilmen David Roberts and Patrick Pasculli to meet with Crimmins to discuss crime prob-



Hoboken City Councilmen Patrick Pasculli, left, and David Roberts, right, talk with Police Chief George Crimmins Sr. at a luncheon meeting at Arthur's Steakhouse yesterday.

LISA BAUSO SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

lems, particularly around the Christmas season, when most local retailers do the bulk of their business.

The business owners and councilmen said they were concerned with groups of young people congregating on Washington Street and other business areas, vandalizing the stores and sometimes accosting cus-

tomers. "These are people that are arrested, and two days later they're out again, they're back out on that damn corner," Roberts said.

"I can't give you what I don't have," Crimmins replied. He stressed that 75 percent of his

Please see POLICE Page 8

# Merchants hiring cops for the holiday season

By Bill Campbell

A shortage of city police officers is prompting some Hoboken merchants and professionals to hire off-duty cops to patrol the central shopping district during the holiday season.

City officials and merchants said the hiring is aimed at curbing increased juvenile delinquency in the Washington Street business district during the holidays.

The move is planned as a short-term effort until the City Council can adopt budget appropriations for next year to hire additional police officers. Hoboken Advantage, a fed-

## Off-duty police will patrol shopping area

erally subsidized retail assistance organization, and a local merchants group will spend about \$4,000 beginning next week to hire off-duty officers to patrol the Washington Street business district and other areas, according to Don Liloia, director of Hoboken Advantage.

Off-duty officers will also patrol sections of the First

Street retail district, he said.

The move was announced yesterday at a luncheon sponsored by Hoboken Advantage and Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts, whose ward encompasses the midtown section of Washington Street. Also attending the forum were City Council President Pat Pasculli, Police Chief George Crimmins and local merchants.

Yesterday's meeting was a result of nearly two months of discussions among council members, business leaders and law-enforcement officials.

The private patrols were necessitated by a widespread reduction in police personnel due to retirements which have cut the number of street patrol officers. According to Crimmins, the Police Department employs 60 patrol officers although city hiring statutes allow 96.

"If I had my way, there would be a police officer on every corner," Crimmins said.

See MERCHANTS — Page 18.

## POLICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

department was on patrol duty, and that he could not provide more unless he were given more men.

The council decides how much money is available for police hiring. Two years ago, Crimmins told the group, 31 officers were hired. But more than 40 officers have retired or resigned since then, Crimmins said, leaving the department with only 64 patrol officers. Four of those, Crimmins said, are on leave and unavailable for duty.

The problem is compounded by the months of training required of officers after they are hired. Crimmins said a group of potential police officers took a Civil Service test in October. He said that when the council begins debating next year's budget, he will ask that at least 30 officers are hired from that pool of applicants.

Pasculli and Roberts pledged to push for more police money in next year's city budget. But the councilmen said that even if money is appropriated, they do not expect more officers to be out on the street for another year.

To help with immediate safety concerns, Hoboken Advantage Director Donald Liloia said he would negotiate with police unions to hire off-duty officers to patrol business areas on Washington Street. The group, headed by 15 business leaders and professionals, was launched by the Community Development Agency last year to improve the business environment here. The group must begin to fund itself next year, when city funds run out.

Liloia said his organization had about \$3,500 to spend on off-duty police protection.

## Merchants hire cops for holiday season

Continued from Page 1

"Unfortunately, I have no control over hiring but I'll do everything possible to increase police visibility."

According to Roberts, additional patrols are essential along Washington Street to combat vandalism and public drinking by local youths. Several business owners in the area complained that the youths are creating a disruptive business atmosphere on the street.

Business owners along Washington Street maintain that problems with disruptive youths are centered between 5th and 7th streets where more than a half-dozen fast-food restaurants attract the teenagers. Last month, Crimmins stepped up police visibility by posting officers to patrol the area bounded by 5th and 7th streets and Stevens Park to the east and Church Square Park to the west.

Although Crimmins said he

could not guarantee post officers every night, he said members of the department would be assigned to work mandatory overtime in the week before Christmas.

Hoboken Advantage will contribute \$3,500 to hire off-duty officers, Liloia said. A local retail organization has contributed \$500 for the effort, he said.

Crimmins said state laws prohibit the merchants from hiring less costly night watchmen to perform patrol duties in the business districts. The law requires special police officers to undergo 240 hours of training at a certified police academy, he said.

Pasculli said he will press the council next year to appropriate funding for police hiring. The council last year approved a table of organization in the department and the number of patrol officers is two-thirds of capacity.

## Engineer pact is OK'd

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Under the threat of millions of dollars in fines, the City Council has approved a city contract for a resident engineer to monitor construction of a sewage treatment plant.

The council also deferred action on a monetary request by Juan Garcia, who runs a controversial youth program. The council acted Wednesday night at a meeting in City Hall.

Lawlor Matusky and Skelly, an engineering firm from Pearl River, N.Y., was hired to oversee the completion of the sewage plant, scheduled for 1991. The firm, which was selected from a list of six applicants by a joint committee of the council and the Hudson County Utilities Authority, is to be paid \$3.9 million for the work.

State and federal authorities

repeatedly have ordered the city to rebuild its dilapidated sewage treatment plant, and agreed to withdraw weighty fines only when the city accepted a strict timetable for completion of the plant.

HCUA Executive Director George Crimmins Jr. told the council that the city risked reinstatement of those fines — which could reach \$15,000 a day — if the contract was not approved. City Law Director William Graves agreed, saying the city already was behind schedule in preparing for the plant's construction, and that the LMS contract was a necessary step in building the plant.

The council approved the contract despite lengthy attacks by Councilmen Steve Cappiello and Robert A. Ranieri. Both questioned the process by which LMS was selected, and Ranieri said there is the chance that hazard-

ous materials exist on the plant site.

The debate grew vicious at times, with Cappiello and fellow Councilman Joseph Della Fave breaking into a brief shouting match. The council defeated Cappiello's proposal to table the contract resolution, and approved the contract by a 7-2 vote.

Mayor aide Laurie Fabiano hailed the vote as a clear indication that the city was moving forward in its fight to clean up its sewerage problems and abide by state and federal mandates.

"It's a major step in complying with the state administrative consent agreement," she said. She added that the action helped guarantee that the city will keep a \$30 million federal grant it was awarded this fall to help finance the new plant.

## Council delays action on affordable housing

By Earl Morgan

Hoboken City Council last night delayed action on Mayor Thomas Vezzetti's affordable housing plan, despite his plan for immediate consideration of the controversial proposal.

They placed the measure on its agenda for a 30-day review.

It is designed to require developers to provide affordable housing, or contribute to a trust fund for such housing.

In other business, Councilman

Steve Cappiello tried unsuccessfully to block a \$3.9 million contract for the residential engineering firm hired to oversee the construction of a secondary sewage treatment plant in the city.

Cappiello told his colleagues that he did not believe the city is getting the best deal it can in hiring the firm of Lawlor, Matusky and Skelly as the resident engineering firm for the approximately \$100 million treatment plant project.

He suggested a resolution to hire the firm be tabled, but by a vote of 7-2

the council approved the contract with Councilmen Robert Ranieri and Cappiello voting against it.

Ranieri and Cappiello contended the firm, that was actually selected by the Hudson County Utilities Authority that will actually have charge of the treatment project, did not negotiate the best price.

Ranieri read a list of regulations that said illustrated overpayments LMS could receive under the contract.

But officials of the Hudson County Utilities Authority, who were at

the meeting, said Ranieri read the wrong regulations pertaining to the profit the engineers are allowed to make.

HCUA officials and the city's corporation counsel Bill Graves, reminded the council that the city faces stiff fines from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection if it delays in initiating construction of the treatment plant.

In asking for the introduction of the affordable housing ordinance, Vezzetti told the council "many people in Hoboken are still struggling to

find decent, affordable housing and this ordinance is an attempt to try to assist these people. My only regret is that I could not get it to you sooner. Now that it is ready I hope that we can act on it as expeditiously as possible.

Developers and real estate interests in the city have expressed opposition to the measure and last night former Hoboken Board of Realtors president William J. Stack addressed the board and asked that developers and real estate people have some input on the ordinance.

## Koufax team is off to Soviet Union in August

By Bill Campbell

Hoboken's celebrated Sandy Koufax baseball team is bound for the Soviet Union in August, city officials announced yesterday.

The USSR Baseball Federation submitted to the city a list of four dates to conduct a baseball summit between the Koufax sluggers and a Soviet team, and local officials say

they are close to settling on Aug. 15-30.

"This is probably the biggest news we've had all year," said mayor aide Laurie Fabiano. The city received word from the federation in a Telex late yesterday afternoon, she said.

"We're very excited because this is something you only dream about," said Joe Reinhardt, one of the team's three coaches.

The 17-member team, which had a

22-1 record last year en route to becoming state and regional champs, was officially invited to the USSR in September. The team of 13- and 14-year-old boys placed fourth in the Koufax World Series last August in Puerto Rico.

The invitation was a result of a human rights mission by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., to the Soviet Union and stemmed from the Soviets' earlier

claim that they invented baseball.

Most historians now recognize Hoboken as the birthplace of baseball on June 19, 1846 at Elysian Fields.

Organizers of the summit will kickoff fund-raising efforts for the trip with a cocktail party Friday sponsored by the Hoboken Lions Club. According to Reinhardt, the team needs to raise about \$60,000.

He said other fund-raising activi-

ties will be scheduled after the city and Soviet authorities reach a firm commitment on the dates.

Fabiano said the games will be coordinated by a U.S. businessman named Max Flaxman, who volunteers as a coach to several Soviet baseball teams. Contributions for the Koufax team can be made to: Hoboken USA/USSR Tournament, PO Box 5148, Hoboken, N.J. 07030.

## County unit OKs Hoboken sewage pact

By Peter Weiss

A \$3.9 million contract with the engineering firm of Lawlor, Matusky and Skelly to oversee construction of a sewage treatment plant in Hoboken has been approved by the Hudson County Utilities Authority, but two dissenting members of the panel are threatening to go to court to have the vote overturned.

Hoboken, which will share the cost of the \$100 million plant with the HCUA, approved the contract on Wednesday night.

The vote at last night's HCUA meeting was 6-to-2. Opposed to the contract were Commissioners Lawrence Cucchiara of Union City and Michael Schaffer of Hoboken, who said they will file a Superior Court appeal.

Cucchiara spent two hours last night trying to convince the other commissioners members that it would be illegal to award the contract to Lawlor, Matusky and Skelly because the firm is involved in litigation with the HCUA regarding another project. He said a vote for the contract would be "absolutely immoral and improper."

HCUA counsel John O'Donnell said he knows of no statute or precedent which would prohibit the county agency from entering into a contract with the firm because of the pending court case.

Other HCUA members questioned Cucchiara's legal expertise and HCUA chairman Anthony Russo of Hoboken indicated that the opposition to the contract was politically motivated. He linked Cuc-

chiara's action to those of Hoboken council members who also opposed the contract.

Cucchiara also raised objections to the engineering firm's past performance, contending that its record of cost overruns is "horrendous." Representatives of the firm denied that charge.

The litigation referred to by Cucchiara is Lawlor, Matusky and Skelly's suit against

Jersey City and the HCUA to collect \$111,000 in fees it contends it is still owed for design of a Jersey City project. In its response, the Jersey City Sewerage Authority claimed the work was inferior.

O'Donnell denied that the HCUA had taken the same position as the JCSA. O'Donnell said the claims of poor performance were strictly those of the Jersey City agency.

## UNITED SYNAGOGUE

### Rally set on Soviet Jews

Dispatch 12-5-87

By a Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Members of a local Jewish congregation plan to protest Soviet policies on the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union in a demonstration tomorrow morning.

Larry Silverman, a member of the United Synagogue at 115 Park Ave., said he expects between 20 and 40 people to gather there at 11 a.m. tomorrow. He said the protest is timed to coincide with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's visit to Washington. The Soviet leader is expected to sign an arms agreement with President Reagan.

Silverman added that the protest will focus on the plight of Soviet Jewish children being held against their will in the Soviet Union.



# 'Kean wants to run on Jersey City's blood'

By Earl Morgan

School board officials in Jersey City and Hoboken, the two municipalities often mentioned as targets for state takeover, were not surprised by the vote in the Assembly.

"It's the same old Assembly and it's going to do the same old thing," said Hoboken School Board President Richard England. But England said he does not believe Hoboken is a takeover target. "We're going to pass (the Level 3 state evaluation) this year. I think Kean is aiming at Jersey City. He wants to run for vice president on Jersey City's blood."

Michael Marino, Jersey City School Board president, said he was expecting the vote. "I anticipated it being passed by the Assembly," he said.

While Marino said he does not know how the Senate will respond to the measure, he hopes they do not vote before they receive the findings of a blue-ribbon panel studying the state funding of urban school districts. "That report is going to be very critical of the way the state finances urban school districts," Marino said.

"Before giving Saul Cooper the right to take over urban schools, the Senate should have the report."

Jersey City Superintendent of Schools Franklin Williams said he also felt the measure was going to pass the state Assembly but said the takeover legislation is unconstitutional.

"Local school systems were set up to control their own educational destiny," Williams said.

"That should not be infringed upon by a foreign power, in this case, Trenton."

Williams said the governor and state school officials have no experience in running an urban school system.

Williams voiced arguments similar to Marino's concerning state funding for schools. "Any one that wants to take over this district will have a monumental job," the Jersey City schools superintendent said.

Your opinion

## Build Hoboken waterfront museum

Recently, the Waterfront Development Plan for Hoboken was revealed by the Hoboken Community Development Agency. Though a number of developers have criticized the plan as being restrictive, this plan seems to blend the waterfront into the rest of Hoboken successfully, instead of creating a separate city on the water.

This, I feel is desirable. What is also admirable about the plan is its incorporation of parks, open spaces and theatres for the use by the public. Hoboken certainly needs more open spaces, and as the River City Festivals indicate, the waterfront is a good place for recreation.

I have a suggestion to make this plan even more desirable and exciting. It is the addition of the Hoboken-New Jersey Waterfront Museum dedicated to Historic Hoboken and to the N.J. Waterfront that was responsible for the region's growth. (Hoboken is apparently already in the running for a Train Museum.)

Why the Museum, you ask? The tremendous history of Hoboken can justify a museum. Consider the following: A. The first beer brewed in the U.S. was in Hoboken. B. The first steam powered locomotive ran in Hoboken. C. The first documented baseball game was played in Hoboken. D. When immigrants disembarked for Ellis Island, many came through Hoboken. E. The Port of Hoboken was a major shipping cen-

ter and during the two World Wars was used to transport many of America's troops to Europe.

It would therefore be a source of pride as the residents of Hoboken realize their city's contribution to the development of the U.S. It would bring in tourists to see the museum as well as other sites in Hoboken. This means additional money for Hoboken and its businesses. It could also be used to educate Hoboken's youth and it could supplement Hoboken's school programs. It would also be a source of recreation for Hoboken's adult population.

Some suggestions that I have regarding the location and function of the museum would be:

- That the museum (preferably in Victorian style) be built on a pier to save land space and to identify it with the waterfront.
- That the museum include a number of state of the art, educational tools, films, and hands-on displays that would appeal to all ages.
- That the museum have eating facilities and hopefully a Victorian beer garden as a tribute to Hoboken's contribution to that industry. (The eating facility should have a good panoramic view).

This museum, if well designed, and planned, could be a very good addition to the waterfront and would be beneficial to the people and the image of Hoboken. —SCOTT WASHMUTH, Jersey City

## Garbage crisis forces hard choices

By Adriana Reyneri

People put their garbage out on the curb and it seems to disappear like magic.

They haven't realized yet that Hudson County is caught in a regional garbage crisis, said Leonard Greiner Jr., director of research and development for the Jersey City Incinerator Authority, but the reality is about to hit.

Northeast New Jersey is generating more garbage than the area's dumps can handle. As the overloaded landfills close, counties desperately seek new dump sites and the costs of disposing of garbage soar.

Hudson County may not have to ship its garbage out of state, as does neighboring Essex County. Nonetheless, county officials say, residents are likely to see huge increases in garbage rates, increases that will be reflected in higher property taxes.

If the rate hikes don't catch their attention, the state's mandatory recycling program will

By spring, members of every household in the county will be required to separate aluminum, glass and newspaper from the rest of their garbage. They will have to place

counties. The crisis extends to Morris, Somerset, and Union counties.

These outlying counties must find a new place to dump their garbage when the Edge-

### House hearings in Hoboken

The nation's garbage is in the spotlight today as the House Hazardous Materials Subcommittee holds hearings in Hoboken on waste-reduction technologies.

Scientists and other experts have been invited to testify at Stevens Institute of Technology on methods of containing the problem as one-by-one the nation's trash dumps fill to capacity and are closed.

The day-long sessions are designed to acquaint lawmakers and regulators with the alternatives of open dumping. Among the topics to be discussed are enhanced incineration systems and chemical reductions. Some new technologies already have been shunned as costly or because nobody wants them as the next-door neighbor.

the sorted trash into separate containers and set it out on special days for collection.

The garbage crisis is just as bad, if not worse, in neighboring Essex, Bergen, and Passaic

Landfill in East Brunswick closes on Jan. 1.

The four counties — Essex, Passaic, Bergen and Hudson — that have used the Meadowlands as their dumping

grounds have had even more pressing deadlines.

Essex and Passaic counties have agreed in court-ordered settlements to stop dumping in the Meadowlands. Essex is now shipping its waste to a Pennsylvania landfill.

Passaic is scrambling to build transfer stations where it can collect garbage and ship it to another state.

Bergen County was to stop dumping in the Meadowlands last Monday, but the county has won a two-month extension on the deadline.

Hudson County may continue taking garbage to a barge in North Arlington until March 1. If ongoing negotiations with the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission are successful, said Frank Koserowski, attorney for the Hudson County Improvement Authority, the county will be able to continue taking its garbage there until 1991.

By then, the county will have finished building its own

See GARBAGE — Page 7.

## Hoboken workers may be burglars

By Dominick Calicchio

Hoboken city employees are the prime suspects in a series of burglaries at the municipal garage on Observer Highway, police said yesterday.

More than \$1,000 in tools and equipment has been removed from the garage since April, police said, with the latest incident over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Joseph Peluso, assistant superintendent of the city's Signal and Traffic Division, reported a \$125 water pump missing, police said.

Peluso told police the pump theft was the most recent item taken from the Signal and Traffic Division's supply room on the second floor of the garage complex at Observer

Highway and Willow Avenue. In many cases, Peluso told police, it appeared that entry into the supply room had been gained by using a key. In other instances, he said, it appeared the suspects climbed into the supply room through loosened ceiling panels.

Peluso said the lock on the supply room door was changed several weeks prior to the theft of the water pump.

Other items removed since April, Peluso told police, included a blow gun worth \$250; a "Saw-All," \$190; a drill-bit set, \$100; an electric drill, \$125; electric outlets, \$20; four pairs of pliers, \$60; assorted wrenches, \$80; and assorted screwdrivers, \$60.

Police said they'll question

See HOBOKEN — Page 10.

## Judge may decide on Drayton's post

By Bill Campbell

The state Superior Court may determine whether a controversial Hoboken City Council appointee can serve as a commissioner of the municipal Housing Authority.

Attorneys for the authority and for Eugene Drayton, who was sworn last week to a four-year term as a commissioner, will ask Superior Court Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys to rule on possible con-

flicts. State law prohibits more than one city employee or officer from serving on the authority's board of commissioners. Attorneys for the authority and the city argued that Drayton, a city police officer and member of the Board of Education, can't serve because City Councilman Edwin Duroy is already on the board.

Ironically, Duroy nominated Drayton for the authority

See JUDGE — Page 7.

## Judge may decide if Drayton can serve

Continued from Page 1

post during the council's Nov. 16 session. Plans to swear Drayton in the following day were put on hold after the legal questions surfaced.

However, Drayton was sworn in as a commissioner on the seven-member board on Nov. 24 in private City Hall ceremonies. The Council agreed to ask the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to rule on the appointment, but HUD, the

authority's parent agency, refused.

Drayton Friday said his attorney, Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., and Housing Authority attorney James Bosworth reached an agreement to let the appointment stand. "I have been sworn in as a commissioner, I'm on the authority so I can serve," he said.

However, others disputed Drayton's claim that an agreement has been struck. Bosworth did not return telephone messages at his office, but assistant city attorney Tom Calligay said the authority's attorney denied the claim.

Calligay said the city, which has been brought into the dispute, and the authority will file papers in Superior Court early this week asking for a ruling.

Opponents of the appointment claim that state law N.J.S.A. 55:14-6 prohibits Drayton from serving as a commissioner. The

law says that "not more than one officer or employee of the municipality" can serve on the authority.

D'Amelio, in a memo to the city Council earlier this month, maintained that Drayton's position in the Police Department makes him a "public" officer, not a municipal officer.

### Hoboken burglaries

Continued from Page 1

the Signal and Traffic Division and Public Works Department workers employed at the garage.

"Everything down there is behind locked doors and only they themselves have the keys," said Police Chief George Crimmins.

Roy Haack, Public Works director, said he was unaware of the thefts.

### HOBOKEN RESIDENTS

## Parking revisions eyed

DISPATCH 12-7-87

HOBOKEN—The City Council has moved to ease restrictions on parking here under the city's residential-only parking law.

Under an ordinance sponsored by Councilman Dave Roberts, the Parking Authority would require proof of residency from one of four sources before issuing stickers which allow parking on city streets not covered by meters. The four possible proofs are:

- A valid state driver's license.
- A valid motor vehicle registration for the vehicle.
- A recent utility bill.
- A lease or rent receipt with a utility bill.

The authority also would have the power to give parking privileges based on other proofs of residence that the authority deems appropriate.

The present ordinance requires motor vehicle registration as a proof of residence.

"We had been getting a lot of complaints from yuppies whose cars are registered in other

states like Connecticut or New York," Roberts said.

The city is now posting all city streets not covered by parking meters with signs making it illegal for non-residents to park for more than four hours.

Roberts' proposed changes were tabled by the council this week for a 30-day review period.

The council is expected to vote on the changes, in the form of an ordinance, during a January meeting.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE

### Equipment thefts probed

DISPATCH 12-8-87

HOBOKEN—City officials said an investigation is continuing into reports that city equipment has been stolen regularly from the municipal garage for more than a year.

The city will install a camera and an infrared alarm system to prevent further thefts, mayoral aide Laurie Fabiano said.

According to police reports,

some \$900 in tools has been taken since April 1986. Several officials said the burglars used a key to gain access to the supply rooms in the garage, leading the officials to believe the crimes were inside jobs.

Sources said police have several leads in the investigation, but would not be specify who was involved.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE

## ShopRite to shut down

Hoboken supermarket to close on Dec. 31

DISPATCH 12-4-87

By JUDY TEMES

Business Writer

HOBOKEN—The closing of the ShopRite supermarket on Washington Street has been set tentatively for the end of the month, its owners say, while the search for a replacement continues.

Some 20,000 people frequent the 19-year-old market, which is to be replaced by a \$57 million mixed-use project containing 288 condominium units. Construction on the development will begin in about a year, according to developer George Vallone of the West Bank Construction Co.

City officials fear that the closing of the ShopRite at the southern end of the city will leave a large portion of local residents without a nearby place to shop. Three supermarkets currently serve the city, according



Customers yesterday leave the ShopRite supermarket on Washington Street near Observer Highway in Hoboken. The store is scheduled to close Dec. 31.

### SHOPRITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Jeanne Forest, economic development coordinator for the Community Development Agency. And even that is way too few, she said. The two others are both Foodtowns, located in midtown, she said.

"There is a desperate need for supermarkets in Hoboken," Forest said. "We've needed one uptown for a long time. Now we'll need one uptown and downtown."

Singer ShopRite Supermarkets of North Bergen has been under contract to sell the supermarket to West Bank for the last two years. A deal will be closed this month, Vallone said yesterday. Martin Singer, president of the company, said the market is scheduled to close Dec. 31, but the closing may be extended to February. Vallone said the owners have three months after closing to vacate the premises. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The market here, just a block from the Hoboken Terminal, is profitable, Singer said, but most consumers today prefer larger supermarkets containing at least 50,000 square feet of space. The market here measures only about 30,000 square feet.

"We're making a profit," Singer said. "But that store was built in 1969. Times have changed. People today like their stores larger with more room for parking."

Space here is limited, he said, especially when it comes to parking.

Singer, a city native who started his five-store ShopRite chain here, said he is searching for an alternative site in the city. His real estate representative is speaking with a number of developers, he said.

Meanwhile, Vallone said West Bank's plans to replace the ShopRite here with an I.G.A. supermarket have been dropped. The city forced West Bank to scale back its plans by 30 percent, from 18 to 12 stories, Vallone said, a move he said made the construction of a large supermarket on the site impossible.

West Bank's plans call for 34,000 square feet of retail space, but the shops will be small and probably will feature more expensive items than a supermarket. Vallone said he expects to see a dry cleaner, a small grocery, a bank machine and a video store in Court Street Plaza, the name of the new development.

The supermarket shortage worries Forest. She said more than a thousand residents signed petitions last year asking city officials to encourage a new supermarket to be built uptown on what is now a parking lot for property owned by city developer Anthony Dell'Aquila. "Everyone has been concerned about it," she said.



## Your opinion

When I was 16 yrs old (36 years ago) and living in New York City, I had a white 15-year-old girlfriend whose mother was totally against me. At that time there was a law in effect entitled "The Statutory Rape Act."

It proscribed that no male 16 or over could be alone with any female under 16 without the consent of her parents. Her mother had me arrested, and although it was determined at the trial that she was a virgin, I was still convicted as a juvenile offender for violating the letter of the law. This then is the most terrible and horrible rape the city administration has been sensationalizing in some local newspaper.

In spite of these malicious attacks against "CUNA" and me, and knowing I cannot speak for the Non-Hispanic Community, there is no doubt we have wide support from the Hispanics, blacks and Indians. For the Nov. 4 council meeting I mailed out 200 letters and 55 persons attended the meeting. For the Nov. 16 meeting I mailed out 375 letters and 149 people attended, including 48 Indians. At this last meeting I also presented 2,347 signatures to the Council (an additional 1,327 were destroyed in a recent fire). It makes one wonder what would happen had we the financial resources to mail a couple of thousand. However, a fund drive could make that a possibility.

Since its inception, "CUNA" has helped thousands upon thousands of people with problems, and not just Hispanics, without ever asking for any money or any other recompense for the granting of that assistance. One must keep in mind that we have always been the only indigenous community based non-profit organization in this city, performing the work that we do.

In the 17 years of our existence, those utilizing our services have done so because of the community atmo-

sphere they encounter. For whatever reason, there exists an inordinate amount of fear, mistrust and lack of confidence, specially by the poor, of anything with an institutional appearance. In "CUNA" they are made to feel human by the treatment accorded them and their problems, and not like a dehumanized statistic.

Following are some of the present and past endeavors accredited to "CUNA":

The first to give out free lunches to the children of Hoboken; the first to have sprinklers placed on the firehydrants in the summer; we have run countless block parties and events for the purpose of seeking funds for victims of local tragedies; we ran three successful 24-hour musical marathons for the mudslide victims in Puerto Rico, the volcano victims in Colombia and the earthquake victims in Mexico; we conduct anti-drug block parties (ironically, the Mayor nor anyone from his administration, although invited, have never attended any of the functions, even if only to express their condolences); State Troopers' written exams are conducted at least twice a year; distribution of food commodities to over 1,000 families each year (starting in 1988 it will be 3 times a year); organized the two massive marches (over 1,000 people each) which eventually put an end to the arson fires; we have conducted high-blood pressure tests and blood donor drives out of the locale; each year we run a huge unity festival by the river.

Also, the agency is used as a meeting place by various groups, such as an Indian Tenants Association, a 95 percent white group of young professionals, members of a neighborhood block assoc., school groups, tenants assoc. and others; and etc.

Besides the aforementioned few examples, we deliver individual services to over 250 people a year and operate a daily youth program which

mandates that the children do their home work between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. They also receive tutoring, counseling, arts and crafts, and are kept constructively busy until 7 p.m. The main emphasis being to keep them away from the temptations encountered on the streets.

Don't be fooled by their attacks upon me. I am not the true issue. The issue is the large Hispanic Community which they wish to keep down and diminish as a social and political force.

They know very well they won the last Mayoral election based on the unfulfilled promises made to the Hispanics, and they are just as aware that the Hispanic people have completely turned-off to them. Without going into facts or details for the moment, there is one question hanging around and begging to be answered, and that is: Just what has this administration done for us minorities, or for that matter, the poor? Not one solitary thing. And we do not wish to hear that same old time-worn excuse that they could not get anything through the Council. That's a lot of bull. How could they, when they never presented anything with substance to the Council relating to minorities. A council, which I am sure as it relates to minorities, would have been very careful and accommodating to any request or resolution.

It took the election of the first Hispanic to the city council before we were able to acquire the Office of Hispanic and Minority Affairs, a simple attempt at the least, which had no trouble getting through the council. Then there is the matter of the three administration councilpersons being the only ones to vote against the appointment of a black to the Housing Authority commission. These are just a couple of examples of the Anti-Hispanic/Black mentality and nature of this administration.

The Mayor, as he has reported to the newspapers, "will do anything" to assure "CUNA" does not get funded. But, there is no way on heaven or earth that he can close me or the people down who comprise the heart of the organization.

We will still be around irregardless of the unfair, irresponsible and malicious attacks, and 1989 will tell the story. The people most in need of responsible and responsive government cannot continue to be governed by non-elected individuals who appeared on the scene from somewhere else and were not even aware Hoboken was on the map when our organization first began in 1970.—JUAN R. GARCIA, Hoboken.

care of its most poor, deprived hard-pressed people.

The Democrats, now that they are a majority in the House of Representatives, will, as some have intimated, be raising taxes to the tune of \$12 billion. If the people follow their lead, that is just what they will get.—LOUIS J. PESTA, Jersey City.

## MAXWELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said, "It is possible that more production will be shifted to the Hoboken plant as part of an ongoing review of operations," he added.

General Foods ruled earlier this summer to shut the Hoboken facility. But management here succeeded in convincing headquarters that the plant can be kept open with cutbacks in labor and savings in the cost of supplies and electricity.

"This shows the good things that can happen when you have cooperation," Acly said. "We were all pulling in the same direction."

Under the plan, workers will receive substantial severance and retirement packages, including money for schooling and some training. Charles Volk, a business agent for Local 56 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, said some employees will walk away from their jobs with as much as \$50,000.

Meegan said the packages are costing Maxwell House several million dollars, but said the price was worth it because it eliminates any bad feelings among the workforce.

So far, about 60 to 70 people have taken up the company's offer, most of them people in their 60s with more than 30 years on the job. Meegan said he expects that the full 125 will eventually take advantage of the incentive to leave. "We'll get what we're looking for," he said.

While the plant is saved, Meegan said there is much hard work ahead to make the massive 48-year-old facility viable. To replace those who will leave, much of the remaining workforce will be retrained, he said. "To get the costs we need, we have to run the plant at the current speed using less people."

Meegan and Acly said management's earlier announcement about an impending shutdown was not an empty threat to coerce the unions to agree to severe cost-cutting measures. "We were going to shut the plant," Acly said. "Everyone realized that and understood exactly what was at stake. Without shaving millions from the production costs, we could not have kept it going."

Volk said the retirement packages are good, and the strategy allows junior workers to remain on the job without fearing for their livelihood.

"We are pleased with the cooperation of management," he added. "They have made a 180 degree turn. Four months ago, the situation looked very bleak."

Volk said the unions hope that with improved efficiency, more work can be transferred to the Hoboken plant, and eventually those who have been laid off in the past will be rehired. He added that it was management's decision to work with unions that allowed the plant to remain open and employ a remaining 700 workers.

"Far too often, unions are the last to know about a shutdown," he said. "If they would have kept us out of this, who knows what could have happened."

Because of its high labor and utility costs, the Hoboken plant had been the least efficient of four Maxwell House plants in the country. It was slated to shut, unless a cost-cutting plan could be put in place. Lagging demand for coffee — especially the instant variety — had forced executives to seriously consider the shutdown option. Per capita coffee consumption today is about half of what it was in the 1960s.

# CUNA has a long history of helping

J.J. 12/4/87

## Jurors don't believe police

Continued from Page 1

four hours to reach its verdict. At one point during deliberations, it appeared the panel was divided when it wanted to know if the verdict had to be unanimous.

Garcia pleaded guilty in 1984 to selling marijuana in a schoolyard in Union City. He was paroled after 16 months of a five-year prison sentence. He currently faces unrelated drug charges in Hoboken.

## Jurors don't believe police in drug case

By Joni Scanlon 12/12/87

A Hoboken man who claimed Union City police may have planted drugs on him was acquitted yesterday of selling PCP-treated marijuana to an undercover cop last January.

Jurors would not comment about whether they believed Victor Garcia's story of possible police corruption, or merely felt there was not enough evidence to convict him.

Prosecutor Paul DePascale refused comment on whether his office would investigate the defense's counter-charge that Garcia was falsely arrested.

Union City Public Safety Director Bruce Walter could not be reached for comment.

Testifying under oath on Wednesday, Garcia, 23, said the officers who arrested him in the hallway of a Union City apartment building may have planted 39 packets of marijuana tainted with PCP or "Angel Dust." It was also possible, he conceded, that the drugs may have been left behind in the hallway by someone else.

The defendant also testified that police twice slapped him in the face when he pro-

claimed his innocence at the time of the arrest.

Union City attorney Ignacio Saavedra, defending Garcia, compared the case to recent episodes of police corruption in New York.

"It was a phony arrest case. Something is rotten in Union City," he said. Saavedra became ill seconds after the jury's verdict and had to be excused from the courtroom. He could not be reached later for comment.

Assistant Prosecutor Jonathan Follender had no comment except, "The jury has spoken."

In his closing statements, Follender argued that the detectives who arrested Garcia wouldn't risk their careers by faking an arrest.

"We're not talking about 'The French Connection.' We're talking about 39 bags of marijuana," he said.

Arresting officers were Union City Detective William Clifford and Lt. Charles Everett. Garcia said he has had dealings with Everett in the past.

The jury deliberated over

See JURORS — Page 10.

## Maxwell plant will stay open

Dispatch 12-2-87  
By JUDY TEMES  
Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Management decided yesterday to keep the Maxwell House coffee plant here open, after unions agreed to a cost reduction plan under which 125 positions will be eliminated. The move will save the ailing coffee plant millions of dollars a

year, said plant manager Frank Meegan, significantly reducing the cost of operations and making the plant competitive with its sister factories in other parts of the country.

About 95 jobs will be eliminated from the manufacturing side, in addition to 30 salaried positions, said Peter Acly, a spokesman for General

Foods Corp. in White Plains, N.Y., the parent company of Maxwell House. The workers will begin leaving immediately, with the last ones departing by Dec. 31, he said.

"The plant is viable and we look forward to continued production in the long term," Acly

Please see MAXWELL Page 12

## Burned up tenants to protest ruling

By Bill Campbell 12/8/87

Tenants who were burned out of an apartment building plan to rally at 11 a.m. this morning to protest a state Superior Court ruling Friday barring an independent engineer from inspecting the fire damage.

Tenants of 318 Hudson Street and local politicians are to gather on the steps of the five-story building in which an elderly woman died during a three alarm-fire October 20.

Instead, Judge Dorothea O'C Weffing, sitting in Jersey City, ruled that Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo must prepare the report on structur-

al damage to the building. Ten families were burned out of their apartments during a blaze which fire investigators blamed on a faulty electrical system.

The tenants, most of whom are now living with relatives and friends in Hoboken, have been prohibited from returning to their homes.

"We are totally outraged by this ruling," said Cindy McKee, the attorney for the tenants.

"Arezzo was appointed during the Cappiello administration and his selection is totally unacceptable."

The building is owned by the Mon-Tut Corp. whose principles include Dorothy Cap-

piello, wife of former Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Roger Lowenstein, the attorney representing Mon-Tut, did not return phone messages for comment on the court ruling.

Steve Cappiello said he was unaware of the rally or Weffing's ruling on Friday.

McKee said the tenants are charging Mon-Tut with fraud and unlawful eviction. "It's clear that the building's owners do not want to spend thousands of dollars to repair a building which has tenants who pay about \$300 a month," she said.

She said Lowenstein argued that neither the tenants

nor the engineer should enter the building because it is in danger of collapse.

The Rev. Paul Hagedorn, head of the tenants rights organization Campaign for Housing Justice and a rally organizer, said the primary purpose of the demonstration is to get the tenants back in the building.

"This is not a political vendetta, but simply a way of focusing attention on these people who may lose their homes," Hagedorn said.

Arezzo must have been ordered to completed his report by December 18, and representatives for both sides return to are due back in court on January 8.

## Fire-struck tenement to be inspected

By Bill Campbell 12/11/87

City and private inspections of a fire-damaged Hoboken tenement are to begin this morning, despite charges of harassment by the attorney representing families displaced by the blaze.

City Buildings Inspector Alfred Arezzo, and inspectors hired by the tenants of 318 Hudson Street are to examine the building at 10 a.m. where a fire on October 20 killed a woman and left eight families homeless.

Cindy McKee, an attorney for the tenants, said in state Superior Court yesterday that the building's owners have unreasonably attempted to pre-

vent independent inspections of the property.

The tenants, who have been unable to return to their apartments, are protesting projections by the landlord that repairs may take from six to 18 months.

The tenants are suing the owners, Mon-Tut Corp. and Dorothy Cappiello, wife of Councilman Steve Cappiello and a Mon-Tut partner, charging fraud and unlawful eviction.

McKee yesterday charged the owners with harassment, saying their request for complete indemnification in the event the tenants' inspectors are injured during the tour was "shocking and outrageous."

Superior Court Judge Dorothea O'C Weffing denied a request by the owners who said that structural damage could lead to injury and possible lawsuits by inspectors.

Roger Lowenstein, the owner's attorney, requested indemnification, immunity from all damages stemming from possible injury during the inspection, because the owner's insurance carrier canceled all coverage after the fire.

Instead, Weffing ordered the private inspectors, who are covered by workmen's compensation, to sign a release surrendering their right to sue the owners in the event of injury.

Lowenstein said later that the court-ordered release does

not grant the same protection as indemnification.

McKee said the plan was unnecessary.

Arezzo said he is covered by the city's insurance policy for injury or death, and he has "no problems" with inspecting the building. He said his inspection will concentrate on building code violations.

McKee said the tenant's inspectors will attempt to assess damages and determine a time-frame for repairs.

Lowenstein also represents Michael Sciarra, who has a contract to purchase the building. Sciarra said he is buying the building "as is" and estimates that repairs will cost about \$250,000.

## Hoboken and Stevens planning parking

By Bill Campbell 12/10/87

Hoboken city officials and representatives of Stevens Institute of Technology will meet next week to discuss a plan to construct a multi-million-dollar parking facility on property owned by the college on 8th and Hudson Street.

Councilman David Roberts, chairman of the council's

subcommittee on transportation, said preliminary discussions have begun to study developing a joint Stevens-Hoboken subterranean parking facility.

Many details of the plan, including the size of the facility and the cost have yet to be determined, Roberts said. The parking facility is not linked to a plan by Hartz Mountain In-

dustries to develop waterfront property owned by Stevens, he said.

Representatives of Stevens, the City Council and the city Parking Authority will meet for the first time Wednesday to express a willingness to explore the project," Roberts said.

"We will have to look into costs and needs for the area,

but a project like this is necessary since the lack of parking spaces has reached crisis proportions in that part of the city," Roberts said.

A spokeswoman for Robert Hand, vice president for development at Stevens, said the meeting will be "an exploratory session to study the possi-

See HOBOKEN — Page 18.

## Drayton can't sit on authority till status resolved

By Bill Campbell 12/11/87

A state Superior Court judge yesterday barred Hoboken Housing Authority Commissioner Eugene Drayton from sitting on the authority until legal questions about his appointment are resolved.

Judge Ariel Rodriguez, sitting in Jersey City, approved a request by the authority to restrain Drayton from sitting on its board of commissioners until Jan. 8, when a hearing is expected to settle a dispute over Drayton's legal status.

The Housing Authority is asking the City Council to rescind its Nov. 16 appointment of Drayton, a city police officer, to the board of commissioners because state laws prohibit more than one municipal official or employee from serving as a commissioner.

Edwin Duroy, the city councilman who nominated Drayton for the post, already serves as a Housing Authority commissioner.

The Housing Authority, in court papers filed by its attorney, James Bosworth, is arguing that if Drayton is permitted to sit on the seven-member commission the authority would be an "illegally constituted public body."

Neither Drayton nor his attorney, Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., was available for comment.

State statute says that "not more than one officer or employee" of the city can serve on the Housing Authority commission.

Duroy has three years remaining on his term. Drayton was appointed to the authority last month to fill the unexpired term of Anthony Romano.

The commissioners are the policy-making arm of the Housing Authority, which maintains about 1,500 federally subsidized apartments for low-income families and senior citizens.

Five of the commissioners are appointed by the City Council, while the other two are appointed by the mayor and governor. Commissioners serve a five-year term and do not receive a salary.

## Hoboken, Stevens plan parking

Continued from Page 1

ble construction of a parking facility."

Beth Callihan, the spokeswoman, said Hand could not comment on details of the plan until after he has met with municipal officials.

Roberts has also discussed the proposal with Peter Jurkat, a Parking Authority commissioner and Stevens employee, he said. Jurkat could not be reached for comment.

The proposal is a revival of a plan developed by Stevens about eight years ago, said Roberts. The existing parking lot on 8th Street would be expanded by constructing parking facilities under the baseball field on the southern end of the campus, he said.

The field would be expanded to "cover the lots, thus creating an addition recreation facility," Roberts said. The

parking facilities and the playing field will be shared by Hoboken residents and Stevens students and staff, he said.

Residents have long complained that development and increased commuter traffic in Hoboken have resulted in a shortage of parking spaces. In September, the city implemented a residential permit parking program designed to crack down on commuters driving to Hoboken to utilize PATH or bus service into Manhattan.

However, residents in the midtown section of the city which borders Stevens have complained that students and staff contribute to residential parking woes by using curbside spaces.

Stevens abandoned its original plan to develop the 8th Street site because the cost projections were "extremely high," Roberts said.



## Hoboken has school for rent

By Bill Campbell

The Hoboken Board of Education is considering a plan to close an unnamed elementary school to convert the building into an alternative education facility, board officials said yesterday.

Discussions have already begun between board members and potential tenants, including the Hudson County Vocational-Technical School and Hudson County Community College, officials said.

The board tonight will vote on a resolution sponsored by trustee Perry Belfiore to explore closing one of the three elementary schools on Garden Street. The board would retain ownership of the building, he

said, but lease the facility in order to generate yearly revenue.

The board, which meets at 7 p.m. at 1115 Clinton St., must approve the resolution before formally entering into negotiations with tenants, Belfiore said.

The City Council last summer reached an agreement with the board to close at least one school to curtail increased school spending and respond to reduced enrollment.

Board officials said the Rue School on Third and Garden streets would likely be targeted for the plan. The building was recently rehabilitated and is considered more "desirable" than any of the six other elementary schools.

Both Belfiore and Board of Education President Richard England said a proposal to lease the Rue School would be "acceptable" because the building would not have to be renovated at a substantial cost to the board.

A school board committee has already met with top officials of the Hudson County Vocational-Technical School in an effort to create a Vo-Tech campus in Hoboken, according to Belfiore.

A source close to the negotiations said the Vo-Tech is "more than interested" in leasing the Rue School for use as a performing arts and computer facility. Vo-Tech has campuses

See HOBOKEN — Page 18.

## School to let

Continued from Page 1

in Jersey City, North Bergen and Kearny.

Belfiore confirmed that the Vo-Tech is interested in creating a computer and performing arts program in Hoboken, which he predicted would be "a theatrical arts mecca."

England said he has launched "unofficial" talks with representatives of Hudson County Community College about leasing space in a school building. Specific uses for the building were not mentioned, he said.

According to England, an exploratory committee will be appointed tonight, and recommendations on potential tenants will be due before June 15. "There are several different approaches on how we should implement this plan, but I think our main concerns should be reducing the core facilities, keeping ownership of the school for future use and making as much money as possible from the deal," England said.

Belfiore said the board will seek assistance for the Hudson County Executive and the Board of Freeholders in developing a needs assessment on the amount of revenue generated from the lease.

According to Belfiore, the board would like to receive at least \$135,000 per year from the plan. He said, however, that the board must still decide on a formula to base rents and the length of tenancy.

"We are only now taking the first steps of what will be a long journey," Belfiore said. "We are looking for all suitors and only now, through preliminary talks, hashing out differences."

School officials said Earl Byrd, the Vo-Tech superintendent, and Walter Sheil, president of HCCC, have been notified of the possibility of available space in Hoboken. Neither was available to comment on the plan.

"We've probably gone as far as we can go without the board passing a formal resolution to explore a school closing," Belfiore said.

Nonetheless, board sources said the Vo-Tech is "more than interested" in the Hoboken proposal. Informal talks between both sides began in late October and members of the board and representatives of Vo-Tech met for a lengthy luncheon in Hoboken on Nov. 21 to discuss revenues.

A school closing is expected to be one of several cost-cutting measures enacted by the school board as the body prepares its 1988-89 budget.

Last April, voters rejected the board's \$26 million budget by a 3-1 margin. The budget would have increased the amount to be raised through taxation from \$9 to \$12 million

## GARAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Peluso said the missing water pump was removed from a box, and an old pump was returned to its place on top of the box, to give the impression that nothing had been disturbed or taken.

Since April, thieves have taken screwdrivers, pliers, electric drills, and the pump from the Signals and Traffic Division. Some of the tools belonged to Peluso.

Peluso said he reported thefts of power tools to the police 1½ to two years ago, but not to city officials. No arrests were made in

those crimes. He said he believes all the thefts have been inside jobs.

"It has got to be done with a key," he said. The robberies have continued, even though Peluso said he has changed his office and supply room locks at least three times.

About 150 people from eight city departments work in the facility every day, according to Haack. He said access to the garage is through a gate, and that only people in Mercado's department have gate keys. Each de-

partment inside the garage is responsible for the keys to its offices and supply rooms.

"I think the garage should be secured 24 hours a day, either with private guards or people that Mercado screens," Haack said. "It's an isolated area and an easy temptation for someone to rob it."

Haack would not comment on a police report that Water Department employees were the only workers in the garage during the Thanksgiving weekend, when the water pump was stolen.

## DUMPING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

regulation.

Subcommittee member Rep. James J. Florio, D-Pine Hill, and Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-Montclair, joined Dewling in calling for the end of ocean dumping. Florio said the EPA should be more forceful in enforcing its regulations, and Lautenberg said new technologies — many discussed by committee heads who also addressed the committee — would help in finding alternatives to ocean dumping.

Federal guidelines call for the end of ocean dumping in 1991, but Dewling said that without new laws, the dumping would go on, polluting beaches and endangering the quality of ocean water near coastlines.

Dewling also said refuse from sewer-overflow problems — which occur in Hudson County every time it rains — account for an average of 300 million gallons of sewage from the New York metropolitan area being dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. He said local municipalities should tighten laws regulating sewer systems and examine ways to stop the overflow.

"The big problem on the beaches — the crack tubes and needles — they came from the street corner," Dewling said.

The problem is particularly evident here, where the primary sewage-treatment plant is practically non-functional, dumping almost pure sewage into the Hudson River every day. The city is preparing to bid for the builder of a new, secondary sewage-treatment plant, scheduled to be completed by 1991.

The subcommittee also heard from a dozen companies from across the nation, whose representatives testified about innovative technology for dealing with sludge and refuse treatment and removal. After the hearing, Florio said there was no doubt that the new technologies would enable the government to halt ocean dumping.

"It's fairly clear to me that alternative technologies are available to stop the dumping of toxic waste into the ocean," he said after the hearing. "The rationale has always been there is no other way, but there was clear and unequivocal evidence to the contrary."

Florio said the companies that made presentations discussed technology and products that can neutralize toxic components in waste.

## Hoboken to fine trash collectors

HOBOKEN—Responding to a host of complaints about late garbage pick-up service, the city will fine its lame-duck garbage collection company, officials said yesterday.

The amount of the fines, to be levied on Browning-Ferris Industries of Fairfield, will be determined today, Public Works Director Roy Haack said. He added that the fine, to be determined by agreements in BFI's contract with the city, would be less than \$1,000.

Haack said the city received up to 40 complaints a day about the company, which lost its contract when the city awarded one to rival LaFera Contracting Co. of Newark on Dec. 2. BFI's contract, which was signed in 1982, expires on Dec. 15.

"You do have complaints in

this business," Haack said, "but when you're talking 30 or 40 complaints a day, there is definitely something wrong."

The fines stem from contract violations that BFI allegedly committed Monday. Haack said the company picked up no garbage that day until 11 a.m., and that the company only used one truck for most of the day.

Officials of the company met with the City Council this fall over similar alleged violations in the company's contract. The company agreed to meet regularly with city officials about the complaints, but the council was not satisfied with the results and hired LaFera, the city's garbage-collection company before BFI was hired in 1982.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE

## ShopRite closing Dec. 13

Continued from Page 1

ShopRite wasn't as resolute.

In July, 1985, amid rumors of the sale of its property, the chain assured Hoboken residents the supermarket was staying put.

"ShopRite is absolutely staying," chain co-owner Sid Singer said then. "We haven't seriously entertained any specific offers at the moment."

Only a few months later Singer ShopRite accepted an offer from Hoboken developers George T. Vallone and Daniel J. Gans.

The deal was reportedly in the works for several months prior to the agreement.

At about the same time, a plan to build a new Pathmark store up town fell through when it didn't attract the required number of votes from the City Council.

Hoboken's ShopRite will be the fourth in Hudson County to close in the last several years. Singer ShopRite previously closed stores at 885 Ber-

gen Ave. and 320 Grove St. in Jersey City, and at 714 Summit Ave. in Union City.

ShopRite retains locations at 31st Street and Kennedy Boulevard in North Bergen, near Schuetzen Park; on Route 440 in Jersey City near the Hudson Mall and at Avenue C and 26th Street in Bayonne.

The largest store, volume-wise, in the entire ShopRite interstate network is reportedly Tully's ShopRite on Passaic Avenue in Kearny.

Management of Hoboken's two other supermarkets, both Foodtown stores at 619 and 811 Clinton St., declined comment on whether they expect business to improve when ShopRite closes.

About 45 people, mostly from Hoboken, work in the Hoboken ShopRite, Dolan said. All have been offered jobs with other ShopRite stores, she said.

Singer ShopRite management in North Bergen couldn't be reached for comment.

## ShopRite closing New Year's Eve

By Dominick Calicchio

The ShopRite supermarket in Hoboken will close for good on New Year's Eve, but long-time customers aren't exactly singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Shoppers yesterday sounded more like jilted lovers than friends standing at a fork in the road.

The supermarket chain's parent company, Singer ShopRite of North Bergen, sold its Hoboken property, at Newark and Washington streets near City Hall, last year to developers who plan to build a \$60 million residential and mini-mall complex to be called Court Street Plaza.

For residents of Hoboken's southern end, the move will mean a longer trip to either of two midtown supermarkets, or driving to stores outside the city.

"It'll be a little rough for the old people," said shopper Frank Cebollero of Hoboken.

"It's easy for me, I live up town," he said, "but it'll be hard for people downtown, I guess."

According to downtown resident Aracelia Rosario, a loyal ShopRite customer for 13 years, Cebollero guessed right.

"I don't have a car," she said. "I have to wait for somebody to take me (to another store). There's nothing we can

do about it. If they're gonna close, what can we do?"

Though the inevitable is only two weeks away, clerks continue to stock ShopRite's shelves.

Store manager Carol Dolan said the supermarket will operate normally in its final two weeks, then transfer inventory to other ShopRite stores later.

Dolan said customers, too, are acting as though the end isn't near.

"People don't really know where else to go," she said, "so they're going to stick it out to the end."

But apparently Singer

See SHOPRITE — Page 10.

# Garage theft probe set



The Hoboken Municipal Garage on Observer Highway reportedly has been the scene of several thefts of equipment. City officials suspect the crimes were inside jobs.

## Workers suspected in Hoboken crimes

Dispatch 12-7-87  
By JOHN CURTIS  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—City officials said they will launch an investigation today into thefts from the municipal garage that they said were inside jobs.

Police reports on the most recent crime, the theft of a \$125 water pump during the Thanksgiving weekend, said a key was used to gain entry to a ground-floor supply room. Tools worth almost \$900 have been stolen from the garage on Observer Highway since April, and officials said thefts of public and private property have been commonplace for years.

"I would assume that all the robberies that took place were done by people that work there," said Public Works Director Roy Haack. "It's nothing new."

Haack said he would meet today with city Law Director William Graves and police Lt. Mario Mercado, who supervises the city motor pool in the garage, to discuss an investigation into the thefts.

Joseph Peluso, assistant superintendent of the Signals and Traffic Division, reported the thefts to the police and also made reports to Mercado and all directors of city departments.

Please see GARAGE Page 4

## End to dumping urged

Dispatch 12-8-87

### DEP chief: Ocean is in danger

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The head of the state Department of Environmental Protection said at a House subcommittee meeting here yesterday that Congress must make ocean dumping completely illegal or risk a sharp increase in the amount of sludge dumped into the Atlantic Ocean.

DEP Commissioner Richard T. Dewling also told the subcommittee that a major source of water pollution was the overflow of local street-sewage systems. He called for more "common-sense" local programs like increased street cleaning, maintenance of sewer basins and tide gates, and "pooper-scooper" laws, which help prevent pet defecation in public sewers.

The hearing of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Hazardous Materials was held at Stevens Tech here to highlight sewage and waste problems common to the area.

New garbage disposal technologies were supposed to dominate the hearing, but Dewling told the subcommittee that



Richard T. Dewling, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection, is flanked by Reps. James J. Florio, left, and Frank J. Guarini at a meeting yesterday at Stevens Tech in Hoboken to discuss alternatives to ocean dumping.

JOE CARLEGGIO SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

"Courage, not new technology, is needed" to end ocean dumping.

Dewling said technologies currently available could be used to end all ocean dumping but that local governments and corporations find loopholes in laws al-

lowing them to continue the dumping.

He said laws currently disallow dumping of "harmful" sludge.

"What does 'harmful' mean?" Dewling asked. "The Congress has to say, 'Ocean dumping is

ended.' That will force it all back on land."

Dewling said studies predict that sludge dumping will increase up to 25 percent in the next five years without further

Please see DUMPING Page 6

## ARSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chambers would say only, "It's not good. I'll tell you that."

Prior to Tuesday, when the group won the right in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City to send its own inspection crew into the building, the tenants' front door had been padlocked and Montut had prohibited the group and its attorney from entering.

The official report on the fire's cause, which was filed by a joint committee — including officials from the city Fire and Police departments, the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Arson Task Force and the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms — blames faulty wiring in a second-floor fuse box as the cause of the blaze.

Chief Inspector Richard Trimiditi of the Fire Department said he stands by the original report, but added that he would reopen the investigation if he "got something in writing to dispute it from an engineer or electrician."

The group's engineer, Lynn Levine of Rand Engineering in Manhattan, could not be reached for comment.

# Tenants claim it is arson

## Electrician checks site

By MATTHEW DIETRICH  
Staff Writer

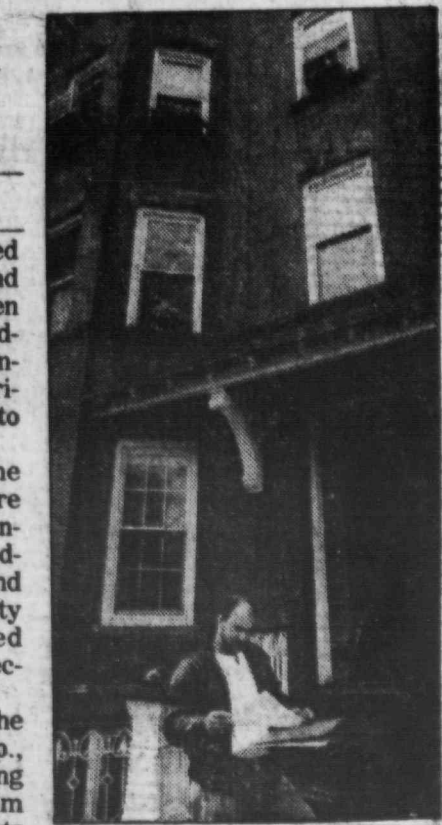
HOBOKEN—A fatal fire ruled accidental by city, county and state agencies may have been the work of an arsonist, according to a group of displaced tenants who sent a private electrician and engineer yesterday to inspect the building.

The group, which lost its home at 318 Hudson St. to a fatal fire Oct. 20, conducted its own inspection of the damaged building to check its structural and electrical soundness as city Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo made his official inspection.

The tenants are suing the building's owner, Montut Corp., saying it has been lax in making minor repairs that they claim could make their apartments habitable again. The group's attorney, Cindy McKee, said that although the purpose of yesterday's inspection was not to prove arson, such a finding would give her clients "more right than ever to get back into the building."

Although McKee did not directly accuse the building's owner of arson, she said her electrician's inspection indicated a possibility that the cause of the blaze may not have been accidental.

"We're suspicious about some electrical protective systems in



Hoboken Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo makes notes outside 318 Hudson St.

the basement that were heavily damaged to the point that it is unusual," the group's attorney, Cindy McKee, said in front of the building after conferring with electrician Novis Chambers of Marty Allen Electrical Co. in Manhattan.

McKee would not be more specific about exactly what was damaged in the basement.

Asked to comment on what he had seen during his inspection,

Please see ARSON Page 10



# Grandiose plans, grimy reality

By Jim DeRogatis

In uptown Hoboken, the Dell'Aquila family plans to develop a multimillion-dollar "Waterfront Center" with luxury housing, office towers and a marina at the former Hoboken Shipyards.

But in downtown Hoboken, a building owned by the Dell'Aquila family near Fourth and Jefferson streets stands in sharp contrast to their ambitious waterfront visions.

Leaking pipes at 504 Fourth St. have gone unrepaired for as long as four years, causing water damage that has resulted in summonses from the city's housing department.

Hoboken's anti-warehousing officer says Dell'Aquila is holding two apartments vacant in violation of the ordinance.

And the tenants have been without heat for almost two weeks.

Landlord Patrick Dell'Aquila, son of developer Anthony Dell'Aquila and a partner in the family development firm,

See GRANDIOSE — Page 18.



Frank Mannino, a member of a social club that meets at 504 4th St., Hoboken, points out crumbling ceiling caused by leaking water pipes.

Photo by Steve Goldstein

Continued from Page 1

says the building is structurally unsound. He has asked the city to condemn 504 Fourth St. so it can be torn down.

But Assistant City Attorney Maureen Schweitzer said she thinks Dell'Aquila is trying to take advantage of a loophole in the state anti-eviction law allowing landlords to remove tenants from buildings that must be condemned.

"The irony is that the owner is claiming the building is in such a state of disrepair that there's an immediate danger, but it was his burden all along to maintain the building. That's a loophole," Schweitzer said.

Dell'Aquila's attorney, Frank Leanza, said there is "no loophole I'm aware of, and there is nothing the landlord could have done to prevent what happened. We're not re-

sponsible for what happens in the ground beneath Hoboken." Leanza said problems with the building are the result of the swampy ground beneath it shifting.

But tenants say problems at the building are the result of Dell'Aquila ignoring repairs.

"Patrick Dell'Aquila is the source of his own problems," said tenant Theresa Armstrong. "If he had repaired the leaks a long time ago, he wouldn't have these problems."

Damage in Armstrong's apartment includes a caved-in ceiling over the shower and heavy water damage in the hallway. She is afraid the water damage will cause electrical problems.

Leanza said problems in the building were discovered when Dell'Aquila hired a plumber to repair the leaky pipes. The plumber was concerned because the building was tilting and there was movement in the foundation, he said.

Erico Consulting of Cranford, an engineering firm hired by Dell'Aquila, issued a report saying the building is "in a rapid state of deterioration due to inadequate foundation support." Erico determined that the necessary repairs "are not physically and financially feasible."

"We can't say the building will fall apart today or next weekend, but if we get a rainstorm or heavy blasting, who knows?" Leanza said. "We are only concerned about the tenants."

Dell'Aquila did not return repeated requests for comment. His father, Anthony, is an enigmatic figure who rarely appears in public and refuses to speak with the press about his development plans.

Tenant Emma Linker does not believe Patrick Dell'Aquila is worried about the tenants.

"He doesn't care about us, and he doesn't care about City Hall," she said. "He owns a lot of property and he thinks he can do whatever he wants."

City Housing Inspector Jude Fitzgibbons issued a summons to Dell'Aquila for ignoring repairs. He was fined \$75 by the municipal court, but he has still not completed the necessary work.

"If he's only going to be fined \$75, that's cheaper than fixing the building," Fitzgibbons said. "I think the landlord is trying to harass the tenants to get them out of that building so he can develop it."

Armstrong and Linker also believe Dell'Aquila wants the building empty so he can develop the site. According to city tax records, he owns seven other pieces of property in the area, including several vacant buildings.

Leanza denied that Dell'Aquila is attempting to empty 504 Fourth St. for development. Dell'Aquila "has compassion for the people who live there and he doesn't want to kick them out in street," Leanza said.

City attorneys and Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo are waiting for their consulting engineer's report before ruling on whether the building should be condemned. If it must be torn down, Schweitzer said, the city will see that Dell'Aquila respects tenants' rights.

According to the anti-eviction law, landlords who must evict tenants because of unsafe building conditions are required to give tenants three months' notice, relocate them in new apartments, pay moving expenses and pay the difference between their old rent and their new rent for up to \$4,000 a year for four years. Tenants said the landlord has not taken any of these steps yet.

While the city attorneys wait for their consulting engi-

neer to examine the building, anti-warehousing officer Ketan Shah is investigating warehousing charges involving two of the six apartments in the building.

Leanza denied that Dell'Aquila is warehousing the apartments. "Right now, we feel the building is uninhabitable," he said. "We expect it to be immi-

neely condemned. How can we put somebody in there?" But Shah said Dell'Aquila has neither registered the units with the city nor applied for a waiver to keep the units vacant, as required by the anti-warehousing law.

In addition to Armstrong and Linker, a family and an elderly woman live in the building. The tenants who lived in the other two apartments left more than a year ago.

Compounding the tenants' worries, the building has been without heat and hot water for almost two weeks, since the boiler broke. Armstrong, who is pregnant and has a young daughter, and Linker, who also has a young daughter, said they fear for their families' health.

City Health Officer Patricia Mitten said the health department inspected the building Tuesday and ordered Dell'Aquila to fix the boiler. Workers were at the building yesterday, but last night there was still no heat.

Mitten said landlords are responsible for providing temporary heating such as space heaters, but Leanza said he was concerned that portable heaters would not be safe.

Leanza said the boiler will be repaired in the next day or two.

Dell'Aquila "is willing to spend the money because he doesn't want people cold and he doesn't want bad newspaper publicity," Leanza claimed. "He's a nice guy, and he's concerned about his tenants."

THE HUDSON DISPATCH, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 1987

## HOBOKEN COUNCIL

### Election fight in court again

By JEFFREY HOFF  
Staff Writer

Helen Manogue took her fight to overturn her one-vote defeat in the June Hoboken City Council runoff election before a state appellate court in Hackensack yesterday.

Manogue and Councilman E. Norman Wilson appeared before judges of the Appellate Division of state Superior Court in Hackensack with their attorneys for a one-hour hearing to review the election, which Manogue says should be declared invalid.

Gerald Krovatin, the Roseland attorney representing Manogue, argued that five absentee ballots not accepted by the Hudson County superintendent of elections, Harvey Birne, should be accepted.

The checks on the paper ballots are not squarely within the box next to each candidate's name, and the ballots were disregarded.

"If they are accepted than the election is a tie because three are for me and two are for Wilson," Manogue said yesterday.

A tie, which would force a vote, is what the environmental activist and banker is hoping for.

Wilson, who was the incumbent, lost his council presidency because the recount of the June 9 election delayed his election to the post.

"I would like to have this all behind me. It does interfere with your ability to function. It doesn't give you the same kind of authority to have the vote in dispute," said Wilson, who was represented yesterday by attorney James E. Flynn of Jersey City.

Wilson won with 733 votes to 732 for Manogue in the 5th Ward race. Without any of the absentee ballots, Manogue won, 706 to 698.

### Cop admits aiding suspect

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday would only say that Coppinger will still be given a departmental hearing, when the department will officially dismiss him.

"He is still entitled to his rights, and his rights are that he must be afforded a hearing," he said.

Crimmins reserved any other comment until after Coppinger is sentenced. Officials could not confirm the sentencing date.

Coppinger, 30, has been on the force less than five years, according to DePascale.

### Cop admits aiding suspect

By John Petrick

A Hoboken police officer, one of eight public safety officials from throughout the county indicted by a grand jury in September, pleaded guilty yesterday to official misconduct.

He admitted helping a suspected narcotics dealer evade undercover investigators.

Patrolman Michael Coppinger was accused of passing

along confidential police information in July to a person suspected of trafficking cocaine into Hoboken.

According to officials, Coppinger helped the unidentified dealer by providing the license plate number of a vehicle being used by undercover detectives.

The alleged dealer was then able to avoid the car, according to Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale.

### Towers plan is fought

Dispatch 12-17-87

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The city's plan to transform a gritty strip of Observer Highway into a set of gleaming spires has been challenged by community activist Ronald Hine, who fears the plan will condemn the area rather than redeem it.

Hine, representing a group called Downtown Residents for Sane Development, filed an appeal of the city's Oct. 21 decision to accept a plan for a 450-unit development. The appeal was filed Tuesday before Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

Hines is challenging the plan, which includes provisions for "affordable housing," on five counts. He charges that the blighted area declaration that allowed the city to move the plan forward is no longer valid, that the city failed to complete in-depth traffic and parking impact studies, that the vote of Councilman Steve Cappiello is void because he owns property within 200 feet of the property, that the City Council violated the state Open Public Meetings Act by gathering at a party hosted by developer Joseph Barry and that only 5 percent of the units actually qualify under federal guidelines defining affordable housing.

The plan, for which he city is accepting proposals, was designed by the city Community Development Agency. It includes minimum requirements for middle- and low-income housing units. According to the plan, at least 115 of the units must be rented at between \$695 and \$975 a month. At least 23 of those, the plan stipulates, must be rented at between \$186 and \$295 a month.

Hine, who lives within a few blocks of the planned development, has been a constant critic of the plan.

### Sewer bond on tap

Parking ordinance also on the agenda

Dispatch 12-16-87

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—The City Council is expected to vote on a plan to float a \$31 million bond for a sewage plant and will consider a group of amendments to the city's residents-only parking ordinance when it meets tomorrow at City Hall.

The bond will pay for slightly more than half of the projected \$60 million cost for a secondary sewage treatment plant. The city is under separate mandates from state and federal authorities to update its dilapidated primary treatment plant and to construct a secondary treatment facility.

The present plant, which is supposed to treat sewage from Union City, Weehawken and Hoboken, dumps virtually untreated sewage into the Hudson River.

The rest of the plant's cost will be paid by a grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The agency agreed to the grant and to suspending fines the city had accumulated for years — after gaining assurances from the city that the plant would be built quickly, and that the city would comply with federal clean water standards.

The city earlier this month awarded a contract for a resident design engineer of the new plant to Lawlor, Matusky and Skelly, a Pearl River, N.Y., firm. Bids for the construction itself are scheduled to be accepted early next year, and the plant is scheduled for completion in 1990.

The amendments to the no-parking ordinance, which prohibits non-residents from parking on city streets for more than four hours at a time, would make it easier for people to get a proof-of-residency sticker. The amendments would allow residents whose cars are registered out of town to receive the sticker.

Under the amendments, the Parking Authority would require only one of four proofs of residency: a valid driver's license, an auto registration, a utility bill or a lease or rent receipt with a utility bill.

### Burned-out tenants to rally vs. landlords

Dispatch 12-8-87

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A group of tenants displaced by a fatal tenement fire on Hudson Street in October are set to protest what they call foot-dragging tactics by the building's owners, who have not repaired the structure.

The tenants will gather outside the building at 318 Hudson St. at 11 a.m., according to Cynthia McGee, an attorney for the tenants.

McGee brought suit on behalf of the tenants last month, charging that the landlords — including Dorothy Cappiello, wife of Councilman Steve Cappiello and a partner in the landlord company — are trying to freeze the tenants out.

"Fire should not be an excuse for evictions from a building,"

said McGee, who represents eight of the 10 families who lived in the five-story structure. "It's perfectly clear what they're trying to do."

Roger A. Lowenstein, the attorney representing the landlords' group, Montut Corp., said he could not talk about the case late yesterday. He and McGee were scheduled to attend a private conference last night with Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefling of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

According to McGee, the attorneys will discuss whether the tenants can hire their own engineer to help assess the damage to the building. She said she did not trust Alfred Arezzo, the city construction code official who was appointed by Steve Cap-

piello when he was mayor.

Dorothy Cappiello was not available for comment, but Steve Cappiello said she was "perturbed" by the allegations and that she was not trying to keep the tenants out of the apartments.

"Mrs. Cappiello has no intentions of becoming a condominium developer," Cappiello said. "I think my wife has been a very fair landlord. Unfortunately, some circumstances have occurred which may be beyond their control."

The fire killed Savitaban Amin when it burned through the structure in the late hours of Oct. 20. Fire officials said the blaze was caused accidentally, by a short circuit in an electrical wire.



JUAN GARCIA  
Rapist wants community support

### Free cheese used as bait Director used government surplus food to draw backers

Dispatch 12-16-87

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—In an effort to drum up support for his failing, controversial youth program, Juan Garcia told people who wanted to register for free govern-

ment food that they first had to show up at City Hall to support him.

Garcia plans to ask the City Council tonight for \$15,000 of the city's money to keep his program, Citizens United for New Action, running. In a hastily con-

vened news conference in City Hall yesterday, city officials charged that Garcia improperly used his status as a distributor of the federally furnished food to gather support for the program, which has received no funding after a city agency stopped paying in August.

Garcia, a convicted rapist and drug dealer who says he has mended his ways, gave Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine fliers that directed students to reg-

See CHEESE Page 28



# Burned-out tenants plan suit

Delay in repairs is called 'excessive'

By MATT DIETRICH  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—Angered by what they call excessive delays in repairs to their fire-damaged apartment building, a group of displaced tenants said yesterday they plan to sue their landlord.

Fair-housing activists joined the tenants in a protest in front of the building at 318 Hudson St. and the group's lawyer, Cindy McKee, announced that the group had won "a major victory" earlier in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

McKee said she had not been able to develop a case against the owners because they had padlocked the building's door and would not allow a private engineer to assess the damage. Yesterday's ruling by Judge Dorothea O.C. Weing ordered that the group be allowed to send its own inspector when Hoboken construction code official Alfred Arezzo inspects the building Friday.

The tenants, who have been living with friends and relatives since the Oct. 20 fire, claim that only minor repairs are needed to make four of the building's five stories habitable. They say the owner of the building, Montut Corp., has been evasive about when the repairs will get done.

Dispatch 12-9-87



Niles Patel points at 318 Hudson St. in Hoboken yesterday during a protest against the landlords' failure to fix up the building after an October fire.

JOE CARLEGGIO SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

"They said it could take three months or it could be two years. They were very vague," said Niles Patel who has been living with a friend in Jersey City since the blaze.

Problems for the group were compounded when they found out at the court session that Montut, which is owned in part by Dorothy Cappiello, wife of

city Councilman Steve Cappiello, had sold the building to Michael J. Sciarra, a local landowner, who says it will take at least six months to make the building habitable.

"Anyone who walks in the front door of that building can see that it's not fit to live in," Sciarra said in response to the tenants' claims.

Sciarra dismissed accusations that he was involved in a conspiracy with the building's owners and said he had bought the tenement from Montut because the previous owners could not handle the extensive renovation he says the building will require. Sciarra estimates it will cost \$250,000 to make the building habitable.

# Sale of building brings protests

J.J. 12/9/87

By Bill Campbell

A fire-damaged Hoboken tenement owned by the wife of Councilman Steve Cappiello is being sold to a landlord convicted of violating the city's "anti-warehousing" law.

Michael Sciarra, who was fined \$3,200 in municipal court last spring for deliberately keeping vacant five apartment units on First Street, has a contract to purchase 318 Hudson St., an attorney representing the building's tenants announced yesterday.

The announcement, which contradicted earlier statements from the building's owners, stunned and puzzled residents of the building who have been fighting for nearly two months to re-enter their apartments.

About a dozen people — mostly tenant activists and residents who were burned out of the five-story brick building last October — rallied on the steps of 318 Hudson St. in an effort to win public support in their fight to return to their apartments.

Tenant representatives appealed to the building's current owners, Mon-Tut Corporation of Hoboken, to make repairs to the damaged halls and stairways.

The tenants have charged the building's owners with dragging their feet on repairs in an attempt to discourage residents from returning. Mon-Tut is owned by Dorothy Cappiello, the wife of former Mayor Steve Cappiello and Goya Marciano, the mother of former assistant

city attorney Frank Marciano. Cindy McKee, the tenants' attorney, said efforts to re-enter the building may be hampered by the possible sale to Sciarra. Sciarra could not be reached for comment and McKee said she did not know the purchase price or the date the contract was signed.

The tenants said they had long feared that Mon-Tut was

attempting to discourage residents from returning to their apartments because empty multi-family buildings can generate high prices from developers seeking to convert to condominiums.

Superior Court Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys last month upheld the city's

See BUILDING — Page 26.



Jyotish Amin examines the lock on the door of the house where his mother died in a fire.

# Authority, freeholders clash on Hoboken plant

Dispatch 12-15-87

By DOUGLAS LAVIN  
Staff Writer

The Hudson County Utilities Authority booted over last night at a joint meeting with the county Board of Freeholders concerning plans for a proposed sewage treatment plant in Hoboken.

Four of the nine authority commissioners requested the meeting in an unsuccessful attempt to oust Chairman Anthony Russo.

The minority group, led by Commissioner Lawrence Cucchiara, charged Russo with committing the authority to the use of questionable technology in the proposed multimillion-dollar plant.

Russo, backed by Hoboken Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti, accused Cucchiara of acting in the interests of an engineering firm that was removed from the contract.

Last year, Hoboken removed Mayo Lynch and Associates of Hoboken from the project and awarded a \$3.9 million engineering contract to Lawler, Matusky and Skelly of Pearl River, N.Y., to build a \$61 million treatment plant for the city. An attorney for Lawler, Matusky charged that last night's fight over Russo was really a battle over which engineering firm would get the contract. Cucchiara denied that he represented Mayo Lynch.

The City of Hoboken charged successfully in court that Mayo Lynch was not proceeding properly with plans for the plant. A new sewage treatment plant is crucial to Hoboken, which is under a Department of Environmental Protection ban on residential development because its current plant dumps untreated sewage into the Hudson River.

# Observer Highway plan challenged

By Bill Campbell

A downtown citizens organization in Hoboken has filed an appeal in state Superior Court challenging the legality of the City Council's Observer Highway redevelopment plan.

Downtown Residents for Sane Development, in papers filed yesterday with Superior Court Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys, is asking the court to block the city from soliciting bids on the multi-million dollar residential development plan.

The council approved legislation creating the redevelop-

ment plan in November, and is soliciting bids from developers to construct a 450-unit high-rise project along Observer Highway from Bloomfield Street to Willow Avenue.

More than 60 developers have requested project specifications for the plan, although officials expect less than half that amount to bid on the project.

Community activist Ron Hine, spokesman for the downtown residents and a longtime critic of the redevelopment plan, said the City Council is promoting "the interests of the developers to the detriment of

our neighborhood."

In a statement issued late yesterday, he said "since the council has chosen to ignore our protests of excessive height and density, we are forced to resort to litigation."

Hine, who earlier this year successfully appealed the Zoning Board of Adjustment's granting of a variance to the developers of the Presidential Towers condominium project on Newark Street, is head of the six-member plaintiff steering committee.

The group charges that the city's 1972 blight designation of the site does not reflect the

current conditions of the redevelopment area; that the vote cast by Councilman Steve Cappiello to create the redevelopment plan is void because he owns property within 200 feet of the proposed project; and that the council violated the Open Public Meetings Act by attending a party organized by real estate magnate Joseph Barry, a project bidder.

Neither Cappiello nor Barry could be reached for comment.

Hine further charged that the "affordable" housing com-

See OBSERVER — Page 14.

## HOUSING AUTHORITY

# Hoboken is sued on commissioner

Dispatch 12-16-87

By JEFFREY HOFF  
Staff Writer

The Hoboken Housing Authority has filed suit against the city and Eugene Drayton to prevent him from being named a commissioner of that board.

Drayton was appointed an authority commissioner by the City Council last month but City Attorney Thomas Callighy said he cautioned council members in a memo the next day that the appointment may be invalid.

The appointment of Drayton, who is a city police officer, a member of the Board of Education and active in politics here, drew criticism from the administration and its supporters.

The legal suit filed by the authority charges that city law prohibits more than one municipal employee or officer to sit on the authority board.

Drayton's attorney, Salvatore D'Amelio Jr., a former director of the city Law Department, said yesterday that police officers are different from other municipal employees and that Drayton can sit on the authority

board. The authority has reached an agreement with the city and D'Amelio under which neither Drayton nor anyone else will fill the commissioner's seat until the suit is decided in court. Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who voted against Drayton's appointment, said the council was aware of the legal problem before it gave Drayton the nod.

"The appointment was clearly going to go through whether there was a legal problem or not," said Della Fave.

Addressing his political concerns surrounding Drayton, Della Fave said, "His actions on the Board of Education have been insensitive to parents. Now you are putting him in a position to deal with the other most critical problem in the city, housing. He has showed himself to be politically motivated. How do you expect him to be sensitive to the housing problem?"

The case is set to be heard by Judge Ariel A. Rodriguez of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City on Jan. 8.

# Two suspects arrested in Hoboken coke deal

By Dominick Calicchio

A Hoboken city employee and an ex-city employee were arrested Wednesday after a drug transaction in the municipal garage on Observer Highway, Hoboken police said yesterday.

Police identified the suspects as Marcelino Morales of Keansburg, a Public Works equipment manager and mechanic, and Daniel J. Mincica, a Public Safety mechanic who resigned in August.

Mincica sold "a sizeable amount" of cocaine to Morales while on city property at Observer Highway and Willow Avenue, said Police Chief George Crimmins.

Crimmins said Mincica quit his job in August rather than serve a six-month suspension for absenteeism.

City Public Works Director Roy Haack said Morales has been a Public Works employee

for the last 10 years without incident.

Haack called for mandatory drug-testing for all city employees. He said he and city Law Director William Graves will meet today to determine if Morales will be suspended.

The arrests came in the midst of a police investigation into goings-on at the 7-year-old garage where, police said, burglaries of city-owned equipment have been occurring regularly.

Since April, according to one department supervisor, more than \$1,000 in equipment is missing from the Signal and Traffic Division alone.

Police Lt. Mario Mercado, head of security at the garage, said police had reason to believe some of the burglaries may have been drug related.

Crimmins said yesterday neither Morales nor Mincica was charged in connection with the burglaries.

# Observer Highway

Continued from Page 1

ponent of the redevelopment plan is not consistent with federal guidelines and that the land value of the project is underappraised.

The redevelopment plan calls for construction of 115 units for low- and moderate-income families. The plan also calls for prospective developers to pay the city the appraised value of the city-owned

property, which officials estimate at \$4.7 million.

The council has asked that all bids be received by February to insure that a portion of the revenue generated from the land sale can be earmarked for the 1988 municipal budget.

The downtown residents also want the city to prepare parking, traffic and infrastructure studies before bids are accepted.

## COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contracts, charging that administration officials improperly executed them.

Administration supporters — Della Fave among them — charged that Ranieri was trying to cover up for past blunders that Ranieri and other city officials made in supporting Mayo Lynch, which was hired to design a new secondary sewage treatment plant. Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City invalidated the contract in 1986 after Vezetti refused to approve it.

Della Fave repeated his charges that Ranieri is linked to Mayo Lynch and thus is putting the engineering firm before the interests of the city.

"Bob Ranieri is — and continues to be — the spokesman for Mayo Lynch on the council," Della Fave said.

But Ranieri and Richard Seltzer, Woeckener's assistant, yesterday denied that their contact with CH2M Hill would hurt the city's case against Mayo Lynch. Both men said Della Fave is trying to divert attention

from their investigation.

"It is a standard red herring," Ranieri said. "Why he's making this charge, I can't understand." Ranieri said his investigation, which is scheduled for completion in mid-January, would reveal "gross violations" by administration officials.

Seltzer said there was nothing wrong with contacting the Hill firm, a "court-acknowledged expert" in sludge matters. "Any statement by anybody that there is something wrong with it is not an accurate statement, and therefore vicious libel," he said.

Late last month, Woeckener asked CH2M Hill to consider helping his sludge investigation by becoming a consultant to the city. Della Fave and Kenneth Laptook, an attorney representing the city in its Mayo Lynch suit, wrote to Council President Patrick Pasculli asking him to order all contact with CH2M Hill stopped. When Della Fave learned on Dec. 9 that Woeckener and the firm still were corresponding with one another, he wrote another letter demanding that all communication cease.

# Building sale is protested

Continued from Page 1

warehousing conviction of Sciarra, who is an attorney, and last week the City Council approved the \$3,200 judgment.

The warehousing laws were enacted by the City Council last year to discourage landlords from keeping apartments empty for the purpose of condominium conversion.

Frank Marciano, who has acted as a spokesman and attorney for the corporation, said he could not comment on the conditions of the sale or the status of the building.

During a meeting with tenants in City Hall in early November, Steve Cappiello and Marciano said they had no plans to sell the buildings.

Ten families were burned out of their homes when a three-alarm fire swept through Mon-Tut's properties at 316 and 318 Hudson St., claiming the life of a 55-year-old woman. Fire inspectors traced the cause of the blaze to a faulty electrical system.

Residents of 316 Hudson St. were allowed to return to their homes about a week later, but fire, smoke and water damage to the common areas of 318 Hudson Street prevented those tenants from returning.

The owners have projected that repairs may take between six to 18 months to complete, a time frame tenants and activists believe is too long.

On Friday, Hoboken Building Inspector Alfred Arezzo and an engineer hired by the tenants will conduct the first structural inspection of the building since the Oct. 20 fire.

Rally organizers said they had hoped to attract a larger crowd and blamed the low turnout on the cold weather and the fact that most people were at work.

Nonetheless, organizers said they will continue to focus attention on the condition of the building.

"I would very much like to get back into my apartment, but the landlord doesn't want us in," said a former resident of 318 Hudson St. who identified himself as Mr. Patel.

The Rev. Paul Hagedorn of the Campaign for Housing Justice, a tenants' rights organization, issued a plea to the owners to repair the building as soon as possible.

# Deceit in probe charged

## Mayo Lynch tilt hit by Della Fave

Dispatch 12-21-87

By CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Staff Writer

HOBOKEN—A member of the City Council has charged that a team of investigators tried to sabotage the city's ongoing court struggle against Mayo Lynch & Associates, a local engineering firm.

But a member of the investigating team charged that the councilman was trying to divert attention from the potentially damaging investigation.

Joseph Della Fave, a supporter of Mayor Thomas F. Vezetti, asserted that investigator Frederick L. Woeckener repeatedly contacted CH2M Hill (CQ), an engineering firm that is an impartial witness in the Mayo Lynch lawsuit. Because CH2M Hill already has given testimony favorable to the city in that court case, Della Fave argued, then any city contact with the firm could taint its testimony when the Mayo Lynch case comes to trial.

"He ran around like a cowboy, without approval from anybody, contacting CH2M Hill," Della Fave said of Woeckener. "I question the motivation for all of this."

Woeckener agreed at last week's council meeting to stop communicating with the firm. But Della Fave said yesterday that damage to the city's multimillion-dollar Mayo Lynch case "might have already been done."

The allegation is the latest in a series of charges and countercharges between supporters and opponents of Vezetti's over sewage and sludge matters. Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, a constant administration critic, launched an investigation last month into city sludge-removal

Please see COUNCIL Page 16

# Garcia sees woe for nay-sayers

By Dominick Calicchio

and Earl Morgan

Embattled Hoboken youth program director Juan Garcia hinted that he may seek retaliation against City Council members who voted to deny his group \$15,000.

"There may be recalls in the wind," Garcia said, adding that he was referring to council members Thomas Newman and E. Norman Wilson, two of the six who voted against funding the bankrupt group.

Councilmen Steve Cappiello, Robert Ranieri and Ed Duroy supported aid for Ciudadanos Unidos pro Nueva Accion (CUNA).

Garcia and CUNA members stormed out of City Hall Wednesday, after the latest setback for a program

accused of mismanagement by local and state officials.

Earlier this week, Councilwoman Helen Cuning charged Garcia with plotting to use a federal food program for his own political advantage.

She said she sent a copy of a letter, distributed by Garcia and outlining his plan, to the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office for investigation.

In March, CUNA was denied \$70,000 by the state Department of Community Affairs because it was providing "a low grade of services" for Hoboken residents.

Garcia has also been scrutinized by officials for a series of convictions, over a 30-year period, on charges ranging from drug possession to rape.

Garcia said he was particularly disturbed by the votes of Newman and

Wilson because they had fervently sought CUNA support during their campaigns.

Newman said he did run on issues important in the Hispanic community. "I find it interesting that two councilmen who are often against building affordable housing voted to support Garcia's request," Newman said.

E. Norman Wilson said he felt Garcia's request should have been taken to the community development agency.

"I don't think we should give money to community groups from the city budget," Wilson said.

"If we were to do that every community group and organization will be asking the council to bail them out."



# Hoboken ferry revival clears an obstacle

By Terence J. Kivlan

WASHINGTON — Legislation passed by the Senate would clear the way for the revival of the Hoboken ferry by opening a channel in the Hudson River and cutting several years off U.S. Army Corps of Engineers red tape along with it.

Port Authority officials said it would take them up to three years to secure from the Corps the "encroachment rights" necessary to use the federal channel area—a 200 by 800-foot location off Battery

Park City in lower Manhattan — as the site of the New York terminal for the ferry line.

The officials said the possibility of such a delay in constructing the facility would probably be sufficient to kill the entire ferry restoration project.

The legislation de-federalizing the channel area was attached as an amendment to the omnibus budget bill passed by the Senate over the weekend. It was sponsored by Democratic Sens. Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg. It also had the support of the two New York

senators, Republican Alfonse D'Amato and Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

The amendment now has to be accepted by the House.

Members of the two chambers began meeting in conference yesterday to negotiate a final version of the omnibus bill. It has to be enacted before Congress adjourns for the year.

Aides to Democratic Rep. Frank J. Guarini of Jersey City, who was not a member of the inter-house conference, said he did not expect House to object to the ferry amendment.

The Port Authority officials said the Corps doesn't object to the measure because it would rather not be put in a position of having to grant an encroachment right.

The Authority committed \$5.8 million to revive ferry service between Hoboken and lower Manhattan as a part of an overall capital improvements program announced in the spring.

The plan calls for the Manhattan terminal to be built just above the Battery Park City's North Cove. On the Hoboken side, the old ferry terminal — in front of the Eire Lakawana

Railroad station — would be restored and put back into operation.

The ferry service would carry 5,200 commuters a day, relieving some of the congestion in the trans-Hudson bridges and tunnels, and also on the overcrowded PATH subway system connecting New Jersey and Manhattan.

Construction on the ferry operation would begin next year and be completed in 1990. The Port Authority would still have to secure all the necessary dredging permits from the Corps of Engineers and the en-

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Lautenberg, a former Port Authority Commissioner, said the ferry service would "make life a lot easier for thousands of commuters." Bradley said it "would help get people out of their cars by providing another much needed vehicle for crossing the Hudson."

Moynihan said the new Hoboken ferry would "add a vital link" to the transportation network between New York and New Jersey.

## Garcia charged with exploiting food program

By Bill Campbell

A youth program director is trying to manipulate a federal food distribution program for political gain, Hoboken officials charged yesterday.

Juan Garcia, director of the bankrupt Cuidados Unidos pro Nueva Accion, is attempting to win public support in his plea for municipal program grants by offering a "special registration" for a federal and state funded food program to minority groups.

Garcia has urged minority and community leaders to lobby the City Council to fund CUNA in exchange for "first dibs" at a free cheese and butter program, said Councilwoman Helen Cunniff.

She and Carole McLaughlin, director of community ser-

vices for the Community Development Agency, made the charges against Garcia yesterday at a hastily called news conference in City Hall.

They based their charges on letters obtained from community leaders in which Garcia described his lobbying tactics.

Garcia said he will attend tonight's council meeting with members of his organization in what Cunniff called "a last ditch effort" to obtain funding.

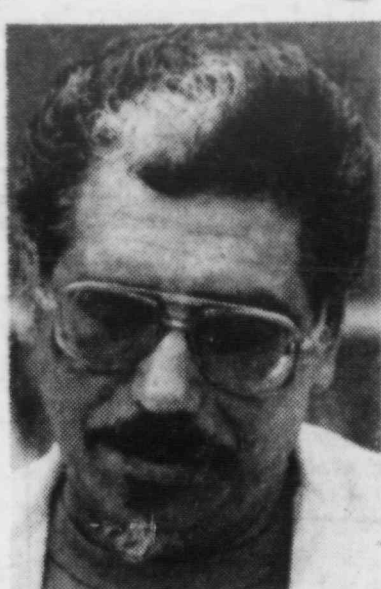
Garcia said he would not comment, but denied violating any laws by offering his supporters preference in the distribution of free food.

Cunniff said she has forwarded copies of the documents to Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale and the state Attorney General's office. Officials who monitor the pro-

gram for the County Food Distribution center in Bayonne were not available for comment.

The City Council earlier this month delayed a vote on a plan sponsored by Councilman Edwin Duroy to appropriate \$15,000 from the municipal budget to fund CUNA until December 31. The measure, which needed support from six of the nine council members, was tabled after Council President Pat Pasculli and Councilman David Roberts said they would not support it.

Garcia, in a letter to an unidentified Indian leader, said "a tactic I will be using to win funding support" is getting some children to write one letter to both Mr. Pasculli and Mr. Roberts expressing what they feel over the closing of CUNA.



Juan Garcia Under fire

Roberts said yesterday he is "firmly against" using city money to fund CUNA. He said he has turned over about a dozen letters he received supporting CUNA to Cunniff.

CUNA, which has offices at 918-920 Willow Avenue, has operated without program grants since August. Garcia, who in March was denied nearly \$70,000 in grants from the state Department of Community Affairs for "offering a low grade of services," rejected a plan by the CDA to fund CUNA if the offices were moved to the city-owned Multi-Service Center on Grand Street.

McLaughlin, who supervises federal and state assistance programs throughout the city, said Garcia "overstepped his bounds."

Cunniff said he was "ex-

ploiting" children and using the CUNA program for his own personal and political gain.

In the letter to the Indian leader, Garcia referred to Cunniff as a racist for opposing CUNA funding and called May, or Thomas Vezzetti, who is also opposed, "our anti-minority mayor."

In a letter to the public, Garcia said residents who sign up to speak in support of CUNA at tonight's council meeting can register for the free food and "only they will be notified in the future whenever CUNA is giving out or doing anything which is beneficial to them."

McLaughlin said anyone can register for the free food at the HOPES office at 124 Grand Street or at the HOPES Head Start office at 916 Garden Street.

### HOBOKEN KILLING

## Dad fights for murdered son

By JEFFREY RUBIN  
Staff Writer

Although Jamshid Mody's son Navroze has been dead for more than two months, the feelings of grief have not diminished.

Neither has Mody's hunger for justice.

On Sept. 27, Navroze Mody was beaten to an unconscious pulp by a band of youths at Ninth Street and Willow Avenue in Hoboken, becoming one of the early victims of a spate of vicious attacks against Indians.

In later weeks, repeated assaults against members of the Indian community, particularly those who live in the Jer-

sey City Heights, were perpetrated by individuals who claimed to be members of a group that calls itself the "Dot-busters." By mid-October, the situation had escalated to the point where the Guardian Angels, a self-appointed citizens' defense group born to guard New York City's subways, arrived in Jersey City to keep the Indians safe.

But none of this mattered much to Navroze Mody, whom witnesses and officials said had been struck so many times with bricks, fists and feet that his skull was shattered. The Citicorp employee sank into a coma at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, and died on Oct. 1, four

days shy of his 31st birthday. "We did not celebrate his birthday," Jamshid Mody said yesterday. "We have not celebrated the holidays. We are in mourning, and we will remain in mourning for a long time."

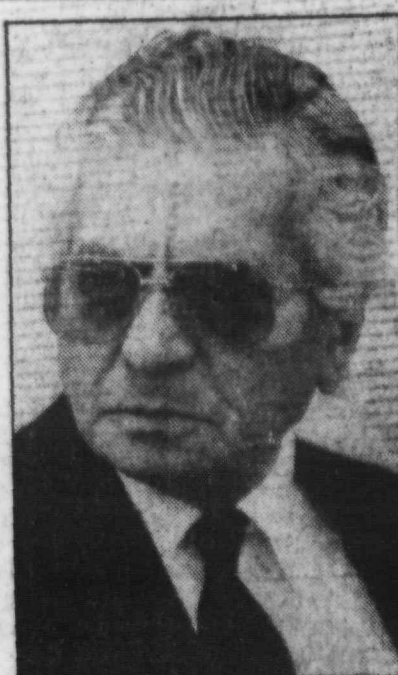
Mody and his wife lived with their son in Jersey City, and were supported by him until his violent death. They are confronted almost daily by their loss.

"Every minute you see something of his in the home, and you feel tears," Mody said. "Why this senseless act? Why my son? We keep asking these questions again and again, but there are no answers."

Perhaps the most perplexing question for Mody is the question of what will happen to the four youths accused of killing his son.

This Tuesday, the Hoboken teenagers, ranging in age from 15 to 17, are scheduled to appear in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City for a hearing to determine whether they should be tried as juveniles or adults.

As juveniles, they would face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison if convicted of killing Jamshid Mody's son. As adults, they would face a sentence three times as long.



JAMSHID MODY In mourning for 'a long time'

Please see VIOLENCE Page 10

### Your opinion

## Hoboken faces key traffic questions

The Waterfront Advisory Committee recommends that the Hoboken City Council reject the proposed 17th Street Improvement. The reason is that before the city can proceed intelligently it must have answers to the following questions, all relating to traffic in Hoboken:

1: The Port Authority and Department of Transportation have appeared before the council stating that a busway (restricted to buses) will be built from the turnpike extension to the Lincoln Tunnel. What is the status of this proposal? Does it eliminate any hope for a Western bypass?

2: A large deadhead bus depot is planned for a site adjacent to the Lincoln Harbor development. What is the traffic pattern planned for these buses? Will they use 17th Street?

3: How does the 17th Street extension connect to the current and future Hartz Mountain and Imperatore developments in Weehawken? What is the traffic pattern for these developments?

4: What is the status of a proposed bus terminal in Hoboken? What capacity or size and what traffic patterns are proposed? New Jersey Transit and DOT have appeared before the Hoboken Parking Authority and proposed that two lanes of Observer Highway be used as a busway. What is the status of this proposal?

5: The most recent federal tests, in 1982, confirmed that Hoboken's air quality is in violation of EPA sanctions against development in Hoboken because of poor air quality? What changes might be implemented by a new federal administra-

tion? Do we need to reduce traffic to encourage development?

6: How would the proposed road improvements impact on the industrial park proposed for the northwest sector of the city? This needs planning board coordination.

7: What will be the cumulative impact of any and all plans for bus, car, light rail, train, and ferry traffic in and through Hoboken?

Before approving any rehabilitation or road openings, Hoboken needs to have these questions answered to ensure against a destructive impact on our quality of life. — LEWIS FRETZ, chairman, Waterfront Advisory Committee, Hoboken

## School custodian faces drug count

By Dominick Calicchio

A 39-year-old school custodian became the second Hoboken employee arrested on drug charges in two days, Hoboken police said yesterday.

Frederick Joseph Hodle, employed at Hoboken High School for the last four years, was arrested Thursday and was charged with possession of a foil packet of cocaine, police said.

The arrest occurred at 6:14 p.m. in an apartment building on Monroe Street, away from school grounds, police said. OF-

ficers saw Hodle and an unidentified man make a drug transaction outside, then followed Hodle into the building to make the arrest, police said.

The custodian's arrest came one day after police arrested a public works mechanic, Marcelino Morales of Keansburg, on charges that he purchased cocaine Wednesday from an ex-public safety mechanic, Daniel J. Miniccia, in the city garage on Observer Highway.

School business administrator — Page 8.

## School custodian faces drug count

Continued from Page 1

trator Anthony Curko said yesterday he was unaware of Hodle's arrest because the custodian, released pending a court appearance, arrived for work as usual.

Curko said the city law department would be asked to determine if Hodle should be suspended from work.

The Hodle case is at least the sixth this year linking Ho-

boken employees with illegal drugs.

In September three Hoboken firefighters and a police officer were indicted by a grand jury on separate drug charges.

On Wednesday the police officer, Michael Coppinger, 30, pleaded guilty to official misconduct. He had been charged with accepting cocaine as payment for tipping off a drug dealer about the presence of undercover officers.

### FORMER HOBOKEN AIDE

## D'Amelio profits ruled 'improper'

By JEFFREY HOFF  
Staff Writer

Former Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio must pay the city profits he earned improperly from the sale of a building he partially owned while he was the city attorney, the county's top judge ruled yesterday.

D'Amelio, two other city em-



D'AMELIO

ployees and the former girlfriend of Construction Code Official Alfred Arezzo were the co-owners of property at 201-203 Bloomfield St. and earned a \$100,000 profit when they sold the lot on Oct. 30, 1986.

D'Amelio's share in the earnings is not known and will be determined by the city in an investigation conducted by the current law director, William Graves.

Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City found that D'Amelio com-

Please see PROFITS Page 14

### PROFITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mitted a conflict of interest by negotiating a contract of sale for the owners which was dependent on winning a building permit from the city.

"The facts cast a deep shadow upon this affair," Humphreys said in his ruling. "This shadow is lengthened, not diminished, by the fact that the defendant was not merely acting as an attorney for a client but also had a personal financial interest in the venture."

D'Amelio has not been charged with any criminal offense. The decision stems from a suit brought by the city against the former law director.

D'Amelio and his partners, city Tax Collector Matthew Picardi, city Comptroller Matthew Cannarozzi, and Mary Cipriani, a former girlfriend of Arezzo, bought the site on May 30, 1986, for \$265,000 and entered a contract to sell it the next month for \$365,000.

The contract for sale to David Seligman and John Saracco was dependent on winning a building permit to construct a nine-unit residential building there.

Arezzo granted that permit Oct. 30, 1986, the date the building was sold. D'Amelio had been fired on Oct. 7, but Graves argued that D'Amelio was still law director when the contract for sale was signed.

Last June, the city Zoning Board of Adjustment found Arezzo's approval was erroneous and that the proposed building required use and bulk variances.

Councilman Thomas Newman, whose appeal of Arezzo's approval led to the board's decision to revoke the permit, also has questioned Arezzo's role in the sale.

Humphreys's decision against D'Amelio and the board's rejection of Arezzo's permit "makes the whole thing look kind of fishy," Newman said.

### VIOLENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mody's preference is obvious. "We want them to be tried as adults, not as juveniles," Mody said. "They are very cruel murderers."

Mody is attempting to organize a rally outside the county Administrative Building at 595 Newark Ave. on the morning of the juveniles' hearing. The purpose of the rally is to show that the Indian community wants the teens tried as adults, he said.

The rally is expected to be supported and attended by representatives of Indian groups throughout New Jersey.

"It was a vicious murder," said Dr. Lalitha Nasson of Jersey City, chairwoman of a coalition of five Indian groups with approximately 2,000 members. "They have to be duly punished for that." She said the rally would be attended by many members of the coalition, which was formed in the wake of the Dotbuster attacks.

Additionally, Mody said he plans to announce suits against several parties whom he feels contributed to the slaying of his son. According to his New York City attorney, Marc A. Bernstein, the suits are likely to include more than the alleged attackers and their families. Mody may sue the county, Hoboken, and county and local police for failure to protect his son during a period of violence against Indians. And he also may try to invoke federal civil rights laws, which would carry a life sentence for racially motivated killers regardless of their age.

Notice of impending suits could coincide with Tuesday's rally. However, Bernstein emphasized that even extraordinary legal action is unlikely to ease the Mody family's grief over Navroze Mody's death.

### REGIONAL AUTHORITY

## Sewer agency gets OK

HOBOKEN—The City Council approved plans for a regional sewer authority in a special meeting yesterday at City Hall.

The new authority is being organized for Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City, which share Hoboken's dilapidated sewage treatment plant. A new, \$60 million facility is planned for completion in 1991, and the three-municipality authority will oversee its construction and operation.

The new authority will have bonding power to help raise the municipalities' share of the cost. Earlier this year, Hoboken received promise of a federal grant covering 55 percent of the construction costs.

The city is under state and federal mandates to improve the sewage system, and just recently reached separate agreements with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency setting deadlines for compliance with clean-water standards.

The legislation, together with similar laws being considered by Weehawken and Union City, will create a seven-member board of commissioners.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE



# Hoboken ferry revival clears an obstacle

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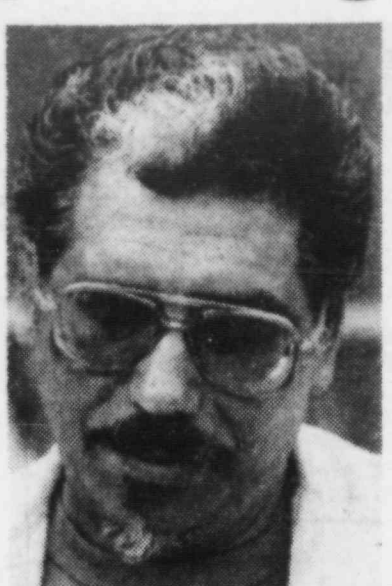
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McLaughlin, who supervises federal and state assistance programs throughout the city, said Garcia "overstepped his bounds." Cuning said he was "exploiting" children and using the CUNA program for his own personal and political gain. In the letter to the Indian leader, Garcia referred to Cuning as a racist for opposing CUNA funding and called Mayor Thomas Vezetti, who is also opposed, "our anti-minority mayor."

In a letter to the public, Garcia said residents who sign up to speak in support of CUNA at tonight's council meeting can register for the free food and "only they will be notified in the future whenever CUNA is giving out or doing anything which is beneficial to them."

McLaughlin said anyone can register for the free food at the HOPES office at 124 Grand Street or at the HOPES/Head Start office at 916 Garden Street.



Juan Garcia Under fire

### HOBOKEN KILLING

## Dad fights for murdered son Plans rally and lawsuits to protest local anti-Indian violence

By JEFFREY RUBIN Staff Writer

Although Jamshid Mody's son Navroze has been dead for more than two months, the feelings of grief have not diminished. Neither has Mody's hunger for justice. On Sept. 27, Navroze Mody was beaten to an unconscious pulp by a band of youths at Ninth Street and Willow Avenue in Hoboken, becoming one of the early victims of a spate of vicious attacks against Indians.

In later weeks, repeated assaults against members of the Indian community, particularly those who live in the Jersey City Heights, were perpetrated by individuals who claimed to be members of a group that calls itself the "Dobusters." By mid-October, the situation had escalated to the point where the Guardian Angels, a self-appointed citizens' defense group born to guard New York City's subways, arrived in Jersey City to keep the Indians safe.

But none of this mattered much to Navroze Mody, whom witnesses and officials said had been struck so many times with bricks, fists and feet that his skull was shattered. The Citicorp employee sank into a coma at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, and died on Oct. 1, four

days shy of his 31st birthday. "We did not celebrate his birthday," Jamshid Mody said yesterday. "We have not celebrated the holidays. We are in mourning, and we will remain in mourning for a long time."

Mody and his wife lived with their son in Jersey City, and were supported by him until his violent death. They are confronted almost daily by their loss. "Every minute you see something of his in the home, and you feel tears," Mody said. "Why this senseless act? Why my son? We keep asking these questions again and again, but there are no answers."



JAMSHID MODY In mourning for 'a long time'

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### Your opinion

## Hoboken faces key traffic questions

The Waterfront Advisory Committee recommends that the Hoboken City Council reject the proposed 17th Street improvement. The reason is that before the city can proceed intelligently it must have answers to the following questions, all relating to traffic in Hoboken:

1. The Port Authority and Department of Transportation have appeared before the council stating that a busway (restricted to buses) will be built from the turnpike extension to the Lincoln Tunnel. What is the status of this proposal? Does it eliminate any hope for a Western bypass?
2. A large deadhead bus depot is planned for a site adjacent to the Lincoln Harbor development. What is the traffic pattern planned for these buses? Will they use 17th Street?
3. How does the 17th Street extension connect to the current and future Hartz Mountain and Imperator developments in Weehawken? What is the traffic pattern for these developments?
4. What is the status of a proposed bus terminal in Hoboken? What capacity or size and what traffic patterns are proposed? New Jersey Transit and DOT have appeared before the Hoboken Parking Authority and proposed that two lanes of Observer Highway be used as a busway. What is the status of this proposal?
5. The most recent federal tests, in 1982, confirmed that Hoboken's air quality is in violation of EPA sanctions against development in Hoboken because of poor air quality? What changes might be implemented by a new federal administra-

tion? Do we need to reduce traffic to encourage development?

6. How would the proposed road improvements impact on the industrial park proposed for the north-west sector of the city? This needs planning board coordination.
7. What will be the cumulative impact of any and all plans for bus, car, light rail, train, and ferry traffic in and through Hoboken?

Before approving any rehabilitation or road openings, Hoboken needs to have these questions answered to ensure against a destructive impact on our quality of life. — LEWIS FRETZ, chairman, Waterfront Advisory Committee, Hoboken

## School custodian faces drug count

By Dominick Calicchio

A 39-year-old school custodian became the second Hoboken employee arrested on drug charges in two days. Hoboken police said yesterday. Frederick Joseph Hodle, employed at Hoboken High School for the last four years, was arrested Thursday and was charged with possession of a foil packet of cocaine, police said.

The arrest occurred at 6:14 p.m. in an apartment building on Monroe Street, away from school grounds, police said. School business administrator See SCHOOL — Page 8.

## School custodian faces drug count

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trator Anthony Kurko said yesterday he was unaware of Hodle's arrest because the custodian, released pending a court appearance, arrived for work as usual. Curko said the city law department would be asked to determine if Hodle should be suspended from work.

The Hodle case is at least the sixth this year linking Hoboken employees with illegal drugs. In September three Hoboken firefighters and a police officer were indicted by a grand jury on separate drug charges. On Wednesday the police officer, Michael Coppinger, 30, pleaded guilty to official misconduct. He had been charged with accepting cocaine as payment for tipping off a drug dealer about the presence of undercover officers.

### FORMER HOBOKEN AIDE

## D'Amelio profits ruled 'improper'

By JEFFREY HOFF Staff Writer

Former Hoboken Law Director Salvatore D'Amelio must pay the city profits he earned improperly from the sale of a building he partially owned while he was the city attorney, the county's top judge ruled yesterday. D'Amelio, two other city em-



D'AMELIO

ployees and the former girlfriend of Construction Code Official Alfred Arezzo were the co-owners of property at 201-203 Bloomfield St. and earned a \$100,000 profit when they sold the lot on Oct. 30, 1986. D'Amelio's share in the earnings is not known and will be determined by the city in an investigation conducted by the current law director, William Graves. Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City found that D'Amelio com-

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### PROFITS

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mitted a conflict of interest by negotiating a contract of sale for the owners which was dependent on winning a building permit from the city. "The... facts cast a deep shadow upon this affair," Humphreys said in his ruling. "This shadow is lengthened, not diminished, by the fact that the defendant was not merely acting as an attorney for a client but also had a personal financial interest in the venture."

The contract for sale to David Seligman and John Sarraco was dependent on winning a building permit to construct a nine-unit residential building there. Arezzo granted that permit Oct. 30, 1986, the date the building was sold. D'Amelio had been fired on Oct. 7, but Graves argued that D'Amelio was still law director when the contract for sale was signed. Last June, the city Zoning Board of Adjustment found Arezzo's approval was erroneous and that the proposed building required use and bulk variances. Councilman Thomas Newman, whose appeal of Arezzo's approval led to the board's decision to revoke the permit, also has questioned Arezzo's role in the sale. Humphreys's decision against D'Amelio and the board's rejection of Arezzo's permit "makes the whole thing look kind of fishy," Newman said.

### REGIONAL AUTHORITY

## Sewer agency gets OK

HOBOKEN—The City Council approved plans for a regional sewer authority in a special meeting yesterday at City Hall. The new authority is being organized for Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City, which share Hoboken's dilapidated sewage treatment plant. A new, \$60 million facility is planned for completion in 1991, and the three-municipality authority will oversee its construction and operation. The new authority will have bonding power to help raise the municipalities' share of the cost. Earlier this year, Hoboken received promise of a federal grant covering 55 percent of the construction costs.

The city is under state and federal mandates to improve the sewage system, and just recently reached separate agreements with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency setting deadlines for compliance with clean-water standards.

The legislation, together with similar laws being considered by Weehawken and Union City, will create a seven-member board of commissioners.

—CHRISTOPHER AVE