

Vote fraud bombshell

FRAUD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Asked whether Roberts should resign his council seat if he does plead guilty to any charges today, Pasculli declined comment. City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said last night that if Roberts does resign, the City Council will choose a temporary replacement until a special election for the seat May 9.

Roberts, an affable small-business owner in his first full term on the council, has been one of

Pasculli's strongest supporters and an administration insider. He has championed Pasculli's initiatives to push forward a waterfront development project, reduce taxes for homeowners and reform the city Police Department.

Roberts is also a city firefighter on leave.

He entered politics here by winning his first race for council, in a special election in 1985, to replace Pasculli, who had aban-

doned his ward seat to run for an at-large slot, on the mayoral ticket of Thomas F. Vezetti.

Pasculli subsequently split from Vezetti, eventually winning the mayor's seat after Vezetti's death last March. But Roberts — who won his 1987 election with considerable help from Pasculli — remained close to the man he replaced in the 6th Ward, eventually becoming Pasculli's most trusted adviser.

Councilman faces rap in Hoboken '87 election caper

By CHRISTOPHER AVE and NINA SHAPIRO
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—Councilman David Roberts is expected to plead guilty in court today to charges that he violated election law in the May 1987 municipal election, sources close to the case told The Hudson Dispatch yesterday.

Roberts, 32, won an election from the 6th Ward on May 12 of that year, beating challenger Cataldo DePinto, 1,056-505.

Sources said Roberts would be charged today as a result of an investigation by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, which has been examining evidence of voting fraud in that election for the past several months.

Roberts is expected to plead guilty in a plea agreement with prosecutors, a source said. The exact nature of the charge could not be determined yesterday.

As of yesterday, Roberts had not been charged with any wrongdoing in connection with the election, and he has consistently denied any criminal acts. He could not be reached for comment late yesterday, despite several telephone calls to his home and one to his restaurant, East L.A. on Washington Street.

After an investigation last year, county election officials said votes were cast fraudulently in the 1987 ward election. Signatures of Stevens Tech students had been forged on ballots, according to the officials.

Roberts called for an investigation into the fraud after the incidents were uncovered. The county Board of Elections conducted its investigation and turned the matter over to Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale last fall.

DePascale could not be reached for comment last night.

Defense attorney Dennis D.S. McAlevy of Hoboken said in a telephone interview last night that he was representing Roberts. However, McAlevy called "absolutely preposterous" the suggestion that Roberts would admit to committing election fraud. The attorney declined further comment.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, a friend and political ally of Roberts, said last night he was aware the prosecutor's investigation "was nearing a conclusion," but declined to say whether he had been told of charges against Roberts.

"I didn't know the details," Pasculli said. "I don't want to comment on it until I speak to David. It would be unfair to comment."

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Hoboken Councilman David Roberts and his wife, Anna, react to questions from reporters on the steps of the Hudson County Administration Building yesterday.

Roberts decides guilty plea was not a bargain, after all

By Jo-Ann Moriarty and Jim DeRogatis

Hoboken Councilman David Roberts apparently had a change of heart and reversed his decision to plead guilty yesterday to charges stemming from voting violations in the May 1987 Sixth Ward City Council election.

Sources close to an investigation of the voting violations had said Roberts would be charged with a disorderly persons offense for buying a keg of beer for members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology in

order to influence their votes in the May 15, 1987 election.

Roberts was expected to plead guilty to the charge — and resign from the council — instead of facing a possible grand jury indictment, the sources said. The arrangement was part of a plea agreement with Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale, according to the sources.

But the councilman changed his mind an hour before he was scheduled to appear in Superior Court Judge Robert Cavanaugh's courtroom.

Instead, Roberts held a

brief press conference in the cold on the steps of the Hudson County Administration Building.

The 32-year-old councilman was flanked by his wife, Anna, and attorney Dennis McAlevy, who tapped him on the knee with his briefcase occasionally to indicate which questions his client should answer.

"I was very uneasy and certainly felt very uncomfortable in acknowledging wrongdoing of any kind, because in my heart I know that there was no

See ROBERTS — Page 8.

Reaction favors P.A. ferry plan at U.S. hearing

By Helene Stapinski

Transportation officials, politicians, residents and members of the business community met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers yesterday at the World Trade Center to praise the Port Authority's Hoboken-Battery Park City ferry proposal.

Officials from the Department of Transportation, Governor Kean's Waterfront Development Office, NJ Transit, the Battery Park City Authority, and members of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of the Arcorp-Hartz-run ferry which, with Army Corps approval, could begin service as early as June.

The P.A. is seeking approval from the Army Corps to build two temporary floating ferry docks in the Hudson River, one near the Hoboken Terminal and one at Battery Park City in lower Manhattan in order to operate three ferries during rush hours. If approved, and if successful, the P.A. will expand its initial service in the future to include bigger boats and a permanent ferry terminal.

The Army Corps has not spoken for or against the plan, but opened the hearings for public comment.

Of the 20 speakers who attended the Army Corps' hearing on the ferry application yesterday afternoon, only one voiced reservation about the project. Howard L. Davis, Jr., a vice president at Merrill Lynch, one of the corporate residents at Battery Park City, briefly outlined his company's concerns about the ferry service.

Merrill Lynch and American Express, two Battery Park City tenants with their world headquarters in the World Financial Center, have opposed the ferry plan because of the large number of commuters it would bring past their waterfront site. They claim it would damage the aesthetics of the development.

Although representatives from American Express were not present at the afternoon hearing, Davis delivered his own company's concerns: the need for additional escalators, doorways and signs to ensure the orderly flow of passengers through the development; a firm cap on the number of ferry passengers each day; and a commitment on the maintenance costs associated with the ferry service.

Port Authority officials said they have met with Merrill Lynch on several occasions to solve some of the problems that have arisen over the past year in the ferry's planning stages.

"They're more concerned with the longer-term improvements to the area as the service expands," said Charles Malkish, director of the Office of Ferry Transportation for the P.A. "We had some good preliminary discussions, but things haven't gone as well as we expected. But the discussions will continue. Hopefully, they'll come to the table once they see the overwhelming and wide support for the ferry."

Other members of the business community along the Hudson River delivered short speeches in praise of the ferry citing its environmental and economic benefits. Justin Murphy, president of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Inc., an organization representing banks, real estate brokers and law firms in the Downtown area, including Merrill Lynch, strongly supported the plan.

"We don't need all these buildings," said Murphy, "if we can't staff them with the humans that make these businesses go." Murphy added that, if necessary, his organization would work as a mediator between the P.A. and Merrill Lynch.

Herman Volk, director of Governor Kean's Waterfront Development Office, read a prepared statement from the governor, strongly urging the Army Corps to approve the project as soon as possible.

Joseph Flic, from the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, also supported the plan because, he said, the ferry would help alleviate traffic congestion on the Hudson County waterfront. He added, however, that commuter parking for the ferry should be avoided at all costs.

However, the P.A. chose the Hoboken site because of the PATH and NJ Transit train connections, eliminating the need for commuter car travel.

The Army Corps will accept written comments from the public until February 21 on the ferry proposal and will make a final determination on the application.

Upon Army Corps approval, the P.A. hopes to start the ferry service by mid-June. Four boats — three for service and one as a backup — are currently being constructed, and designs similar to Weehawken's Port Imperial tent-like terminal are in the works.

Hartz and Arcorp, because of its success with their Weehawken ferry service, were chosen last year by the P.A. to run the service. Cost of the ferry will be \$2 each way. Maximum ridership, according to the P.A., will be 3,000 per hour with an estimated 1,200 to 1,800 riders per day.

Anti-development fight stalls

Hoboken park petition nixed

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-16-89

HOBOKEN—A Hudson County judge ruled yesterday that a ballot referendum petition calling for the city to turn a portion of its waterfront land into a vast park is illegal.

The petitioners, members of the community group Save Hoboken from Over Development, said yesterday they will appeal the decision, made by Superior Court Judge Joseph T. Ryan in Jersey City.

The decision means time is running out for the group, which collected 1,536 signatures last month calling for the City Council to set more than 31 acres of land aside for recreational use or turn the question over to voters on the May 9 ballot. Mayor Patrick Pasculli and his administration have targeted nearly all of the site for real estate development.

"My feeling is that we were right," city Law Director Eugene O'Connell said after the decision. "But it's still a scary proposition that a small group of citizens are attempting to use a petition to force the city to its knees and prevent development of the most important piece of land in the city."

Ryan ruled the petition was illegal because it called for the city to rezone the waterfront land. Zoning changes cannot be made by voter referendums initiated by petitions, he said.

But attorneys for the group, Edward Lloyd and Margaret Hayden of the Environmental Law Clinic of Rutgers University Law School in Newark, said recreational use is permitted under current city zoning. They said the group is merely asking the city to set the land aside for parks.

"Somehow or other, the city got some judge to agree that this is zoning," group member Daniel Tumpson said, adding that the city would attempt to block a petition drive whether or not it is legal because the administration wants to build on the land. "As far as I'm concerned they're obstructing democracy."

Pasculli and others in his administration say the development will bring needed tax revenues to the city, representing the only way to stabilize the property tax rate here.

Members of the group charge that buildings on the waterfront will overburden the city with traffic and pollution, placing such a drain on services that the effects of added tax revenues are not likely to be seen by the average citizen.

Ed board race draws nine

Continued from Page 1

board secretary Anthony Curko is expected to introduce a preliminary 1989-90 school budget, action that was tabled last night. A preliminary budget must be presented to the county superintendent by Feb. 15.

Earlier yesterday, Mayor Patrick Pasculli announced he is backing Farina, his long-time political ally and city clerk, Arroyo, Rossano and DePalma.

In other action last night, the board tabled hiring a transportation aide while a committee reviewing hiring policies investigates ways to address a perceived imbalance in minority representation among school employees. Minority hiring became an issue when it was disclosed that less than 12 percent of board employees is Hispanic while 67 percent of students is Hispanic.

The board hired five teachers for the High School Proficiency Test tutoring program.

According to Superintendent Walter Fine, the potential to recruit minorities for teaching posts is limited by the number of qualified applicants.

The board approved in concept creation of a program for "disaffected students." High school principal Charles Tortorella was given the green light to search for teachers already in the system who could initiate the program.

The program's aim is to assist students who score well on standard tests but fail to match that in the classroom. Similar programs in West Orange and Jackson have shown success. Tortorella said, and will serve as rough models for Hoboken. "Disaffected student programs are successful when the staff are selected and allowed to develop the program based on needs," Tortorella said.

He hopes to have a pilot program in place by the end of the semester and a full scale operation by fall.

Education board race draws nine candidates

By James Efstathiou

The Hudson Dispatch 2-10-89

Nine Hoboken residents will compete for four Board of Education seats in the April 4 election.

Three three-year terms and a two-year term will be filled. Yesterday was the filing deadline for nominating petitions.

Incumbents James Farina and Lourdes Arroyo will run for full terms, as will Michael Rossano, Willie Pittman and former trustee Otto Hottendorf.

Competing to complete the two-year term of retired Trustee Vivian Flora-DiStaso are Claire DePalma, who was appointed to the seat in December; Perry Belfiore, who previously served eight months on the board; Peter Falco and Nick Trincellita.

Ballot positions will be drawn at a special board meeting Tuesday evening.

Following the drawing, See ED BOARD — Page 8.

Roberts decides plea no bargain, after all

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wrongdoing on my part," Roberts said.

"I was prepared and came very close to making a decision that was not in the best interest of my family and myself. I have no intention of resigning, and I would like to very much serve out my full term in office."

"I feel that my family has suffered a great deal. But after receiving a full vote of confidence from my wife and the rest of my family, I feel I can go forward and be fully vindicated."

McAlevy said Roberts has no intention of pleading guilty to violating election laws.

"We've rejected all offers," the attorney said. "He is not going to plead guilty to anything. He is prepared to fight whatever there is to fight. What is it? A keg of beer? This is not a murder."

Speaking to reporters in his office following Roberts' impromptu press conference, DePascale said he has "no comment on anything to do with David Roberts."

DePascale and McAlevy entered Cavanaugh's chambers together on the ninth floor of the Administration Building shortly before 3 p.m., while Roberts waited in the basement cafeteria with his wife.

Several minutes later, a court official told a group of reporters waiting in the courtroom that "the Roberts case is not going to happen."

"I have no explanation," DePascale said. "Dennis and I went to Cavanaugh's chamber and nothing went before the court. I have no comment for the record."

DePascale also refused to comment on the status of the Sixth Ward voter fraud investigation.

The prosecutor began his investigation almost a year ago, after The Jersey Journal revealed that the names of six college fraternity brothers were forged and fraudulent ballots were cast in their names in the May 1987 Sixth Ward City Council election — and in the November 1987 general election.

The students had graduated from Stevens and had moved out of Hoboken before the election.

Members of the fraternity, located at 526-530 Hudson St., have said Roberts was a frequent visitor to the fraternity house prior to the election.

Roberts ate dinner with the fraternity brothers, gave them a keg of beer, made a campaign speech and reviewed a list of the students registered to vote from the house, fraternity brothers said.

Members of the fraternity, who spoke on condition that they not be identified, have said they were called before a grand jury looking into the voter fraud.

It is still uncertain whether any members of Sigma Phi Epsilon will be charged in the case. Henry Furst, an attorney representing the fraternity, has refused to comment.

DePascale would not comment on whether Roberts will be called before a grand jury.

Roberts, a former city firefighter and restaurateur, first won the Sixth Ward council seat in a special election in November, 1985. He won a full four-year term in the May 1987 election when he defeated Cataldo DePinto by a 2-to-1 margin.

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli is a close ally of Roberts and served as his campaign manager during the 1987 race. Pasculli said yesterday that he didn't observe any wrongdoing during the campaign, and that he fully supports the councilman.

"He called me around three o'clock and said that he would fight and take any chances against him. He said that he did not do anything wrong, and I support his decision," Pasculli said.

Several other Hoboken officials also showed support for Roberts yesterday.

"Whatever the situation is, as far as I'm concerned, I am behind him 100 percent. If he says he didn't do anything wrong, then I believe him," said City Clerk James Farina, a close friend and political supporter of Roberts.

Councilman Steve Cappiello said he would not resign if he faced the same charges. "If I go into an establishment and see someone when I am campaigning and I buy someone a drink, is that a violation?" Cappiello asked.

Grand jury probes vote fraud

Roberts backs out of deal



The entrance to the Elysian Federal Savings Bank on Washington Street in Hoboken. HUDSON DISPATCH STAFF PHOTO

Takeover not expected

Elysian Bank on trouble list

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
Dispatch Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Elysian Federal Savings Bank is on a list of nearly 200 financially troubled thrift institutions, but it has not been targeted for government takeover, federal and savings industry sources yesterday.

Elysian is the only area thrift on the government list of institutions with a negative net worth. Officials said, however, that federal intervention is unlikely both because the local institution is one of the healthiest on the list and because its Board of Directors has already taken improvement measures.

"Not all of the institutions on that list will be brought into the (federal takeover) program," said Andrea Plater, a spokesman for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., in a telephone interview from the agency's Washington headquarters.

As part of President Bush's thrift bailout plan, the FDIC was last week given regulatory authority over savings and loans institutions. Previously, they were governed by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., while the FDIC focused on banks.

Eugene Sherman, president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, the agency charged with supervising the region's thrifts, said regulators would prefer that Elysian rebuild itself without federal intervention.

"We don't have anybody running the institution now," he said. "The cheapest thing would be for the bank to remain a functioning institution."

Sherman has said he supports efforts taken by a board-hired management team to restructure the thrift.

Elysian depositors are insured by the FSLIC for up to \$100,000. Regulators have said that they will attempt not to close down institutions they bring under federal supervision.

Robert Nolan, Elysian's vice president for public relations, said the management team is continuing to improve the thrift's operational efficiency and upgrade its loans.

"At Elysian, it's business as usual," said Nolan. "What the final determination by the FDIC is remains to be seen, but we will continue to operate the bank consistent with the restructuring plan that we have initiated."

Nolan, thrift President Linda Williams and board member David Harp are part of the Rochester, N.Y., consulting team hired by the Elysian board in September 1987. The management team was brought in after the sudden resignation of Ernest Badaracco, Elysian's longtime president and chief executive officer.

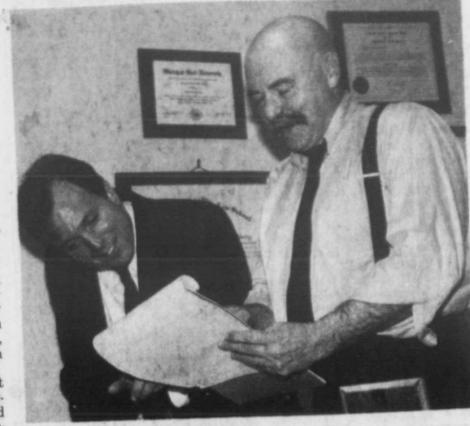
According to the FDIC's list, Elysian in September had a net worth of minus \$400,000. Three other state institutions are on the list: Fellowship Savings of Bergenfield, with a net worth of minus \$2 million; Metropolitan Federal of Denville, minus \$2.7 million; and North Jersey Savings of Passaic, minus \$6.4 million.

The institution with the lowest net worth in the country, minus \$485.7 million, is Meridian Savings in Arlington, Texas.

By NINA SHAPIRO and RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-10-89

HOBOKEN—Councilman David Roberts, facing a grand jury investigation, yesterday backed out of an apparent agreement to plead guilty to violations in the May 1987 municipal election, sources said.



Hoboken Councilman David Roberts, left, yesterday reviews notes with his attorney, Dennis D.S. McAlevy of Hoboken, concerning allegations of election fraud. DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

A grand jury investigation into the 6th Ward election, in which Roberts was overwhelmingly re-elected, is under way, disclosed Dennis D.S. McAlevy of Hoboken, the councilman's attorney.

Although Roberts and McAlevy were in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City yesterday in connection with an investigation of the election, neither man would concede that a plea had been scheduled.

However, when pressed about his presence at court, the 32-year-old Roberts said he considered admitting to impropriety, but rejected the idea.

"I certainly felt very uncomfortable in acknowledging wrongdoing of any kind when in my heart I feel there was no wrongdoing of any kind," he said.

"I came very close to making a decision that may not have been in the best interest to my family and myself," said Roberts, standing on the courthouse steps beside his wife Anna.

McAlevy later disclosed that the grand jury investigation centers on alcohol purchased for college students in his district.

"What are we talking about, a keg of beer? Is that a crime," McAlevy said.

McAlevy said negotiations with County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale had soured. "There were negotiations that have been going on and they weren't to our satisfaction," McAlevy said. "There were offers made and they were rejected by Mr. Roberts."

Sources said on Wednesday that the scheduled plea concerned "influencing" voters in the 1987 election. Roberts, an ally of Mayor Patrick Pasculi, defeated challenger Cataldo DePinto for the 6th Ward seat, 2-1.

McAlevy, minutes after he emerged from a meeting with DePascale in the chambers of Judge Robert F. Cavanaugh, maintained that no formal charges have been brought against Roberts.

"My client hasn't been accused of anything," McAlevy said. DePascale refused to comment on the expected plea or the investigation into the election.

City officials, stunned yesterday by reports that Roberts was expected to plead guilty to election violations, discussed the possibility of Roberts' resignation.

PROBE

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Several officials expressed relief after they learned that Roberts would not enter the plea. "I'm encouraged that he's going to fight the case," said Mayor Patrick Pasculi, who is also a close friend of the councilman.

Many people described Roberts, a former firefighter who now runs the trendy Washington Street restaurant East L.A., as a hard-working, conscientious councilman.

Councilman Steve Cappiello, a former mayor here, questioned why law enforcement officials are looking into a candidate's drinking party with college students.

\$28.7M for Hoboken

New school budget voted

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-15-89

HOBOKEN—Local school taxes would rise by about 17 percent under a preliminary 1989-90 budget unveiled last night by the Board of Education.

The proposed budget calls for about \$28,750,000 million in total spending, about \$67,000 higher than this year's budget of \$28,683,000.

But the portion of spending raised by local taxes would be raised to make up for losses in state and federal aid. That part of the budget would increase from

\$15.9 million to \$18.5 million. The current tax rate here is about \$17 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

State aid was cut by 18 percent and federal aid by 32 percent, trustees said.

"We're finding less and less help from the state and having to follow Level 3 mandates," Mayor Patrick Pasculi, who supports the budget request, said after the meeting.

The city's schools now are under state Level 3 monitoring, and must follow state directives in order to avoid a takeover. The preliminary budget re-

quest is expected to be submitted to the county superintendent of elections today and must be approved by the taxpayers this spring.

It was approved by a 5-3 vote of the nine-member board. Board President Joseph Rafter and Trustees Gerard Costa and Felix Rivera voted against the budget. Trustee Mario Mercado was absent.

Proposals trickle in

Developers bidding on Levolor site

Factory due for complex of small firms

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-13-89

HOBOKEN—After nearly two years of city planning, developers have finally placed offers on the table to turn the former Levolor Lorentzen Inc. factory into a multi-company industrial complex.

When the whir and snaps of machinery are heard once again in the Monroe Street complex, they will send a clear signal to manufacturers that Hoboken and Hudson County, which lost 1,200 manufacturing jobs in 1988 according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, are serious about maintaining their manufacturing base, community development officials here say.

"There's kind of a group of developers that's been circling around the site," said Don Lilio, head of economic development for the city's Community Development Agency, which uses federal funds to prompt local improvements. State and federal funds would help convert the six-acre property, which has been designated for industrial use.

The developer's bids, received this month, were the first concrete signs of private commitment to the project, Lilio said.

The building's current owner, Dean Witter Capital Corp. of New York, originally priced the site at about \$7.5 million, Lilio said.

Dean Witter has dropped its asking price to about \$5.7 million for the property, said Brian Schaffield, a financial analyst for the company. Schaffield said Dean Witter cannot yet disclose which developers have bid on the property or the details of those offers, but confirmed that proposals have been made.

In her vision of the project, agency Director Peggy Thomas said, the plant that has stood here since just after World War II will become an up-to-date industrial complex. It will house clothing manufacturers, printing companies and other industries on the rise in Hudson County — and all centered around a feature never imagined in Hoboken's old-time industrial boom days: a day care facility.

The center will help many women hold down jobs, Thomas said. Similar projects have been established in rural sections of New Jersey with state help, and Thomas said state aid may well be available to make the Levolor site the first linked industry and day care site in urban New Jersey.

Although factory jobs have been steadily trickling away here as those positions disappear from the state, Thomas and Lilio believe companies are learning that urban areas like Hudson County, with their apparently endless supply of immigrants ready to work in blue-collar jobs, are the best places for factories.



Developers are beginning to show interest in converting the Levolor Lorentzen factory on Monroe Street in Hoboken into a complex for small manufacturing companies. JIM LOWNEY SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Pittman gets top spot on schools ballot

The drawing to determine the position of candidates on the Hoboken Board of Education ballot in April was conducted this week by board secretary Anthony Curko.

Topping the ballot will be William Pittman, followed by Michael Rossano, Otto Hottendorf, Lourdes Arroyo and James Farina. Voters can choose three out of the five candidates running for three-year terms.

Heading the ballot for the two-year term is Peter Falco, followed by Nick Trincellita, Claire DePalma and Perry Bellifore. Voters can choose one candidate.

Three candidates attended the drawing, held Tuesday at 6 p.m. — Farina, Trincellita and Pittman.

The election will be April 4, with polls open from 2 to 9 p.m.

The Board of Education will have a special meeting Feb. 8 to discuss questions to be placed on the ballot, Curko said. Public hearings will be held March 16 and 20.

Roberts to plead in vote scandal

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Councilman David Roberts has agreed to plead guilty today to a charge stemming from voting violations in the May 1987 Sixth Ward City Council election.

Roberts will be charged with a disorderly persons offense for buying a keg of beer for members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology in order to influence their votes in the May 15, 1987 election, sources close to the investigation said yesterday.

Case involves fraternity role in election

Roberts, who is the vice chairman of the Hoboken City Council, is expected to plead guilty to the charge in state Superior Court in Jersey City this afternoon, the sources said. Roberts has been under investigation by Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale for almost a year.

The investigation was started after The Jersey Journal disclosed last March that the

names of six college fraternity members who had moved out of Hoboken were used to cast fraudulent ballots.

A review of voting records revealed that the signatures of six Sigma Phi Epsilon members were forged, and that fraudulent votes were cast in their names in the May 1987 Sixth Ward City Council election and November 1987 general election.

The students had all been graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology and had moved out of Hoboken before the elections.

Members of the fraternity, which is located at 528-530 Hudson St., have said that Roberts was a frequent visitor to the fraternity house during the Sixth Ward council campaign.

He ate dinner with the fraternity brothers, gave them a

keg of beer, made a campaign speech and reviewed a list of the students registered to vote from the house, fraternity brothers said.

Roberts has told reporters in the past that he was questioned by members of the prosecutor's staff, but he has maintained that he is innocent of any wrongdoing.

The councilman, speaking through his attorney, Dennis

McAlevy, refused to comment yesterday. Members of the fraternity were also questioned by investigators.

It was unclear yesterday whether any members of Sigma Phi Epsilon will be charged.

Henry Furst, an attorney representing the fraternity, refused to comment.

Roberts is a close friend and political ally of Mayor Patrick Pasculi.

Pasculi, the former Sixth Ward representative, chose Roberts to replace him, and he

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Roberts to plead in voter scandal

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served as Roberts' campaign manager during the 1987 council election.

Roberts, 31, served as a city firefighter before he first won a special election for the Sixth Ward council seat in 1986.

He defeated challenger Cataldo DePinto in the regular May 1987 election by a 2-1 margin.

Calls petition 'smokescreen'

Mayor fights park fans They want referendum on Hoboken ballot

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-13-89

HOBOKEN—As the May 9 election nears, Mayor Patrick Pasculli says he may be heading up two campaigns: one to keep his post as mayor, and a second to stop a community group from turning waterfront land into a park.

The dispute, centering on a petition drive to let voters decide what should be done with land sometimes called the most coveted piece of property on the Gold Coast, is perhaps the most extreme local example of differing viewpoints between environmentalists and officials concerned with keeping the tax rate down.

"That petition is only a smokescreen by a group of people that are anti-development, anti-progress, anti-growth," Pasculli said last week.

Members of Save Hoboken from Over-Development (SHOD) have vowed to take the city to court to ensure that voters can decide in May whether 30.5 acres of city-owned waterfront land, on the piers from First to Fifth streets, is set aside for parks and recreation. The acreage in question is the entire site earmarked for a major project.

Last month, the group submitted more than enough signatures required by law calling for that question to be placed on the May 9 ballot. Required to collect about 790 signatures to force a referendum, the group submitted 1,536 on Jan. 25, collecting them in less than a week.

But City Clerk James J. Farina, acting on the advice of Law Director Eugene O'Connell, ruled that the issue, which he said is a zoning question, cannot



Members of the group Save Hoboken from Over-Development pose yesterday near the riverfront site they want turned into a park.

JIM LOWNEY SPECIAL TO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

legally be decided by a voter referendum, and refused to consider the petition.

"It's a desperate attempt to keep this off the ballot because they're afraid," said SHOD member Daniel Tumpson. "They don't want to put into people's hands the power to determine what happens on a piece of city owned land."

Edward Lloyd, an attorney for SHOD from the Rutgers Law School Environmental Law Clinic in Newark, said the petition is legal. Municipalities around the state have successfully pressed other environmental measures, such as recycling, by using the referendum process, he said.

"I think that open space is an extremely important issue in Hudson County, probably the

most densely populated county in the state in the densest state in the union," Lloyd said. The city could look to public and private institutions to help fund construction of a park, he said.

While SHOD and city officials grapple over the fine legal points of establishing a park, local hearings will begin on a different plan for the land: a mixed-use development of office space, stores, hotels, housing, parks and walkways.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who ran against Pasculli in the November special election, is one who supports more waterfront development.

"We have a lot of work to do to move this community forward," Pasculli said. "This represents the only way that this city can avoid a tax increase."

Feds target Elysian for takeover

By Emily M. Smith

Efforts to restructure the Elysian Federal Savings bank in Hoboken will be usurped by the federal government which has targeted more than 200 failed savings institutions for takeover by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Day-to-day operations at Elysian will continue under the watchful eyes of regulators for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board who will oversee operations at the bank until a private buyer is found, officials for the bank board said.

Three other New Jersey thrifts also are on the takeover list, which was released over the weekend. The bank board, which regulates the nation's 3,000 savings and loan banks, said all deposits up to the \$100,000 insurance limit are fully protected in all institutions listed.

Since 1987, Elysian has lost \$69 million in savings deposits. Its net worth plunged from \$14.3 million to minus \$4.3 million and assets fell from \$289 million to \$198 million.

Elysian's board of directors recently issued requests for proposals to buy the bank. Several Hudson County banks expressed interest in purchasing the thrift but may have shied away from making an offer because of legal suits pending against Elysian by developers.

Elysian officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Elysian, which has been

See ELYSIAN — Page 5.

Pasculli, Kenny visited fraternity

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
and Jim DeRogatis

Two elected officials accompanied Hoboken Councilman David Roberts on campaign stops at a college fraternity which has become the center of an election fraud investigation by the Hudson County prosecutor.

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Assemblyman Bernard Kenny both campaigned at various times with Roberts at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology before the Sixth Ward City Council elec-

tion in May 1987 and the general election in November 1987. Kenny said he was questioned by members of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office investigating the fraudulent votes. Pasculli and Kenny have both denied any wrongdoing. The signatures of six fraternity members were forged and fraudulent votes were cast in their names in the two elections. A review of voting records by The Jersey Journal revealed that the students had graduated and moved out of Hoboken at the time the ballots were cast.

Prosecutor Paul DePascale

has brought evidence before a grand jury concerning the fraudulent votes. Roberts, 32, had been expected to plead guilty last Thursday to a disorderly persons offense for buying a keg of beer for members of the fraternity to influence their votes in the May 1987 election.

Roberts had been expected to resign from the council rather than face a possible grand jury indictment, according to sources. The arrangement was part of a plea agreement with DePascale, the sources said.

See PASCULLI — Page 6.

Pasculli, Kenny visited fraternity

Continued from Page 1

But Roberts apparently had a change of heart an hour before his scheduled appearance in court. Instead, he held a brief press conference and said that he was willing to fight any possible charges.

DePascale has refused to comment on Roberts or the Sixth Ward investigation.

Pasculli said yesterday that he campaigned with Roberts at the fraternity but he never observed any wrongdoing. Pasculli served as Roberts' campaign manager during the 1987 Sixth Ward council election.

Members of the fraternity have said that Roberts was a

frequent visitor to the house, located at 528-530 Hudson St. Prior to the May 1987 election, Roberts ate dinner with the fraternity brothers, gave them a keg of beer, made a campaign speech and reviewed a list of students registered to vote from the house, fraternity members said.

The mayor confirmed yesterday that he and Roberts were invited to the fraternity for dinner and he said that he stopped by the campus briefly on Election Day to remind students to vote.

But Pasculli said he had no knowledge that Roberts bought a keg of beer for fraternity members to influence their votes.

"I campaigned with David upon his request and from what I saw, I did not witness any wrongdoing," Pasculli said.

"In campaigning, I don't think there has been a candidate in any of the past local elections who has not donated something to a particular group of people," Pasculli said. He said the gifts may be boxes of candies, cookies or statues of saints to senior citizen buildings.

Roberts has been Pasculli's strongest ally on the City Council since he was elected last November to complete the term of the late Mayor Thomas Vezzetti. Pasculli has said he will run for re-election to a full four-year term in May.

Pasculli said that an indictment against Roberts could affect the mayoral race, but "whether this has an effect or not on the election, I stand by David Roberts, who has been a friend long before I entered political life and who will be a friend long after I leave political life."

Kenny also said yesterday that he and Roberts visited the fraternity house during the period when Kenny was running as the Democratic candidate for the state Assembly in the November 1987 election. Kenny defeated Republican candi-

diate Angelo Valente by a wide margin in that election.

Kenny said he and Roberts made one stop at the frat house before the Nov. 15 election. Kenny was unsure whether Pasculli also made the campaign stop, but Pasculli said he did accompany Roberts and Kenny.

"David introduced me to the president (of the fraternity), I was allowed to speak to the fraternity members and I encouraged them to participate in all elections, not only the local but the state," Kenny said.

"My speech was a few minutes long and it was the same speech I would give to any group of people at the time. I campaigned with every councilman during the election. David gave me two or three nights and we covered the entire Sixth Ward."

The assemblyman said he was questioned about six months ago by investigators from the Prosecutor's Office. He said he did not observe anything improper during the campaign stop at the fraternity.

"The first I heard about the fraudulent voters was when I read about it in the paper. I never connected it with my stop at the fraternity until much later when the prosecutors were calling around."

"I've known David a long time," Kenny said. "I've politicked with him and socialized with him. I went in (the fraternity) with him that evening in terms of campaigning on my election day. He was doing me a favor, bringing me to constituents of his and introducing me and letting me say a few words to the voters."

Kenny said he is angry about the fraudulent votes and frustrated by the slow tempo of the prosecutor's investigation.

"You have public officials involved, and voting rights, and you have future elections coming up," he said. "This thing really should be resolved in good faith and expeditiously."

Elysian targeted for federal takeover

Continued from Page 1

struggling to reorganize since the resignation of several executive officers in 1987, had the highest net worth of the four state banks on the list and is just over the boundary line for government takeover.

Net worth is a measure of an institution's health. Those with a net worth of at least positive 3 percent are considered sound. Failed institutions have a negative net worth.

Elysian and the other institutions that will be taken over were insolvent under regulatory rules as of Sept. 30, 1988. Insolvent institutions rescued since that date do not appear on the list.

At that time, Elysian's assets were \$220 million and its

net worth was -0.4. Fellowship Savings, Bergenfield, had assets of \$198 million and a net worth of -2.0; Metropolitan Federal, Denville, had assets totalling \$184 million and a net worth of -2.7 while North Jersey Savings, Passaic, had assets of \$334 million with a net worth of -6.4.

Of the banks listed, one had a net worth of 0.0; four had a net worth of -0.3 and two had a net worth of -0.4, including Elysian.

The institution with the largest minus sign was Meridian Savings in Arlington, Texas which had a net worth of -485.7.

Financial services at Elysian were reorganized after the resignation of its long-time President and Chief Executive

Officer Ernest Badaracco in 1987.

Badaracco and several other bank officers resigned following a routine federal audit. Later, Badaracco was the focus of an FBI investigation into his management of Elysian. He filed for personal bankruptcy last year.

Elysian's directors hired consultants Linda Williams and Edward Schultz, of Rochester, N.Y., to put the bank back on track.

Under the new management, inflated real estate holdings and loans were brought down to reflect their true value and a wide range of operational changes were implemented, which included a new accounting system.

The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, which monitors thrifts in the area, has stated that it supported the new management team's policies.

A statement issued in mid-January by Williams, serving as Elysian president, said the year-end financial statement "will show the effects of restructuring efforts."

Despite those efforts, Elysian lost \$39 million in deposits last year. Total assets fell by \$59 million, dropping from \$257 million in 1987 to \$198 million last year.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board takeover list contains 197 S&Ls but officials had said 27 more are likely to come under government control within the next few weeks.

Pasculli slates 3 sessions on waterfront plan

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

2-15-89

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli has scheduled a set of public hearings for next week on a waterfront development draft plan, which includes a row of 15-story apartment buildings between First and Fourth streets, office towers at Pier A, a marina and floating swimming pool.

Billing them as town meetings, Pasculli said yesterday that the first meeting on the city's plan to develop 3.5 million square feet of waterfront property along the Hudson River will be Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Multi Service Center at 124 Grand St.

That location is convenient to the Third and Fourth wards, Pasculli said, adding that residents can attend any meeting they wish.

The second public hearing for the Second and Fifth wards will be next Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Hoboken High School auditorium at 820 Clinton St. The third hearing will be next Thursday at 7 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul School auditorium at 410 Hudson St. for the First and Sixth wards.

Written comments can be sent to the mayor's office until Feb. 27, Pasculli

said. "These represent the first round of public hearings for the draft plan. We are soliciting public comment right now before we move forward with a set plan," Pasculli said.

"We will continue the planning process," Pasculli said, adding that the written responses will be reviewed by his staff and the hired consultants. Pasculli said his staff, as well as the urban designer, financial expert and traffic consultant will be available at the hearings to answer questions.

He added that he was "looking forward to see how the public feels at this point in time in the planning process. It also gives us an opportunity to demonstrate the need for sensitive, planned waterfront development."

The mayor said that members of the City Council and his Waterfront Negotiating Team will attend the hearings.

Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who is expected to challenge Pasculli in the May mayoral election, said yesterday he was glad to hear that Pasculli has scheduled the hearings.

"Hiring a planner for the entire waterfront and bringing the city's deal-

ings out of the back room are two of the main things that I have been demanding since we broke the lease with the Port Authority," Della Fave said.

"I am not sure if Pasculli is serious about these or if he is just playing to the May elections. Either way, we will continue to pressure for proper planning and public involvement in this major piece of Hoboken's development," he said.

Pasculli speculated that members of Save Hoboken From Over-Development, which opposes waterfront development, will make a negative presentation against the plan. SHOD collected enough signatures for a referendum question asking voters if they want to reserve the waterfront property for park land.

However, the Law Department and City Clerk James Farina said that the referendum is invalid because it conflicts with state laws governing the executive and legislative powers concerning planning and zoning.

The plan, designed by Stan Eckstut, who has done projects in Boston, Baltimore and New York, includes three office towers at Pier A, 1,600 housing units, a 70-foot wide walkway extension

of First and Fourth streets, and the construction of five, 15-story housing buildings along that stretch.

At Pier C, the designer plans seven-story apartment buildings containing 350 units as well as a floating swimming pool and marina. The plan reserves the area between Fourth and Fifth streets for open space and public parks.

The plan would create 2,500 parking spaces in the area, and would also include a 500,000-square-foot development for commercial and transit use at the NJ Transit property in addition to 1.6 million square feet of retail and commercial development.

The financial expert can estimate the different phases of the plan would generate in revenue for the city.

"I like to view this (development) as a unique opportunity for this city to begin to move forward in a progressive way. I am glad to be part of it. Any mayor would have had to advance waterfront development in order to avoid a tax increase," Pasculli said.

"We are on time with our schedule, and if the timetable is met, the city could be in a position to anticipate revenues in this year's municipal budget."

Judge refuses to bar Hoboken deal

By NINA SHAPIRO

The Hudson Dispatch 2-18-89

A Hudson County judge yesterday denied a request by a former Hoboken councilman to stop a Hoboken developer from moving ahead with a housing project on Observer Highway.

Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli of Superior Court in Jersey City refused to grant an injunction against developer Joseph Barry, choosing instead to let a suit filed

by former Councilman Frank Raia take its course.

Gallipoli said he could not predict whether Raia will ultimately prevail in the suit.

Raia, a developer himself, is suing Hoboken, Mayor Patrick Pasculli and the Barry-owned Applied Development Associates Inc.

Raia contends the city's sale of Observer Highway property to Barry for a housing development was a

"sweetheart" deal.

RAIA, IN legal papers, charged that in 1988 Barry and the city secretly negotiated the deal, in which Barry was sold prime waterfront property on Hudson Street as well as Observer Highway.

The deal replaced one made the year before but never completed in which the city gave Barry the go-ahead to build a

huge Observer Highway development. It was to have included a large number of affordable housing units. The arrangement soured when Barry reported to the city that the Observer Highway land was contaminated.

The present deal between the city and Barry calls for a scaled-down version of the first Observer Highway project.

Raia said in legal papers he is bringing the suit as a Hoboken resident and

taxpayer.

RAIA ALSO had an interest in the land sold to Barry, having bid on both the Observer Highway and Hudson Street properties.

Morris Stern of Hoboken, Barry's attorney, yesterday accused Raia of hiding his real motive in bringing the suit.

"In fact, it is a mean-spirited act by a competitor," Morris said.

Council pushing riverfront blight

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

In a move that advances the development of the waterfront along the Hudson River, the Hoboken City Council last night authorized the Planning Board to begin preparing the area for redevelopment.

The resolution empowering the Planning Board to conduct an investigation to designate nearly 70 acres as blighted and prepare a proposed redevelopment plan was unanimously approved.

The council also unanimously approved an ordinance to repeal recent amendments that weakened rent control and passed an ordinance to place a ban on the further conversion of rental units into condominiums.

While the entire council approved having the city-owned land at the southern end of the city prepared for rede-

velopment, Councilman Joseph Della Fave and Councilwoman Helen Cuningham objected that the resolution came before the council for a vote without first being discussed in committee.

A citizens group, Save Hoboken from Over-Development, was more disturbed by the council's authorization because the anti-development advocates contend the council's actions virtually bypass or at least weaken public participation in the waterfront development.

Additionally, Dan Tumpson, who founded SHOD, said that he feared a blighted designation on that city-owned land means that control of the land is placed in the hands of the City Council, which then becomes the redevelopment authority for the city's redevelopment plan.

Tumpson said that means that SHOD's attempt to have

the near-70 acres reserved for parks becomes seriously threatened.

SHOD had collected enough signatures for a referendum to ask voters if they want to reserve the waterfront property for parkland. Law Director Eugene O'Connell and City Clerk James Farina said that the referendum was invalid because it conflicts with state laws governing the executive and legislative powers concerning planning and zoning.

SHOD filed suit against the city. But Superior Court Judge Joseph T. Ryan dismissed the complaint yesterday, ruling that state law prohibits adopting zoning ordinances by referendum.

SHOD members said they will appeal Ryan's decision.

"The judge is wrong," said SHOD member Steve Busch.

See COUNCIL — Page 7.

Council pushing riverfront blighting

Continued from Page 1

"The primary use of the land under the present zoning is for recreation, education or a marina. You could have a park, include educational facilities and even a marina without changing the existing zoning."

But Tumpson said that the council's move to blight the area accelerates the city's plans to develop the area for residential and commercial use, thus jeopardizing his group's attempt to reserve the area for a park.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli has set three public hearings next week on a draft plan to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development of office towers, 1,600 housing units, shops, hotel, marina and park on the city-owned property.

"The redevelopment authority is a change in zoning. The resolution that came down tonight shows that they do not want this park (proposal) on the May election ballot. They are trying to short-circuit the public process," Tumpson said.

Councilman Thomas Newman said that designating the land as blighted and making the council the redevelopment authority gives the council more control over the land in terms of designating developers, determining land agreements and setting bid specifications.

Tumpson said the idea of giving that power to the council makes him cringe.

Della Fave wants the resolution tabled until it is discussed in committee. He said that he did not want to delay the progress of the waterfront development but that he had several questions since he was "out of the flow of information" from the administration.

But Councilman David Roberts said it would be a "great tragedy" for the city to delay action for two weeks and that delay would not "send the right message to the public" in light of the three public hearings set for next week.

Without discussion, the City Council approved a condo ban and rescinded earlier amendments, originally sponsored by Roberts, it had made to weaken rent control. Only Della Fave and Cuningham had voted against the amendments.

While SHOD also disagreed with the amendments and collected enough signatures to place the changes in the rent laws as well as a condo ban on the May general election ballot for voters to decide, members were still suspicious last night of the council's actions on those issues.

"I would be happy if I felt that the council members were sincere. However, from what

we've seen in the past, they may be passing this to be expedient to not have this on the May ballot," Busch said.

Tumpson said he would rather have seen both issues on the ballot "so they could get a clear statement from the voters on the Roberts's amendment. After the election, they (council members) may reverse it, or almost reverse it."

In other action, the council decided to delay by 60 days awarding a towing contract. Della Fave and Cuningham abstained.

At issue is whether the low bidder, Hoboken Towing, has the ability to carry out its contract with the city. Della Fave has also asked the Law Department to determine whether a company can bid on a contract if it does not have the proper permits.

Hoboken Towing bid on the contract even though it needs a special permit from the Planning Board to operate a towing and storage service out of Willow Avenue near 15th street. That hearing is tonight before the Planning Board.

Ex-city councilman asks court to halt Observer project

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken city attorneys will be in Hudson County Superior Court today fighting a request by a former Hoboken city councilman to stop construction on the Observer Highway subsidized housing project until a law suit against the project has been resolved.

Frank Raia, a developer who served on the city council last March through November, will ask Judge Maurice Gallipoli to enjoin progress on the construction of 115 subsidized housing units being built by developer Joseph Barry of Applied Housing.

Raia is suing Mayor Patrick Pasculli, the City Council, Law Department, Community Development Agency, City Clerk James Farina and Applied Housing because he believes the city made a bad deal with Barry.

Meanwhile, Law Director Eugene O'Connell, responding this week to complaints Raia made against the city, has asked the court to dismiss Raia's complaint as baseless.

Another citizens group, Downtown Residents for Safe Development, has a lawsuit pending against the Observer Highway project. The group is contesting the structure's height and density.

Moreover, like Raia, the group contends that the blight declaration for the redevelopment area is outdated and the planning process that the city undertook was arbitrary and capricious, said Ron Hine, a spokesman.

Before his appointment to the city council last March, Raia, as a developer, unsuccessfully competed to be named developer for the Observer Highway project. In-

stead, the council designated Barry to develop the city-owned land at Observer Highway between Bloomfield Street and Willow Avenue. Originally, Barry planned to build 450 units, including 115 subsidized apartments.

Because of his past interest in the project, Raia was not allowed to vote on any of the Observer Highway agreements. In his lawsuit filed last month, he charges that the city showed favoritism to Barry and sold him a lot at Bloomfield and Observer Highway well below the market value.

O'Connell, in the city's response, said that because the land is part of a redevelopment plan, the city has far greater latitude and could have given Barry the lot for free since the project is for the public good in providing affordable housing. The lot was sold for \$1.2 million.

Raia, like DRSD, also finds the city negligent for not requiring traffic studies, studies on the infrastructure (roads, water, parking, sewers), schools, firefighting and other services. O'Connell said that the Planning Board conducted those studies in October, 1987, and it is too late for Raia to contest the findings.

Raia said that the council blighted the land in 1972 and the present designation is invalid because of projects that have upgraded the area. O'Connell said that three earlier court cases have set precedence that a blighted designation does not have a timetable.

Soon after receiving the designation to build three housing towers on the city-owned lots, Barry announced that lead and mercury were found in the soil and that he planned to abort the project. In his suit, Raia questions whether the land was contaminated and asks why the city did not conduct its own environmental tests instead of relying on Barry's findings.

O'Connell said yesterday that a private firm hired by the city confirmed that the soil was contaminated. He said more studies would have cost the city between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Barry later came up with a new arrangement, saying that he would still build the 115 affordable housing units at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street if the city sold him two prime lots near the waterfront in order to build 300 market-rate units.

The council, with Pasculli's encouragement, approved the new deal. Council members Helen Cuningham and Joseph Della Fave withdrew their support for the project because they objected to the city's designating the two Hudson Street lots for Barry. Councilmen Steve Cappiello, Robert Ranieri and Raia could not vote because of conflicts of interest.

Raia objects that the Hudson Street lots were designated for Barry because he said that the procedure the city took allowed no competition.

The city maintains that the city council has the authority to choose a developer without going out to bid.

Hearing tomorrow on Stevens towers

By James Efstathion

Public hearings on the twin-tower office complex proposed for Hoboken's waterfront will continue tomorrow night.

Hartz Mountain Industries Inc., one of the area's largest developers, and Stevens Institute of Technology, the oldest engineering college in the country, have teamed up to plan a 600,000-square-foot commercial development on college property at the foot of Castle Point.

College officials hope the complex will attract high-tech firms that would benefit by being close to the campus.

Stevens, which has leased the property to Hartz for 95 years, has recommended that the developer give preference in lease negotiations to companies which rely heavily on computers. The \$78 million complex is expected to generate in excess of \$1 million in taxes annually for the city.

But concerns over traffic, parking and the project's impact on the view of the Hudson River and Manhattan skyline have raised questions.

Hartz has enlisted the services of consultants, engineers and architects who in previous planning board hearings have sought to address those concerns.

"Basically what we've presented to the planning board is that the building size is required to make the project economically feasible," said attorney Thomas O'Connor, who represents Hartz before the board.

"The simplest explanation is if you look at the view studies that we've done, you see that all of the views from public viewing spaces were preserved."

Hartz wants to build office towers of 10 and 13 stories, connected by a common lobby, on an existing platform that will be expanded by nearly 120,000 square feet to support the project.

Current zoning calls for a height limit of two stories, or 35 feet. Because the proposed towers will exceed that limit, the developer must seek a use variance.

Critics have charged that buildings of that height will significantly affect the view from Castle Point and from other view corridors along the river.

"The buildings are too high. They will, in fact, obliterate much of the view from Castle Point," says Helen Manogue, of the Hoboken Environment Committee.

Zoning amendments currently before the City Council call for waterfront projects to be reviewed on a case by case basis. While the proposed changes specify that no structures be built to the east of Stevens Park between Fourth and Fifth streets, no similar recommendations exist regarding the site of the Hartz/Ste-

vens project.

"Obviously it's going to do some blocking from the lower campus," said Robert Hand, vice president emeritus of the college. The college drafted its own guidelines pertaining to view corridors from the campus and, according to Hand, is satisfied that the structures would not impact on the view from Castle Point.

Plans call for a 1,250-space parking garage just north of the towers. The builders have proposed that 400 of those spaces be reserved for students during the day. Existing rules call for 1,477 spaces for a project the size of the one planned, so a variance for parking is also required.

Plans for a parking garage on the waterfront appear to fly in the face of recommendations contained in a city-wide study by traffic consultants, Wilbur Smith Associates, issued last September. The study recommends creation of perimeter parking and restriction of on-site parking, a view that is shared by the regional traffic planners, NJ Transit Waterfront Commission.

"We don't think it's in the best interest of waterfront development with such transportation available near by," said Anthony Grazioso, director of public relations for NJT.

Hartz's traffic experts, Raymond Keyes Associates, prepared their own study projecting the project's impact on traffic. That report is under review by Wilbur Smith, which is expected to comment on it tomorrow.

However, NJT, which for the past year has been reviewing traffic studies relating to waterfront projects for the state Department of Environmental Protection, has determined the Keyes study did not consider the effects of increased traffic on surrounding streets, and suggested a more thorough review of traffic patterns.

"I don't know if they under-projected, but they didn't take into account what impact traffic coming in there would have on surrounding streets," said Grazioso. "They felt there would be no effect on traffic on the surrounding streets, and we felt differently."

Hartz is also required to secure a waterfront development permit from the DEP. Hartz's initial application, submitted to the DEP last summer, was found to be deficient, says DEP project review officer David Mizenko.

"We did receive additional applications, and they did send us information on traffic," said Mizenko. "They're going to be deficient until they give a complete response to this letter."

The DEP needs to know if Hartz wishes the project to be reviewed as a pier development or as a platform development, a determination yet to be made by Hartz, according to O'Connor.

FDIC seizes Elysian

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators have placed Elysian Federal Savings Bank in Hoboken and 24 other insolvent savings and loan institutions in 14 states under government control as part of a plan for resolving the S&L crisis.

The action yesterday, by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., brings the total number of S&Ls put under federal conservatorship over the last two weeks at 36.

Bush has ordered the FDIC, which insures deposits at commercial banks, to take control of about 224 insolvent S&Ls over the next four to six weeks. He has asked Congress to approve an S&L rescue plan that would cost \$126 billion over the next decade, about half of it from taxpayers.

While Congress considers the package, the FDIC is attempting to minimize losses at the failed S&Ls and root out any as yet undiscovered fraud. It is directing a task force of more than 1,200 examiners from four bank and S&L agencies, including itself.

The 25 institutions involved in yesterday's action also includes North Jersey Savings and Loan Association in Passaic, as well as five S&Ls in Nebraska; three in Arizona; two each in Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, and Utah; and one each in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The FDIC, in a statement, stressed that the S&Ls will remain open during normal operating hours and that all deposits up to the \$100,000 insurance limit are guaranteed.

Meanwhile, in another development, the Congressional Budget Office said in a report yesterday that Bush's off-budget financing plan for the S&L crisis could damage the integrity of the budget and harm deficit-reduction efforts. Bush

See REGULATORS — Page 6.

Regulators take over Elysian bank

Continued from Page 1

proposed borrowing \$50 billion over the next three years by selling bonds through a government-sponsored corporation. Taxpayer money would help pay the interest on the bonds, and count toward the budget deficit. But, because of the arrangement, the \$50 billion won't count toward the deficit as it is spent.

The CBO staff report, prepared for the House Ways and Means Committee, agreed that borrowing is the preferred method of raising money for the S&L crisis. However, it said the cheapest way to borrow is on-budget through regular Treasury bonds, which are more desired by investors and carry a lower interest rate.

The off-budget bonds in the Bush plan would cost between \$150 million and \$350 million a year in interest — between \$4.5 billion and \$10.5 billion over 30 years, the CBO said.

Moreover, the CBO warned that Bush's plan may not properly be considered off-budget and could wind up inflating the budget deficit and causing the government to trigger automatic spending cuts under the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law. An alternative, the CBO said, would be to sell the bonds on-budget, but specifically exempt them from Gramm-Rudman targets.

This would be justified, the CBO said, because S&L rescue spending, unlike most federal spending, would not reduce private investment. Instead, the money would be loaned out by institutions to finance investment.

S&L

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

termination by the FDIC is remains to be seen, but we will continue to operate the bank consistent with the restructuring plan that we have initiated."

Nolan, along with board member David Harp and thrift President Linda Williams, are part of the Rochester, N.Y., consulting team hired by the Elysian board in September 1987.

No one could be reached at Elysian last night to comment on the federal move.

The other S&L taken over by the FDIC last night is the North Jersey Savings of Passaic.

Early last week, the takeover of Elysian had seemed unlikely.

On Monday, Andrea Plater, a spokesman for the FDIC in Washington, told The Hudson Dispatch that not all the institutions on the list would be brought into the federal takeover pro-

Elysian Federal

Feds take bank

FDIC rescues Hoboken S&L

By DAVID LIPPMAN

The Hudson Dispatch 2-18-89

Federal regulators placed the insolvent Elysian Federal Savings Bank of Hoboken and another 24 insolvent savings and loan institutions in 14 states under government control yesterday as part of President Bush's plan for resolving the S&L crisis.

The action, by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., brings the total number of S&Ls put under federal conservatorship over the last two weeks at 36.

Elysian was one of the healthiest S&Ls on a federal watch list for government takeover, according to the FDIC, with assets of minus \$400,000.

But the S&L had endured management shakeups, including the resignation of its president, Ernest Badaracco, in September 1987. That resignation was surrounded by rumors of an investigation of the thrift by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, and followed by resignations of four more bank officers.

Elysian had lost \$30 million in savings accounts and \$12.5 million in capital.

But in February 1988, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board had determined that Elysian was in sound footing under its new management team.

"It's business as usual," Robert Nolan, Elysian's vice president for public relations, said last Monday. "What the final de-

Please see S&L Page 21

and S&L agencies, including itself.

The 25 institutions involved in yesterday's action include five in Nebraska; three in Arizona; two each in Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, New Jersey and Utah; and one each in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The FDIC, in a statement, stressed that the S&Ls will remain open during normal operating hours and that all deposits up to the \$100,000 insurance limit are guaranteed.

Meanwhile, in another development, the Congressional Budget Office said in a report yesterday that Bush's off-budget financing plan for the S&L crisis could damage the integrity of the budget and harm deficit-reduction efforts.

Waterfront plan may lack support

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken officials are not altogether confident that the public fully supports a plan to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development on the Hudson River but they are nonetheless committed to the project.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who held three public hearings last week on the draft plan to build commercial towers, 1,600 new housing units, retail shops, a marina and a park, said yesterday the public response "exceeded our expectations. I was happy with the public hearings."

The mayor did not characterize the public response as overwhelmingly in favor of the project and said parking and transportation were two areas of concern. Pasculli said he will ask the City Council tomorrow to hire analysts to study mass transit plans, including proposals offered by Councilman Thomas Newman, who wants, among other things, to bring an electric trolley back to Hoboken.

While City Council President Robert Ranieri claims the project is largely supported by the community, Councilwoman Helen Cuning said she is not sure of public sentiment.

"I get the feeling that the public is very leery. They are concerned about the Hartz Mountain-Stevens plan. They are concerned about the issue

of parks on the waterfront being raised by SHOD. And I think that the people are very anxious to see the financial considerations for the city. They are looking to be educated," Cuning said.

Cuning and Business Administrator Ed Chius agreed that one clear message they heard during the public hearings was complaints about high property taxes and the need for tax relief.

"I think people want to move forward but they are wary. They have mixed feelings. They want to be convinced that high density is going to make a difference in their tax bills. But development doesn't always mean lower taxes," Cuning said.

Members of SHOD — Save Hoboken from Over-Development — reject the claim that development automatically results in lower taxes because the tax base is expanded. SHOD contends that development and more people means the need to increase municipal services. Thus, the cost of providing more services increases taxes.

Pasculli is awaiting the transcripts from last week's hearings, he said. His next task, he said, is to have the financial consultants hired by the city analyze the plan's economic feasibility and help the city

See WATERFRONT — Page 7.

Catering hall plans unveiled

By Dominick Calicchio

Hoboken residents who think there's not enough partying space in the Mile Square City should know that the Zoning Board of Adjustment last night heard two applications from developers who plan to open catering halls.

No decision was made on either of those plans, presented separately by Patrick and Anthony Dell'Aquila, brothers who operate individually.

The hearings for their proposals will continue at future meetings.

The board postponed hearing Patrick Dell'Aquila's plan to build banquet space atop two floors of retail units on adjoining lots at 822-830 Jefferson St. and 823-831 Madison St. after ruling that the developer had not properly notified all homeowners within 200 feet of the site.

It then scheduled a special meeting for 7:30 p.m. March 2 to continue hearing Anthony Dell'Aquila's application after testimony reached last night's 11:30 p.m. curfew.

Dell'Aquila plans to put his banquet hall — plus a bar, disco and restaurant — on the top floor of his existing 12-story

See ZONING — Page 8.

Ranieri hanging up his political gloves

By James Elstathiou

Thirty years after he first entered politics as a young businessman eager to "butt heads" with city fathers, Hoboken City Council President Robert Ranieri has announced he will not seek re-election.

Ranieri, who turned 60 Saturday, said he is leaving politics to devote more time to business interests, his family and five grandchildren.

"I shall not be a candidate in the spring election, neither for mayor nor councilman at large," Ranieri told The Jersey Journal. "I simply determined it was time to relinquish the post I have and let others interested in competing for my position have a clear field."

Looking back on a career that spanned 16 years on the

City Council and two years in the state Assembly as a Democrat representing the 33rd District, Ranieri said:

"The only regret I might have is changing hats at times from a statesman-like city official to a rather harsh campaign character. I found that when I would campaign, I would campaign too hard and perhaps get away from what I would consider my natural self."

In addition to Ranieri's seat, the at-large council seats occupied by Helen Cuning and Richard Del Boccio and the mayor's position will be filled in May's election. The deadline for entering the race is March 16.

Ranieri, who called his attraction to politics "a natural," began his public career in 1959 when he helped form Citizens

United with Fred DeSapio Jr. and Dudley Schloesser.

The group ran an unsuccessful ticket in 1960 but gained momentum and eventually attracted other hopefuls such as a young police sergeant who would become a three-

term mayor and city councilman, Steve Cappiello.

Ranieri was first elected to public office in 1973. He replaced Steve Mongiello, who held the council-at-large seat

See RANIERI — Page 4.

Ranieri hanging up his political gloves

Continued from Page 1

for 20 years. Since 1953, when Hoboken changed from a commission/manager to a council/mayor form of government, only two men — Mongiello and Ranieri — have held that council seat.

He served under five city council presidents, being appointed to the post himself last March. Ranieri made a bid for mayor last November but placed a weak third in a field of four.

"The old adage holds true that you win a few, and lose a few and tally up score at the end of the game," Ranieri said of his political fortunes.

Of his achievements, Ranieri takes most pride in laying the groundwork for the forma-

tion of the Hoboken/Weehawken/Union City Sewage Authority, the agency moving to take control of Hoboken's problem-plagued sewage treatment plant.

In addition, he helped write Hoboken's rent control ordinance in 1973, was chief city labor negotiator from 1973 to 1985 and represented Hoboken at the National League of Cities for 10 years.

"When you get your first taste of it, then you become quite like the prize fighter," Ranieri said of the lure of politics. "Every time he hears the bell he wants to come back out."

For the next round, however, Ranieri will remain a spectator.

Waterfront plan may lack support

Continued from Page 1

form a strategy to negotiate a partnership, possibly with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to develop the land along the southern end of the Hudson.

"Now we will be moving on to the next step and discussing financial terms so that the city can begin deriving revenue this year," Pasculli said.

"We want a public partnership that shifts the entire risk onto the public partner and to have the city assume no risks. We also want the city to be guaranteed revenue. The Port Authority is one option we are pursuing," he added.

Annette Illing, a SHOD member, dismissed any support voiced for the project last week. The number of people who attended the public hearings was a fraction of the 1,300 people who signed a SHOD petition to convert the nearly 70 acres of land into parks, she said.

SHOD and the city are embroiled in a legal argument over the petition drive it successfully conducted to place on the May election ballot the question whether voters want the land reserved for parks and recreation. Law Director Eugene O'Connell refused to allow the petition on the ballot because, he said, state law prohibits zoning through petition initiatives.

The case will be heard Friday.

"The people of Hoboken should be making this decision as to what happens on that waterfront," Illing said.

But Pasculli said he heard little support for SHOD's park plan last week, except from SHOD members.

"I believe if there were so many people interested in park space, they would have come to our town meetings. They didn't show up and that shows there is very little support," he said.

Meanwhile, Ranieri, who as a mayoral candidate last November campaigned against the Port Authority's involvement in Hoboken, yesterday said he now supports a partnership with the bistate agency.

"I switched my position because I felt that the Port Authority was once overwhelming and overbearing is now more conciliatory and it is willing to be a partner and not dominate," he said.

Zoning board gets catering hall plans

Continued from Page 1

industrial building at 1500 Hudson St.

Dell'Aquila said he needs the bar and restaurant to compensate for the loss of industrial tenants due to higher property taxes.

Homeowner James Mancuso had complained to the board that the notice Patrick Dell'Aquila mailed out to property owners failed to mention that plans for his property could be viewed at City Hall at least 10 days prior to last night's hearing, as required by law.

"I don't know if we can say we're for something or against it when we don't know what it is," Mancuso said.

After consulting counsel, the board voted unanimously to have Dell'Aquila come back at the March meeting.

The board would have only considered part of his application last night anyway, according to Board Chairman Joel Freiser, because Dell'Aquila did not include the required detailed site plans with the preliminary drawings he submitted.

Dell'Aquila has applied for use, floor-area ratio and parking variances.

Meanwhile, Anthony Dell'Aquila's plan drew criticism last night from audience members who addressed the board — including a tenant of his own building.

Elizabeth Demkin, owner of a printing business at 1500

Hudson St., told the board that she and other tenants of the building have not been satisfied with the way Dell'Aquila maintains the property.

"We haven't had elevator service in our (section) of the building for nine months," Demkin told the board.

Dell'Aquila countered that slippage in service indicated how he has been hurt by higher taxes.

He said he paid \$100,000 more in property tax last year over the year before.

Other speakers noted Dell'Aquila's failed partnerships with developers Murray Connell and later Harry Grant to make 1500 Hudson St. part of ambitious waterfront projects. The building sits amid 65 acres Dell'Aquila owns at the northern end of the city.

Also citing the plans of two financial firms to foreclose on the developer, the speakers said they wanted Dell'Aquila to prove his solvency to the board.

In other business, the board approved a plan to build four parking spaces behind 625 Washington St., the old PSE&G building recently converted to law offices for Leonard Franco, Esq.

The spaces, designed slightly smaller than the 9 feet by 20 feet required by law, for which Franco received a variance, would be accessible from a Washington Street driveway running alongside the building.

Hoboken campaign

Pasculli off and running Mayor uses hearings to advance his agenda

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-27-89

HOBOKEN—With his series of waterfront development presentations behind him, and a municipal election less than three months away, Mayor Patrick Pasculli appears to be drawing support from some unlikely places.

Pasculli, elected in November to fill the six months left in the term of the late Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, is the only official openly running for mayor in the May 9 election, but observers say Pasculli almost certainly will be opposed by 2nd Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

Also last week, another mayoral candidate in November, council President Robert A. Ranieri, said he will not run again.

The waterfront development hearings last week gave Pasculli an opportunity to present his views on the most important issue facing the city, a process tantamount to campaigning, said one Pasculli opponent, Councilwoman Helen Cuning.

"I don't want people to think that what's happening on the



DELLA FAVE RANIERI

waterfront is around the corner," Cuning declared.

She said she will not support any of Pasculli's proposals for the waterfront until he presents more information about the project's projected financial benefit to the city. "The only thing that's around the corner is an election," the councilwoman said.

Both Della Fave and Cuning support a waterfront development similar to the \$620 million plan Pasculli has proposed, although they would like to see it scaled down.

Among those working with the mayor on his waterfront plan and presentation is Councilman Thomas Newman, who cam-

paigned vigorously for Della Fave in the November election that he lost.

This week, Pasculli is expected to press the City Council to hire analysts to study Newman's mass transit proposal. Newman has said he would like his mass transit plans, which include running an electric trolley-bus or some other kind of non-polluting vehicle from the Hoboken Terminal to Weehawken's Lincoln Harbor, to remain far from the reaches of politics.

"Most of these things — mass transit, master planning for the waterfront, a development corporation — were criticized by Pasculli during the last campaign," Della Fave said, "and now he's turned around and seen the light on some of these things. But most of this is just politicking for May."

Although he stood aside in the last election, refusing to support a specific candidate, former longtime mayor Steve Cappiello, now the 3rd Ward councilman, said he will back a candidate in this election.

Seeks Hoboken votes

Hardwick hits the trail He'll press fight against New York on taxes

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-25-89

HOBOKEN—Taking a break from combat in the tax war between the states, Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick stopped in the Mile Square City last night to press his bid for governor.

Hardwick, R-Union, yesterday authorized the Assembly's legal staff to prepare a lawsuit challenging New York's change in its commuter tax on New Jersey residents.

The Assembly voted Thursday to authorize Hardwick to proceed with a court fight against the New York commuter tax.

If a lawsuit and political measures do not work, Hardwick told city businessmen at a fund-raiser last night, he is prepared to call for a retaliatory tax on New Yorkers who work in the Garden State. Then, he said, New Yorkers also will press for repeal of the new tax.

"If (New York Gov.) Mario M. Cuomo won't listen to Gov. (Thomas H.) Kean or Speaker Hardwick, then maybe he'll listen to thousands of New Yorkers," Hardwick said.

Before their stop here, Hardwick and his supporters met with trains returning from New York City to Newark's Penn Station, and handed out fliers equipped



Assembly Speaker Chuck L. Hardwick smiles while attending a \$100-a-plate dinner in Hoboken yesterday.

DON MCCOY THE HUDSON DISPATCH

with teabags to be sent to Cuomo, he said.

He and other legislators have contended that New York's new approach of taxing commuters as if they earned all their income — including interest, dividends and their spouses' earnings, if they

file joint returns — in New York, amounts to "taxation without representation" and warrants a revolt similar to the Boston Tea Party.

"Cuomo has taken such an ar-

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HARDWICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rogant attitude by saying, 'If you don't like it, sue us,'" Hardwick said. But the new tax places an unfair burden on New Jersey residents, he said. "Even if it's legal, it's wrong," the candidate asserted.

Hardwick, one of four declared contenders in the race for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, also stressed the state's need to promote entrepreneurship and private property rights in his speech at the fund-raiser, held at the Jefferson Trust Building on First Street.

He congratulated the local real estate developers present yesterday, including the fund-raiser's organizer, Robert Fioretti of Waterfront Invest, for building and rehabilitating homes that young couples can buy.

"What Bob is doing — and what many of you are doing — is providing what is, for most of us, the first rung of the ladder of the American dream," Hardwick said.

He also called for continuation of Kean's education policies, which include an attempted takeover of the Jersey City school district. In the first demonstration of its new power, the state Education Department has been holding hearings in its bid to take over that district.

Most elected officials from the city were absent from yesterday's fund-raiser. Sal D'Amelio, the Republican municipal chairman, was present, but said he and other Hoboken Republicans have not decided which candidate to endorse.

"We're very impressed with the speaker," said D'Amelio, who said the group is also impressed with former Attorney General Cary Edwards of Oakland and Rep. James Courter of Warren County. Courter has not yet declared his candidacy.

New taxes vs. view debated

By Dominick Calicchio

Applicants for a proposed Hoboken waterfront office development stressed the plan's projected economic benefits in a hearing before the Hoboken Planning Board last night, while opponents said they were concerned about the plan's impact on the environment and aesthetics.

Testimony will continue at the Planning Board's next scheduled meeting, March 7 in City Hall, during which another special meeting will be scheduled, board members said.

The project calls for two office structures and a parking garage to be built on a platform on waterfront property on Sinatra Drive between Sixth and

Eighth streets. The property is owned by Stevens Institute of Technology, which has made a joint application with Hartz Mountain Industries for the development.

The buildings would be 10 and 13 stories, built atop a common lobby, providing 600,000 square feet of office space. A garage with space for 1,250 cars would be constructed to the north of the buildings.

Last night Constantino Milano, vice president of finance for Hartz, told the board the project would generate an estimated \$1.4 million in taxes for the city, of which some \$568,000 would go toward providing the property with city services, putting the net revenue at

See NEW TAXES — Page 5.

New taxes versus view debated in Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

\$432,000. Milano said he based his projections on a Rutgers University computation guideline, adjusted to fit Hoboken's budget through discussions with city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

The site is currently exempt from property tax because it is used by the school for student parking and equipment storage.

Also testifying for the applicants was Richard Bartholomew, architect for the project and Walter Smith, vice president of property development for Hartz.

In public hearings over the last several months, the developers have assured the board that views of lower Manhattan

would not be obstructed from Castle Point, a historic look-out point on a cliff above the property, on the Stevens campus. They have also said that plans for a state-mandated, public-access walkway along the river edge of the property have been included.

Among those questioning the developers' witnesses last night was Roger Lowenstein, an attorney representing Union Drydock, a business located on adjoining waterfront property.

Lowenstein said his client feared that sediment and ice could collect among the underwater piles needed to support the Stevens-Hartz project, which could impede his client's business.

Reactions are mixed for waterfront plans

By James Efstathiou

Some 60 Hoboken residents who came out for a public meeting on a proposed waterfront development last night had mixed reactions to the project, as well as the process by which it is being unveiled to the community.

The "town meeting" was the first of three scheduled for this week on a proposed 3.7 million-square-foot mixed-use development on city-owned waterfront property. The forum will continue tonight at Hoboken High School and tomorrow at St. Peter and Paul School.

Reaction to the presentation ranged from high praise of the foresight of city planners and their commitment to public input to indignation over the size of the project and the

60 residents attend development hearing

administration's apparent desire to push the plan through. "I don't think that that particular process of public input is going to have any impact," said Daniel Tumpson of Save Hoboken from Overdevelopment. "They get up there, they have the plan and they tell you what it's going to be. They should be asking more fundamental questions like, 'What do you want to do with that property?'"

SHOD had earlier sponsored a petition drive to place

on the ballot in May's municipal election a question calling for the City Council to dedicate the near-70 acres as a public park. City officials refused to certify the petition on grounds that it violated state land-use laws.

SHOD filed a suit against the city which was dismissed last week. Yesterday, however, the group was granted an accelerated appeal which will be heard March 3.

Other speakers rejected the notion that the issue of de-

velopment should come before the public for a vote and praised city planners for finally moving ahead on the prized property.

"What's the point of having a council if we're not going to accept the decisions they're making?" asked John Catrambone. "Everybody here has a different opinion. We can't just keep going on."

With the help of scale models, slides, site plans and architectural renderings, city planners offered their view of a sprawling project along the southern waterfront from the Erie Lackawanna train station to Stevens Park. Included in the design are 1.8 million square feet of office, retail and commercial space, 1,600 resi-

See REACTIONS — Page 6.

Inspector defends landlord

By James Efstathiou

Jude Fitzgibbons, chief housing inspector of Hoboken, yesterday said he stands behind an inspection report which had been called into question by the city's rent-leveling board earlier in the week.

The report certified that all housing code violations previously cited by a city inspector at 153 14th Street had been abated, clearing the way for the Division of Housing Inspection to issue a sub-code compliance certificate for the property. The certificate is required before a landlord may petition the rent board for a rent increase.

Wednesday evening, the rent board put off action on hardship and capital improvement applications filed by landlord Margarita Mansilla. The board ordered a reinspection of the property following tenants' claims that numerous violations in the building remained.

"We're doing our job there," Fitzgibbons said. "She's been fined and she's complied. The whole key is compliance here."

But tenant advocate Thomas Oliveri insisted that the inspection report was "fraudulent" and no compliance certificate should have been issued.

"Jude's statement that the building is 90 percent violation-free is very contradictory," Oliveri said. "Those violations were clearly not abated and yet they gave them the certificate of sub-code compliance."

In his Dec. 22 inspection report, Inspector Santiago Diaz listed 33 violations at the five-story, eight-unit building. They included cracked and unpainted walls, faulty plumbing and holes in the ceiling.

Diaz reinspected the property on Jan. 27 and reported to Fitzgibbons that all violations in the building had been abated. The landlord, seeking across-the-board rent increases of approximately \$150, was then notified that a sub-code compliance certificate was being issued.

But a private inspector hired by five of the building's tenants testified before the rent board that only four of the violations previously identified had been corrected and others not identified.

According to Fitzgibbons, a compliance certificate is issued when 90 percent of the entire property, including both internal and external features, are violation-free. He said holes in the ceiling and transoms had been repaired and paint had been supplied to tenants, covering the bulk of violations.

"The tenants have the right to argue to keep the rents low. But... she's complying."

Condition questioned

Hoboken asks N.J. to check building

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-24-89

HOBOKEN—In a move that calls into question the validity of a city housing inspection, the city's Rent Leveling Board yesterday asked the state to check an apartment building that examiners had said was in good condition.

Acting board Chairman Ira Karasick said he wrote the Community Affairs Department yesterday, asking for state housing inspectors to examine 153 14th St.

The building's owner, Margaret Mansilla of West New York, is asking for rent increases of about \$150 per month for tenants in each of the building's seven apartments.

In December, a city inspector said the building had 33 code violations. After a second inspection on Jan. 27, Jude Fitzgibbons, the city's chief housing inspector, said violations had been abated and the building was in "substantial compliance" with state housing codes.

"To be in substantial compliance, a building doesn't have to be 'perfect-perfect,' but it can't have any serious health or safety violations," Karasick said yesterday.

After seeing photographs of the building and hearing testimony from a private housing inspector who examined it, Karasick said several board members decided the building still had numerous violations.

Fitzgibbons yesterday said the building is in good shape compared to other Hoboken apartments.

"The heat is OK, the windows are OK, the roof is OK," he said. He said Hoboken's worst buildings have between 200 and 300 violations.

Tenants at the building yesterday, most of whom spoke only Spanish, said some repairs have been made. But they also displayed several ceiling and wall holes; numerous cracks; broken showerheads and faucets; a rotted, rusted kitchen sink cabinet; and a gas valve covered with tape to keep gas from leaking.

A tenant advocate, Thomas Oliveri, said the building also has severe plumbing and electrical problems.

Mansilla said she has completed a number of repairs. Right now, she said, the rent roll barely covers her mortgage payments, and she will need more funds to make the changes tenants want.

Reactions are mixed for waterfront plans

Continued from Page 1

dential units, 2,750 parking spaces, a 14-acre marina and 14 acres of open space.

The city administration, along with the project's most vocal supporter, Mayor Patrick Pasculli, believe development is the only way a small city like Hoboken can relieve the burden of soaring taxes. Pasculli said critics like Tumpson take an overly simplistic view by framing the question in terms of parks versus buildings.

"He puts it simply in the context of having beautiful parks at our water's edge but fails to articulate how to pay for it," Pasculli said. "His plan will cost the city in excess of \$50 million with no program to pay for it."

The \$50 million referred to by Pasculli was an estimate of pre-construction costs (demolition, land acquisition, etc.) offered by financial consultant

Don Hunter. That phase of the project could take from one-and-a-half to two years with another eight years needed to complete construction, Hunter said.

The project's design is intended to link the inner city with the waterfront, according to Deborah Minz, representing city planners the Ehrenkrantz Group and Eckstut.

East-west streets currently ending at River Road will be extended to the project site, all of which will be open to the public.

The city, acting both as landlord and municipal government on the project, has been advised by Hunter to take on a financial partner to shoulder construction costs prior to occupancy. That partner could be either a financial institution or a developer, according to business administrator Edwin Chius.

City reviewing bid procedure

By James Efstathiou

City attorneys are reviewing municipal bidding procedures following the City Council's inability to reach a decision on a Hoboken towing contract.

At its last meeting, the council agreed to extend for 60 days the period in which the contract may be awarded. The extension was granted in order to allow time for a review of bidding procedures and to satisfy concerns that the low bidder for the job could perform according to the city's specifications.

The delay has irritated both bidders, who appeared at

the meeting. Barring an extension, the city must award a contract within 60 days of the bid deadline, in this case Dec. 21, 1988.

Hoboken Auto Body has towed cars for the city since 1952, according to Theresa Pino, who helps run the business her father founded. Pino has continued to tow for the city without a contract under 1988 rates.

Pino's bid for a new contract, which included across the board rate increases, was rejected by Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius last fall. When the contract was

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Hoboken bonanza



George Vallone of West Bank Construction points to a model of a proposed Hoboken waterfront project with city Business Administrator Edwin Chius, far left, and others during briefing at Stevens Tech.

Southern exposure

City gets a glimpse of big waterfront project

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—In the first disclosure of funding information on the city's proposed southern waterfront development, a financial consultant said the project would cost about \$620 million to build and would bring in about \$6.5 million in new tax revenue each year.

Donald E. Hunter of Annapolis, Md., said his concern, Hunter Interests Inc., has not yet projected how much of the revenue the city would have to spend on additional police and fire protection and other services as a result of all the new tenants the project would attract.

Hunter disclosed the figures yesterday at the first of this week's series of hearings on the develop-

ment. About 30 members of the business community attended an afternoon presentation held at Stevens Tech, and about 65 people attended an open meeting last night at the Multi-Service Center.

The project calls for 3.7 million square feet of development, including five, 15-story apartment buildings on River Street; a 20-story, 600,000-square-foot office building for one pier; and a six- to eight-story apartment building for a second pier. Tax revenues from the buildings would pay for streets leading to the water's edge, a new riverfront park just north of the buildings and a marina.

The city will need about \$50 million to set the project in motion, Hunter said. That money would

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WATERFRONT

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go to clearing the waterfront site for construction, laying telephone, sewer, gas and electric lines, and building streets, parks, plazas and the esplanade.

To lay these foundations, the city could set up its own development corporation, and then obtain financial backing from a public body. That body is likely to be the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Mayor Patrick Pasculli said.

The authority partnership is likely to be a sore point for many residents here, who still resent the agency's past dealings with the city. Critics here contend that the authority, which former Mayor Robert Kennedy leased three piers from the city and planned to help build the previously proposed larger and denser mixed-use waterfront development, shortchanged the city financially. The authority, which no longer leases the piers, was voted out of the previous project by the City Council in 1987.

Once the groundwork is laid, a collection of private developers could begin building there. Stanton Eckstut, the project's Manhattan-based chief designer, explained at the afternoon session that no single developer should design and build the project.

The city's traffic consultant, Ron North of Wilbur Smith Associates of Connecticut, said the city will need to make several major changes in the next decade to keep local streets from being overrun by traffic as a result of new development here and in Weehawken, Jersey City and West New York.

North said the city will need to build a bypass road that would allow cars to drive around the city instead of through it, to build new parking lots on the city's perimeter and to establish a mass transit system leading to Weehawken's Lincoln Harbor office buildings.

"What's needed for this project, as well as any development, is a mass transit link between Hoboken Terminal and Lincoln Harbor," North said.

City reviewing bid procedure

Continued from Page 1

put out for a second bid, Hoboken Towing Inc., a newly formed corporation run by Kenneth Diver, submitted a proposal which undercut Pino's rates.

But questions concerning Diver's ability to deliver services required by the city led to tabling of the contract at a Feb. 3 meeting and subsequently to the extension granted last week.

"It's up to us to determine whether all the requirements that constitute a responsible bidder have been complied with," said city attorney Edward Florio. "We will review all steps in the bidding process from advertisement to acceptance of proposals."

Pino, who said soaring property taxes forced the company to seek a rate increase, appeared before the council with a memorandum charging that Diver submitted a bogus bid for the job. According to Pino, Hoboken Towing did not have the necessary equipment to tow cars or space to store them when bids were received.

"On paper you can say you can do anything, but is it feasible?" asked Pino. Pino further charged the

council had delayed acting on the bids in order to give Hoboken Towing time to secure the necessary equipment and permits.

In his bid, Diver said he planned to store towed vehicles at three lots at 16th Street and Willow Avenue. However, according to city zoning laws, the planning board must give approval for cars to be parked on those lots.

A public hearing on Diver's application for a use variance has been scheduled for April 4.

"We met all the specifications at the time the bid was made," said Diver's attorney, Joseph Ryglicki. "If we were awarded the contract back then, we would have been able to perform."

Diver has offered to tow abandoned vehicles for the city for \$10 apiece with no charge for storage. Pino's price is \$15 a car and \$1.30 a day for storage. In 1987, the city paid \$56,776 for towing and storage.

However, Pino, who also junks cars, paid the city \$10,369 for abandoned cars, according to Chius.

In the same year, Chius said, Pino towed approximately 4,200 cars for individual motorists at \$50 apiece.

Rent board doubts Hoboken housing inspector

By James Efstathiou

The Hudson Dispatch 2-23-89

Despite certification by Hoboken's chief housing inspector, the city's rent board refused to hear an application for a rent increase on grounds that the landlord may not be in compliance with state housing codes.

Instead, the board postponed the matter and ordered the reinspection of a five-story apartment building at 153 14th Street. The building's owner, Margarita Mansilla, is seeking across the board rent increases of approximately \$150 to cover capital improvements and a hardship application.

In addition to ordering the reinspection, the board recommended that a state inspector

not connected with the city's Division of Housing Inspection accompany the city inspector on the survey.

"There's a serious question as to whether there's substantial compliance which we as a board are unable to resolve," said acting board chairman Ira Karasick.

"There was a certificate of substantial compliance from the housing department. The board chose not to accept it."

In order for a landlord to petition for a rent increase, a sub code compliance certificate must be issued by city inspectors, Karasick said. When Mansilla first appeared before the board on Jan. 11, no such certificate was secured and the matter was adjourned.

Prior to that on Dec. 22, housing inspector Santiago Diaz surveyed the building and cited numerous violations. The landlord was notified that a sub code certificate would not be issued until the violations were corrected.

Diaz reinspected the property on Jan. 27 and in a letter to the landlord reported that all violations had been abated and a certificate would be issued.

Tenants, however, claim that repairs were not made and hired a private housing inspector to evaluate the building. Silvia L. Gernalnik testified to the board that on the basis of her Feb. 9 inspection, the bulk of violations cited in the December report had not been corrected and that other viola-

tions not reported by city inspectors existed.

In his December inspection, Diaz reported violations included cracked and unpainted walls, broken faucets, damaged floors and bathroom tiles and holes in ceilings. In all, 33 violations were noted in seven of the building's eight apartments and in common areas.

Karasick, aware that tenants would challenge the department's reinspection report, sent a letter through the city law department requesting both Diaz and chief housing inspector Jude Fitzgibbons appear at the hearing. According to Karasick, Fitzgibbons responded that it was not the policy of the department to enter into landlord tenant dis-

putes and declined to appear.

"I think it certainly questions the rigor by which they conduct their inspections," said Karasick adding that he planned to forward information on the case to the state Division of Community Affairs. Tenant attorney Ray Korona, representing residents in five of the building's eight apartments, said that often such violations are overlooked until an application for a rent increase is submitted.

"All the municipalities are overburdened so they really don't get the chance to inspect the building like they want to," said Korona. "But when somebody comes in for a big rent increase, it's certainly going to come into the limelight."

Sewage contractor suing Hoboken for damages to gear

By James Efstathiou

A contractor hired to process a sewage treatment by-product is asking Hoboken to pay for damages to equipment it claims resulted from other mechanical malfunctions at the treatment plant.

A hearing has been scheduled Friday in state Superior Court in Jersey City following a motion filed last week by Ozonics Corp., Freehold.

Ozonics is seeking \$85,000 from the city to cover the cost of repairing equipment owned by the company and leased to the Hoboken Treatment Works.

However, city Law Director Eugene O'Connell said Hoboken is not responsible for damage to Ozonics' machinery and indicated he planned to file a counterclaim to recover \$45,000 Hoboken has already spent on repairs.

"I feel we got bullied into it because Ozonics threatened to pull out of our plant," O'Connell said.

In spite of the dispute over who should pay for the repairs, both O'Connell and Ozonics attorney Robert Ellenpor agree that the problem stems from a malfunctioning grit chamber installed last summer.

The failure of the grit chamber led to a plant emergency last month which cost the city \$26,000 to repair.

The grit chamber is the first screening device at the plant, which treats sewage from Weehawken and part of Union City as well, and is designed to filter large objects from the effluent.

The chamber was designed and installed by contractors hired by Hartz Mountain Industries Inc., Secaucus, when the plant was upgraded to a primary treatment level.

The upgrade, financed by a consortium of local builders and Hartz, allowed those developers to receive sewage permits based on the plant's upgraded capacity despite a state ban on new sewer hookups.

However, according to Hoboken officials, the chamber has not functioned properly

since installation and continues to falter.

Ozonics treats and processes sludge, a substance which settles out of the sewage effluent, for the city.

Because of problems with the grit chamber, the company charges, too much solid material has been allowed into Ozonics settling tanks, damaging the system and, periodically since last summer, shutting the sludge removal system down.

"That degree of solids destroys our machinery," said Ellenpor.

Department of Public Works Director Roy Haack agreed that solids entering the grit chamber have caused damage to Ozonics' equipment as well as other systems at the plant.

An independent engineer hired by the city to evaluate the grit chamber has determined that the chamber is too small for the plant and that effluent passes too quickly through it to allow for proper settling, according to Haack.

Given to museum

Cop log: Life in the raw

Entries capture flavor of Hoboken 100 years ago

By DAVID LIPPMAN

The Hudson Dispatch 2-27-89

HOBOKEN—Rudolph Volmann, 40, male, white, German, laborer, married, drunk, fined \$3.

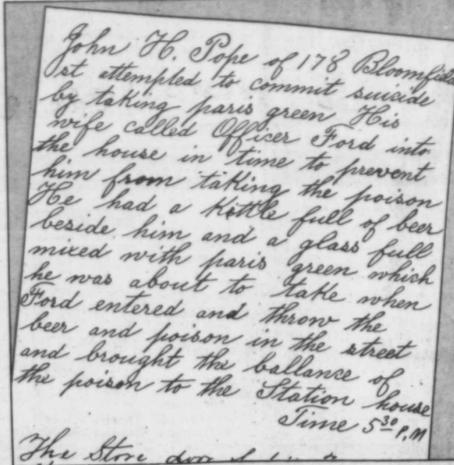
So begins the Hoboken police blotter for Feb. 27, 1889, exactly 100 years ago today.

The city's history of felonies and misdemeanors was taking up too much space at cramped police headquarters in the basement of City Hall, so city officials were grateful when state regulations permitted them to dispose of large brown ledgers, whose pages are filled with neat, Victorian calligraphed entries.

But rather than roll hulking books full of local history to the incinerator, Mayor Patrick Pasculli contacted Jim Hans, president of the Hoboken Historical Museum, and offered the volumes as a gift.

Now Hans is seeking a permanent home for the blotters, possibly at Stevens Tech. Last week, he showed them off, revealing Hoboken's sins of 100 years ago.

Hoboken was a city of 43,700, according to the 1890 census, close to the present level. People — mostly Germans, Dutch, Italians and Irish — lived in what is now the southeast corner of the city, near the rail yards, ferry terminals and docks that fueled the economy that, Hans says, con-



Portion of the Hoboken police blotter for one day in the 1880s.

sisted of "a bar every other store on River Street."

"Seamen from Brooklyn would come here to drink. It was a rough-and-tumble place," he said.

Life moved at a slower pace a century ago. On Oct. 2, 1886,

John Mitchell, 40, of East Newark, broke his leg while loading a cart in Fort Lee. He was taken by rowboat to Hoboken's Fourth Street dock for treatment at St. Mary Hospital.

Please see **BLOTTER** Page 4



Elysian Federal Savings Bank on Washington Street in Hoboken. HUDSON DISPATCH STAFF PHOTO

Has negative worth

Feds try to nurse Hoboken bank back to solvency

By DAVID REILLY

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—Federal regulators are assessing the financial stability of Elysian Federal Savings Bank, which was taken over by the government last week, to determine how to get the ailing institution back on its feet.

A determination by John Fitzgerald, a Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. managing agent, could include allowing Elysian's management to continue on its current course, selling it or merging it with a healthier savings and loan, said insurance corporation spokesman Andrea Plater in Washington.

Please see **BANK** Page 16

Shhh! Hoboken to elect mayor

Continued from Page 1

sociation has several hundred active members.

"The old guard never dies, it just moves over. It relocates, changes in names and age groups but we never disappear."

"I would consider supporting a candidate who shares my views, maybe running someone," he said.

Another political faction, Save Hoboken from Over-Development, is also expected to run a slate of candidates.

Founded last July by Dan Tumpson, an avowed opponent of any role for the Port Authority in Hoboken's development, SHOD has grown into a public advocacy organization.

It only recently conducted successful petition drives on rent control and condo conversion.

The City Council, largely because of the petitions, agreed to repeal its efforts to weaken rent control and to place a ban on condominium conversions.

Now the group wants to convert the city-owned waterfront land slated for a 3.2-million-square-foot development into parks.

SHOD ran one candidate, Steve Busch, for City Council last November.

With only a few hundred dollars, the group gathered 20 percent of the vote.

Busch, in a recent interview, said that the group is still

discussing whether to run a mayoral candidate with three at-large council candidates or whether to focus on the council seats.

Busch said he expects he and Tumpson will be candidates.

Della Fave and Councilwoman Helen Cunning fought against the rent changes so they share some supporters with SHOD.

But since both support waterfront development, they have a dramatic and irreconcilable difference with SHOD over development issues.

It is doubtful the two camps will form a coalition. Frank Raia, a local developer who was appointed to the council last March to fill the vacancy left by Pasculli, said he will be a council contender in May.

Pasculli's running mate, Richard Del Boccio, won overwhelmingly with 2,200 votes over Raia.

Pasculli's victory last November is attributed to his strong showing in the Fourth Ward, which encompasses most of the public housing projects and a large Hispanic population. He beat Della Fave in that ward by 700 votes.

The mayor said he is considering Mario Mercado, a police officer and Board of Education trustee; Nellie Moyeno, director of Hispanic Affairs, and Angel Alicia Jr.

He said he is also talking to George Guzman and Jaime Munoz, candidates a City Hall observer described as "no drawing cards."

Alicia and Munoz have taken out petition papers.

Cunning said she and Della Fave are also talking to possible candidates and will announce their slate next week.

School board election

Candidate: Goof hurt my chances

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 2-23-89

HOBOKEN—A man seeking a seat on the Board of Education yesterday said an administrative mixup has reduced his chances of winning a seat, and he plans to straighten it out in court.

Peter Falco, a police sergeant making his first bid for public office, said he will file a petition today in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City asking the court to list him as a candidate for a three-year board term instead of a two-year term.

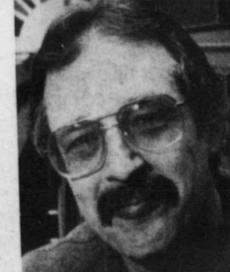
"Why should I take a shot at the two-year term when I could go for three?" Falco said. A two-year spot is open to fill the unexpired term ended last year when

Trustee Vivian Flora-DiStasio resigned. Three regular three-year terms also are open.

Falco said the nominating petition he submitted to board Secretary Anthony Curko on Feb. 9 was not clearly marked for a three-year term, but Curko promised to make the clarification.

If he runs for the two-year term, Falco said, the April 4 vote probably will be split between him and another independent candidate, Perry Belfiore. This will leave the ticket wide open for Claire DePalma, the candidate backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Falco said. DePalma was appointed in December to fill the vacated seat temporarily.

Curko said he believed Falco wanted to run for the two-year



PETER FALCO Plans court action

term, but said he will change the ballot only if a judge orders him to do so. The order would force Curko to juggle all the names on the school election ballot.

"I personally could care less if he runs for two years or three years," Curko said, "but I have a duty to the other candidates."

BLOTTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Edward Buck, 37, male, white, German, cigarmaker, abandoned his wife, paroled.

But children died young. Kate Toole, 7, of Grand Street, stood in front of a bonfire made by boys, on Oct. 3, 1886, and was burned fatally. Katherine Kriel, 3, fell into a boiler of hot water and died. John Yeck, 3, was reported on the

"point of death" after eating poisoned candy bought at a store. Marie Mahone, 9, came from New York to visit her aunt. While in the kitchen, she was burned fatally by a stove fire. Officer Murray, who lived next door, ran to the child's assistance and put the fire out, police said. This was on Dec. 20, 1886.

"If you got burned in those days, you died," Hans said. And if a dog bit a human, the police shot the dog — on the spot.

Henry Ebert, 20, male, white, American, teamster, single, assault and battery, Fred Cohley, complainant, case discharged.

Street traffic consisted strictly of horses and wagons. "Children could play in the street more, and did, and got hit by horsecars," Hans says.

A runaway horse attached to a buggy was caught by Officer David Harrison on Bloomfield

Street on Dec. 4, 1886. Jan. 9, 1887, brought another big horse case, one drawing a sleigh on First Street panicked, hurled the driver off the sleigh, and charged off. The errant horse collided with a junk wagon and a coach, injuring one of the passengers, and finally was stopped five blocks later, "after making kindling of the sleigh."

Morals were different, too. Many of the listings in the blotter read like this one for June 5, 1887: The store door of 64 First St. found open by Officer Walsh. Nothing missing. Many lost children were returned to their parents, providing only a brief notation on the blotter.

But not so different, either. Fritz Kienst was beaten on New Year's Day 1887 by "unknown roughs." Next day, waiter Franz Kapka of Gantsberg's Saloon — which later became a theater — was "atrociously assaulted" by a coworker. A party of Hungarians were attacked on Jan. 26, 1887, while enroute to their steamship for the voyage home. Andrew Ardan lost an eye.

Charles Vindor, 40, male, white, German, laborer, married, drunk, discharged.

For some people, the Hoboken of the 1880s was not an enjoyable place. Gottlieb Wagen shot himself on Jan. 26, 1887, while riding the 5:50 ferry. Thomas Howell, 62, "took off his shoes, stockings, hat and coat" and fell down his daughter's stairs, dying of a broken neck. A January fire devastated four Erie Railroad cars.

Daniel Kiernan, 38, was struck on the back of his head with a bottle by his wife. Charles McNulty stabbed his wife Rebecca with a butcher knife on April 28, 1887. The outcome of this case — or any of the others — is not recorded.

On April 12, 1887, "the street commissioners' attention is called to ashes that have not been removed for three weeks at the northwest corner of Fifth and Hudson streets. The complaint was made by Mr. S. J. Ten."

An unknown man aged about 60 "dropped dead" in front of 105 Clinton St. "He is supposed to be a tramp," the blotter recorded laconically. The body was removed to Crane's Morgue.

That name crops up again and again. Crane's Ambulance, Crane's Funeral Home, Crane's Morgue — all the same outfit — were there to pick up the bodies, such as when blacksmith Fritz Doies was found after drowning in the Hudson River. Sailor William Gregg drowned while bathing in the Hudson River. "He sank but did not come to surface." The bodies of Doies and Gregg were removed by Crane's hearses.

"They were in business until the '50s," Hans says.

The blotters had their share of mysteries. John H. Pope apparently felt morose on the afternoon of June 4, 1887. According to police, he attempted to commit suicide by taking a poison known as Paris green.

Police gave the following account of the incident:

His wife called Officer Ford into the house in time to prevent him from taking the poison. Pope had a kettle full of beer beside him and a glass full mixed with Paris green which he was about to take when Ford entered and threw the beer and poison in the street and brought the balance of the poison to headquarters.

One piece of news might ring eerily familiar to modern policemen anywhere in Hudson County.

At 3:40 p.m., on Dec. 26, 1888, Francis McAuliff, aged 10, an orphan, with no home, was brought to the station house by Officer Mulcahy. The boy had been sleeping in a cellar on Jefferson Street for the last two months.

Michael McCune, 21, male, white, American, laborer, single, atrocious assault, bailed for trial.

Shhh! Hoboken is going to hold an election

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

2-21-89

With only three weeks left to file petitions to run in the Hoboken municipal election in May, political speculation around City Hall has been low key.

But it is almost definite that Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave will square off again in May for a four-year term.

Pasculli, who was appointed mayor on March 2 following the death of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, de-

feated Della Fave in November by 700 votes.

The lack of political rumor-mongering probably derives from the fact that both candidates and their political camps are recuperating from the hard-fought contest of only three months ago.

So far, only one person, Florence Amato, has taken out papers for mayor. She ran unsuccessfully for the Fourth Ward council seat in 1983 and again two years ago. She said yesterday she is running on issues of drugs, the homeless, excessive municipal

spending in overtime and the management of the wastewater treatment plant.

Amato, who owns a coffee shop at the corner of First and Jefferson streets, has long been active in politics. Her husband, Andrew, was head of the city Public Works Department for six years under former Mayor Steve Cappiello.

City Council President Robert Ranieri, who had a poor showing last November in the mayor's race with

about 1,200 votes, is not saying what his plans are for May or whether he will seek to retain the at-large City Council seat he has held since 1973.

"My plans will be firm and announced by March 1," said Ranieri yesterday. "I am not discussing anything at the moment."

Meanwhile, Cappiello, whose 12-year reign as mayor ended with the 1985 loss to Vezzetti, is not ruling out the possibility that he may also be a candidate for mayor.

"I have no idea at this point in time what I am doing. My greatest

goal for the immediate future is to get proper direction for the City of Hoboken," said Cappiello, who represents the Third Ward on the council. "I haven't considered getting involved in local politics unless of course the politics are such that I cannot accept them."

Cappiello explains Ranieri's poor showing in November as foreshadowing his own political strength.

He says the Steve Cappiello As-

Planner has Hoboken dream

Public to view plans at meetings on waterfront project this week

By RANDI GLATZER
The Hudson Dispatch 2-20-89

HOBOKEN—Architect Stanton Eckstut says he finds it miraculous that a city such as this, with its narrow, intimate streets, brownstones and rowhouses exists in the midst of a megalopolis. And as an urban designer for Hoboken, Eckstut says his job is not to ruin it.

"We really don't want to see this as a project," Eckstut said last week of his plans for development on 31 acres of city-owned land on the southern waterfront. "It's really just Hoboken being expanded, and maybe even im-

proved." Eckstut and members of his firm, The Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut, will present their plans in a series of "town meetings" scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday nights. The informal hearings kick off the approval process for the development.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli and City Council members say the development will help stabilize taxes by bringing needed revenue. In addition, they say the southern waterfront, once enlivened by ships and dockworkers, will become a strolling place for residents of

Hoboken and neighboring communities. Eckstut, 46, is best known as one of two designers of Battery Park City in lower Manhattan, a 92-acre development widely touted as an urban success story. Along with his former partner, Alexander Cooper, Eckstut began planning for Hoboken's waterfront in 1982.

His new firm also has designed sections of waterfronts in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, London, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Port Liberté and Newport City in Jersey City.

The first phase of the Hoboken development could be completed

in three to five years, says the firm's project manager, Deborah Mintz. It would include five 15-story apartment buildings, an office and retail building for River Street, and a waterfront esplanade.

The second phase would include a 25-story office, hotel and retail building for one pier and a six- to eight-story apartment building for a second pier. A marina as well as other parks and plazas also are planned. The entire development could be completed in 10 years, Mintz says.

A different developer and architect would be signed on for nearly every building so the de-

velopment would have the varied feel of city streets built bit by bit, Eckstut says.

In all, the project would include 3.7 million square feet of space in new buildings. But Eckstut urges residents to think instead about what is between the buildings.

"The streets really are the character," he says. "We are very anxious to have streets and public spaces be as important as buildings."

Since Hoboken is already a "city at the water's edge," the city's east-west streets should be to be extended right to the waterfront, Eckstut says.

Hearings on the development



STANTON ECKSTUT
Hired by Pasculli

will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Multi-Service Center, 124 Grand St.; 7 p.m. Wednesday at Hoboken High School Auditorium, 820 Clinton St.; and 7 p.m. Thursday at Sts. Peter and Paul School Auditorium, 410 Hudson St.

Developers remain hot on Hoboken

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
The Hudson Dispatch 2-20-89

It's been three years since developers Daniel Gans and George Vallone disclosed plans that would change the look of Hoboken, but to date a shovel hasn't broken ground for any of their major development proposals.

Legal battles with waterfront developer Anthony Dell Aquila halted progress on a 22-story, twin-towered condominium project planned at 1600 Park Ave. According to court

papers, Dell Aquila's successful challenge cost Gans and Vallone more than \$14 million in sales.

Gans and Vallone's plans to build Court Street Plaza, a \$70 million complex of offices, retail space and 288 condo units on Washington Street at the site of the old ShopRite supermarket, is two years behind schedule.

And it has been several years since the two announced that they had an option to buy the hulking Neumann Leathers

Factory to build yet another highrise.

The two developers, both 34, own West Bank Construction, a business they started nine years ago. They attribute their inability to build in Hoboken to the moratorium on new sewer hookups that the state imposed on the city more than three years ago.

But the developers were given approvals for sewer hookups for both the ShopRite project and 1600 Park Ave. last July, according to state offi-

cial. "It's not like we're not building, it's just that we're not building in Hoboken," Vallone said in a recent interview.

According to Vallone, the company, which employs about 100 construction workers and 15 office staffers, is building a bank branch near the new Waldbaum's in Jersey City. In addition, Vallone said, the company finished a 40,000-square-foot office building six months ago, complete with ten-

See DEVELOPERS — Page 8.

Developers stay hot on Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

nis court, in East Orange, and recently renovated a four-story limestone building into an art gallery in Manhattan.

Other projects of the developers during the last three years include the renovation of 100 units in Passaic, the rehabilitation of 37 units in East Orange and 63 units in Jersey City. They expect to begin building 44 new units in Union City within the next three months.

In Hoboken, their most impressive project to date has been the restoration of the Jefferson Trust Bank, the location of their headquarters. They also built 100 new condos adjacent to the Jefferson Trust and converted the former Ranieri furniture store at 129 Washington St. into offices.

But those construction projects pale in comparison to the plans they have for Hoboken. The fact that the developers have received city approvals for their 16th Street and Observer Highway projects but have not started construction has fueled speculation by public officials and real estate industry insiders that the company is in financial trouble.

"I hear the rumors," said Vallone. "The rumors are simply not true. As evidence, we are still here. There's blablah all over the place. I hope that this story sets the record straight. The proof is in the pudding — we're still here, we haven't gone under."

It is nearly impossible to get a comment from a bank or real estate investment company on any involvement they may have with Gans and Vallone, and the developers are unwilling to discuss the details of their financing.

The developers concede that Dell Aquila, who owns 64 acres across the street from where Gans and Vallone want to build twin towers with 412 units and commercial space at 1600 Park Ave., caused them great financial hardship when he successfully contested the Zoning Board of Adjustment's original variance in 1985. A new one was granted last December.

Court papers show that Gans and Vallone lost \$2 million in out-of-pocket expenses. They have been paying \$5,000 a day to keep an option on the land they wanted to develop three years ago, a cost they still absorb.

To further complicate their

financial forecast, the two banks that were interested in funding the 1600 Park Ave. project, the Trust Company of New Jersey and East Rivers Savings Bank, most likely have lost interest because of a pending lawsuit by one of Dell Aquila's ex partners, Murray Connell.

In his lawsuit against Dell Aquila and the banks, Connell contends that ERSB and the Trust Co. of New Jersey asked Dell Aquila to drop his challenge to the 1600 Park Ave. variance as a condition for securing funding for his waterfront project because the lending institutions were interested in West Bank's project.

Vallone said groundbreaking for 1600 Park Ave., which does not have financial backing, is at least a year away.

But Vallone said that they are close to finalizing a deal to finance the ShopRite project with groundbreaking "right around the corner in the spring. I think I've got it (the financial backing), it just needs the final touches."

Integrated Resources, a \$4 billion real estate development company, has financed \$9.3 million in equity for the project, which needs a \$54 million construction loan.

Both Gans and Vallone, despite the general consensus that the condo market is soft and that there are hundreds of empty units, remain bullish that their plans to add another 700 units within the next few years will be successful.

"Hoboken is really getting its act together. With proper planning and zoning, you will see the creation of the future of an ideal city," said Gans.

"We don't agree with the perception that the market is soft. There is always a need for housing," Vallone added.

Vallone said that if the rumors about their financial troubles were true and that a bank had taken them over, he and his partner would not be in Hoboken.

"Oh God, I would say send me the check and we'll be in Grenada," Vallone said. He and Gans own land on the resort island. "We consider the Caribbean the growth market and Grenada the Hoboken of the Caribbean," Gans said.

Like their plans for Hoboken, the two have had plans to build a resort on the island for years. When asked when they will start building, Gans answered, "soon."

Letter attacks motives of members of SHOD

By James Efstathiou

An anonymous flyer attacking the motives of members of a community group opposed to development has been circulating in Hoboken City Hall since last week.

The letter targets five members of Save Hoboken From Overdevelopment, the group seeking to place on the May municipal election ballot a referendum asking whether city-owned waterfront proper-

ty should be designated as park land.

SHOD has sued City Clerk James Farina for failing to certify its petition for inclusion on the ballot.

A hearing of that suit is scheduled for Friday.

"My reaction to it (the letter) is that obviously there are some people who are very concerned about what we're doing, and it's beginning to worry

See LETTER — Page 10.

Letter attacks motives of SHOD members

Continued from Page 1

them," said SHOD member Daniel Tumpson.

"I think basically what it comes down to is that they haven't been able to find anything of substance to attack us with, so they are trying to attack us personally."

Along with Tumpson, the letter lists four prominent members of the group, Steven Busch, John Derevlany, Annette Illing and Susan O'Keane, along with information regarding their employment status and how much rent they pay.

"Are these people really concerned with the future of Hoboken and all of its residents — or are they just concerned with their own personal

situations?" the letter asks.

The text goes on to charge that SHOD members are concerned only with maintaining their own low rents and not with Hoboken's population in general.

"It's incredibly ironic that they should attack our rents," said Tumpson.

"There's an implication there that people in this town should be paying high rents," he said.

Tumpson said the information regarding rents was inaccurate, but may have had some basis in outdated rent records.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli declined to comment on the flyer.



Renovations are under way at the Hoboken Police Department's headquarters in the basement of City Hall.

Hoboken Police Department

City renovating precinct

Some officers fear they will never move out

By RANDI GLATZER
The Hudson Dispatch 3-2-89

HOBOKEN—The city will spend nearly \$60,000 to renovate its dilapidated police precinct in the basement of City Hall, even though plans are under way to move the department.

To some police officers here, the renovations are one more sign that the department will spend another century in its roach-infested quarters, which have led to low morale and concerns about safety.

But city officials studying prospective sites for the department say a move will be made within two years.

The 138-member force will receive a new locker room on the third floor of the building, 40 new lockers, and about 150 gun safes to store firearms near the basement police desk, said purchasing assistant Jane Richards.

The changes are expected to cost about \$18,000.

Once lockers are cleared from that floor will be equipment and operations on that floor will be shuffled, said Public Works Director Roy Haack.

These improvements could cost about \$40,000, he said, and will come from the city's capital budget.

"It's going to be done with long-range planning in mind," said Police Chief George W. Crimmins Sr. He said the new equipment can be transported to a

new headquarters if the department moves.

The renovations also will help clear up a long list of state health and safety violations, Crimmins said.

A committee appointed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to study a possible relocation has recommended three new sites, and will begin attempts to purchase one of those sites next week, city Business Administrator Edwin Chius said.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale, invited by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to study and reorganize the department, refused the job in January after he learned the department would not be moved to new quarters at the David E. Rue School.

DePascale, who called the Hoboken precinct "calamitous," said it would be pointless to try to modernize a department working in antiquated headquarters.

Members of the department, who keep as a memento a notice recommending relocation — dated 1908 — and who routinely answer "Never!" when asked when the move is coming, repeated that response yesterday.

"It will just be a political football tossed around for the next few years," one officer said. "I'll retire out of here."

Crimmins said he is cautiously hopeful. "I am an eternal optimist, but I am very attuned to hard facts and hard happenings."

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

City Council meeting erupts into name-calling brouhaha

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

What appeared to be a simple resolution for \$10,000 to pay for a study on the Hoboken waterfront property turned into a brouhaha last night with two council members questioning one of their colleague's tolerance for public opinion.

At one point, Councilwoman Helen Cunniff told Councilman David Roberts that he was "a nut" and said perhaps the council should adopt a policy for "public hangings" or merely to "shoot on sight!" Dan Tumpson, founder of Save Hoboken from Overdevelopment, for questioning the council.

"You've missed the whole point," Cunniff told Roberts, referring to Tumpson's tenacious style of questioning. "A friend of mine — who is no longer with us — used to remind us that we were public servants," she said referring to

the late Mayor Thomas Vezzetti who died a year ago today.

"When someone has a question, we should answer. If there is a give-and-take then so what?" she asked, adding that Roberts seemed intolerant of public opinion. Roberts had complained to Council President Robert Ranieri about allowing Tumpson "to cross examine" the council.

At issue was a resolution by Councilman Steve Cappiello to pay \$10,000 to Planning Solutions of Jersey City to examine the near 70 acres of waterfront land for a blight designation. SHOD wants the land reserved for parks. The group successfully circulated a petition to have that question put on the May ballot. The city is proposing a 3.2 million square foot development for the area.

Law Director Eugene O'Connell, refusing to place the question on the ballot, said it is

illegal to create zoning by initiative. A superior court judge upheld that opinion. The appeal is being heard tomorrow.

The blight designation council as the redevelopment agent for the city-owned land, giving the elected officials more control over designating developers, establishing bid specifications or determining land disposition agreements.

The resolution was approved with Cunniff and Councilman Joseph Della Fave abstaining. That and the council's decision to hire a mass transit expert — with Cappiello in opposition because of the \$75,000 cost — advanced the city efforts to develop the waterfront.

But Tumpson said state law requires the study be conducted by the Planning Board, not the council. He saw council in-

See COUNCIL — Page 10.

Hoboken council OKs transit study

By DAVID LIPPMAN
The Hudson Dispatch 3-2-89

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night approved a \$75,000 feasibility study for a mass transit plan here.

The vote was 8-0, with Councilman Steve Cappiello abstaining.

The proposal, introduced by 1st Ward Councilman Thomas Newman, will pay Jacquemart Associates Inc. of New York the

money to analyze the city ridership demand, the need for east-west bus service, perimeter parking near its borders, and bus or trolley shuttle service to and from the waterfront.

The study will determine whether the city should set up an extensive mass-transit system, and if so, what kinds of transportation will be used.

In introducing the resolution, Newman said, "It is absolutely essential that traffic to the water-

front be intercepted, so we can have development without traffic.

"The western part of the city is not well-served by the rinky-dink, on-and-off crosstown bus," he said.

Newman has proposed the city charter an autonomous, non-profit organization that would raise funds to establish and run the system. Newman's initial estimates say such a system, using trolley lines, would cost about

\$43 million to start up, \$3 million for financing and about \$14 million per year to run.

"By intercepting traffic at the border of Hoboken, we could keep our borders secure and protect the environmental quality of our street life," Newman said.

Cappiello, while applauding Newman for his time and effort, said, "\$75,000 is a lot of money to spend. A lot of studies have been done."

Cappiello said parking laws are

not enforced, and the city can still handle more cars.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who supported the proposal, said the Vezzetti administration had favored such plans. He called the city's future prospects without mass transit "frightening."

Councilman David Roberts and Councilman Richard Del Boccio also spoke in favor of the proposal, which has the backing of Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

Hartz backs it

Growth plan unveiling tonight

N.J. favors development in Hudson and other urban areas

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
Dispatch Business Writer

A draft state development plan designed to direct future growth to Hudson County and other urban areas is scheduled to be publicly presented for the first time tonight to county residents and officials.

Most local elected officials, planners and developers welcome the state Planning Commission's tentative classification of Hudson County as Tier 1, the area where

future growth is most desirable. "This plan is good for the cities," said Morton Goldfein, vice president for law and public affairs for Hartz Mountain Industries of Secaucus. "The people who are the most threatened are the farmers, because it will decrease the price they can get for their land."

Barbara Lawrence, director of the New Jersey office of the Regional Plan Association, said the state proposal "can only serve Hudson County well."

However, some environmental leaders, who have been fighting to slow the pace of the county's waterfront development, are against the plan. "It's absurd," complained Claire Burke, a director of the Hoboken environmental group FORWARD. "The area of highest density in the state is slated for additional density."

Tonight's presentation is scheduled for 7 in the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse at 583 Newark Ave. in Jersey City.

The task of reconciling citizen objections with arguments in favor of the state plan falls on the recently resurrected county Planning Board, an agency that many observers believe may not be up to the task.

"I'm only hoping that Hudson County, which is moving in the right direction, is able to get on stream in time," commission Chairman James G. Gilbert said, adding that other counties are "way out in front" of Hudson in their planning abilities.



MORTON GOLDFEIN
'Plan's good for cities'

Janiszewski pledged that he will ensure that the county board receives the financial support it needs to complete the task.

City asked to pay bills of shelter

By James Efstathiou

The group running Hoboken's only shelter for the homeless wants the city to pay facility's sewer and water bills.

St. John's Lutheran Church at 3rd and Bloomfield, which houses the shelter, has not paid its water or sewage bills since 1985, according to a spokesman. The group has formally notified council President Robert Ranieri asking that the city pick up the charges.

According to Geoffrey B. Curtiss, president of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition which runs the Bishop Mahurter Shelter for the Homeless, the church is providing a governmental service by feeding and sheltering the city's homeless and should not pay for the extra costs incurred by offering that service.

"The shelter is taking care of the welfare of a segment of the Hoboken community that needs government support," said Curtiss. "Since the use of the water and sewer is primarily for the sheltering and feeding of Hoboken's homeless people, which is the responsibility of all the people of Hoboken, the church is asking if the city would be willing to take on those charges."

Ranieri said he has notified the full council of the group's request, and has asked the city law department to investigate the legality of making such a contribution.

"Before we get into what might be the desires of various individuals or collective council people, I'd like to know what parameters the city can operate within," Ranieri said. Can the city waive a water bill for a charitable facility?"

The shelter feeds up to 100 people a night and houses up to 30, Curtiss said. Although other churches and tax exempt organizations pay water and sewer charges, St. John's should not, he argued, because their service bills are much higher as a result of servicing the homeless.

Curtiss said he unsuccessfully tried to bring the situation to the attention of the City Council in 1985. Since then, Curtiss said, water and sewer bills have gone unpaid and the church notified that its property would be sold by the city.

"This request has been ducked around for the last three years," said Curtiss. "Without the shelter, there is no option except to end up in PATH-train situations or in the NJ Transit yards."

'Caring and honest'

Friends recall Tom Vezzetti

By CHRISTOPHER AVE

The Hudson Dispatch 3-3-89

HOBOKEN—One year after he died of a heart attack, Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti was remembered last night by clergymen, politicians and citizens — some of them in tears — at a memorial service.

Vezzetti, a gregarious, flamboyant ex-bartender who rose to head the city's reform movement, died March 2, 1988, in the third year of his one mayoral term. Vezzetti had topped three-term Mayor Steve Capiello in a 1985 election.

At the service at St. Matthew's Trinity Lutheran Church, Angelo Valente, a Vezzetti ally and former city councilman, announced that a fund in Vezzetti's name will award its first college scholarship this fall. The Thomas F. Vezzetti Memorial Scholarship Fund was set up soon after the mayor's death to award one high school student each year a scholarship to New York University, where Vezzetti earned bachelor's and master's degrees.

Valente said last night that the fund, made up entirely of con-

tributions, had reached \$9,050. He said fund organizers hope to build it to \$15,000.

Vezzetti, an often unkempt man who rode into the Mayor's Office on the strength of an aggressive campaign style that included a bullhorn, was remembered as a lover of people and crusader for honest government.

Vezzetti's was "a dream of honest politicians working tirelessly, selflessly for the common good," said the Rev. Barbara Cathey, a minister who could not attend. Joan Rafter read her prepared eulogy.

The Rev. Paul Hagedorn, pastor of St. Matthew's, said in an emotional address that, while Vezzetti was not known as a saint, he will be remembered for his honesty.

"I guess we're all gathered together tonight because we felt these faults were more than compensated for (by) other qualities which radiated from the man — not halos, but rays of hope, joy, caring and honesty that touched our lives."

Hagedorn also said Vezzetti's



THOMAS F. VEZZETTI
Eulogized at church service

memory should give hope and joy "for the underdogs of this city." Several people wept during the brief eulogy.

Among the approximately 100 people who attended were almost a dozen clergymen, several Board of Education and City Council members, and Mayor Patrick Pasculli. Pasculli's presence was noteworthy because, although he was an ally of Vezzetti in the early 1980s, the two men split soon after the 1985 election, resulting in a sometimes bitter row.

Trial balloons floating

Last-minute filings likely in Hoboken

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-9-89

HOBOKEN—With one week to go before nominating petitions are due for the May 9 municipal election, the best-known likely candidates are staying out of the fray, but a few former hopefuls and never-before aspirants are easing their way in.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, elected to a six-month special term in November and certain to run for re-election, is forming his slate for the three City Council at-large seats that will open. Councilman Joseph Della Fave, Pasculli's chief challenger in the last election, has not yet revealed his plans for the race.

Two at-large council members, Helen Cuning and Richard Del Boecio, plan to run for re-election, while Robert A. Ranieri, a long-time council member and current president, has announced he will not run.

As of yesterday, no candidates had filed petitions, but seven hopefuls had picked up papers at City Hall for themselves and

others. Frank "Pupi" Raia, a developer who was appointed to the council for a brief special term last year and failed in a subsequent election bid, said yesterday he may consider running for mayor.

Coffee shop owner Florence Amato said she is interested in the mayor's spot. "I just want to see what I can do," said Amato, a 45-year-old city native who ran in 1986 for the 4th Ward council seat. Her husband Andrew managed Ranieri's mayoral campaign last year. Mrs. Amato said that as mayor she would press for development of the 4th Ward.

Several members of Save Hoboken from Over-Development, the group pressing for parks and open space instead of buildings on city-owned waterfront land, say it is possible they may run a mayoral candidate. Two members, Daniel Tumpson and Steve Busch, plan to at least run for at-large seats.

Tumpson, a 38-year-old native



FRANK 'PUPPI' RAIA
Running for council

of West Virginia who came to Hoboken in 1978, said he is completing his doctorate in physics at Stevens Tech.

Busch, 38, is also a tenant activist and a member of the city's Rent Leveling Board.

Other possible council candidates include William Strangeman, a marine equipment consultant and environmentalist who would press for what he calls slow, sensible development; Elizabeth Falco, a former Kealey School principal who now teaches in Jersey City; Jaime Munoz; and Angel Alicia Jr.

School board asks upgrade of sports field

By James Efstathiou

The Hoboken Board of Education wants to transform its athletic field into a "21st century" facility, but will have to borrow \$2 million to do it.

For the second straight year, the board will place a bond ordinance on the ballot for next month's school election asking voters to approve funding to upgrade John F. Kennedy Stadium. Last year's request for a \$14 million rehabilitation was defeated at the polls by 795 votes.

This year, the projected cost of the upgrade is up due to a proposal that calls for the installation of an Astro turf-like playing field to replace what has traditionally been a sod field. In addition, plans call for the expansion of the existing field house to include a women's locker room, a new tennis court, improved lighting and new bleachers.

"Besides creating something that will accommodate all activities, our primary concern was safety," said George Weiner, the board's architect on the project. "The new turf solved safety and multi-use requirements and that became the driving force. It's the biggest dollar cost in here."

The board will also ask voters to consider borrowing an additional \$4.3 million to pay for other physical improvements to school facilities. The net effect of such a debt on taxpayers will depend upon how much voters agree to borrow and the term of the loan.

The physical improvements include upgrading boilers and elevators in all schools, roofing and electrical work and state mandated fire safety improvements. The district has received preliminary approval for a \$300,000 matching grant for the work from the state Department of Energy.

But without the lion's share of funding called for in the bond ordinance, only minimal improvements to the existing field house will be possible, said Anthony Curko, board business administrator.

The field is used, not only by district schools, but by community athletic groups such as the Babe Ruth Baseball League, PAL Football and men's softball leagues. Because the field is virtually in use all year round, it requires annual re-sodding at a cost of approximately \$20,000, an ex-

pense that could be eliminated with the switch to artificial turf.

The multi-use synthetic turf being considered is similar to astro-turf used in professional sports, but is sand based and softer, said Weiner. The material, projected to cost \$800,000, is used on college athletic fields and is expected to be approved by the state for public school use, Weiner said.

Such turf is also expected to be cheaper to maintain.

Plans call for doubling the size of the field house to about 10,000 square feet, including the women's locker room. The board wants to add about 3,000 bleacher seats and a tennis court, encircled by a fence.

St. Pat's Parade is tomorrow

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The St. Patrick's Day Parade begins tomorrow in Hoboken at 1 p.m. on Washington street at 14th street and goes south to a reviewing stand at City Hall.

The festivities will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a Mass said by the Rev. Michael O'Grady of Our Lady of Grace Church. Paradeers should assemble at noon on 14th street.

The grand marshal is Thomas Mooney, chairman of the Hoboken Planning Board, whose family has been parishioners of Our Lady of Grace since its founding in 1856, said Councilman Helen Cuning, who started the parade tradition three years ago.

Mooney was selected the grand marshal last year but the parade was canceled following the sudden death of Mayor Thomas Vezzetti. Mooney is an investment consultant for pension funds in New York City. He is a member of the Hoboken Elks, the Knights of Columbus, the mayor's negotiating waterfront development team, and the county director of the New Jersey Federation of Planning Officials, a post he has held for 15 years.

The honorary chairman is William Bergin Sr. who, Cuning said, was considered the county's most accomplished athlete in baseball and basketball during the '20s and '30s.

"His most cherished memory of his sports career was participating in a baseball game with the West New Yorks in the early '30s, where both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig participated in the same game," Cuning said.

Bergin, born in 1899, has been honored by the Old Timers Hall of Fame in Brooklyn. Married to the late Virginia Callandriello, the couple had four children.

In the march tomorrow will be the City Council, Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Police and Fire Departments, Hoboken High School, Elks Club, Knights of Columbus, the Joint Memorial Committee, school children, Girl and Boy Scouts, 12 marching bands, floats, and more.

The parade coordinators are Ed Cuning Jr. and Jackie Howe.

Dell' Aquila disco is off the turntable

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken waterfront landowner Anthony Dell' Aquila has temporarily withdrawn his plans to build a discotheque and restaurant on the top floor of his 12-story factory, the old Lipton Tea Building.

Joel Freiser, Zoning Board of Adjustment chairman, said yesterday that Dell' Aquila has decided to withdraw his plans and resubmit them next month to gain more time to furnish the ZBA with the "big picture" for his 64 acres of waterfront land. "They are going to come

back in April with a new application. They wanted more time to prepare an application that would enable the board to understand the contents for the overall site," Freiser said.

"He is asking only for a change for one floor of a building and for a marina. We want to know what he plans for the whole site, which is enormous, and how this (the club and marina plan) fits into the rest of his plans," he added.

According to his application, the disco-restaurant, to be

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Dell' Aquila disco is off the turntable

Continued from Page 1

known as Dell' Aquila Discotheque, could accommodate 1,800 people and the marina, "Dell Marina," would have 800 slips. His property is located in the northern end of the city and extends from 12th Street to the Weehawken line.

Although the ZBA's interest in the entire site appears to infringe on the Planning Board's jurisdiction, Freiser said that board members want to have all the details available before they grant any more variances to Dell' Aquila.

The Planning Board has jurisdiction over the development of the 64 acres while the zoning board has jurisdiction over variances for changes in use, he said. The land is now zoned as industrial, although pending amendments to the master plan would allow mixed-use waterfront develop-

ments. Freiser said that last year the board granted Dell' Aquila a variance to run a ferry service in the belief that Dell' Aquila was going to build a development with Murray Connell, a local contractor.

However, a few weeks later, the board learned that Dell' Aquila had dropped Connell as a partner and announced plans to build a \$1 billion project, including a 61-story condo tower, with Fort Lee developer Harry Grant.

"The Board of Adjustment was very concerned with what they saw as such a sudden change in the direction that he was taking. That ferry service approval was predicated on a traffic proposal" for a "more modest" plan with Connell, Freiser said.

Neither Dell' Aquila nor his attorney, Peter Carton, was available for comment.

Fight for park

Growth foes win appeal

Court rules petition in Hoboken is legal

By CHRISTOPHER AVE

The Hudson Dispatch 3-9-89

HOBOKEN—An appeals court ruled yesterday that a ballot referendum petition calling for the city to turn its waterfront into a park is legal.

The decision means the question will go to the City Council and will probably be put on the May 9 ballot.

Annette Illing, a member of Save Hoboken from Over-Development, said attorneys for the group were informed late yesterday that the Appellate Division of state Superior Court in Jersey City had ruled in the group's favor.

The group is seeking to force the city to construct only parks and public space on 17.5 acres of lucrative waterfront property between Fifth and Newark streets. City officials, citing rising taxes, strongly oppose the plan, preferring to construct some kind of mixed-use complex on the land.

The citizens group presented a petition calling for the question to be placed on the ballot to the city in January. The petition contained 1,536 signatures, more than double what is necessary.

But City Clerk James J. Farina ruled the petition improper. Acting on the advice of city Law Director Eugene O'Connell, Farina said the petition would have illegally called for zoning changes.

On Feb. 15, a Hudson County judge agreed with city leaders, ruling that the petition was illegal. The group appealed, and a three-judge panel of the state Appellate Division heard arguments yesterday.

Illing said the court contacted attorneys for the group, Edward Lloyd and Margaret Hayden of the Environmental Law Clinic of Rutgers University Law School in Newark, to tell them that judges ruled the petition legal.

Neither the court nor O'Connell could be reached for comment yesterday.

Illing said the city is now compelled to accept the initiative, which will probably go before the City Council. If the City Council rejects the petition — as is likely — the question will be put on the May 9 ballot.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, his administration and other city leaders have called the idea unrealistic. The waterfront land, long the site of dilapidated piers rented by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is widely seen as the key to the city's economic future. City of

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APPEAL

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officials expect business tenants to someday pay millions of dollars yearly in taxes, or in-lieu-of-payments to the city for use of the land.

However, group members, pointing out that Hudson County is the state's most densely populated, say the city is in desperate need of more park space. Moreover, the city could look to public and private institutions to help fund construction of a park there, the members say.



Seated in a front row for last night's memorial tribute to the late Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti are, from left, Laurie Fabiano, who was Vezzetti's confidential aide, and City Council members Helen Cunning and Joseph Della Fave.

Everyone has a Vezzetti story

By Dominick Calicchio

It seemed as if everyone who attended a special memorial service for Thomas F. Vezzetti last night had a story to tell about the Hoboken mayor who died one year ago yesterday.

About 200 gathered for the 7 p.m. service in St. Matthew's Trinity Lutheran Church at

Hudson and Eighth streets in Hoboken.

"Right after the election he was cute," Genevieve Pistori said, recalling Vezzetti's 1985 mayoral victory. "He was going to sweep the city clean. Remember him with the broom?" "I used to stop him, you know, and ask about the Foodtown we had down there at Washington and Newark

streets," Dorothy Spreen said. "He told me he was going to keep it open. It just so happened that it was extended before the supermarket eventually closed permanently."

Vezzetti, then 59, suffered a heart attack in his home at about 11 p.m. last March 1 and died in St. Mary Hospital short-

See EVERYONE — Page 8.

Everyone has a story about Tom Vezzetti

Continued from Page 1

ly after midnight March 2. It was said that the cause was probably a combination of the mayor's existing heart condition; a devastating loss by his candidate in a special City Council election the night before and the way Vezzetti had bounded up the stairs to his fourth-floor 14th Street apartment when he arrived home.

Several people said yesterday that Hoboken has lost some of its civic spirit since Vezzetti's death. The late mayor, who wore garish plaid suits and often carried a bullhorn, was known for his daily walks from his home to City Hall at the other end of town and for how he would stop and talk with people he met along the way.

"You could just say hi to him," Irene Korman of Jersey City, a former Hoboken resident, said. "You wouldn't feel like he was inaccessible to you."

"I think he'd give you the shirt off his back and be glad about it," Lena Reilly said.

Among those speaking at the service last night were Thomas Olivieri, the city's tenants' advocate; Angelo Valente, a former City Council candidate and the Rev. Paul Hagedorn, a local clergyman.

Hagedorn alluded to a favorite phrase of Vezzetti, "Always a pleasure," which the



Hoboken resident Alice Vanderhayden listens to the proceedings during last night's tribute to the late Hoboken Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti.

late mayor signed at the end of correspondence and used to say goodbye.

When speaking to Vezzetti, Hagedorn recalled, "even if

you didn't always see eye-to-eye with him, you always felt that something of a pleasure occurred to you.

"How can one remember

Tom Vezzetti without a chuckle or a smile?" asked Hagedorn, who concluded by saying, "I do wonder what the folks up there think about the bullhorn."

Waterfront land

Park ideas flow

Hoboken activists win battle for ballot

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-7-89

HOBOKEN—Now that local activists have won the right to place a referendum calling for a waterfront park on the May 9 municipal election ballot, some residents have offered their own ideas about what to include in such a facility.

How about botanical gardens? Or the Hoboken Zoo? Or the Frank Sinatra Open Air Theater? "We've had wonderful suggestions," a jubilant Susan O'Keane of Save Hoboken from Over-Development said yesterday. The group began soliciting ideas, with a suggestion box, at a weekend meeting at El Quijote restaurant on 14th Street, she said.

A three-judge panel of the Appellate Division of state Superior Court in Jersey City ruled Friday that the group's petition for a referendum on setting aside city-owned waterfront land for a park is legal, overturning a lower court judge's decision that the petition was illegal and should not be on the ballot.

The appellate decision has opened the way for the group to begin talks with public and private agencies who could help design, build and maintain the waterfront park without relying on local tax dollars, O'Keane said.

These include the Green Acres program of the State Environmental Protection Department; the New York City Municipal Art Society; and Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility, a group that represents university professionals from this country and others.

"They recognize that there is a desperate need in this most densely populated county to have parks, and what better place than on the waterfront?" she said.

While the group is seeking funding, Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who presented plans two weeks ago for a mixed-use development on the waterfront property, has begun negotiations for that project.

Friday's appellate decision does not preclude negotiations. "I'm not going to lose a step," Pasculli said yesterday.

The mayor has met with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to discuss forming a public development corporation partnership. Pasculli hopes the bistate agency will offer \$50 million needed to lay the groundwork for the waterfront development.

Council will hear SHOD's proposal

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The Hoboken City Council has scheduled a public hearing for March 22 on a proposal to create parks on city-owned waterfront property targeted for development.

After meeting yesterday with Mayor Patrick Pasculli, City Council President Robert Ranieri said that the mayor agreed to call a special City Council meeting to conduct a public hearing on the ordinance proposed by Save Hoboken from Over-Development.

The action is to comply with a recent decision of a state appeals court which ordered City Clerk James Farina to let voters in the May 9 election decide whether they want to create parks on 65 of the 130 acres of waterfront land at the southern end of the city.

"We are calling the special

meeting not because the subject is so heavy that it warrants a separate meeting, but because of the dates involved," Ranieri said.

"We don't want to frustrate the desires of those who want the question on the ballot by arranging to have it on the agenda when it is too late for the printing deadline," Ranieri said.

Pasculli and members of the City Council support a plan to develop the land from the Erie Lackawanna terminal and Pier A to Sixth Street for commercial and residential use. The 3.2 million-square-foot development would include a 25-story office tower, 1,600 housing units, a park, marina, hotel, shops and restaurants.

While the city unveiled this plan, SHOD members gathered

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SHOD not alone in its park plans

By James Efstathiou

Save Hoboken from Over-Development isn't the only group that wants to see open space on the Hoboken waterfront.

According to a supervisor of the state's Green Acres Program, the city-owned waterfront property, currently the site for a proposed multi-million dollar mixed-use development, would be well suited for open public space and would probably receive state funding for that.

"Based on the information

I have on this site, I feel very confident that it would score very high in our ranking process," said John Watson Jr., supervisor of the Green Acres development program. "If the entire site could not be preserved, then I would hope that inevitably an agreement could be reached so that some type of quality open space could be provided for."

Green Acres offers low-interest loans and grants to municipalities seeking to preserve and create parks and

See SHOD — Page 4.

SHOD not alone in its park plans

Continued from Page 1

open public space. Because the site is in an urban area and along the city's waterfront, it would rank high on the program's list of potential funding recipients, Watson said.

Watson said he plans to view the site Thursday. It runs along the southern waterfront from the Erie Lackawanna train station to Stevens Park. His visit was prompted by inquiries from members of SHOD, the group which sponsored a petition drive to place a question on the May municipal election ballot asking that the property be set aside for open public space.

Hoboken's city clerk refused to certify the petition based on a recommendation from city attorneys that the motion was in violation of state land-use laws. SHOD sued and lost in Superior Court. However, that ruling was overturned Friday by a state appeals court.

The city has no plans to appeal and City Clerk James Farina indicated he will certify the petition.

"All privately owned waterfront land will be developed, but this will be a glorious opportunity for us to have a beautiful park," said SHOD member Susan O'Keane who has been investigating potential funding sources for a park. "The response had been terrific. We have support from Green Acres. They're absolutely behind us."

Despite the possibility of loans or grants to help fund a park, city Business Administrator Edwin Chius remains steadfastly opposed to any plan that would prevent the development of nearly 70 acres of

prime city-owned land. Hoboken has missed the boat on waterfront development, Chius said, and the delay has cost taxpayers dearly.

"Unfortunately, waterfront development has been delayed since 1985 and the biggest grants are no longer available," Chius said. "Also, the market isn't as good as it used to be so we have to catch up. The delays on the waterfront have robbed the citizens of Hoboken of millions of dollars over the past four years and it's time that we moved."

The city is currently collecting fewer tax dollars from the waterfront than it did in 1987, Chius said. In addition, Hoboken has already invested \$1.5 million in waterfront development in acquisition costs for the old Port Authority piers, money invested with the intent of developing the site, he added.

But SHOD members counter that development will not necessarily lower taxes and that various state and federal agencies would assist in maintaining a waterfront park. O'Keane said she has been in touch with the architect who designed Jersey City's Liberty State Park and has received positive responses from a number of universities interested in taking on the project.

"Historically, we see that in every city that has had development, the taxes have always gone up," said O'Keane. "All projected tax benefits would be eaten up in additional costs to the city."

O'Keane added that a park can be a revenue-producing entity and tax credits from the state would be available.

Service contracts are sticking point for sewage unit

The group moving to take control of Hoboken's troubled sewage treatment plant is having some trouble of its own reaching an accord on the structure of service contracts it will offer to future customers.

Without an agreement on the contracts, which will serve as credit backing documents for potential investors in the plant's reconstruction, the Hoboken/Weehawken/Union City Sewage Authority will be unable to move ahead, says authority chairman Richard Wolff.

The authority is to meet tonight in Hoboken to continue discussing the contracts.

"I think that if we can't reach an agreement on the service contracts, we cannot move forward," said Wolff. "The purpose of the authority, which is in part to finance construction of the secondary sewage treatment plant, will be undermined."

The authority is in the process of acquiring the Hoboken plant and connecting systems in Weehawken and is laying the groundwork to finance a federally mandated upgrade of the system. Operating the plant, which is currently banned from accepting new wet hookups, has been an ongoing problem for Hoboken.

Part of the authority's task involves assuming certain responsibilities from the Hudson County Utilities Authority (HCUA), the agency charged

with administering several county treatment plants. The HCUA primarily serves to obtain and funnel federal grant monies into local plants.

Attorneys for the authority presented new service contracts at last week's meeting, but objections from HCUA chairman George Crimmins prompted a lengthy closed session discussion.

The issue, says Crimmins, is whether language in the new contracts could jeopardize a \$29 million grant for the plant upgrade obtained under the auspices of an existing 1986 service contract between the three municipalities and the HCUA.

"My attorney reviewed the contracts and said that he couldn't guarantee the grant if that was entered into," Crimmins said.

Consequently, attorneys for the authority and the HCUA planned to meet last week to work out language in the contracts suitable to both agencies.

"After Monday's meeting, we directed general counsel and bond counsel to revise the service agreement and meet with HCUA and review wording," said Wolff.

The purpose of the service contracts is to dictate how individual users in each municipality will be charged for their sewer hookups. The authority plans to charge individual users on a per volume basis.

Loan write-offs

Hoboken bank stumbles again

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN

Dispatch Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Washington Savings Bank, still feeling the effects from writing off \$10.3 million in bad loans last year, yesterday posted its second quarterly loss in a row.

But bank officials and financial analysts said yesterday that despite the poor showing, Washington Savings remains in sound financial condition. They attributed the second quarterly loss to an overestimation of the value of bad loans discovered in an internal bank audit in November.

A net loss of \$641,000 for the last quarter of 1988 follows the \$5.3 million loss reported for the quarter before that, bringing the bank's 1988 loss to \$3.9 million, according to figures released by Washington Bankcorp Inc., the bank's holding company.

For 1987, the bank reported a net income of \$3.6 million. After writing off \$10.3 million for the quarter ending Sept. 30, the bank found instead that \$7.8 million worth of the loans were uncollectable. As a result, the bank's most recent quarterly tax obligation was increased by \$1.25 million.

That tax increase turned the quarter's \$609,000 net income into the \$641,000 loss.

"Some of the (loan) groups that we thought were doubtful began to perform," bank Vice President Anthony Lisa said. Lisa said 1989 would be a "restructuring" year. "We've got to put the problems that we had in 1988 behind us," he said.

Lisa would not disclose what the unrecoverable loans were, nor would he reveal the identity of the loan officer responsible for authorizing the loans. The loan officer is no longer employed at the bank, a spokesman said last fall.

According to William McCrystal, associate director of research for Ryan, Beck & Co., a West Orange-based investment company, the quarterly loss "is not as bad as it looks."

"The bank will have low earnings in 1989," said McCrystal, "but from a substantial standpoint, the bank's in good shape."

A shareholder suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Newark after the bank added the \$10.3 million to its loan-loss reserve, is still pending, according to Lisa.

The bank's stock, traded over-the-counter, closed at \$13 a share yesterday, down 75 cents.

Red tape could kill SHOD referendum

By Jo-Ann Moriarty and James Efstathiou

Legal maneuverings in Hoboken City Hall could prevent an initiative petition from appearing on the May 9 ballot to let voters decide if city waterfront land should be converted into parks.

The petition drive was conducted by Save Hoboken from Over-Development in hopes of creating parks on 65 of 130 acres of city-owned land targeted for development.

A state appeals court recently ordered City Clerk James Farina to present the City Council with an ordinance proposal to allow the parks. It will be introduced March 15 with a public hearing March 22. However, moves are afoot which could stall the process.

Law Director Eugene O'Connell, who initially advised Farina against certifying the petition, has advised the Planning Board's attorney George Pappas to sue the City Council to contest the hearing and effectively block SHOD's efforts.

O'Connell said he advised Pappas that the council was in effect usurping Planning Board powers and perhaps violating state law by holding a public hearing on a zone change without the Planning Board first considering the matter. The suit would attack the council for performing planning board duties.

State laws prohibit zone changes through initiative petitions and require planning

See RED TAPE — Page 4.

Red tape may kill referendum

Continued from Page 1

boards to hold public hearings on zone changes and make recommendations before the ordinances are considered by a city council, O'Connell said.

While the Appellate Court ordered the city to allow the initiative to progress legislatively, it did not rule whether the proposed ordinance was a zoning change, O'Connell said.

SHOD contends the petition is not a zoning change and the land can be later used for development. The Appellate Court agreed that the petition does not prevent the land from being developed. The city is planning a 3.2 million square foot development for the area.

Pappas, at the Tuesday night meeting, relayed to board members his discussion with O'Connell. The board subsequently voted to postpone taking action until the council considers the measure next Wednesday.

Business Administrator Ed Chius said discussion of the petition with the possibility of taking legal action has been set for the board's March 20 special meeting.

O'Connell said if the board decides to take action against the city, there is a "possibility" the March 22 public hearing on the initiative would be canceled. Delay could prevent the issue from going on the ballot.

O'Connell said the court ordered Farina to certify the petition and that action has been carried out. "The court left open the interpretation of whether the petition is a zone change and I am hoping somehow to bring this back to the appellate court for a clarification," O'Connell said.

"This ordinance ties the city's hands in the future and the city cannot de-designate the land. It leaves the city vulnerable and in a precarious position," he added.

Hoboken cop in '87 dispute is promoted

By James Efstathiou

One of three Hoboken police officers who claimed his 1987 demotion was racially motivated has been temporarily promoted to acting lieutenant with full pay.

Sergeant Ray Cruz, a 16-year veteran formerly assigned to the detective bureau, is expected to be sworn in to his new rank today, said Police Chief George Crimmins. Cruz will become night commander of the uniform division tomorrow.

Cruz was one of seven officers whose promotion in the final hours of former Public Safety Director Salvatore D'Amilio Jr.'s time in office was ruled invalid by an administrative law judge. Cruz and Sgts. Edwin Garcia and Leo Lugo lodged a complaint with a civil rights agency.

Attorneys for both sides say they are close to a negotiated settlement of the complaint which will benefit the seven officers. Although unrelated to the settlement and the fate of the other six who were demoted, Cruz's promotion is interpreted positively within the department.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Joseph Petrillo, head of the Superior Officers Association. "We're confident of it. He's well deserving and I will pursue it until he's made permanent and the rest of the men promoted."

Three of the department's 12 lieutenants are currently on disability, Crimmins said. Of the remaining nine, seven are on the day shift and two work from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Cruz will take command of the night uniform division, replacing Lt. Martin Kiely who is on sick leave. The department has been without a night division commander for over a year due to a prolonged sick leave of another lieutenant, Crimmins said.

Crimmins denied there was any political motivation in the promotion.

"I'm the one that's deciding, they're not deciding for me. That's the way I wanted it. There's a need to have a night commander of the uniform division," added Crimmins, who said he recommended the move to Public Safety Director Eugene O'Connell. "This is not a new position being created. It's a replacement."

Sgts. Cruz, Garcia and Lugo, along with Chris Gasbarro, James Behrens and lieutenants Frank Garrick and Peter Romano were all promoted in Oct. 1986 at the end of D'Amilio's term. Five days before they would have received tenure, however, the promotions were challenged by incoming Public Safety Director William Graves.

According to their attorney, Barbara Tapper-Catrillo, the pending settlement will include crediting the 65 days the seven held the higher rank towards their tenure.

In Hoboken

Residents assail busway proposal

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
Dispatch Business Writer

HOBOKEN—Two dozen angry environmentalists last night criticized a New Jersey Transit proposal to put a buses-only road through Hoboken from the New Jersey Turnpike in Jersey City to the Lincoln Tunnel entrance in Weehawken, saying it would bring traffic and air pollution to Hudson County.

But Martin E. Robbins, director of NJ Transit's Hudson River Waterfront Transportation Office, said he wanted to modify the proposal so that in addition to speeding commuters on their trips to Manhattan, it would also benefit Hudson residents.

"I'm not going to stand before you and defend the plan as it stands now," said Robbins, addressing a meeting of the Pollution Crisis Coalition, a newly formed Hudson County environmental group.

Robbins said the project was being reviewed by his agency, and would require wide political consensus before being built. "This project is not going to be jammed down anybody's throat," he said.

The environmentalists and community leaders at the meeting, held on the second floor of El

Quijote restaurant at 68 14th St., repeatedly told Robbins that they wanted a light-rail system through Hudson, not busways.

Robbins said state and federal funding for a light-rail system was becoming increasingly difficult to secure, and said NJ Transit was forced to look for short-term transportation solutions that could be implemented while work on a long-term mass transit plan continued.

"Were not just going to be able to snap our fingers and come up with \$1.2 billion" for the light-rail plan, Robbins said. "Not only is the (state and federal) funding well getting dry, but there's increasing competition" for government grants.

Robbins said state would not be able to obtain Conrail's River Line — the heart of the proposed light-rail system — for three years, adding that it makes sense to consider building a busway on an unused rail track available now.

Daniel Tumpson, a member of Save Hoboken from Over-Development, said the busway would not benefit this city at all. "If you put a road through the west of Hoboken," he said, "you are going to increase traffic and pollution."

SHOD gets waterfront on ballot

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

A state appeals court reversed a lower court's decision yesterday and ruled that Hoboken City Clerk James Farina must let voters in the May 9 election decide if they want parks built on city-owned waterfront land that is targeted for commercial development.

The ruling was called a victory for democracy by Save Hoboken from Over-Development members who had circulated the petitions asking Hoboken residents if they wanted to create parks on 65 out of 130 acres of waterfront land.

"This is a victory for the people of Hoboken," said SHOD founder Dan Tumpson. "The people of Hoboken now have a voice and I think this is a victory for all of us."

The appellate ruling overturned a recent decision by Superior Court Judge Joseph T. Ryan, who upheld the opinion of Farina and Law Director Eugene O'Connell that state law prohibits adopting zoning ordinances by referendum.

SHOD took the issue to the higher court. While the three appellate court judges did not rule on whether the petition was a change in zoning, they unanimously agreed to allow the initiative process to continue.

Farina said yesterday that the ordinance by petition will

be placed on the March 15 City Council agenda for a first hearing with a public hearing scheduled for April 5.

The initiative process allows the council to vote on the matter before it is forward to the municipal ballot.

"We are satisfied that unless the proposed ordinance is clearly facially invalid, we should not interfere with the initiative process and the clerk should be required to carry out his ministerial duties," the appeals panel ruled.

"We specifically do not rule on the interpretation, effect or validity of the proposed ordinance," the ruling stated.

O'Connell said that the appellate ruling does not affirm SHOD's contention that its proposed ordinance is not a change in zoning.

Rather, he said, "it gives them their day in the sun. People will be allowed to vote on their initiative."

The legal arguments from the dispute, however, "tell us we need to know more about laws governing parks," O'Connell said.

SHOD member Stephen Busch said he was "happy that the court upheld a vital aspect of the democratic process which we are entitled to."

"Two forms of democracy were planned and created to

See HOBOKEN — Page 4.

Hoboken voters to decide waterfront fate

Continued from Page 1

compliment the other — the representative process where the public is represented by public servants and the initiative process which goes directly to the people who are the sovereign," Busch said.

SHOD member Annette Illing agreed that both parties learned that the courts know how development is created "but to set aside land for parks and public use — no one seems to know how to accomplish

that." At issue is the city-owned waterfront land which Mayor Patrick Pasculli and City Council members are planning to build a 3.2 million square foot development of offices, apartments, shops, hotel, restaurants, marina and parks.

Although SHOD, which opposes the development, collected enough signatures to force a question on the May 9 ballot, Farina refused to forward the petition to the City Council.

Based on advice from O'Connell, Farina said that the petition was improper because it violated state laws concerning zoning and legislative powers.

At the appeal hearing yesterday, SHOD's attorney, Margaret Hayden, of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, contended that the petition is not a change in zoning because the existing zoning allows the waterfront property to be used for recreation, for educational purposes or for marine shipping terminals.

"The purpose of the petition is to reserve some of the land for a park," Hayden said,

adding that the City Council could at some other time use the land for yet another purpose, including a mixed-use development.

"The municipality of Hoboken as a landowner may choose one permitted use to the exclusion of other permitted uses without violating or amending the zoning ordinance," she stated in her written argument.

Because the petition does not constitute a zone change, Hayden said that the Hoboken city clerk had no other alternative but to put the initiative on the May 9 election ballot.

"In short, the clerk's role is strictly ministerial," she stated, adding that the city clerk must automatically forward the petition to the City Council as long as the petition carried the sufficient number of signatures from registered voters.

The SHOD petition received certification from the county.

But Assistant Law Director Thomas Calligy argued that the petition calls for a change in zoning.

"The park issue is merely a

ruse to prevent development by a zoning change. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck it is a duck," he said in written briefs.

Thus, Calligy said, the city clerk was prohibited from forwarding the petition to the City Council.

The judges also questioned whether the SHOD petition would interfere with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's right to develop the Hoboken waterfront.

Both attorneys agreed that the petition would not infringe on that bistate entity because it has no right to the Hoboken waterfront unless it receives local consent.

In its ruling, the court said that the proposed ordinance would not prevent the land to be later used for a waterfront development.

"I am glad that the court in its ruling recognized the potential to use the land for other purposes for the public good and the public benefit and that we can continue our planning and negotiations for the waterfront," Pasculli said.

State Police probing towing in Hoboken

By James Efstathiou

A State Police probe has intensified controversy surrounding the delay in awarding a city towing contract in Hoboken.

Bids were due last December, but questions about the ability of low bidder, Hoboken Towing Inc., to handle the work prompted the City Council to put off action.

Hoboken Auto Body Inc., which has towed for the city since 1952, has continued to work under terms of a 1988 contract. Amid the controversy came disclosure this week of a State Police investigation involving Hoboken Auto Body.

According to Police Sgt. Joseph Petrillo of the Hoboken Auto Squad, the probe may be connected to an investigation of his department's bookkeeping procedures for stolen car reports. The police have since improved their system for tracking stolen cars, he said.

Theresa Pino of Hoboken Auto Body called the investigation routine, adding that state police often check junkyards to ensure they are not selling parts from stolen cars.

Principals of both companies have blamed the delay in awarding the contract on City Hall politics but city Business

See STATE POLICE — Page 11.

State Police probing towing firm

Continued from Page 1

Administrator Edwin Chius said the process is not unusual and will lead to a better deal for Hoboken.

"We say it's political," said Pino. "If it's not political, what is it?"

Pino claims the city last fall rejected a new contract, which included a rate increase, because of a political allegiance from the last city election. The job eventually drew a low bid from newcomer Kenneth Diver of Hoboken Towing.

By law, the city must award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

However, at its Feb. 15 meeting, the council extended the contract-awarding period amid concerns that Diver could not live up to provisions of the towing proposal.

"My bid was accepted. I am the low bidder," said Diver. "If I had connections in this town, I'd be in right now."

Diver said he has all the necessary equipment and facilities, but city officials say he needs a use variance to park towed cars on a lot he rented. Diver will seek the variance from the Planning Board at a special meeting March 20, he said.

Contract in limbo

Towing concern probed

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-8-89

HOBOKEN—State police are investigating how the city's towing company stores cars, a spokesman said yesterday.

The investigation has also revealed that city police were not carefully keeping track of cars towed, causing officers to drastically change their methods this month, a member of the police auto squad said.

Towing operations here have been watched recently because the city administration has proposed ending its contract with its long-time tower, Hoboken Auto Body Inc. of Jackson Street, and granting the pact to a company that has offered a lower bid.

Both towing companies claim politics are holding up a decision, and each has threatened to take legal action if not awarded the contract.

State Trooper Daniel Cosgrove said the investigation into Hoboken Auto Body's operations could be for "anything from a paperwork problem to a criminal problem," and said a detective working on the case told him an arrest at the company is pending. But another state police detective said he believed no extreme violations of the law are involved, and said an arrest is unlikely.

Theresa Pino, a member of the family that owns Hoboken Auto Body, said the investigation is routine and had probably come to light only because of disputes over which company is to receive the city's contract.

"They're always looking for 'chop shops,'" she said. "It's not that we've done anything illegal."

State police often check to be sure all stolen cars in junkyards and tower's lots have been reported stolen, she said.

Hoboken Sgt. Joseph Petrillo said state police began looking into Hoboken Auto Body's operations late last year.

Hoboken Auto Body, a sprawling city pound and a junkyard covering 1 1/2 blocks, stores hundreds of cars. Petrillo said local officers had not carefully logged all cars towed on police orders, he said.

"We have to have a better idea what's down there," Petrillo said. After state police visited Hoboken Auto Body early in February, police sharply tightened their documentation methods, he said.

Hoboken Auto Body has towed cars for the city almost exclusively for more than three decades, its owners said. The company, which charges the city \$1 per day to store cars, submitted a bid last year which would have increased that price to \$1.30 per day. The 1988 costs were about \$38,000, purchasing assistant Jane Richards said.

The city first began seeking competitive bids when Thomas F. Vezzetti was mayor here from 1985 to 1988, Richards said. This year, the city received the first competitive bid in years from Hoboken Towing Inc. Owner Kenneth Diver said he could tow cars for the city without charging any storage fee.

Hoboken Auto Body owners have called Diver's bid a "fairy tale," and said he will be forced to charge more once his business begins operating. Insurance costs and taxes on a large plot of land needed to store cars will drive up the price, they said.



PATRICK PASCULLI
Wants state to review plans

Pasculli furious at park backers

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-9-89

HOBOKEN—An angry Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday asked a representative of the state's Green Acres program to review his plans for the waterfront, after learning that local activists had extended their own invitation.

John Watson Jr., supervisor of the state Environment's Protection Department program to help finance parks and open space, will have a full schedule here today, hearing two sharply different sides of the

waterfront debate.

At 10 a.m., Watson will meet with members of Save Hoboken from Over-Development, who advocate turning the city's waterfront property into parks and open space. At 1 p.m., Watson will meet with city officials and the mayor, who support a \$620 million development plan for office and apartment buildings and a hotel, as well as parks, plazas and walkways for 31 acres of the land.

Pasculli said he was incensed after he learned that the group's members had invited Watson to look over the land here

and had told local newspapers that Green Acres has shown support for their plan.

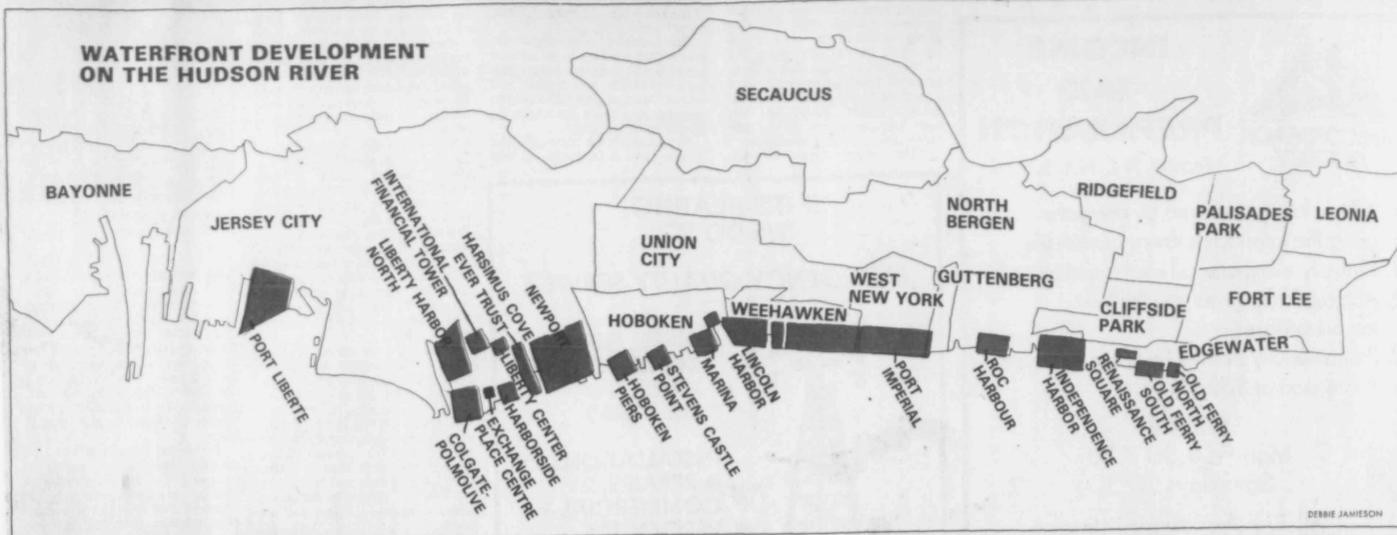
"What they wanted to do is have him make a statement in the local newspapers that Green Acres is supporting the initiative, which they are not," Pasculli said, adding that the citizens organization, a political group, is "using" the program supervisor. He emphasized that Watson agreed to visit the city at the group's request only to offer information.

He said the city will ask the Green Acres representative today to consider funding the proposed development's parks.

Group member Annette Illing countered that the group is merely taking the appropriate steps to turn its plans into reality.

Watson and the program's administrator, Bonnie Hammerstedt, could not be reached for comment late yesterday.

Last week, the Appellate Division of state Superior Court in Jersey City declared legal the group's petition for a ballot referendum on setting the land aside for parks and open space. The question is likely to go on the May 9 municipal election ballot.



Look at skyline

DISPATCH 3-7-89

Waterfront transformation in full swing

The Hudson Dispatch

With substantial portions of the major developments along the Hudson River completed and filling with tenants, the transformation of the waterfront — which less than 10 years ago was merely a gleam in the eye of planners and developers — is in 1989, unquestionably real.

A waterfront which in the early 1980s was lined with abandoned rail yards and deteriorating piers is now from Edgewater to southern Jersey City dotted with office towers and condominium projects.

"I used to spend hours trying to

convince skeptics that something was going to happen along the waterfront," said Herman Volk, director of the Governor's Office of Waterfront Development. "And then I realized that what would convince them was the buildings. Now they are there."

Altogether, 5 million square feet of office space have been built, and according to state figures, an additional 17 million square feet are scheduled for completion by the year 2000.

"YOU CAN now see the nucleus of a complete transformation,"

Volk said. "People are living and working on the waterfront now — there's a hustle and bustle."

An outline of the major projects now visible on the waterfront follows:

- Independence Harbor, Edgewater. A \$320 million condominium development under construction on a pier which once held a Ford Motor Co. factory. Plans by Hartz Mountain Industries of Secaucus call for 1,200 residential units, commercial space and a marina.
- Roc Harbour, North Bergen. A \$150 million condominium project by Hackensack developer Charles

Rocco. With 125 units built now, plan call for an additional 679 condos in three highrise towers.

- Lincoln Harbor, Weehawken. Two 10-story office towers have been built by Hartz and two more are planned. Plans also call for 250 waterfront townhouses and a hotel.
- Newport, Jersey City. The \$10 billion development, built primarily by the LeFrak Organization of Queens and Melvin Simon & Associates of Cincinnati, already includes a 1.2-million-square-foot mall, condominium towers and a 455,000-square-foot office building to be occupied this spring. Simon has approvals to build a 40-story

office tower, but is waiting to land a major tenant before beginning to build.

- Harborside Financial Center, Jersey City. The first of this project, 600,000 square feet of office space, is now completed and substantially leased. Future plans call for three office towers, a marina and condominiums.
- International Financial Tower, Jersey City. Known as the Cali Building, this 21-story office tower is complete and ready for occupancy by the Pershing Division of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, a Manhattan securities company.
- 1 Exchange Place Centre,

Jersey City. The tallest office tower in the state, the top eight floors of this 30-story building on the city's waterfront is being occupied by National Westminster Bank NJ.

- Evertrust Center, Jersey City. Completed in 1986 at a cost of \$33 million, the 17-story building is used by several shipping companies.
- Port Liberté, Jersey City. Several hundred luxury condominium units have been completed in this canal-lined project. Final plans call for 1,700 housing units, 110,000 square feet of commercial space, a hotel and a marina.

Going gets tougher

Hoboken transformed

Some small stores cannot cope, and close

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-7-89

HOBOKEN—Although the changes that pummeled this city's main shopping street during the past decade have mostly come to a halt, owners of older, small stores say they are still feeling the effects.

Some of the "mom and pop" stores have felt a boost this year as the result of new residents moving into the city. Others — those less prepared for the new style of shopping on this street — say they were hit especially hard, as a result of both a property revaluation that sent taxes and rents soaring and competition from Newport Mall.

"They hang on as long as they can, and when they can't pay their rent anymore they go out," said Dolores Kirchgessner of United Decorating Co. Inc. The novelty store she and her husband own has stood in the same building on Washington Street for 90 years.

By looking up and down Washington Street, the first shopping strip in Hudson County to "gentrify," merchants from other local shopping meccas such as Bergenline Avenue in Union City and Central Avenue in Jersey City sense of the changes they soon may face, Mayme Jurkat, executive director of Hoboken Advantage, said. The group was formed three years ago to stimulate business.

Kirchgessner said she has watched as the daily flood of workers from Hoboken's factories and shipyards slowed to a trickle, and was replaced by young professionals who prefer to shop during their lunch breaks in Manhattan.

"THE STORES hit hardest by Hoboken's changes, and suffering most this year, are the variety discount and clothing stores, Jurkat and some storeowners said. But many specialty shops have thrived. Kirchgessner said United Decor-

ating Co. Inc. has seen about a 20 percent increase in customer traffic and sales this year. The increase is nearly enough to offset a 25 percent increase in their tax bill, George Kirchgessner said.

In addition to its novelty sales, the store provides banners, decorations and costumes for parties and parades across North Jersey. Kirchgessner said the novelty store is buffered from local change because most of its business is done outside Hoboken.

But the store also had made way for the newcomers. Along with their bonafide antique postcards, the Kirchgessners brought in a new line of cards this year with photos of James Dean, Marlon Brando and the Marx Brothers — the kind of items sold in trendy card shops.

One change on the street — the loss of clothing stores — has been especially tough on the city's older residents, many of whom prefer

their neighborhood stores to malls outside the city.

Maria Diez, owner of Christina's Shoppy lingerie store on Washington Street that is going out of business, spoke regretfully of leaving her longtime customers behind.

DIEZ, WHO said she cannot afford to pay the \$1,600-a-month rent she is being charged since the property revaluation, said she has supplied some Hoboken women with their trousseaus, then maternity nightgowns, and finally, wedding trousseaus for their daughters.

Bras, hosiery and garters still are stacked in boxes on shelves much the way they have always been.

"Some new people come in, and they think this looks funny," Diez said. "But this is the way we do business, because the people are comfortable this way."



Dolores and George Kirchgessner relax for a moment in their store, United Decorating Co., on Washington Street in Hoboken.

Outlines new rules

Hoboken drafts film ordinance

The Hudson Dispatch 3-30-89

HOBOKEN—The ordinance designed to outline rules for filming on city streets is drafted and ready for consideration at Wednesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Patrick Pasculli said yesterday.

The ordinance is modeled on one used in Montclair, Pasculli said. He did not release further details of the ordinance yesterday, saying the wording must first be reviewed by City Clerk

James Farina. On March 17, Pasculli announced he would not issue new traffic directives banning street parking to make way for camera crews until a special ordinance for filming is in place.

The announcement came in response to complaints from residents who said NBC's "Dream Street," the first television series to be filmed on city streets, was creating a noise, traffic and parking nightmare.

The announcement did little to affect Dream Street's filming, since the crew finished its camera work this week, producer Brooke Kennedy said.

But Kennedy said the news has prompted her to search for filming locations where the crew will be welcomed. The first half-dozen episodes have been filmed, and NBC will decide whether to keep the series running.

"I've got to be in a place where I've got a dialogue with the city," she said.

Housing lockout is hornet's nest

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The Hoboken Housing Authority's efforts to rid the projects of drugs has landed it in a lawsuit.

Hudson County Legal Services is suing the Housing Authority for locking out two female tenants on charges that their apartments were being used to sell drugs.

It is the first time in recent memory that the legal agency has filed suit against the Housing Authority for changing the locks on apartments without a court consent, Cesar Torres, HCLS attorney representing the women, said yesterday.

One tenant, Linda Mongon, 34, was arrested Jan. 4 and charged with possession of narcotics — 39 vials of crack — with intent to distribute, according to Hoboken police records. Her trial is pending.

Mongon, who lives with her four children, received a notice Feb. 7 from the Housing Authority telling her she had 10 days to vacate her apartment because of her drug arrest, Torres said.

Although she was not accused of being involved with any drug activity, Andria Hardy, who has five children, received a similar notice on the same day. The Housing Authority claims an unauthorized person was staying with her and that her apartment was being used for drug activity, Torres said.

The locks on the women's apartments were changed by HHA personnel but before the day ended both were returned to their apartments by a court order, Torres said. Now they have filed suit against the au-

See HOUSING — Page 11.

Housing lockout is hornet's nest

Continued from Page 1

thority, he said. Dominic Gallo, HHA executive director, declined comment on the pending litigation. But in a recent interview he had said he was "fed up" with increasing drug trafficking in the housing projects which culminated in a drug-related murder last month.

"Down here the drug is crack. I get calls from mothers and fathers concerned about their families' personal safety and the drug dealing," Gallo said. The area, where an estimated 5,000 people live in 800 apartments, has the city's highest concentration of drug trafficking, according to police.

The lockouts have brought to the forefront a local debate concerning the need to provide safe housing for low-income families versus the need to give the accused due process.

Although state legislation is pending to allow the eviction of drug dealers upon conviction, Gallo said two years may pass between arrest and conviction.

While both Torres and Hoboken tenant advocate Thomas Oliveri sympathize with the HHA's problem with drugs in the projects, they fear the agency's zeal may trample on tenants' due process rights.

"In this case, due process was not followed," said Oliveri, who assisted Hardy in getting legal aid.

Councilman Steve Cappiello, a former police sergeant and three-term mayor, has called for an investigation of drug arrests in public housing projects and why the Housing Authority's lockouts were voided.

"When you have to give constitutional rights to people dealing drugs to kids, then I might look the other way when it comes to due process and for that I might get criticized by the liberals," Cappiello said yesterday.

Councilman Edwin Duroy, a school principal and Housing Authority commissioner whose ward encompasses the projects, said he had not heard about the Feb. 17 lockouts or

the pending litigation. "I will ask questions," Duroy said. He said that grammar school children who live in the projects have told him stories about finding syringes in the hallways. Some have brought in vials of crack they found in the hallways, he said.

"I believe we should evict upon conviction. But we cannot evict just because of an arrest. We have to follow due process to safeguard against making mistakes," Duroy said.

In addition to the lockouts, the authority is posting "No Trespassing" and "No Loitering" signs in the hallways to deter dealers.

Hoboken police say drug trafficking occurs inside the projects during the cold weather and that it is difficult to catch drug dealers because between four and five people acting as a network are usually involved in one drug sale within the maze of hallways.

The authority has also hired a former police lieutenant to coordinate its security efforts with the Hoboken vice squad.

"The lockout really started something," said Police Sgt. Ed Garcia.

Locking out people on the suspicion that they are selling drugs could create a situation where innocent people are named for malicious reasons, said Torres.

"We are not unsympathetic to the problems of the Housing Authority, but the court says that things have to be done a certain way. We are not defending drug dealers, we are defending tenants because the Hoboken Housing Authority failed to support legal requirements," Torres said.

"Without downplaying the seriousness of the drug problem, they shouldn't get into a hysteria in which they trample on people's rights and throw everything out the window," he said.

Torres said he has seen the destruction drugs cause poor families. "But locking people out is not the way to deal with the problem."

Makes lieutenant

Hoboken promotes Sgt. Cruz

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-9-89

HOBOKEN—Sgt. Rafael Cruz, a 16-year veteran of the Police Department, was promoted to lieutenant yesterday, in the first promotion to that rank since 1986.

Cruz, sworn in at 11 a.m. in City Hall by City Clerk James J. Farina, was one of seven officers promoted in 1986 by Salvatore D'Amelio, then-director of law and public safety. All seven promotions were subsequently rescinded after D'Amelio, who was in his final days on the job when he made the promotions, was ousted.

Several police officers said they believe Cruz's promotion is a sign that more elevations are on the way — a certain boost for department morale.

"For the rest of the police personnel here, we hope we'll be back sometime in the near future," Police Chief George W. Crimmins Sr. said.

Cruz's promotion is a temporary one with pay, Crimmins said, but is likely to become permanent if one of the department's 12 lieutenants retires. The 36-year-old city native will move from the detective unit to head the mid-night shift.

Lt. Martin Kieley formerly supervised police officers from midnight until 8 p.m. Kieley was injured in a car accident while on duty more than a year ago, and has been unable to return to work, Crimmins said.

In 1987, a state administrative law judge upheld rescinding of the 1986 promotions. Cruz was among three Hispanic officers who sued the city, charging that the demotions were racially motivated.

Assistant City Attorney Thomas Calligy said yesterday that a settlement in the Hispanic officers' case is expected soon.

Arts community pushes for funding

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-10-89

HOBOKEN—Local musicians, actors and visual artists, as well as state, Hudson County and city administrators, joined with Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday to protest possible cutbacks in state arts funding.

The news conference at David E. Rue School took place as state legislators in Trenton launched an all-day session on next year's budget. The lawmakers faced pleas for dollars from a multitude of

groups, and some said arts appropriations are almost certain to be cut.

At stake is the \$21 million New Jersey State Council on the Arts budget, council Chairman Celeste Penney told the audience here. Gov. Thomas H. Kean has proposed leaving that funding at its current level, but some lawmakers want to lop off up to \$9 million, she said.

Pasculli, who credited the city's growing arts community with bringing both color and commerce here, said he would be forced to ask the City Council to approve more arts funding if the state

cuts back. The city now spends about \$100,000 each year on local arts programs, he said.

Pasculli also criticized the state for approving \$35 million for a state arts center in Newark. He said the focus should be on aid to communities around the state.

The arts council gave about \$26,000 in block grants to Hudson County last year, said Maurice Fitzgibbons, county director of cultural affairs.

The council also awarded \$344,000 to county arts organizations and \$158,000

in fellowships to individual artists.

Ron Rosten, artistic director of the Renegade Theater Company now housed in the Rue School, said council funds allowed the group and others to get a foothold in the city. The theater company receives \$23,446 from the council.

Asher Suss, managing director of Hoboken Chamber Orchestra, said the group might have to skip many of its free performances at schools, nursing homes and the like, and turn instead to high-priced ticketed concerts if state funds are slashed. The orchestra receives \$102,000

from the council.

Democratic Assemblyman Robert Menendez, also the mayor of Union City, and a member of the Assembly's Appropriations Committee, said the greatest cries for funds at yesterday's hearing in Trenton came from the education lobby, proponents of the Aid to Distressed Cities program and supporters of more services for the developmentally disabled.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

88. 3/15/89 Allow public vote on parks

Save Hoboken from Over-Development has been battling to get a referendum on the ballot to set aside 65 acres of city-owned waterfront property for use as parks.

It would be best to put the measure on the May 9 ballot and let the voters have their say.

The effort to get the measure on the ballot met with legal opposition from the city, but a state appeals court eventually did order the city clerk to certify the SHOD petitions on the ballot.

Last week the city corporation counsel was talking about possible additional legal action by the planning board against the measure. But it looks now as if city officials have decided, sensibly, to raise no more legal obstacles to the referendum.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said this week he favors the measure going on the ballot, although he continues to oppose the content of the referendum.

The city council should consider the SHOD measure at tonight's meeting and at a hearing March 22. Presumably, it would reject the measure as an ordinance, but that would allow it to go on the May 9 ballot.

That would set the stage for a healthy public debate.

The mayor favors a plan for the city's waterfront acres that features public access to the waterfront but includes a much smaller amount of parkland than SHOD's plan and a much larger amount of land dedicated to mixed-use economic development.

SHOD is quick to point out the limitations of development, including the fact that under state aid formulas increased local rates reduce state aid.

Both sides should have plenty of opportunity to present detailed estimates of the dollar and cents impact on the city treasury of their differing plans. It's a good bet that Hoboken voters, extremely concerned about the tax rate, will see the SHOD measure as less helpful to the city's fiscal health than a more development-oriented plan would be.

After all, who would pay back any state loans for 65 acres of parkland construction? Who would pay for maintaining and operating 65 acres of city parkland?

A public vote on the question would help put the development future of the city-owned waterfront in sharper focus. The voters deserve a chance to express their views on a matter of significant public interest.

88 3/13/89 6 'consultants' on school payroll

By Ronald Leir

Steve Block, a onetime Hoboken school trustee and former employee of the state Department of Education, is on call to the Jersey City Board of Education as a \$250-a-day consultant.

Block is available to the board on what Schools Superintendent Franklin Williams described as an "as need" basis.

He is one of at least six consultants retained by the board, according to Williams.

Williams said Block "worked 10 days last month and put in a few days this past week. He's an educational consultant."

Williams said Block was hired in November 1988 but, as of last week, that was news to School Board Secretary Arsenio Silvestri and to Assistant Superintendent Louis Lanzillo, in charge of personnel.

Asked whether the board had formally approved Block's consultant arrangement, Board President Michael Marino said he remembers talking to the superintendent months ago about the possibility of Block advising the board and "I remember (Williams) going into a

long litany of his expertise... I have a recollection of (a resolution)."

Block couldn't be reached. Block, who was elected to serve two three-year terms on the Hoboken Board of Education through 1987, was hired soon after by the state Department of Education to help monitor the department's "effective schools" program. Included in the scope of his monitoring was School 37, on Erie Street, in Jersey City.

Block spent some time sitting in on the recently concluded Jersey City schools takeover hearing for the district. Two other board consultants surfaced last month to give testimony on behalf of the district: Jay Gottlieb, a New York University faculty member, gave expert testimony related to the district's special education programs and Kenneth Tewel, a Queens College assistant professor, who testified as an expert on urban education.

Asked who the board's other consultants were, Williams listed Brad New, a grants specialist; "Dr. Fox, a computer specialist;" and "a woman who works with (Guidance Director) Margaret McDermott."

88 3/13/89 Tickets, please! candidates asked

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken political camps don't know what state of candidates their opponents will field in May's election, not because anyone here is good at keeping a secret, but because the candidates don't know who their running mates will be.

Thursday is the deadline for filing petitions for the May 9 election where a four-year mayoral term and three at-large City Council seats are at stake. None of the candidates has figured out his ticket.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli is expected to run against Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, whom he defeated in November in a special election to fill the unexpired term of the late Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

Save Hoboken from Over-Development, which organized last July, is also expected to be a significant factor in May. But that group, like Pasculli and Della Fave, is still grappling with its slate of candidates.

'89 CAMPAIGN
★★★★★★

Third Ward Councilman Steve Cappiello, mayor from 1973 until his defeat in 1985 to Vezzetti, said the uncertainty is unusual and is representative of the confusion in each of the camps.

"It is very unusual that with three days left before the filing date, nobody knows where they are going. I have never seen anything like this before. Usually you know months before the election everyone's slate," Cappiello said. A council member who

See TICKETS — Page 4.

88 3/11/89 Pasculli says foes misled public on park referendum

By James Efstathiou

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli has accused a community organization of misrepresenting the policy of the state Green Acres program by implying the state agency supported its proposal to build parks on city waterfront land slated for development.

The mayor's criticism was directed at Save Hoboken from Over-Development, which mounted a successful petition campaign which may allow the city's voters to decide in the May 9 election if the waterfront land will be developed or turned into parks.

"Green Acres welcomes community groups to reach out for information," said Pasculli. "However, they're simply not reaching out for information, they are trying to create an impression that Green Acres is approving of their initiative and that's simply not the case."

Annette Illing of SHOD responded by saying, "The politicians and the public and the press appear to be extremely interested in this alternative development into a park. They're asking legitimate questions concerning funding and

the availability of it which SHOD is realistically trying to respond to in our campaign to get our initiative passed by the voters."

Thursday, John Watson Jr., supervisor of the Green Acres development program had a breakfast meeting with members of SHOD. The discussion centered on Green Acres' funding criteria and how they relate to Hoboken.

Green Acres offers grants and low interest loans to municipalities seeking to preserve and create open public space. Earlier in the week, Watson said Hoboken's waterfront would rank high on the agencies list of priorities because it is within an urban area and along the city's waterfront.

Following the SHOD meeting, Watson visited City Hall for an afternoon meeting with Pasculli. There he was introduced to the administration's plans for the site which, according to Pasculli, include ample parks and open space.

That open space, he added, would be eligible for Green Acres funding which Pasculli said he will apply for following the plan's adoption by the city council.

Tickets, please! candidates asked

Continued from Page 1

asked not to be identified said there has been a lot of infighting in all the camps with the dissension causing confusion.

Another council member characterized the uncertainty as "a little odd."

Pasculli is definitely running with Councilman Richard Del Boccio, who also won in November to fill the six months remaining in Pasculli's council term. Similarly, Della Fave is definitely running with Councilwoman Helen Cunniff.

The at-large council candidates who ran with Vezzetti three years ago each represents a political camp in this election. Both Cunniff and Pasculli as well as Annette Illing were on Vezzetti's ticket three years ago. Illing, who was defeated, is now an active member of SHOD.

Pasculli later split with Vezzetti, becoming the mayor's harshest critic and leading council opposition to the administration. He was subsequently elected council president. During that time, Cunniff and Della Fave as well as First Ward Councilman Thomas Newman formed a coalition to support the Vezzetti administration.

Pasculli, whose political friends include state Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, Councilman David Roberts and School Trustee James Farina, will have a fund-raiser tomorrow but is not expected to announce his slate.

Aside from Del Boccio, the mayor is considering Board of Education trustee Dick England and Nellie Moyeno, who runs the Office of Hispanic Affairs.

Pasculli, who wants a Hispanic on his ticket, lobbied Fourth Ward Councilman Edwin Duroy, who served as Pasculli's co-campaign manager last fall. However, Duroy, in a recent interview, said he has invested five years in getting his doctorate from the University of Massachusetts and his final work is due this spring.

While Della Fave and Cunniff work to fill out their ticket, Newman has stated that he does not intend to be active in their campaign this May.

"Although I was active in Della Fave's campaign last fall, I am not going to be an active participant in this campaign,"

Newman said. "I believe that it is important for somebody to work with all sides with a coalition of interests," he said, adding that he wanted to work with the administration on developing the waterfront and mass transit issues.

While SHOD supporters most likely voted for Della Fave in November, it is unlikely that the two camps will form a coalition this spring.

SHOD is clearly anti-development while Della Fave supports developing the waterfront. Pasculli is pushing for a plan to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development on the 130 acres of land along the Hudson River.

Although SHOD members have been talking with Cunniff and Della Fave, no agreements have been made.

Since January, SHOD has managed to repeal ordinances to weaken rent control and single-handedly got the City Council to place a ban on further conversion to condominiums.

The group has also gotten a state appeals court to order the city to place on the May ballot a question asking voters if they want parks built on 65 acres of the 130 acres targeted for development.

Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi described the campaign season so far as "jackkluster. The only thing that will make this election season sparkle will be the SHOD petition."

Pasculli is expected to run against the SHOD petition in support of development, a move that corners Della Fave into either appearing anti-development or anti-SHOD.

While SHOD's founder, Dan Tumpson, and Steve Busch, whom SHOD unsuccessfully ran for the at-large City Council seat last November, are expected to run in May, the group has yet to decide whether to run a mayoral candidate or concentrate on the council.

Meanwhile, Frank Raia, a developer who was appointed last March to fill Pasculli's council seat until the November election, has not said if he has been invited by either the Della Fave or Pasculli ticket.

City Hall rumors say that Raia, who could not be reached for comment, is going to skip the council race and run for mayor.

Rescue effort working

Elysian's execs win a thumbs-up

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
Dispatch Business Writer

HOBOKEN—The federal agency that took control of a local savings bank in mid-February has decided the current management team's effort to rebuild the troubled institution should con-

tinue. After a two-week review, John Fitzgerald, a Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. managing agent, on Friday endorsed the management contract between the directors of the Elysian Savings Bank. Please see ELYSIAN Page 6

ELYSIAN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The management team of Elysian Savings Bank in Hoboken has won the confidence of federal regulators.

and Rochester (N.Y.) Consultants Associates Inc., brought in 18 months ago to restructure the institution.

Fitzgerald and the FDIC could have decided that it would be better to close down the bank and use federal insurance money to repay depositors, or that the management team's effort should be abandoned and an immediate search for a buyer begin.

Instead, according to bank spokesman Robert Dolan, who is a member of the Rochester group, "the FDIC has determined that we're a professional and competent team and we're on the right track."

Fitzgerald, speaking by telephone from the bank headquarters at 401 Washington St., agreed with Dolan's assessment. "They have been doing a good job," Fitzgerald said. "It's been a very satisfactory performance (by consultants), and we'll continue to work very closely with them."

The FDIC endorsement of the new management team, as well as assuring that the savings bank will be kept off the selling block while restructuring efforts continue, also represents FDIC approval of the Elysian rescue effort, which was initiated by another federal agency, the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

That agency approved the board's action taken immediately after the sudden resignation in September 1987 of Ernest Badaracco, Elysian's longtime president and chief financial officer. Badaracco stepped down after a routine audit of the savings institution by the federal bank.

The nationwide thrift rescue effort launched by President Bush transfers authority over institutions such as Elysian from the federal bank to the FDIC, which insures commercial bank deposits.

A federal bank official said Friday that he was pleased by the FDIC's decision to continue the Elysian restructuring plan. The federal bank administers the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., the agency responsible for insuring the nation's hundreds of troubled thrifts.

"It's good news for the depositors, and it's good news for us," Eugene J. Sherman, senior vice president and chief economist of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, said.

"It's also good news for the FDIC, because it shows that they think the bank's problems have been solved, or at least the solution is in progress," he continued. Thomas J. Stanton Jr., president and chief executive officer of National Westminster Bank N.J., said he was not surprised that the FDIC endorsed the action.

"The FSLIC has a lot of dedicated people," Stanton said. "They aren't all knuckleheads." Stanton said that he thought the new management of Elysian is effectively rebuilding the savings bank. "I'm happy to learn that the FDIC agrees," he said.

In the last quarter before the management team took over, the savings bank had an annualized net income of minus \$53.7 million, according to government figures. Under the Rochester group's auspices, Elysian's earnings picture has brightened considerably.

By the last quarter of 1988, according to a bank report, Elysian's net worth had risen to minus \$4.4 million. The management team is working to improve the thrift's operational efficiency and upgrade its loans, according to Dolan.

4h THE JERSEY JOURNAL, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1989

Employee charges parking unit bias

Continued from Page 1

ing stickers, filed the initial complaint after he was ordered to wear a police-like uniform to work, four months after he had started working.

Ortiz refused to wear the uniform not only because he does not want to appear as a police authority but also because none of the office workers during the day is required to wear a uniform, he said. Ortiz works from 2:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Instead of complying with the order last November, Ortiz went to Newark to ask the Civil Rights division whether the order was a violation of his rights, he said. Unknown to him, someone from the state agency contacted the Parking Authority to try to resolve the issue, he said.

But the telephone call from the state was received by the Parking Authority just as the commissioners were reviewing the annual salary increases for the staff, he said. All but three employees, including Ortiz, were given raises that day.

Ortiz filed a complaint with the Civil Rights office on charges that he was not given a raise because he insisted on his civil rights.

Ortiz said he was suspended without pay last Thursday pending further notice by the commissioners because he has refused to wear the uniform. Only three commissioners were at the meeting and none of them would tell him how they voted, he said. Donald Pellicano, authority chairman, refused comment.

Ortiz yesterday gave The Jersey Journal a letter from Patrick Cauffield, executive director, stating that "If you have not commenced wearing a uniform by March 9, 1989, your employment will be terminated for failure to follow this directive." That night he was suspended.

Cauffield could not be reached for comment.

Ortiz said that he tried to settle the issue by agreeing to drop his complaint if he was given a raise and not forced to wear the uniform. He said that he also is not given medical coverage extended to the rest of the staff.

"I feel angry and somewhat humiliated because they are really trying to break me," Ortiz said.

Pellicano, in an earlier interview, acknowledged that the rest of the office staff does not wear uniforms during the day and that only parking meter attendants and enforcement officers are required to do so. Those employees work outside with the public.

Pellicano said that he wanted Ortiz to wear the uniform to give the presence of an authority employee if he had to go out to the streets to unboot a car. Since Ortiz works evenings, the chairman said, he wanted the public to be greeted by "someone they knew was a Parking Authority employee."

Ortiz said he was not told when he applied that he would have to wear a uniform.

Employee charges parking unit bias

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

A Hoboken Parking Authority employee, who has been suspended without pay, filed a discrimination complaint with the federal government against the agency yesterday.

The employee, James Ortiz, filed a formal complaint against the authority with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charging th

his civil rights were violated by the authority's discriminatory and retaliatory acts, he said.

The complaint follows an earlier charge Ortiz filed with the state Division of Civil Rights.

Ortiz, an economics student at New York University who works in the authority's Washington Street office processing applications for park-

See EMPLOYEE — Page 4.

—LOCAL—

DISPATCHES

Della Fave picks up May 9 petition

HOBOKEN—Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave picked up a nominating petition at City Hall yesterday for the May 9 election, but later refused to say whether he is running for mayor.

Della Fave was joined by Councilwoman Helen Cunniff, who has said she plans to seek re-election to her at-large council seat. Petitions for the mayor and three at-large seats opening up this year are due Thursday. Fewer than 10 candidates have picked up petitions and none has filed one, City Clerk James J. Farina said.

If he chooses to run, Della Fave is expected to present a spirited challenge to Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who is serving a six-month term. Pasculli defeated Della Fave by fewer than 400 votes in November, and spent nearly twice as much on his campaign.

—RANDI GLATZER.

Council to allow park vote

Pasculli, other officials still oppose riverfront plan

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-14-89

HOBOKEN—The City Council decided last night to abandon legal maneuvers that would jeopardize a referendum calling for a vast waterfront park, but will instead let the question appear on the May 9 ballot as is.

The decision means Mayor Patrick Pasculli and council members, all of whom strongly oppose using the city's most precious piece of property solely for recreation, will probably mount a public relations campaign against the park plans.

The decision does not, however, preclude other city bodies, such as the Planning Board, from suing to block the ordinance.

Council members agreed to vote down an ordinance calling for the land to be set aside for parks and public space, at tomorrow night's council meeting. A second meeting on

the question will be held on March 22.

The members are required by law to approve the ordinance, table it or vote it down. If they ignore it or vote it down, the ordinance automatically becomes a referendum on the May 9 ballot.

The decision came only after council members considered tampering with the ordinance so that voters would have a difficult — if not impossible — time determining what it means.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell told the council it might try adding some additional words to the petition originally filed by Save Hoboken from Over-Development calling for the parks.

The words, pulled from a decision handed down on March 3 by the Appellate Division of state Superior Court that validated Save Hoboken from Over-Development's right to place the parks question on the ballot, would

blur the petition's intent.

The new words would say Hoboken could build on the waterfront land in the future, although the language would not clearly state what "the future" means.

"I just feel that the court gave no direction to the city of Hoboken," O'Connell said. "They just said 'put it on the ballot and see what it means.' It's like playing Russian roulette."

Pasculli and council members contend that the only way to keep the tax rate from soaring is by letting developers build on the waterfront property, bringing more tax revenue, and commerce to the city.

40D counters that the city will spend so much money to service the new buildings and tenants that residents are unlikely to get a tax break.

The group wants to pay for construction and maintenance of the park through public and private grants.

Sewage plant financing near

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-14-89

Representatives of Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City said last night that they are poised to finance construction of a \$100 million secondary sewage treatment plant.

The plant must be built in order to save Hoboken from hundreds of thousands of dollars of federal and state fines, and to save money and allow new buildings to be erected in all three municipalities. Weehawken and parts of Union City send their sewage to the existing Hoboken plant for treatment.

The federal and state governments require that sewage here be treated twice to avoid pol-

lution of the Hudson River, into which processed sewage flows, and has placed a moratorium on most new construction until the communities show their sewage system can handle new development.

The Tri-Cities Sewerage Authority, which is planning to take over the failing Hoboken sewage plant, will interview six financial institutions this week, authority Chairman Richard Wolff said. One of the institutions will be chosen to back and sell bonds to pay for the new plant.

"What the authority is doing is going to market for the money to build the secondary treatment plant," Wolff said.

If all goes well, it could take

about two years to build the plant, authority Attorney Frank Leanza said. Authority and Hoboken officials will meet with representatives of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Environmental Protection Department today to set a construction timetable. Hoboken must meet to avert fines of up to \$25,000 a day.

The authority is also planning to have a private firm run the plant, taking it out of Hoboken's hands. State and federal agencies are demanding that Hoboken turn the plant over to a private firm as quickly as possible.

Problems with plant equipment and operation have led to pollution of the Hudson River and numerous costly repairs.

Cunning, Lao, Rafter to run with Della Fave

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, in a surprise move, announced his mayoral ticket in the upcoming May election at a party in the Shannon Bar last night.

Della Fave, who first came to politics to fill the ward council seat left vacant by the late Thomas Vezzetti's election to mayor in 1985, will be running on a ticket with Councilwoman Helen Cunning, Board of Education President Joseph Rafter and Abraham Lao, a public school trustee officer who has been active in running campaigns for Hispanics but never sought office himself.

"I think our ticket is representative of the community and a new coalition for a new government that is responsive, open and responsible," Della Fave said in an interview before his announcement.

"This city has been terribly mismanaged and is on the verge of bankruptcy under the iron hand of (Mayor Patrick) Pasculli. The EPA is threatening to close our sewer plant, employees are added to the payroll daily and intimidated regularly and he has divided this community on housing issues worse than what we saw during the days of the fires in the early '80s," Della Fave said.

"I intend to bring this community together to run government like it is the property of the people, not of the politicians like a club. We need to reopen the doors to concerned citizens," he added.

While Della Fave held his party, there was a fund-raiser across First Street last night for Pasculli, who will run against Della Fave in May. Pasculli has not announced his ticket yet. However, the rumors in City Hall yesterday were that Pasculli will run with Councilman Richard Del Bocio and school Trustees Richard England and Lourdes Arroyo.

Pasculli, who was appointed mayor last March following Vezzetti's death, was elected in November, defeating Della Fave. Pasculli ran in 1985 for a council seat on the Vezzetti ticket along with Cunning and Annette Illing, an unsuccessful candidate who is now active in Save Hoboken from Over-Development. SHOD is expected to announce its slate tomorrow, the deadline to file.

Pasculli split with Vezzetti and later led council opposition to the late mayor's administration.

Rafter has a reputation of trying to reduce school spending by eliminating patronage jobs.

"When Tommy died, Joe said at his grave that we would make him proud of us. I have been proud twice in my life. Once when Vezzetti asked me to run for the Board of Education and he told me that he believed in me. And the second time was when I decided to join the Della Fave ticket, knowing that was what Joe really wanted," Rafter said.

Cunning said that the campaign platform will build on the principles presented in the 1985 election.

Firm hired for firehouse restoration

HOBOKEN—Uptown residents may once again be serviced by their own firehouse in about four months, Public Works Director Roy Haack said last night.

Fire companies were forced to leave the uptown firehouse at Washington and 13th streets after the historic building caught fire in October. The City Council last night approved the first step of the rehabilitation by hiring an engineering concern to prepare plans for the project.

The firefighters' quarters on the second floor will be repaired first, Haack said. Fire extensively damaged floor and wall supports there. Once the building is safe and firefighters return, work can begin on the brick and stone turrets and arcade, the trademarks of the building erected almost a century ago.

—RANDI GLATZER

Showdown looming on revaluations

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Tax Assessor Hugh McGuire appear headed for a showdown over residential properties that were reduced in value by the Hudson County Tax Board.

Pasculli yesterday said that he plans to call into his office later this week the assessor to explain why he is planning to contest before the state properties that were given lower values by the county.

"I have a big problem with his position. He's going to be told on no uncertain terms that he should work very closely with these property owners who have been awarded a favorable tax appeal from the county," Pasculli said.

"He should be doing everything within his jurisdiction to avoid appealing with the state tax court. They are property owners who have been over-

paying and now it has been verified by the Hudson County Tax Board," he said.

But McGuire said yesterday that he may have to fight 150 cases this year or risk the chance of having to contest 2,000 cases next year.

Of the 6,000 properties assessed last year at full and fair market values, property owners sought appeals to county on 1,000 pieces of property,

McGuire said. Of that number, 700 were settled before they went before the county for review, he said.

The Hoboken tax assessor's office has received judgments from the county on 200 of the 300 cases that were appealed, he said, adding that he disagrees with 150 judgments so far and that he is deciding whether to file appeals.

"The assessor's office is

looking at each one of the judgments and when we feel it is warranted, we will file an appeal," McGuire said.

McGuire said that "as a courtesy" he explained his position to the mayor last week but that Pasculli did not argue.

Pasculli, commenting yesterday, said that McGuire was still undecided on whether he would bring the appeals to the state.

McGuire said that in many of the residential properties, the county lowered the assessment given to the land.

He said that houses on the same block can differ in value, depending on the structure and the amount of investments made in the homes.

However, with land, the value remains the same, he said.

"If I don't appeal these this year, I'm going to have 2,000

See SHOWDOWN — Page 14.

Showdown looming on revaluations

Continued from Page 1

appeals next year because of the neighbors," McGuire said.

If the city loses the appeals, it will have to refund about \$50,000 in taxes, he said.

But Pasculli said he wants the assessor to try to negotiate with the property owners with-

out going to the state.

He said that homeowners have already had to spend money on legal fees.

"To make a blanket statement that he is not going to accept these values and appeal to the state is detrimental to this community," Pasculli said.

\$600,000 restoration

Future of firehouse is at stake tonight

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—The historic Washington Street firehouse that caught fire in October may soon be scheduled for a \$600,000 rehabilitation.

The City Council is scheduled to vote tonight on whether to hire engineer James Caulfield and architect Dean Marchetto, both of Hoboken, to plan restoration of

the firehouse, a brick-and-stone building built more than 100 years ago.

Public Works Director Roy Haack said it will cost about \$150,000 to make the structural repairs needed to let the two fire companies displaced by the blaze move back in. Those companies are now sharing quarters with other firefighters at Eighth and Clinton streets.

The Washington Street firehouse was the only one serving uptown Hoboken.

Haack said about \$137,000 in city fire insurance is available for

the rehabilitation. Once design plans are complete, the city will apply for a grant for the rest of the work from the New Jersey Heritage Program, he said.

Della Fave in race

Pasculli has opponent for mayor's seat

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-15-89

HOBOKEN—Evoking the spirit of the late Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, while also saying he was "sounding the bell of a new coalition," Councilman Joseph Della Fave last night announced he will run for mayor.

Councilwoman Helen Cunning, Joseph Rafter, the Board of Education president, and community activist Abraham Lau will run with Della Fave as City Council candidates in the May 9 municipal election, he said.

Della Fave's announcement officially begins what is expected to be a two-man contest between himself and Mayor Patrick Pasculli. Della Fave was defeated by a slim margin in November after the two tied to fill a special six-month term opened by Vezzetti's death on March 2, 1988.

"The government which has been in operation in the last year, I think, has taken the spirit out of our community," Della Fave, a former history teacher, told more than 150 supporters gathered at

Shannon's First Street bar. "And it's not just because Tom Vezzetti isn't out in the street greeting people."

Della Fave charged Pasculli with bringing back the "machine politics" Vezzetti strove to destroy when he toppled Mayor Steve Cappelletto in 1985.

He also vowed to press for school budget cuts and educational reform, as well as cautious, responsible development.

"As far as I'm concerned, not one blade of grass or one brick should be planted or laid until we can be sure that there's going to be a financial benefit to the city," he said.

Cunning, a councilwoman since Vezzetti's victory in 1985, said attention to finances and keeping the cost of living in the city down is at the top of her list of concerns.

When Vezzetti ran for mayor, she said, he charged the question facing the city was "who is going to stay and who is going to go."

"Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry to tell you that the battle cry is still the same," Cun-



JOSEPH DELLA FAVE Begins two-man campaign

ning said.

Rafter, who said he agreed this week to run, charged that a government that harkens back to the Cappelletto administration prompted him to run with Della Fave.

"I see a real, genuine regression, and I can't walk away from it," Rafter said.

Lau, a Hoboken schools attendance officer who is active in the city's mostly Hispanic 4th Ward, was not present, but city tenant advocate Thomas Olivieri spoke for him.

"Abe Lau said, 'I want to be part of the Joe Vezzetti — I mean Joe Della Fave — ticket,'" Olivieri said. "That was a Freudian slip."

\$95M bid unsealed by HCUA

By James Efstathiou

A low bid of \$95.4 million for the reconstruction of the Hoboken sewage treatment plant was unsealed yesterday at the Hudson County Utilities Authority.

The plant, which treats sewage from Weehawken and parts of Union City, is under a federal consent order to upgrade to secondary sewage treatment. Accepting wet hook-ups has been banned until it complies.

It is the second time the Hudson County Utilities Authority and Hoboken have let bids for the upgrading. Last May, a low bid of \$115 million was rejected and determined to be beyond the bonding capacity of Hoboken.

The reconstruction is expected to be financed by the newly created Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewerage Authority, which was created last summer. The authority is moving to acquire the Hoboken plant and connecting sewerage facilities in Weehawken and put in place funding for the upgrading by pooling the bonding capacity of the three municipalities.

The authority has narrowed the potential field of underwriters to six and is expected to select one or more bonding agents at Monday's meeting.

The reconstruction is expected to take three years and involves two major contracts.

One is a liquid train contract for facilities at the plant which carry and pretreat effluent. The other contract will cover construction of sludge drying and processing equipment.

Low bidder for the liquid train contract was Taylor Woodrow, New York, which came in at \$63,222,109.81. Low bidder for sludge-processing was Morganti-Mars-Normel, a joint venture from Ridgefield, Conn., which bid \$32,256,000.

"This time around the bids came in closer to the engineer's estimate," said HCUA executive director George Crimmins. He feels the \$95 million expense is more realistic than May's \$115 million in bids.

Hoboken streets tough on cop cars

DISPATCH 3-15-89

Associated Press

TRENTON—Several municipal governments that receive state Aid to Distressed Cities, including Hoboken, should revamp their operations, a state report released yesterday concludes.

The report, which said many local governments have improved their ways, cited problems including a high number of brake jobs for Hoboken police cars, \$3 million in uncollected traffic tickets in Orange and questionable bidding practices in Carteret and Keansburg.

Jersey City and other municipalities will be included in another report to be released soon.

Hoboken's street system has been rough on police squad cars, the report released yesterday said. The report said city driving conditions in Hoboken require the 50 police cars to be outfitted with new brakes every five weeks.

"There are a lot of intersections without stop signs," said Barry Skokowski, state Local Government Services Division director. The report suggests Hoboken adopt a better maintenance system for its vehicles.

The report criticizes the operations of 16 municipalities that receive money under the state's distressed cities program. The program provides money so municipalities won't have to lay off police officers and firefighters. It requires the state reviews to determine if the local governments are wasting money.

About half the municipalities, including Camden and Trenton, were reviewed in December. This second report covers 16 more cities, townships and boroughs. Skokowski said a report on the final seven municipalities, including Newark, Jersey City and East Orange, is expected to be released soon.

"I don't think the size of a municipality determines how it is run," Skokowski said.

The report was critical of Carteret and Keansburg for a lack of bidding in their purchasing process.

It said only four complete formal bid files were found for Carteret, noting that many purchases made without bids were in violation of state law.

In Keansburg, the report said purchases of cars and other items, as well as the contracting of services, were made without going out to bid.

Sewage cyanide level up

By James Efstathiou

Unusually high concentrations of a form of cyanide have turned up in a sewage byproduct at the Hoboken Treatment Works.

The substance, referred to by officials as non-complex cyanide, is chemically different than the lethal poison and poses no health threat to plant workers. The substance began turning up two months ago in concentrations exceeding state standards in sludge, the final byproduct of sewage treatment.

Although not a health threat, the substance in such quantities suggests the possibility of illegal dumping into the sewage system, according to Roy Haack, Public Works Department director.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has directed Hoboken to identify the source of the cyanide and implement measures to limit the discharge of the material into the system.

"We don't know where these high concentrations are coming from," said Haack. "We're trying to pin that down in the lab."

High levels of cyanide were first picked up following a routine analysis of sludge in January. Normally, according to Haack, plant sludge contains from 100 to 150 parts per million of cyanide, however, that figure rose to 834 part per million in a January sample.

High cyanide levels continued into the following month. State guidelines call for a maximum of 250 parts per million. The DEP has asked for additional sludge samples and has notified the Grand Central Sanitary Landfill in Pen Argyle, Pa., where the plant's sludge is dumped.

It was unclear whether the high cyanide readings would affect any contractual arrangement between Hoboken and the landfill.

One possible source of the cyanide, according to Haack, are manufacturers that produce metal-plated goods since cyanide is commonly used in the electro-plating process. Such firms are required to secure a federal license, however, an unregistered firm could be the source.

No metal plating firms exist in Hoboken, Haack said, however, he was investigating to determine if a Union City or Weehawken company could be responsible.

The DEP has been monitoring the Hoboken plant closely since a major mechanical breakdown temporarily closed the plant in January.

\$28.7 school budget to be aired

By James Efstathiou

Hoboken residents will have their first opportunity to comment on a proposed \$28.7 million school budget at a hearing tonight. If the plan is adopted, the public will have a second chance to evaluate the package on April 4 at the polls.

The key elements in the 1989-90 school budget are state aid and salaries.

The district is facing the loss of more than \$1.6 million in state assistance over last year while contracts with 501 full-time union employees will expire June 30.

In addition, the Board of Education is expected to con-

sider a lease agreement with St. Mary Community Mental Health Center.

At its last meeting, the board agreed in principle to rent four classrooms for three months in the vacant David E. Rue School on Garden Street to the health center's adolescent drug counseling program for \$6,000 on a month-to-month basis.

While the overall budget is up a modest \$1 million over last year, the amount to be raised through local taxes could jump by \$2.7 million as a result of decreased state funding. That would cost taxpayers an additional 80 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

In 1988, the school budget accounted for \$7.9 or 44 percent of the total municipal tax rate of \$18.20 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, according to business administrator Edwin Chius.

The drop in state aid is a result of Gov. Thomas H. Kean's decision to provide less than 100 percent of aid called for in the state funding formula, falling enrollment in the district and a growing tax base.

Between 1987 and 1988, Hoboken's public school population dropped by 301 students to a total of 3,722, while the city's assessed value rose 24 percent. Those factors taken together spelled a sizable drop in state

funding for the district, according to the state Department of Education.

The school board is engaged in ongoing negotiations with the Hoboken Teacher's Association which represents 420 teachers, clerks, attendance officers and drivers and the Administrators and Supervisors Association which represents 22 principals.

Negotiations have yet to begin with the Hoboken School Employees Association which represents 59 custodians, engineers and maintenance personnel.

In addition, the board employs 24 full-time and 69 part-time non-union workers.

Violence complaint arises in Hoboken campaign tiff

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Ira Karasick, the vice chairman of the Hoboken Rent Leveling board, yesterday filed an assault complaint against a Board of Education janitor for an attack said to be politically motivated.

Karasick, an attorney, filed the complaint against Michael Holmes for an alleged assault in the hallway of City Hall on Wednesday night, when the City Council was in session.

"He attacked me because I was a (Councilman Joseph) Della Fave supporter. He has threatened me in the past but this is the first time he laid his hands on me," Karasick said.

"This was an opening round to intimidate the reform movement," Karasick said. "He said, 'We don't want people like you in our town.' He started getting madder and madder and grabbed me and threw me down the stairs."

Earlier, Karasick as well as Councilwoman Helen Cuning and Della Fave, a mayoral candidate, said that Holmes had entered the City Council chambers and twice yelled: "Vote Pat Pasculli."

However, they said they did not believe that Holmes was acting on the mayor's behalf.

"I don't think Patty sent this goon out. But, nevertheless, he (Holmes) thinks that

this is his role in this campaign. I don't want to blame Patty but on the other hand, this was politically motivated and very scary," he said.

Holmes, who was in the City Clerk's office, yesterday greeted a Jersey Journal reporter by saying, "Vote for Pasculli." However, he declined any comment when questioned about the incident. Holmes later contacted the Journal and said that he would file counter charges today because, he said, Karasick hit him first.

However, Karasick said, "The attack was completely unprovoked. I was leaving the City Council meeting and he stopped me in the hallway and asked me where the Della Fave going. I said I didn't know where he was going but that he was running. He grabbed me, took me through the doors, ram me against the railing and threw me down the stairs."

"Anyone who disagrees with whomever these goons are supporting has to worry about their safety — in City Hall no less. I think he (Holmes) is targeting the Della Fave people. 'The incident requires Patty (Pasculli) to publicly disown it and to speak against violence and intimidation. All the candidates have to follow rules of law, if not the whole election is going to degenerate into violence,'" he added.

Pasculli agreed with Kara-

sick. He said Holmes is not one of his campaign workers.

"I am extremely disappointed. This kind of behavior should not happen not only in City Hall but anywhere else in the city. The person in question did not support me in the November election, he was in someone else's camp. Mr. Holmes should choose another candidate to support, he is not one of my campaign workers," Pasculli said.

"I intend to run a positive campaign. I think those active in my opponents' camp should also conduct themselves not only in their words but their actions in a proper fashion," Pasculli added.

A passer-by who witnessed the incident outside of City Hall said he saw a "big huge guy throw a little guy down the stairs. His head hit the banister. The little guy looked pretty hurt. The big guy was yelling and a couple seconds later, the little guy was tumbling down the stairs."

Police said that Holmes is about 6 feet, Karasick said he is 5 feet, 6 inches. A court hearing has been set for April 20.

Cuning, who is running for an at-large council seat on Della Fave's mayoral ticket, agreed that the candidates "have the responsibility to keep these altercations from happening. No candidate has the right to a goon squad."

Waiting for audit report

Hoboken school board delays vote on budget

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-17-89

HOBOKEN—The Board of Education meeting that is traditionally the most heated of the year passed last night without crowds, arguments or a vote.

The handful of listeners sprinkled throughout the high school auditorium raised no objections when the board agreed to recess and vote on its proposed \$28.7 million budget on Monday night.

The delay means taxpayers have been granted another

chance to speak up about the budget before it is presented to them for approval on the school election ballot April 4.

The adjournment, was necessary because an audit of school spending by an outside firm has not yet been submitted, several board members said. They said they expect to have the report this weekend.

The budget tentatively adopted by the board calls for a tax rate increase of about 80 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, although total school spending will remain at about the same level as last year.

Because of cuts in state and federal aid, taxpayers would shoulder about 65 percent of school costs, up nearly 17 percent, Kenneth Lenz, the lone mem-

ber of the public who was neither running for the school board in April nor related to a board member, objected strongly to the spending plan.

"It seems incredible that they could spend \$2.7 million to educate 3,600 students," Lenz said, "and give them a poor education at that."

Enrollment at the district dropped from 4,023 in September 1987 to 3,722 last September. There are now 3,668 pupils in the district. The district is currently under state Level 3 monitoring, one step away from a state takeover.

Board members said the upcoming May 9 municipal election may have detracted from the school hearing. Three of the nine board members are running for City Council.

The board is required by Hudson County to approve its budget proposal by Monday night. The meeting will take place at 7:30 at the high school, Ninth and Clinton streets.

May 9 election

Rerun in Hoboken

Candidates play same song before weary city

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-20-89

HOBOKEN—The May 9 municipal election campaign that kicked off last week has so far been colored by complaints of local fiscal woes, promises for the waterfront and bitter personal allegations — in short, a repeat of November's races.

Because this city, only a mile square with 23,000 voters, was drained by a special election for mayor and one City Council seat less than six months ago, the campaign that 13 candidates have chosen to brave promises to be an especially difficult one. They plan once again to play out the same issues before voters weary of signs and slogans, and contributors tired of donating.

Once again, Mayor Patrick Pasculli will be challenged by Councilman Joseph Della Fave, whom the mayor narrowly defeated in November's election. Pasculli is now filling the unexpired term of Mayor Thomas F. Vezzetti, who died in office in March 1988.

Della Fave said last week he felt compelled to run because of the dire problems facing the city, and he charged Pasculli with aggravating the problems.

These include soaring taxes; the threat of a \$7 million deficit next year; and a public school system that, despite moderate gains, remains under state Level 3 monitoring — a step away from a state takeover — while enrollment rapidly drops.

Both Pasculli and Della Fave agree May 9 will be sparked by one new feature — a ballot referendum initiated by the group Save Hoboken from Over-

Development to turn city-owned waterfront land into a public park. The two foes have said they will fight the referendum — together, if necessary.

Pasculli already has based his campaign on a proposal for a \$620 million mixed-use development on that waterfront land.

While Della Fave unquestionably supports development, he contends the city can encourage building on a smaller scale.

The third mayoral candidate, coffee shop owner Florence Amato, a one-time 4th ward council candidate who has never held public office, said she would encourage development in her ward, which she said has been bypassed while officials concentrate on the waterfront.

Save Hoboken from Over-Development is fielding two candidates — Stephen Busch and Daniel Tumpson — for the three council-at-large seats open.

Pasculli is supporting three candidates for council-at-large: Councilman Richard Del Boccio, Lourdes Arroyo and Richard England. Arroyo and England are Board of Education trustees.

Della Fave also is supporting three candidates for the at-large seats: Councilwoman Helen Cuning, school board President Joseph Rafta and community activist Abraham Lao.

Running independently for council-at-large seats are Elizabeth Falco, a teacher and former Kealey School principal who wants lower-income residents to be represented; and Edward Huelbig, who is active in veterans' groups and charitable projects.

Pasculli, Della Fave will face off again

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who competed in a hard-fought contest less than five months ago, will square off again in May when a four-year mayoral term is at stake.

Yesterday was the deadline to file nominating petitions for the May 9 municipal election. The only other mayor-

al candidate is Florence Amato, who is politically active in the Fourth Ward but has been unsuccessful twice in trying to capture a council seat in that ward.

Three at-large council seats are up for grabs.

Pasculli formally announced that he will run on the slogan, "A united Hoboken" with his running mate in November.

See PASCULLI — Page 41.

Pasculli, Della Fave will face off again

Continued from Page 1

Richard Del Boccio, a school principal, who was handily elected to an at-large seat, as well as Richard England and Lourdes Arroyo, who are both Board of Education trustees.

Arroyo, who was elected to the school board in 1986, said she has withdrawn her name as a candidate in next month's board election. She said her bid for a council seat is a natural progression of her public career.

Pasculli acknowledged that he talked with Arroyo just as she had committed herself to a school board ticket. Pasculli said her popularity as a candidate became evident during the last month when he was putting his ticket together so he decided to ask her to join as a candidate.

Pasculli edged Della Fave last November by a few hundred votes. It was in the Fourth Ward, where he won by 700 votes, that he defeated his opponent.

The Fourth Ward has the highest concentration of Hispanics, low-income families, minorities and residents of public housing projects. Thus, the Hispanic vote is being well courted this election.

Arroyo, who is rent control administrator, said she is running to represent low- and moderate-income families and will focus on tenant rights and affordable housing.

Running on the slogan, "Responsible leadership moving forward together," Della Fave's three at-large council running mates are Councilwoman Helen Cuning, Board of Education president Joseph Rafta and Abraham Lao, a public school attendance officer who is active in the Fourth Ward, helping to run campaigns for Hispanics.

Lao, 56, is president of the Caparra Homes Development Corp., active in St. Joseph's parish and worked for Councilman Edwin Duroy, who served as Pasculli's campaign manager last November.

Lao never ran for elective office but decided to join Della Fave's ticket because he believes that Hispanics are disenfranchised from city government.

"I believe that the Hispanic community in the City of Hoboken is not part and parcel of the municipal government. I feel that for many years we have been on the outside looking in and I believe that we should be part of the mainstream," Lao said.

Save Hoboken from Over-Development is running two candidates for at-large council seats, Daniel Tumpson, a physicist, and Stephen Busch, an artist and member of the Hoboken Rent Leveling Board. The two founded SHOD last July and said they will base their campaign on issues of development, housing, taxes, fiscal management and public participation in government.

Liz Falco, a former Hoboken school principal who now teaches in Jersey City where she taught for 14 years before her appointment in Hoboken two years ago, is running as an independent for a council seat on the slogan, "Equal representation for all." Falco, who was the first black principal in the Hoboken school system, has a discrimination complaint pending against the school board, which voted to lay her off last summer when it closed a school for budget reduction.

She said she is running because she wants "all the neglected people in this city to know there is someone who is concerned about their needs."

Also joining the council race is retired firefighter Edward "Roy" Heulbig. Heulbig, who had nearly 30 years in the city Fire Department, will run as an independent. "This has been my ambition all my life. Now that I have the time, I can do it. Hopefully something can be done about recreation and moving police headquarters." His slogan is, "I'll do my best."

Pasculli said he will base his campaign on taxes, affordable housing, education and municipal services but believes the campaign will focus on development. He said he will run a counter-argument to the platform being pushed by SHOD, an anti-development group.

Since January, SHOD has conducted three successful petition drives. The group was the driving force behind the City Council's decision to repeal an amendment to weaken rent control and the council's vote to ban further conversion of rental housing into condominiums.

SHOD was successful in obtaining a state Appellate Court ruling ordering the city to allow a referendum on the May ballot in which voters will be asked if they want to reserve 65 of the 130 acres of city-owned land targeted for waterfront development for parks.

Pasculli said he will run against that referendum. "The SHOD initiative is anti-growth, anti-progress and pro-taxes," Pasculli said, adding, "I will be running a vigorous campaign against it, and I will encourage other council members to oppose it."

But Tumpson and Busch said their campaign will also focus on the democratic process and public participation. "We are worried about the total abuse of the public process. Unfortunately few people in this town attend council meetings. If they did, they would find that the council doesn't listen to what the public has to say," Tumpson said. "Furthermore, they do their dealings behind closed doors. Ordinances come to the table that were never advertised. Some council members vote even when they don't know what they are voting on. It is a total improper public process."

Hoboken school vote off

The Hudson Dispatch 3-21-89

The Hoboken Board of Education postponed a vote on a proposed \$28.7 million budget Thursday night because an audit of the 1987-88 school budget was not available.

A hearing and vote on the spending plan was rescheduled for Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Hoboken High School auditorium when the audit is expected to be submitted.

Plans to lease four classrooms in the closed David E. Rue School to an adolescent drug counseling program were given the green light by board attorneys, according to trustee

Gerard Costa. The board initially agreed to lease the classrooms to the program for three months on a month-to-month basis two weeks ago, by a 4 to 1 vote.

Because only five trustees were present, the validity of the vote was called into question. However board attorneys have subsequently determined that the vote was legal.

As a result, St. Mary Hospital Giant Steps counseling program is expected to move into the school by the first of April. The program serves adolescents recovering from substance abuse problems.

Border war heats up



Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, right, gives a tea bag to commuter Jerry Forman of Hoboken at the PATH terminal in Hoboken yesterday.

It's the N.J. Tea Party

Commuters growing angry with Mario's tax

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
The Hudson Dispatch 3-17-89

HOBOKEN—For the hapless Garden State resident working in New York, 1989 is not shaping up to be a good year: An Empire State tax change decreases take-home pay at the same time that a proposed New Jersey Transit fare hike would make it more costly to get back and forth across the Hudson River.

Yesterday afternoon, opponents of both measures joined forces in the PATH and NJ Transit terminals here in an effort to urge that commuter to fight back.

Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, R-Union, who is running for governor, passed out fliers urging New Jerseyans to send used tea bags to New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, in a Boston Tea Party-like protest against "taxation without representation."

"Join the NJ Tea Party. Send a Teabag to Mario," read the fliers, passed out by Hardwick and his aides to commuters leaving PATH trains.

Members of a new organization of NJ Transit users, the Coalition of Concerned Transit Riders, were in the same area of the terminal, passing out fliers urging mass transit users to protest fare hike and service cut proposals at a series of public hearings next week.

"1989 may be the year in which the governor and Legislature preside over a giant step toward dismantling public transportation in New Jersey," the coalition's flier read.

Scurrying commuters, experienced in the ways of avoiding dispensers of unsolicited literature, flocked around both sets of activists.

"We printed up 20,000 of these leaflets," said Douglas John Bowen, president of the New Jersey

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TEA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Association of Railroad Passengers, which is part of the new transit coalition. "We figure we'll get through about 10,000 of them tonight."

Anthony Kaprowski, an officer of a Manhattan insurance company waiting for his train to Waldwick, Bergen County, said he supported both protest efforts.

"Things are getting ridiculous," he said. "These last two changes are one more reason why I don't plan to stay in this area for the rest of my life."

The New York tax code change allows that state to tax non-resident workers based on the total income of the household, even if some of that money is earned by a spouse who does not work in New York or is from other sources such as bank interest and stock dividends.

That change will move people into higher tax brackets, costing some of the more than 100,000

Bergen and Hudson residents working across the river up to \$500 each this year, according to tax experts.

The NJ Transit fare hike and service cuts were proposed by the bus and rail agency's staff on Feb. 28 to help meet a projected \$55 million budget shortfall.

The increase proposal, which calls for fares to rise an average of 12.5 percent, would go into effect April 30 if adopted by the agency's Board of Directors. Hearings on the fare hike and service cut proposals are scheduled next week across the state. On Tuesday, two 8 p.m. hearings are scheduled in the region, one in the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse in Jersey City and the other in the Bergen County Administration Building in Hackensack.

Also yesterday, the leader of a commuter boycott of New York goods, which was scheduled to end today, called for the protest to continue indefinitely.

"Cuomo has taken off his gloves, so we've taken ours off," said Monmouth County resident Thomas Stokes, founder of The Taxpayers Revolt, speaking from his Manhattan office.

Sewage authority gets OK for bonds

The state Local Finance Board yesterday cleared the way for the Tri-Cities Sewage Authority to finance a \$95 million secondary sewage treatment plant for Hoboken, Union City and Weehawken.

The board's approval makes it possible for the three municipalities to build and run the new sewage plant located in Hoboken, where the plant would be located.

Authority Secretary Edwin Chiusi, who is also Hoboken's business administrator, said the agency now can issue bonds for construction of the plant. The sewage authority is interviewing financial companies that would underwrite the bond issue.

The authority is expected to grant a construction contract within the next few weeks, said George W. Crimmins Jr., executive director of the Hudson County Utilities Authority, which is overseeing the process. Officials have received low bids on the two-part project totaling \$95.4 million.

The municipalities have been mandated by federal and state authorities to move from primary treatment of sewage to secondary treatment, a process that would cut the amount of pollutants from effluent released into the Hudson River.

—RANDI GLATZER

High drama in Hoboken

Cut! Strike the set! Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli has been receiving a flood of reviews from his citizens, apparently panning the work of filmmakers on the Mile Square City's streets.

Seems the movie men are causing chaos as their comedy scenes are turning the task of parking one's car into nerve-wracking drama.

So Mayor Pasculli is temporarily banning cameras from the streets until his law director, Eugene O'Connell, can draft an ordinance to regulate directors.

Mayor Pasculli has a point, but he shouldn't lose sight of the fact that movies are good business for Hoboken. After all, two of film's biggest stars used Hoboken's well-preserved streets as sets: Marlon Brando in 1954, and more recently, Sylvester Stallone at Stevens Tech.

They're not the only ones. Michael Keaton romanced Rae Dawn Chong in Hoboken in "The Squeeze" two years back. Woody Allen has been here, and now NBC-TV has been shooting a series based in Hoboken, "Dream Street," right here.

"Dream Street," in fact, caused the ire. But movies and films shot and set in Hoboken can only add to the city's image, reputation and coffers. They're profitable in more ways than money, and Mayor Pasculli should remember that.

More importantly, he must address his parking issue. Before developers start pouring concrete, the city should make sure their plans include parking. Hoboken should also move for more mass transit, including the proposal by Councilman Thomas Newman to study the feasibility of trolleybus service.

Actually, the parking situation could make a good movie. At least a good movie advertisement.

THRILL to the struggle of weaving through Hoboken's crowded streets, searching for a spot. GASP at cars that doublepark and jam your car in.

HOWL with rage when you get ticketed and booted.

It's "The Search for Parking," starring Hoboken's citizens, and it's playing all over town, at a curb near you.

Action!

River park plan goes on ballot

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The Hoboken City Council last night unanimously rejected an initiative petition to reserve city-owned land along the Hudson River for parks.

The council's action means that the referendum will be placed on the May 9 election ballot for voters to decide.

Daniel Tumpson, who pushed the petition circulated by members of Save Hoboken from Over-Development, had asked the City Council during the public hearing last night to reject the measure so that voters could participate in the fate of the waterfront.

If the Council had approved the measure last night, a final vote on the ordinance would have had to wait 30 days, which would have been too late to have had the issue appear on the ballot.

Tumpson feared that the City Council would approve the initiative to undermine SHOD's efforts to have the issue publicly addressed. While the city disagrees, SHOD contends that the initiative does not preclude the city's later using the park land for other purposes, including commercial and residential development.

"Instead of trying to maneuver it off the ballot, let the people have a voice," Tumpson

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FILMING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

and "Rambo" fame appeared here last month for the filming of a drama at Castle Point and Elysian Field. The Stallone film crew followed a long line of stars

and directors who have flocked here during the past few years. Scenes from the CBS miniseries "Kane and Abel" were filmed at the ferry terminal in 1985. Director John Sayles shot a picture at a Washington Street antiques store in 1981, the same year Woody Allen crossed the river from his beloved Manhattan to do a movie.

Most recently, a company that shot a successful pilot here for the NBC-TV series "Dream Street" last year returned to tape episodes for a full season. The program tells the story of two brothers and their friends growing up in Hoboken.

But the production of "Dream Street" apparently has been a nightmare for local residents. Pasculli said complaints about litter, traffic disruption, noise and parking have mounted, leading him to seek to codify the city's policy on filmmaking.

Pasculli said he does not expect the ban to be in effect long enough to deter producers from coming here. He said he expects to have a draft of the ordinance ready to introduce at the April 5 City Council meeting. Montclair and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey already have ordinances to guide film crews, Pasculli said.

"It's really rubbing it in the face of Hoboken residents when you take away their parking spaces," he said. "We're going to try to work out the problems."

A spokesman for "Dream Street" declined to discuss the problems or Pasculli's proposal yesterday, saying the questions should be answered by the producers, who were on the set and unavailable. Administrators for the company said taping here should be finished by the end of next week anyway.

Hoboken traffic woes

Pasculli wants to cut city filming

By MICHAEL MARKOWITZ
The Hudson Dispatch 3-18-89

HOBOKEN—Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday said "cut!" — at least for now — to film and television crews using the streets of the Mile Square City as a soundstage.

Pasculli said he will no longer issue traffic directives banning street parking to make way for camera crews because of a flood of complaints from residents.



PASCULLI

In a letter yesterday, Pasculli asked Law Director Eugene P. O'Connell to help him draft an ordinance regulating filmmaking, saying the proliferation of directors using the city as a backdrop has exacerbated already serious traffic and parking problems.

"We certainly do welcome the film industry, but they have to understand that we are a small urban community with severely crowded streets," Pasculli said. "We have tried to control the problems as best we can, but lately the film crews have been stepping over the line."

Pasculli's call for regulations comes as more and more filmmakers have cast their spotlights on the city's narrow streets and quaint buildings.

Sylvester Stallone of "Rocky"

Please see FILMING Page 12

Pasculli banishes TV filming crew

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

As far as Mayor Patrick Pasculli is concerned, the filming of a television drama about a working class Hoboken family, Dream Street, has turned into a nightmare, with residents complaining about no parking spaces, noise and lights.

So Pasculli said yesterday that there will be no lights, camera or action for Dream Street on Washington Street or for any other film projects until the city adopts a local ordinance to set stricter regulations on film-making.

The news startled Brooke Kennedy, the producer of Dream Street — the first hour-long episode is supposed to air next month on NBC — who said she thought the company was on good terms with the mayor and city.

As of late yesterday afternoon, she said she still had received no notice from Pasculli.

"No one has contacted us to pack our bags and leave. This company operated in good faith. I cannot believe that he would do this without first talking to us or giving us the chance to right the wrong," Kennedy said.

"I don't think we have been cut off. No one has given us a formal word," Kennedy said, adding that she planned to continue filming the program's last episode this week.

But Pasculli remained adamant and said that no permits for further filming will be issued.

"They are not going to be receiving any further traffic regulations signed by me. They have disrupted the neighborhoods and not sufficiently coordinated with the residents of those neighborhoods or the Police Department," Pasculli said.

"They have got to show more good faith on their part," he added.

Specifically, Pasculli said he will not allow the police to ticket or move cars from city streets "and that will virtually stop the filming."

Last Thursday, the filming crew had tied up a couple of blocks of Washington Street at Eighth Street until 11 p.m. The company's vans, trailers and other vehicles took parking spaces from nearby residents. Also, traffic was slow on Washington Street during rush hour and in the late evening.

On Friday, Pasculli received numerous complaints, he said.

"Our administration will be contacting her and let her know the status of our position. Until we develop the necessary controls, they are going to have to find another location," Pasculli said.

Kennedy said that she wished the mayor "had called me so we could have handled this and made a joint statement. If L.A. hears this, they will say bring the show back and we all lose."

She said that her company has added to the local economy by renting office space, paying fees, hiring police officers and by "feeding 110 hungry people twice a day."

Search for \$95M underwriter widens

By James Efstathiou

The Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewage Authority has postponed selecting an underwriter for a \$95 million upgrade of Hoboken's treatment plant and instead decided to interview three additional finance firms.

The authority's finance committee, which had narrowed down the field of potential underwriters from 16 to six, failed to make a recommendation to the full board at a special meeting last night. Instead, the committee will meet with

three firms tonight, bringing the total interviewed to nine, and is expected to present its findings at next Monday's meeting.

"I'm disappointed that the process is taking three weeks," said authority chairman Richard Wolff. "The decision should be made strictly on a business criteria with no other extraneous factors involved."

Prior to last night's meeting, Commissioners Edward Keating and Roger Dorian of Weehawken said they would vote against any proposal which included Jersey Capital

Markets Group, a Hoboken-based finance firm. The two did not object to the company but to a principal in the firm and his connection to a 1980 racketeering scandal in Weehawken.

However, last night, Keating declined to discard Jersey Capital outright or comment on the matter other than to say that the authority's chief goal is to pick a principal underwriter.

In addition to Jersey Capital, PaineWebber, Prudential-Bache, Dean Witter Reynolds

Inc., Marine Midland and Ryan Beck have been interviewed by the authority. The three firms to be interviewed tonight are Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., Kidder Peabody Co. Inc. and Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Inc.

The authority also opened bids from two firms, Metcalf & Eddy of Branchburg and OMI of Parsippany, seeking to maintain and operate the plant for the agency. The plant is currently owned and operated by the city of Hoboken.

River park plan goes on ballot

Continued from Page 1

told the council. "You'd be a bunch of hypocrites if you vote for this initiative. I encourage you not to vote for it and put it on the ballot to let the people decide on a park or a real estate development," he said.

SHOD's caution toward city officials probably results from the group's difficulty in getting the initiative on the City Council agenda and eventually the ballot. After the group handed City Clerk James Farina with the petition signed by more than 1,200 residents, the clerk refused to certify the initiative.

Farina, relying on a legal opinion from the Law Department, said the petition constituted a zone change and state law prohibits zoning through initiative. A Superior Court judge upheld Farina's action.

But the state Appellate

Court on March 3 overruled the lower court's decision. Although it did not determine whether the petition was a zone change, the appeals court ordered the clerk to allow the public process to continue.

Few residents attended last night's public hearing, which for the most part was unemotional and low-keyed. Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who is pushing a plan to build 1,600 housing units and develop 1.6 million square feet of commercial space, opted not to speak because, he said, his development position is well known.

The mayor said after the hearing that he would launch a campaign against the SHOD petition and expect every council member to join him in his public relations effort. Pasculli is running for mayor against Second Ward

Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

Only four other people spoke at the hearing. Walter O'Connor wanted a promise that the veterans' Memorial Day service on the waterfront would continue if the land is developed.

Kenneth Lenz opposed building another 1,600 units of housing and suggested the city combine the mayor's plan with the park plan.

Barbara Russo supported waterfront development and commented that she was "enraged" that SHOD members, when collecting signatures, did not tell voters what money would finance the park. SHOD members collecting signatures at the PATH station shouted, "save the waterfront, save the parks," which caused many people to sign the initiative, she said.

Hoboken impasse

Teachers told: Don't volunteer

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-27-89

HOBOKEN—The teachers' union president last night called for members to stop all volunteer work, after contract negotiations between the union and the Board of Education broke down.

The union's plan, to work strictly "by the contract," will put an end to countless after-school committee meetings convened to help lift the district from its precarious Level 3 state monitoring status, said Vincent Germinario, Hoboken Teachers Association president.

The union also represents clerks, attendance officers, busdrivers and other transportation workers.

"We feel that we've been slapped in the face, and we're going to mediation," Germinario said. The union will enlist the help of the state Public Employment Relations Commission, he said.

Talks that began in May for a new three-year contract reached an impasse at 5:25 p.m. yesterday, he said. The current contract expires in June.

Employees represented by the

teachers' association are seeking higher salaries and better working conditions, Germinario said. Board President Joseph Rafter said the school district is too pressed for funds to meet the union's demands.

Rafter, whose term expires next month, along with those of three other school trustees, said he is optimistic that the union will negotiate with new board members after the April 4 school election. He expressed disappointment about their plans to give up volunteer work.

"I really hope they reconsider, because it smacks of terrible unprofessionalism to say they aren't going to participate in any committees that would help improve the district," Rafter said.

Teachers' salaries here range from \$22,000 to slightly less than \$50,000, he said.

Germinario said the board yesterday offered minimal salary increases, and discussed lengthening the employees' working day.

Rafter, one of two trustees representing the board in negotiations, said greater salary increases could be granted if union members gave up some of their benefits.

Newman objection stalls Barry project

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken developer Joseph Barry, who also is the publisher of a local tabloid newspaper, suffered a setback in his waterfront housing project plan because First Ward Councilman Thomas Newman is annoyed by what he describes as political meddling.

Barry's Hudson Street plan to build 300 housing units is on hold because Newman, for the first time since Barry's projects have been before the council during the last year, withdrew his support. Newman said Barry meddled in politics by writ-

ing an editorial in defense of another councilman.

The difficulty caused by Newman was compounded by Sixth Ward Councilman David Roberts' absence from the vote this week because of illness. Barry had defended Roberts in an editorial.

With Roberts absent and Newman abstaining, that left only seven members. But two of them, Councilmen Steve Cappiello and Council President Robert Ranieri, have been instructed not to vote on the project because they have conflicts of interest.

Meanwhile, Council mem-

See NEWMAN — Page 8.

Newman objection stalls Barry project

Continued from Page 1

bers Joseph Della Fave and Helen Cunniff have consistently voted against the project because they see it as a political deal between Barry and the administration of Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

Assistant City Attorney Thomas Calligy said that the passage of the ordinance needed five affirmative votes.

In the past, both Roberts and Newman have consistently supported the Barry project. Moreover, Ranieri broke his own rule and supported the ordinance which affects property directly across from his private home on Hudson Street. (A Superior Court judge has already invalidated the project once

because Cappiello voted on it last March even though he also owns property within 200 feet of the planned development.)

Newman said yesterday that he was upset that Barry interfered in local politics. Specifically, Newman was upset by an editorial that Barry wrote about Roberts, who was expected last month to plead guilty to voting violations in the May 1987 Sixth Ward City Council election.

An hour before his court appearance, Roberts changed his mind and decided not to plead guilty to a disorderly persons offense for buying a keg of beer for members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology in order to influence their vote in the May 15, 1987 election.

According to sources, Roberts had planned to plead guilty to the charge and resign from the council instead of facing a possible grand jury indictment.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale began an investigation a year ago after The Jersey Journal revealed that the names of six college fraternity brothers were forged and fraudulent ballots were cast in their names in the May 1987 special ward election and again in the November, 1987 general election.

Barry, in his editorial, wrote that the controversy puts a cloud of controversy over Roberts and the matter should be put "in perspective and behind us, one way or another." He ended by saying that, "if no indictment is returned, the matter should be closed."

Wallpaper and fabrics

New factory in the works for Hoboken

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-23-89

HOBOKEN—For the first time in years, a manufacturer is poised to build a factory here.

With some surprise and delight, the city's Planning Board this week approved construction of a two-story, 25,000-square-foot industrial building that is planned to house a silk-screened wallpaper and fabrics company.

"I can't really remember a new industrial building," said city planning consultant Ralph Seligman, who has served in that post for 26 years.

The small plant run by Albee Services Inc. will employ about 60 people, said H.K. Shah, one of the company's owners.

The number may be modest, but in Hudson County, which lost 1,200 manufacturing jobs in 1988 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, officials welcome any gain.

"This used to be a city that had probably as many jobs as there were people to work," Seligman said. "We have a responsibility to make a thoughtful effort to keep industry here."

The new building will be on a 125-by-150-foot lot at 39 Jackson St., said architect Grace Lynch of Hoboken. Lynch and Associates Inc. of Hoboken, Albee Services Inc., which already does some manufacturing in Hoboken, will probably spend about \$2 million to build it, she said.

Shah said the new building will help to expand his 22-year-old

Hoboken business. He said he considered adding new operations in one of several other parts of New Jersey, and finally settled on this city.

"I've been here for 22 years and no problem," he said. "It's comfortable and close to Manhattan."

The news comes as Hudson municipalities are channeling money and time toward keeping industry from leaving. In Hoboken, a project to turn the former Lorantzen Inc. window blind company into a multi-company industrial complex has been under way for more than a year.

In Jersey City, a similar effort to establish a printing center recently fell through.

Local officials say the light industry would help create jobs for women who are not trained for office work, easing unemployment among mothers who do not have the time to leave their children and travel to far-away factories.

County policy director Joseph Laura said a small handbag manufacturer recently opened in East Newark, but in all other ways, the outlook for the industrial scene here has remained grim.

While heralding Albee Services Inc.'s plans to build in Hoboken, he cautioned against becoming too hopeful.

"I think it's a good sign," Laura said, "but whether it can be taken as some sort of a symbol or trend, I don't think so."

School fiscal plan rushed for ballot

By James Efstathiou

The Hoboken Board of Education has adopted a \$28.7 million budget for the 1989-90 school year and approved bond referendums for capital improvements totaling \$6.3 million. The bond issues and the budget will go before voters in the April 4 school board elections.

Some board members say some degree of trimming is still called for. However, because of time constraints and the lack of support on the board, no additional cuts were discussed or recommended when the board met Monday night, they said.

See SCHOOL — Page 6.

School fiscal plan rushed for ballot

Continued from Page 1

The budget was adopted by a 6-3 vote. The bond referendums were passed unanimously. Tomorrow would have been the deadline for adopting the budget.

"The budget is nothing but the traditional budget," said Gerard Costa. "There are no changes in instructional staff, custodial staff, administration and no new programs."

"The budget allows a mediocre school system to continue to stay in place and while it's doing that, it supports a patronage system that continues to give out jobs that in the long run will ensure that the system endures," said retiring board President Joseph Rafer.

Rafer, Costa and Felix Rivera voted against the budget while the six remaining trustees approved it. Aside from a \$1.2 million cut by the school superintendent prior to the budget's submission to the Hudson County superintendent of schools March 15, no substantive recommendations or spending cuts were brought before the board.

"Since we've been going through this thing for the last month, they haven't made one constructive recommendation as far as cutting any area in the budget at all," said trustee James Farina, referring to the three who voted against the spending plan. "Everybody had plenty of time to think about it. I'm going on the recommendation of the superintendent and the administration who prepared the budget."

Trustee Richard England said he would have preferred to see a modest cut in spending, but was, however, reluctant to open the door to lengthy budget talks. He hoped voters would approve the budget and

vowed to hold the line on spending in lieu of additional cuts.

"I would have liked to have seen a few dollars taken out of it, but there really wasn't an opportunity to get into a lengthy discussion because of the timing crunch," said England. "If we had opened up the door last night, in my opinion we would have had a political ballyhoo."

One trustee who voted against the plan refused to duck responsibility for not working harder to implement cuts.

"I'll accept responsibility for not having done any work on that budget," said Costa. "The truth is between January and now, our agenda was full, we had very little time to work on that budget, and secondly there was no support on the board for any kind of substantive change in that budget."

In a related development, the negotiations between the board and the union representing teachers, clerks, attendance officers and drivers broke down, according to union and board representatives.

An existing three-year contract between the board and the Hoboken Teachers Association (HTA) expires June 30.

HTA President Jim Germinario said he has advised his members not to attend extra-curricular meetings called for in the district's Level 3 corrective action plan. He is applying to the state Public Employment Relations Commission for a mediator to assist in the dispute, he said.

England, who serves on the negotiating committee, said, "They're entitled to do what they have to do as long as they don't negatively impact the district."

'80 scandal sours sewage bonds

By James Efstathiou

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which is expected to select the underwriting team for the job at a meeting tonight.

The problem, according to Keating and Dorian, is not with Jersey Capital but with one of its principals, Jay Booth, and his involvement nine years ago with a New York firm that was poised to back a proposed \$17 million chicken processing plant on the Weehawken waterfront.

The chicken plant turned out to be an elaborate scheme to bilk bond money involving then-Mayor Wally Lindsley, who was eventually convicted and served a jail sentence on racketeering charges. Former

state Sen. David Friedland testified as a government witness in the case.

While Booth was not indicted and did not testify publicly on the case, his involvement as a representative of Thomson McKinnon Securities, Inc. has raised doubts in the minds of Weehawken's representatives on the sewage authority.

"So long as Jay Booth is associated with the firm of Jersey Capital, Weehawken will have no business with that firm," said Roger Dorian, a member of the authority's finance committee, which will recommend underwriters to the full commission.

"We would hope that our colleagues from Union City and Hoboken would respect our wishes and understand that that bond issue, had it gone through, would have bankrupted the Township of Weehawken."

"I have a real problem with that guy," said Keating. "I don't know how he's risen from the ashes like a phoenix."

Booth was unavailable for comment.

But Jerry O'Connor, an executive vice president of Jersey Capital, said Booth's involvement with the scandal is unrelated to the firm's current operations and that concern over his participation is misguided. Booth is one of three partners handling the sewage plant bond issue, O'Connor said.

"I think it's completely irrelevant because number one, Thomson McKinnon was completely exonerated and secondly, maybe of greater impact, is the substantial amount of underwriting we have done at Jersey Capital," said O'Connor. "The question should be, 'Who would best underwrite this deal for the benefit of the three townships?'"

Jersey Capital, a leading New Jersey-based underwriter, has been involved in a number of multi-million dollar bond issues across the state and in Hudson County since it was founded in 1963. It is one of five underwriters handling a \$104 million bond issue for improvements at the Hudson County Corrections Facility and was recently chosen to participate in a \$45 million project at North Bergen's Woodcliff treatment plant.

Other members of the authority say Booth's prior association with the chicken-plant scandal is not grounds to discount Jersey Capital as a potential underwriter.

According to Abe Anton, a Union City representative on the authority and the county's chief financial officer, Jersey Capital's track record and local address make it worthy of consideration.

"I just don't see what the major concern is for something that happened many years ago," said Anton. "I think we would be remiss if we didn't consider someone in our own county with an excellent background for a role in this undertaking."

Frank Raia, one of three Hoboken representatives on the authority and chairman of the group's finance committee, said business considerations alone would preface his recommendation for underwriters.

"The only thing I know is the company," said Raia. "I'm looking for the best deal for the three municipalities."

The need to select backers for the upgrade in a timely fashion is critical, according to authority chairman Richard Volf.

"Frankly I have no sympathy for them at all. We don't need this nonsense — being treated shabbily, told where to walk or where to cross the street. Why don't they go over to Jersey City? Maybe Mayor Cucci needs them."

'Dream Street' has parking problem

Continued from Page 1

petto's house on Hudson Street for electricity and that was that. They had their lunches at the Meyer Hotel," McFeely remembered.

Alice Galmann, who has a real estate office at Washington Street near 11th Street, said that what finally got to residents was the lack of parking spaces. She was asked by neighbors to address the City Council.

"People told me they were treated rudely and with disrespect. The filming crew was not sensitive to the needs of the town or the people they were imposing on," Galmann said.

"Hoboken is generally a friendly, very neighborly place — a place where people go out of their way to be nice. I think people became angry when they saw parking spaces being taken up and seeing other people who don't live in the neighborhood have parking spaces reserved for them. That was the final straw," she added.

Galmann, McFeely and other uptown residents said they found it galling that an out-of-town catering company was hired to feed the film crew instead of a local business.

Although she admits hiring a Philadelphia catering company, Kennedy said the food and supplies are bought locally. "This is all meaningless," she said because she is leaving Hoboken. "I'm going to buy my roast beef in Weehawken."

She said the production has invested \$3 million into Hoboken since it began filming. She attributes that cost to rents — \$15,000 a month for office space and the cost of lumber to build sets, locations fees, food, gas, paying union wages, and payments to off-duty police officers to patrol the streets during shooting.

Peter Pastroelli, location manager, said location fees ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 have been given to local businesses and contributions have been made to local charitable organizations including the Elks, Kids in Need, churches

and 20 tickets were bought for the Hoboken Firemen's Widow Fund annual dance.

Pasculli questions the amount of money the production company officials claim was invested in the city. "I think it is exaggerated. But then, she is in the entertainment business so that is understandable," the mayor said.

McFeely said she does not see any evidence of money being invested in Hoboken. "People say look at all the money. What money? I see them back like aliens. I am annoyed to think this was put upon us without consulting us. Why didn't someone ring the doorbell and ask, 'Do you mind?'"

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who represents the ward, said Pasculli erred by not setting rules before the company, began filming. He agreed that the filming should have been stopped but said the city should try to find ways to work with the film industry. "We never had this problem before. What Pasculli is doing is typical and it gives us a bad image with the business community — that the City of Hoboken is inept."

Pasculli said he has continued the ongoing practice of the previous administration. He added that he has asked for an ordinance to set up guidelines.

Still, neither residents nor politicians seemed bothered that "Dream Street" was leaving Washington Street.

Even Vito Buzzerio, who owns Vito's Italian Deli at Eighth Street and was paid a location fee for an interior shot of his store, was not sad to see the crew go. "It was nice for a change but I can't say I am sorry they're leaving. Maybe I'll miss them in a month."

McFeely did not mince words.

"Frankly I have no sympathy for them at all. We don't need this nonsense — being treated shabbily, told where to walk or where to cross the street. Why don't they go over to Jersey City? Maybe Mayor Cucci needs them."

Hoboken's 'Dream Street' has parking woes

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Glamour, shlamour. Hoboken residents would rather have a parking space when they come home at the end of the day instead of the prestige of a Hollywood film production.

And so the general reaction yesterday from uptown Washington Street residents was quite positive when they learned that Mayor Patrick Pasculli had stopped the filming of "Dream Street," a television drama about a working class Hoboken family.

The crew is in Hudson County filming the last episode of this season and the crew vehicles and equipment

take parking space that is highly coveted in the mile square city.

Producer Brooke Kennedy was still waiting for an official word from the mayor. "All I know is what I have read in the newspaper," Kennedy said. "I haven't heard officially that it is shutdown and I have to get out of town," she said.

"This is not an administration that sits down and says, 'How can we do this best?' This is an administration that just says no," she added.

Pasculli said he spoke to Kennedy two weeks ago about the problem and that "she assured me that the neighborhood would be satisfied and that

certainly did not occur."

Kennedy will pack up her crew and leave because she will not stay in a town where she is not wanted, she said. She had planned to establish a permanent studio here for next year's season, she said.

The filming of "Dream Street" — its first episode is scheduled to air on NBC next month — has caused quite the stir among uptown residents. This is particularly evident among those who live in the Washington and Hudson street area between 8th and 12th streets. Residents said the company overstayed its welcome.

"I started making telephone calls

two months ago to the mayor, police chief, Joe Della Fave. I called David Roberts out of desperation," yesterday said resident Margaret McFeely.

"It just shows that if you yell long enough, they finally hear you," she added.

The company lost its welcome as a result of the number of filming days, coupled with the "enormity of the equipment" and the lack of parking spaces, she said.

"When they filmed 'On the Waterfront' in 1952, there was none of this nonsense. They used Mrs. (Kitty) Re-

See 'DREAM STREET' — Page 6.

Firm protests Hoboken sewer plant bid award

By Emily M. Smith

The second lowest bidder in an improvement project at the Hoboken sewage treatment plant has filed a protest with the Hudson County Utilities Authority claiming the lowest bidder's application was amended after the bids were opened.

HCUA received the protest yesterday from Morganti, Mars, Normel Joint Venture, a construction company in Ridgefield, Conn., which lost part of the contract because its bid was \$1.6 million higher than the lowest bidder.

The contract for work on the plant's waste water treatment system was awarded to Taylor Woodrow Con-

struction Corp., New York City.

It was not clear last night whether the move would delay work being done on the plant which serves Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City.

Morganti, at \$32.2 million, was the low bidder in a second contract awarded for work on solid waste processing at the plant. Three other contractor's submitted bids for that work. Taylor's bid for that contract was \$35.7 million. NAB Construction of College Point, N.Y., was the high bidder with \$42.5 million.

In its letter yesterday to HCUA, Morganti states that Taylor's total contract cost was modified after all the bids were opened and announced in mid-March. The firm claims that Tay-

lor's bid was removed from the announcement area by an unnamed member of HCUA and resubmitted 20 minutes later.

The total contract bid submitted by Taylor was then \$63 million, according to the letter. The original figure was not mentioned in the letter.

But a note on a bid summary by Lawler, Matusky and Skelly Engineers stated that Taylor's bid was increased by \$117,692.19.

Lawyers for HCUA are researching the matter and were not prepared to suggest a course of action at the agency's meeting last night.

The third and highest bidder for the project was NAB Construction with a bid of \$85.5 million.

Morganti's letter also states that Taylor's bid did not include a complete listing of project subcontractors and failed to include a designation of structural steel and miscellaneous steel subcontractors as required by state statute.

Taylor's proposal also did not contain certifications as required by Proposed Prime or Subcontractors Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and the Environmental Protection Agency, Morganti claimed.

The firm claims that if it is not awarded the contract for the waste water processing, "it will result in severe financial harm to the Morganti, Mars, Normel Joint Venture in that it will be deprived of the opportunity to

earn the profit it could realize by performing said contract."

In other business, HCUA passed a resolution to limit the total contract price of a sewage project between HCUA, Jersey City Sewerage Authority and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission to \$5.4 million.

The commissioners also authorized payment to Metcalf & Eddy of \$16,546.79 for engineering and contract claims for the West New York sewage treatment plant upgrade.

An additional payment of \$18,365.07 to Metcalf & Eddy for an engineering and contract claim was approved for the improvements being done on the North Bergen Woodcliff sewage treatment plant.

Newman objection stalls Barry project

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

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With Roberts absent and Newman abstaining, that left only seven members. But two of them, Councilmen Steve Cappiello and Council President Robert Ranieri, have been instructed not to vote on the project because they have conflicts of interest.

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See NEWMAN — Page 8.

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Continued from Page 1

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Wallpaper and fabrics

New factory in the works for Hoboken

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-23-89

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Hoboken business. He said he considered adding new operations in one of several other parts of New Jersey, and finally settled on this city.

"I've been here for 22 years and no problem," he said. "It's comfortable and close to Manhattan."

The news comes as Hudson municipalities are channeling money and time toward keeping industry from leaving. In Hoboken, a project to turn the former Monroe Street home of the Levolor Company into a multi-company industrial complex has been under way for more than a year.

In Jersey City, a similar effort to establish a printing center recently fell through.

Local officials say the light industry would help create jobs for women who are not trained for office work, easing unemployment among mothers who do not have the time to leave their children and travel to far-away factories.

County policy director Joseph Laura said a small handbag manufacturer recently opened in East Newark, but in all other ways, the outlook for the industrial scene here has remained grim.

While heralding Albee Services Inc.'s plans to build in Hoboken, he cautioned against becoming too hopeful.

"I think it's a good sign," Laura said, "but whether it can be taken as some sort of a symbol or trend, I don't think so."

School fiscal plan rushed for ballot

By James Efstathiou

The Hoboken Board of Education has adopted a \$28.7 million budget for the 1989-90 school year and approved bond referendums for capital improvements totaling \$6.3 million. The bond issues and the budget will go before voters in the April 4 school board elections.

Some board members say some degree of trimming is still called for. However, because of time constraints and the lack of support on the board, no additional cuts were discussed or recommended when the board met Monday night, they said.

See SCHOOL — Page 6.

School fiscal plan rushed for ballot

Continued from Page 1

The budget was adopted by a 6-3 vote. The bond referendums were passed unanimously. Tomorrow would have been the deadline for adopting the budget.

"The budget is nothing but the traditional budget," said Gerard Costa. "There are no changes in instructional staff, custodial staff, administration and no new programs."

"The budget allows a mediocre school system to continue to stay in place and while it's doing that, it supports a patronage system that continues to give out jobs that in the long run will ensure that the system endures," said retiring board President Joseph Rafter.

Rafter, Costa and Felix Rivera voted against the budget while the six remaining trustees approved it. Aside from a \$1.2 million cut by the school superintendent prior to the budget's submission to the Hudson County superintendent of schools March 15, no substantive recommendations on spending cuts were brought before the board.

"Since we've been going through this thing for the last month, they haven't made one constructive recommendation as far as cutting any area in the budget at all," said trustee James Parina, referring to the three who voted against the spending plan. "Everybody had plenty of time to think about it. I'm going on the recommendation of the superintendent and the administration who prepared the budget."

Trustee Richard England said he would have preferred to see a modest cut in spending, but was, however, reluctant to open the door to lengthy budget talks. He hoped voters would approve the budget and

vowed to hold the line on spending in lieu of additional cuts.

"I would have liked to have seen a few dollars taken out of it, but there really wasn't an opportunity to get into a lengthy discussion because of the timing crunch," said England. "If I had opened up the door last night, in my opinion we would have had a political ballyhoo."

One trustee who voted against the plan refused to duck responsibility for not working harder to implement cuts.

"I'll accept responsibility for not having done any work on that budget," said Costa. "The truth is between January and now, our agenda was full, and we had very little time to work on that budget, and secondly there was no support on the board for any kind of substantive change in that budget."

In a related development, negotiations between the board and the union representing teachers, clerks, attendance officers, and drivers broke down, according to union and board representatives.

An existing three-year contract between the board and the Hoboken Teachers Association (HTA) expires June 30.

HTA President Jim Germanio said he has advised his members not to attend extra-curricular meetings called for in the district's Level 3 corrective action plan. He is applying to the state Public Employment Relations Commission for a mediator to assist in the dispute, he said.

England, who serves on the negotiating committee, said, "They're entitled to do what they have to do as long as they don't negatively impact the district."

'80 scandal sours sewage bonds

By James Efstathiou

A financial company executive's connection with a 1980 racketeering scandal in Weehawken has soured the view of two commissioners of the Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewage Authority toward a potential underwriter for the \$95 million upgrade of Hoboken's sewage treatment plant.

Commissioners Edward Keating and Roger Dorian have said they will vote against any proposal which includes Jersey Capital Markets Group of Hoboken. The firm is one of six being considered as potential underwriters by the authority,

which is expected to select the underwriting team for the job at a meeting tonight.

The problem, according to Keating and Dorian, is not with Jersey Capital but with one of its principals, Jay Booth, and his involvement nine years ago with a New York firm that was poised to back a proposed \$17 million chicken processing plant on the Weehawken waterfront.

The chicken plant turned out to be an elaborate scheme to hike bond money involving then-Mayor Wally Lindsley, who was eventually convicted and served a jail sentence on racketeering charges. Former

state Sen. David Friedland testified as a government witness in the case.

While Booth was not indicted and did not testify publicly on the case, his involvement as a representative of Thomson McKinnon Securities, Inc. has raised doubts in the minds of Weehawken's representatives on the sewage authority.

"So long as Jay Booth is associated with the firm of Jersey Capital, Weehawken will have no business with that firm," said Roger Dorian, a member of the authority's finance committee, which will recommend underwriters to the full commission.

"We would hope that our colleagues from Union City and Hoboken would respect our wishes and understand that that bond issue, had it gone through, would have bankrupted the Township of Weehawken."

"I have a real problem with that guy," said Keating. "I don't know how he's risen from the ashes like a phoenix."

Booth was unavailable for comment.

But Jerry O'Connor, an executive vice president of Jersey Capital, said Booth's involvement with the scandal is unrelated to the firm's current operations and that concern over his participation is misguided.

"I think it's completely irrelevant because number one, Thomson McKinnon was completely exonerated and secondly, maybe of greater impact, is the substantial amount of underwriting we have done at Jersey Capital," said O'Connor. "The question should be, 'Who would best underwrite this deal for the benefit of the three towns?'"

Jersey Capital, a leading New Jersey-based underwriter, has been involved in a number of multi-million dollar bond issues across the state and in Hudson County since it was founded in 1983. It is one of five underwriters handling a \$104 million bond issue for improvements at the Hudson County Corrections Facility and was recently chosen to participate in a \$45 million project at North Bergen's Woodcliff treatment plant.

Other members of the authority say Booth's prior association with the chicken-plant scandal is not grounds to disqualify Jersey Capital as a potential underwriter.

According to Abe Anton, a Union City representative on the authority and the county's chief financial officer, Jersey Capital's track record and local address make it worthy of consideration.

"I just don't see what the major concern is for something that happened many years ago," said Anton. "I think we would be remiss if we didn't consider someone in our own county with an excellent background for a role in this undertaking."

Frank Raia, one of three Hoboken representatives on the authority and chairman of the group's finance committee, said business considerations alone would preface his recommendation for underwriters.

"The only thing I know is the company," said Raia. "I'm looking for the best deal for the three municipalities."

The need to select bankers or the upgrade in a timely fashion is critical, according to authority chairman Richard Volti.

The city of Hoboken, which retains control over the plant until the authority purchases it, is under a federal consent order to upgrade the facility.

'Dream Street' has parking problem

Continued from Page 1

petto's house on Hudson Street for electricity and that was what they had their lunches at the Meyer Hotel," McFeely remembered.

Alice Galmann, who has a real estate office at Washington Street near 11th Street, said that what finally got to residents was the lack of parking spaces. She was asked by neighbors to address the City Council.

"People told me they were treated rudely and with disrespect. The filming crew was not sensitive to the needs of the town or the people they were imposing on," Galmann said.

"Hoboken is generally a friendly, very neighborly place — a place where people go out of their way to be nice. I think people became angry when they saw parking spaces being taken up and seeing other people who don't live in the neighborhood have parking spaces reserved for them. That was the final straw," she added.

Galmann, McFeely and other uptown residents said they found it galling that an out-of-town catering company was hired to feed the film crew instead of a local business.

Although she admits hiring a Philadelphia catering company, Kennedy said the food and supplies are bought locally.

"This is all meaningless," she said because she is leaving Hoboken. "I'm going to buy my roast beef in Weehawken."

She said the production has invested \$3 million into Hoboken since it began filming. She attributes that cost to rents — \$15,000 a month for office space and the cost of lumber to build sets, locations fees, food, gas, paying union wages, and payments to off-duty police officers to patrol the streets during shooting.

Peter Pastorelli, location manager, said location fees ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 have been given to local businesses and contributions have been made to local charitable organizations including the Elks, Kids in Need, churches

and 20 tickets were bought for the Hoboken Firemen's Widow Fund annual dance.

Pasculli questions the amount of money the production company officials claim was invested in the city. "I think it is exaggerated. But then, she is in the entertainment business so that is understandable," the mayor said.

McFeely said she does not see any evidence of money being invested in Hoboken. "People say look at all the money. What money? I see them back like aliens. I am annoyed to think this was put upon us without consulting us. Why didn't someone ring the doorbell and ask, 'Do you mind?'"

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who represents the ward, said Pasculli erred by not setting rules before the company began filming. He agreed that the filming should have been stopped but said the city should try to find ways to work with the film industry. "We never had this problem before. What Pasculli is doing is typical and it gives us a bad image with the business community — that the City of Hoboken is inept."

Pasculli said he has continued the ongoing practice of the previous administration. He added that he has asked for an ordinance to set up guidelines.

Still, neither residents nor politicians seemed bothered that "Dream Street" was leaving Washington Street.

Even Vito Buzzerio, who owns Vito's Italian Deli at Eighth Street and was paid a location fee for an interior shot of his store, was not sad to see the crew to go. "It was nice for a change but I can't say I am sorry they're leaving. Maybe I'll miss them in a month."

McFeely did not mince words.

"Frankly I have no sympathy for them at all. We don't need this nonsense — being treated shabbily, told where to walk or where to cross the street. Why don't they go over to Jersey City? Maybe Mayor Cucci needs them."

Hoboken's 'Dream Street' has parking woes

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Glamour, shlamour. Hoboken residents would rather have a parking space when they come home at the end of the day instead of the prestige of a Hollywood film production.

And so the general reaction yesterday from uptown Washington Street residents was quite positive when they learned that Mayor Patrick Pasculli had stopped the filming of "Dream Street," a television drama about a working class Hoboken family.

The crew is in Hudson County filming the last episode for this season and the crew vehicles and equipment

take parking space that is highly coveted in the mile square city.

Producer Brooke Kennedy was still waiting for an official word from the mayor. "All I know is what I have read in the newspaper," Kennedy said. "I haven't heard officially that it is sundown and I have to get out of town," she said.

"This is not an administration that sits down and says, 'How can we do this best?' This is an administration that just says no," she added.

Pasculli said he spoke to Kennedy two weeks ago about the problem and that "she assured me that the neighborhood would be satisfied and that

certainly did not occur."

Kennedy will pack up her crew and leave because she will not stay in a town where she is not wanted, she said. She had planned to establish a permanent studio here for next year's season, she said.

The filming of "Dream Street" — its first episode is scheduled to air on NBC next month — has caused quite the stir among uptown residents. This is particularly evident among those who live in the Washington and Hudson street area between 8th and 12th streets. Residents said the company overstayed its welcome.

"I started making telephone calls

two months ago to the mayor, police chief, Joe Della Fave. I called David Roberts out of desperation," yesterday said resident Margaret McFeely. "It just shows that if you yell long enough, they finally hear you," she added.

The company lost its welcome as a result of the number of filming days, coupled with the "enormity of the equipment" and the lack of parking spaces, she said.

"When they filmed 'On the Waterfront' in 1952, there was none of this nonsense. They used Mrs. (Kitty) Re-

See 'DREAM STREET' — Page 6.

Firm protests Hoboken sewer plant bid award

By Emily M. Smith

The second lowest bidder in an improvement project at the Hoboken sewage treatment plant has filed a protest with the Hudson County Utilities Authority claiming the lowest bidder's application was amended after the bids were opened.

HCUA received the protest yesterday from Morganti, Mars, Normel Joint Venture, a construction company in Ridgefield, Conn., which lost part of the contract because its bid was \$1.6 million higher than the lowest bidder.

The contract for work on the plant's waste water treatment system was awarded to Taylor Woodrow Con-

struction Corp., New York City.

It was not clear last night whether the move would delay work being done on the plant which serves Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City.

Morganti, at \$32.2 million, was the low bidder in a second contract awarded for work on solid waste processing at the plant. Three other contractor's submitted bids for that work.

Taylor's bid for that contract was \$35.7 million. NAB Construction of College Point, N.Y., was the high bidder with \$42.5 million.

In its letter yesterday to HCUA, Morganti states that Taylor's total contract cost was modified after all the bids were opened and announced in mid-March. The firm claims that Tay-

lor's bid was removed from the announcement area by an unnamed member of HCUA and resubmitted 20 minutes later.

The total contract bid submitted by Taylor was then \$63 million, according to the letter. The original figure was not mentioned in the letter.

But on a bid summary by Lawler, Matusky and Skelly Engineers stated that Taylor's bid was increased by \$117,692.19.

Lawyers for HCUA are researching the matter and were not prepared to suggest a course of action at the agency's meeting last night.

The third and highest bidder for the project was NAB Construction with a bid of \$85.5 million.

Morganti's letter also states that Taylor's bid did not include a complete listing of project subcontractors and failed to include a designation of structural steel and miscellaneous steel subcontractors as required by state statute.

Taylor's proposal also did not contain certifications as required by Proposed Prime or Subcontractors Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and the Environmental Protection Agency, Morganti claimed.

The firm claims that if it is not awarded the contract for the waste water processing, "it will result in severe financial harm to the Morganti, Mars, Normel Joint Venture in that it will be deprived of the opportunity to

earn the profit it could realize by performing said contract."

In other business, HCUA passed a resolution to limit the total contract price of a sewage project between HCUA, Jersey City Sewerage Authority and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission to \$5.4 million.

The commissioners also authorized payment to Metcalf & Eddy of \$16,546.79 for engineering and contract claims for the West New York sewage treatment plant upgrade.

An additional payment of \$18,365.07 to Metcalf & Eddy for an engineering and contract claim was approved for the improvements being done on the North Bergen Woodcliff sewage treatment plant.

Hoboken opens housing probe

Council committee to investigate tenant selection process

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-24-89

HOBOKEN—After years of allegations of politicking and pay-offs in the way tenants are chosen for subsidized housing, the City Council has decided to conduct an investigation.

The inquiry is aimed at confirming or denying long-standing rumors about the selection process for the city's 4,160 units of

subsidized housing, council members said yesterday. The investigation would also require council members, often accused of influencing the selection process, to examine their own activities. "I determined that, as the City Council, it's high time we did something about these allegations," council President Robert A. Ranieri said.

Ranieri formed a three-member committee yesterday to begin

the investigation. Councilman Steve Cappiello will chair the committee, whose other members are Councilmen Thomas Newman and Richard Del Boccio.

Ranieri said he expects the members to meet next week, determine their methods of investigation and to present a report to the council in 30 days.

There are 1,443 public housing apartments here run solely with federal funds; 1,311 apartments

are managed by Applied Housing Associates, a private company that receives federal subsidies; and 1,406 other apartments are in privately run, subsidized buildings.

Because of the allegations, as well as a new set of rules established by the federal government for subsidized housing, the city's Housing Authority and some complexes adopted new selection methods last year.

Newman, who asked Ranieri to form the committee, said he is especially concerned about the "City Council Hardship List." Residents deemed "hardship cases" by elected officials are placed on that list; and are given priority for placement in Applied Housing.

Council members say they often recommend that residents be placed on this list, especially those recently forced from their



STEVE CAPPIELLO
Will head committee

homes by fires or condo conversions, those living in dilapidated apartments and the elderly or sick. But there is no clear definition of "hardship."

Waterfront project

Dell'Aquila facing fines

Feds warn developer on asbestos

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-21-89

HOBOKEN—Federal prosecutors have charged that developer Anthony Dell'Aquila violated a U.S. District Court's orders to properly handle asbestos, a known carcinogen, at his vast waterfront construction site.

The allegations, in papers filed in U.S. District Court in Newark on Friday, could lead to hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines for Dell'Aquila, a lingerie manufacturer who owns 94 acres of prime northern waterfront land.

According to the court papers filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Environmental Protection Agency, Dell'Aquila "has once again blatantly and cavalierly violated (the federal court's) order for preliminary injunction issued Aug. 5, 1988."

Dell'Aquila, ordered by Judge John W. Bissell to stop knocking down asbestos-laden buildings without taking federally mandated environmental safety precautions, has begun demolition without

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Refunds sought

Mayor wants parley on tax mess

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-23-89

HOBOKEN—Mayor Patrick Pasculli, angered by the city assessor's plans to challenge some residents' property tax refunds ordered by Hudson County, yesterday demanded a special meeting with the official.

The mayor said his request is an attempt to appease many residents who came to City Hall to pick up refund checks and were told they would have to go to state Tax Court to fight for them. For the residents, already suffering from the highest land assessments in the county, the refusals have been an added blow.

"I do not believe property owners in Hoboken should be put through the emotional and

financial strain of a tax appeal, and win a judgment and then have to face a new trial in the state Tax Court," Pasculli said in a letter to Tax Assessor Hugh McGuire.

He requested that McGuire respond to him in writing with details of all tax appeals and the reasons they have not been settled. Pasculli said about 210 reductions were granted.

McGuire, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, has told county tax officials that he disagrees with their reduction of property assessments. In every case where residents argued that their land was assessed at too high a value, the county reduced the assessments on appeal, said County Tax Administrator Stanley Kosakowski.

"We went up there all in good

"I do not believe property owners in Hoboken should be put through the emotional and financial strain of a tax appeal, and win a judgment and then have to face a new trial in the state Tax Court."

MAYOR PASCULLI

spirits thinking we were going to get something back finally," said Washington Street resident Florence Spagnoli. "But that wasn't the case."

She said her taxes jumped \$2,700 this year. After hiring a realty consultant to help with her appeal, obtaining a \$60,000 re-

duction on the land assessment, Spagnoli said she went to McGuire's office to pick up a \$1,081 check and was forced to leave empty handed.

Park Avenue resident Gertrude Olsen, who suffered a similar fate, said the plot on which her house stands jumped in

value from \$10,000 to \$194,000 after last year's revaluation.

"They say it's not the house that's worth so much, it's the ground," Olsen said. "Is the ground gold in Hoboken or do we have gold in the yard, I wonder?"

A 1-by-100-foot strip of land, known as a "front foot," is assessed here in many neighborhoods at about \$10,000, Kosakowski said. The same strip in most neighborhoods of Jersey City is assessed at about \$1,000, he said.

After an appeal, the county Board of Taxation, headed by Thomas P. Higgins, knocked down Olsen's assessment to \$166,000, she said.

The county sent her to City Hall for a refund check, but there was none.



PATRICK PASCULLI
He's not happy

Although appointed locally, the tax assessor answers to the county, and municipal officials are not supposed to interfere with his work, said Jack Raney, superintendent of the local property tax office of the state Taxes Division.

Collection of parking fees eyed

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The Hoboken Law Department is drafting an ordinance concerning the collection of parking tickets in an attempt to recover from \$1 to \$3 million in outstanding fines.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday said that he has asked the department to write legislation allowing the city to collect money for traffic tickets through direct deposits to banks.

The city has about 200,000 delinquent parking tickets representing millions of dollars, he said. But because the volume of parking tickets is so great, municipal court clerks are having difficulty keeping up with the processing of incoming fees and cannot go after delinquent ticket holders, he said.

About 300 tickets in connection with street sweeping are written a day, according to the Department of Public Works.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack, upon Pasculli's request, is recommending that the city begin a "lock box" system in which ticket holders could mail their tickets and checks to a post office box.

The bank would process the tickets and checks and give the city a daily deposit record, he said. The city has been negotiating with the Trust Company of New Jersey.

The service should not cost the city any money because administrative costs would be absorbed by the bank, he said.

Newark has a lock box system, he said. Municipal clerks should have more time to recover money from outstanding bills, he said.

Parks plan question

Council gives SHOD the boot

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-23-89

HOBOKEN—The City Council last night unanimously voted against an ordinance reserving the city's waterfront property for public parks, ensuring that the question will be on the May 9 municipal ballot.

A vote for the parks and open space will also be a vote against a \$620 million, 31-acre, mixed-use development proposed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli, supporters and opponents of the parks ordinance agreed.

Members of Save Hoboken from Over-Development said they are pleased that the question will be placed

on the ballot, although they disagreed with arguments council members made against the parks plan.

"Everyone presumes to speak for the public," SHOD member Sada Fretz said. "Now we'll get to see what the public really wants."

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Indicted school system plumber faces possible job suspension

Continued from Page 1

from an FBI investigation last year into allegations that Rotondi had extorted money, approximately \$1,500 from Ram Excavating of Jersey City.

The FBI seized Board of Education records, including documents relating to Ram Excavating, last fall. The indictment, the culmination of a six-month investigation, does not signal the end of the bureau's involvement in Hoboken, Timpono said.

"This indictment would end this incident," Timpono said. "It does not end our investigation into corruption in Hoboken."

The indictment charges Rotondi with extorting money from Ram Excavating between January and March, 1986. It is believed that part of the probe centers on emergency repairs at Hoboken High School following a watermain break in January 1986.

The break occurred in the middle of a holiday weekend, prompting Rotondi and then business administrator Anthony Romano to bring in Ram Excavating for emergency repairs. The bill for that job was

later called into question at a school board meeting, but was eventually paid by the board.

Federal District Court Judge Nicholas Politan is expected to hear the case.

Indicted school plumber faces suspension from job

By James Efstathiou

A Hoboken school plumber indicted by a federal grand jury on extortion charges is likely to be suspended from his job pending the outcome of the case.

Anthony Rotondi, the Hoboken Board of Education plumber since 1974, was indicted Wednesday on two counts of extortion and one count of obstruction of justice, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Timpono.

Rotondi is accused of extorting money from a Jersey City company which had done

work for the school board.

Superintendent of Schools Walter Fine would not comment on the case since he had yet to receive formal notification of the indictment. He did, however, speak in general terms on what could happen under the circumstances.

"If and when I hear officially, I recommend suspension with pay," said Fine. "If the person is found to be guilty, then we go for dismissal."

Rotondi, the district's sole engineer in charge of plumbing in all school buildings, earns \$26,534 a year, according to board business administrator

Anthony Curko. He is the front-line repairman for maintenance and minor repairs in school buildings and is responsible for finding qualified vendors for heavy repairs.

Rotondi could not be reached for comment. His attorney, Dennis McAlevy, declined to comment.

According to Timpono, Rotondi was indicted for obstruction of justice because he asked witnesses testifying before the federal grand jury to omit certain information.

The extortion charges stem

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HOBOKEN

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During the past three months, the group devised a petition, campaigned, collected signatures and fought in two courts to force council members to adopt the ordinance or allow it to go before the voters.

Although not all council members agree the plan Pasculli has proposed is the best for the city, nearly all said development can bring tax revenues to the city. Group members contend the planned development might cost more money to service than it brings in.

"I have always supported development on the waterfront as long as it's sensible, it's well-planned and it's within our capacities so that it doesn't overwhelm," Councilman Joseph Della Fave said. He added that he wants the city to consider a smaller development plan, and study its financial feasibility.

Councilman Edwin Duroy said that since developers would be required to provide some affordable housing along with their work on the waterfront, the development is more appealing than a park, which would not provide housing.

In an argument against the feasibility of the parks plan, Councilman Thomas Newman presented figures he said he obtained from studies conducted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the financial consultant for Pasculli's plan.

It would cost about \$20 million to clear city piers and stabilize them, make necessary changes to the sewer system and add roadways in preparation for building a park, Newman said. In addition, the park would cost about \$15 per square foot for grass, bushes and other features.

"You're talking about \$38 million, I think, to do a barebones, low-cost park," Newman said. "All of this to show this is big bucks, and where are we going to get this money?"

SHOD members have contacted a number of private and public sources that help fund parks, Fretz said. The group contends it can find funds for a park without reaching into taxpayer's pockets.

"People present this as nice parks versus financial reality," Fretz said, "and that's misrepresentation."

ASBESTOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

properly clearing away asbestos, the prosecutors charge.

Prosecutors also assert that Dell'Aquila, who averted fines and was allowed to begin work on the site by striking an agreement with the government in November, has violated the terms of the deal.

They also charge that Dell'Aquila may not have offered prosecutors correct information leading to that agreement, and that he continually fails to provide the government with other materials they have requested.

Dell'Aquila's attorneys have not yet received the papers, but plan to respond promptly, said attorney Paul DeFilippo of Crumby, Del Deo, Olan, Griffith & Vecchione of Newark.

"We believe we're in full compliance with all regulations," DeFilippo said. He added that the law firm cannot comment further until allegations there have been the allegations.

During inspections on Feb. 26, 27 and 28, Robert Fitzpatrick, an EPA scientist, found two buildings on Dell'Aquila's site had just been demolished, according to the papers. Debris and sections of one of those buildings, known as the Sullivan building, tested positive for asbestos.

Builders working with asbestos are supposed to notify the EPA of all sensitive demolition, wet the asbestos before hazardous particles can fly into the air, and dispose of it following a strict set of guidelines. Dell'Aquila violated all these rules, the papers say.

Each day of such violations of the federal Clean Air Act could lead to up to \$25,000 in fines. In addition to those fines, prosecutors are seeking sanctions against Dell'Aquila for the new set of violations. The amount of those fines would be determined by the court.

The developer agreed in November to file regular updates with the EPA until the asbestos cleanup is complete. Dell'Aquila filed two reports — both several days late — then dropped the practice in mid-January, the papers say.

\$28.7M Hoboken budget adopted

HOBOKEN—The Board of Education last night approved a \$28.7 million spending plan for the 1989-90 school year. The budget will be presented to voters on the April 4 school ballot.

The budget of \$28,742,470 represents nearly a 17 percent increase in local school taxes, although school spending remains on a par with last year's \$28.7 million budget. City residents would be forced to shoulder more of the burden because of a drop in state and federal aid. The current tax rate is \$17 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Three of the board's nine members — President Joseph Rafer and Trustees Gerard Costa and Felix Rivera — voted against the plan, saying pupils here could be educated more efficiently.

The board also unanimously approved four bond issue referendums to be presented to voters on April 4. They are:

- \$1,125,000 for school fire safety and electrical safety work.
- A \$2,086,000 bond for improvements to John F. Kennedy Stadium, used by Hoboken High School.
- \$692,000 for boiler and water system replacements and repairs.
- \$635,000 for elevator replacements and repairs.

The district must upgrade its fire safety and electrical systems in order to meet state regulations, Rafer said.

—RANDI GLATZER.

Sewage agency moves toward control of plant

By James Efstathiou

The Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewerage Authority cleared an important hurdle in its drive to take control of the Hoboken sewage treatment plant this week when it approved in general the terms and conditions of service contracts governing its charges to future customers.

While the service contracts endorsed by the authority Monday remain subject to the approval of each municipality and are likely to change, their acceptance enabled

the agency to submit a funding application to the state Local Finance Board yesterday. The board's approval is required before the authority can proceed with financing a state-mandated upgrade of the troubled plant.

"The service contract is now with our local finance board application," said authority Chairman Richard Wolf. The board is expected to review the application before the end of the month.

The authority is moving to acquire the Hoboken plant and connecting systems of the sewerage net-

work. The plant treats sewage from the three municipalities. In addition, the agency is laying the groundwork to finance the plant's upgrade to a secondary treatment facility.

Like a number of municipalities in the state, Hoboken is currently banned from accepting new sewer hookups until it upgrades its sewage plant to secondary treatment.

Hoboken currently owns and operates the plant. It charges Weehawken and Union City a flat rate for sewage treatment. Users in Hoboken are charged on a per volume basis.

In the future, the authority is

expected to charge users in all three municipalities on a per volume basis. Exactly how much the users will pay will be spelled out in the service contracts which each municipal government must approve.

At its previous meeting, action on the service contracts was put off following concern by Hudson County Utilities Authority (HCUA) Executive Director George Crimmins Jr.

The issue was whether new service contracts would jeopardize a \$29 million federal grant for the upgrade obtained under the provisions of an existing 1986 agreement between the

HCUA and the municipalities.

"I think they passed an agreement which is subject to the approval of the municipalities," said Crimmins. "The big issue is still the 1986 service agreement."

Those questions primarily concern the HCUA's status as grantsman for sewage plants throughout the county. Specifically, they deal with rights and responsibilities the HCUA will maintain following the authority's takeover.

Wolf predicted that HCUA's responsibility as a grants administrator was "not going to disappear."

Assessor to appeal reductions

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli sent a tersely worded letter to the tax assessor asking for an explanation for why nearly 200 residential taxpayers may be brought to tax court. Tax Assessor Hugh McGuire said yesterday he has no problem with the mayor's request and will have a written report ready for Monday. At issue is the question of whether McGuire will contest the lowering of property values allowed by the Hudson County Board of Taxation.

"I am most concerned with the proposal of the tax assessor to appeal the judgments of the Hudson County Board of Taxation. As I understand it, the county board reduced the assessment on approximately 210 residential properties in the city," Pasculli's letter read. "I do not believe property owners in Hoboken should be put through the emotional and financial strain of a tax appeal and win a judgment and then have to face a new trial in the state Tax Court. Please give me an explanation in writing as to why

these matters cannot be finalized," he wrote. McGuire said he has made no decision as of yet. "I am reviewing the judgments now," he said, adding "the majority I will appeal." After Real Properties Associates completed a city-wide revaluation of properties at full and fair market values last year, about 1,000 property owners contested the new values. McGuire said. Of that number, 700 were settled and never went before the county. Of the 300 cases that were heard, the county has decided

on nearly 200 residential properties. But, McGuire said, the problem with the reductions is that the county reduced the value of the property owners' land and not the houses. So McGuire said that the city has got to fight the 300 cases this year or risk having 2,000 residents contest their values next year. McGuire said state laws says that land must be assessed uniformly. "Taxpayers have to be treated equally," McGuire said. "He (Pasculli) has the right to ask for an explanation and I will give him one," he added.

Hoboken site

Asbestos may be blessing Dell'Aquila may use arrests as way out of fines

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-31-89

HOBOKEN—The owner of an East Orange asbestos-removal company and four of his employees appeared in Municipal Court here yesterday to answer charges that they dumped asbestos on property owned by developer Anthony Dell'Aquila.

According to an attorney for Dell'Aquila, the Wednesday night incident could free Dell'Aquila from paying hundreds of thousands of dollars of federal fines levied against him for not properly clearing away asbestos, a known carcinogen.

But according to Ted Bennett, owner of Direct Asbestos Inc., the four employees were not dumping the hazardous material at the site. Instead, they were hired by Dell'Aquila to clean the site, and were merely waiting for

the 300 bags of asbestos-tainted material to be carted away.

"Basically, it was an argument between the contractor and the property owner over what the material was and where it came from," said Gary Garetano, a regional hazardous materials program coordinator for the state Environmental Protection Department.

Municipal Court Judge Ross London was told by Bennett that security guards on the 1500 Hudson St. property stopped four of his workers Wednesday night and called police, saying the men were illegally dumping asbestos.

According to police and other city workers at the scene, a five-hour fiasco followed. Garetano, called to investigate, noted that the 300 bags were properly sealed, and therefore posed no health hazard.

Police charged the men with criminal trespassing and criminal mischief, saying

they dumped the bags. But Garetano said they should not be charged for an environmental violation.

"I don't know whether the material was from the property or not," said Garetano, who said some of it appeared to have been recently removed from Dell'Aquila's buildings.

Bennett said Dell'Aquila still owes him \$40,000 from a \$75,000 contract that began last summer. Despite that, Bennett said, the company agreed to do some additional work for the developer.

"Were you ever advised to stay away from the property?" London asked the company owner.

"No," Bennett answered.

Dell'Aquila was charged by federal prosecutors on March 17 with "blatantly and cavalierly" violating a judge's order to properly handle of asbestos on the northern waterfront property.

Clerk rejects bracketing of slates; ballot slot is by luck of the draw

Continued from Page 1

mayoral candidates must be aligned in the same column to determine the total number of votes to calculate the margin of victory, Farina said.

Similarly, council candidates must appear in the same column for the same reason.

"If anyone doesn't like what I am doing, have them take me to court," Farina said yesterday.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who lost the mayoralty last November to Pasculli, said that the non-bracketing of candidates "seems like the fairest and proper way of doing things. Clearly, the mayor and council candidates need to be in separate columns.

"Voters are intelligent

enough to choose the council team they want even if the names are not directly under or next to the mayoral candidate," added Della Fave.

The third mayoral candidate, Florence Amato, is running as an independent.

The first of today's drawings will determine the order of the mayoral candidates in Column A.

Then a drawing for the council candidates will be conducted. State law allows bracketing of candidates running for the same office. Thus, Pasculli's running mates and Della Fave's will be allowed to be grouped together in Column B.

Farina did not like the idea of determining the council candidates' order on the ballot based upon the order of the

mayoral candidates, because he said that independent council candidates such as Liz Falco, Roy Huelbig and two candidates running as a team, Save Hoboken from Over-Development, Dan Tumpson and Steve Busch would then have to wait until the seventh slot to appear on the ballot.

Now, their names have the chance of appearing first in Column B, Farina said.

Huelbig, a retired firefighter, had planned to complain about the bracketing and was pleased by Farina's reconsideration.

Annette Illing, a member of SHOD, agreed that the non-bracketing of mayoral candidates with council candidates "is the only fair way" to design the ballot.

Ballot is luck of draw

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken City Clerk James Farina says he will not allow the bracketing of mayoral candidates with council candidates in the May 9 municipal election.

The clerk had letters hand-delivered to the candidates informing them that he will not allow the bracketing because state law forbids it. He also said he wanted to give a fair chance of a good placement on the ballot to independent candidates.

The lottery drawing to determine the order of candidates on the May ballot where a four-year mayoral term and three at-large city council seats are at stake was scheduled for 2 p.m. today in the clerk's office.

The clerk's decision was lauded yesterday by council candidates who are not attached to a mayoral candidate.

"This is the fairest way, the way we always did it," Farina said.

The clerk had initially planned to allow mayoral candidates to be bracketed with council candidates based on a Superior Court ruling handed down last August by Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys. The judge said Mayor Patrick Pasculli could be grouped with his running mate, Councilman Richard Del Boccio, on the special election ballot last November.

Humphreys dismissed a complaint filed by Council President Robert Ranieri, a mayoral candidate, who contended that the grouping of a mayoral candidate with council candidates violated municipal election laws.

Attorneys who argued different sides of the issue last fall later agreed that Humphreys' decision set a precedent to allow bracketing in future municipal elections in Hoboken.

But Farina and Law Director Eugene O'Connell said yesterday that Humphreys' ruling was only applicable to general elections in which candidates are elected by a majority.

In municipal elections, such as the upcoming May election, state law under the Faulkner Act mandates that candidates win by a 50-percent-plus margin, they said. Thus,

Violations are found in Hoboken election

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch 3-29-89

HOBOKEN—Federal authorities have found a pattern of voting violations in records seized from the November election here, and have impaneled a grand jury to investigate, a federal prosecutor disclosed yesterday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter F. Timpone said the grand jury and a team of FBI agents studying the election documents probably will complete their investigation by mid-June.

The date means results of the investigation will not be revealed until after the May 9 municipal election here. Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who filed suit alleging a series of voting irregularities after he was narrowly defeated for the mayoralty on Nov. 8, is once again challenging Mayor Patrick Pasculli for that office.

"We will continue to see if we have federal election crimes," Timpone said. "It appears that we do."

He declined to say whether evidence in the records points to any particular political group or person, or whether any indictments are pending, citing the sensitivity of the federal grand jury investigation.

According to Timpone, the records reveal that:

- Some people voted twice.
- Votes were cast by people not living in Hoboken.
- Some people listed City Hall as their address.
- Votes may have been cast using the names of city residents who never went to the polls.

What is most interesting about the discrepancies, Timpone said, is that they appear in a systematic, regular fashion throughout

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PROBE

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both the ballot books and absentee ballots.

FBI agents, poring over 22,000 pages of ballot books and about 1,000 absentee ballots, are about 75 percent through with their work, he said.

"They've come up with some interesting things, and they've got to decide what to do with them," Timpone said.

Some of the information may be relevant to Della Fave's suit, he said. As soon as they are certain that the government's criminal investigation would not be compromised, federal authorities may obtain a federal court order allowing some of the information to be released to Assignment Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City, Timpone said.

"This is information that he may decide the parties before him could use," Timpone said. "We just don't want to release it too soon."

Days after the November election, Della Fave filed suit in Superior Court asking for a recount. His suit named Pasculli, City Clerk James J. Farina, County Clerk Frank E. Rodgers and County Elections Superintendent Harvey L. Birne. Since

the FBI had already taken control of ballot boxes and all Hoboken election documents, Della Fave was not able to begin the recount until January, when the FBI released the voting boxes.

He found more than 40 incorrectly tallied votes, not enough to overturn Pasculli's 409-vote victory, City Council President Robert A. Ranieri, another November mayoral contender, also turned up numerous votes that should have been tallied in his favor.

The FBI will continue to hold the election documents, and will give photocopies of ballot books pages to local election officials before May 9, Timpone said.

Deputy Elections Superintendent Betty Outlaw said county officials may provide additional supervision for the May election. They may request that a few more state troopers than usual be assigned to polling places, and are planning better training for county-hired election deputies, she said.

"I think Mr. Birne and I would be more concerned, and would have to be certain beyond the shadow of a doubt that the deputies know the election law," she said.

November balloting

Pasculli: U.S. vote probe will cloud May 9 election

By RANDI GLATZER

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—A federal prosecutor's disclosure that a grand jury is investigating November election violations here was "inappropriate" and will cloud upcoming balloting, Mayor Patrick Pasculli charged yesterday.

The mayor made the statements in a hastily arranged press conference in his City Hall office. He was flanked by Assemblyman Bernard F. Kenny Jr., D-Hoboken; Donald Scarinci, attorney for the Hudson County Democratic Organization; city Law Director Eugene O'Connell; and Deputy City Clerk Robert Drasheff.

"These statements continue to

place a cloud over the electorate, and I believe the cloud should be removed before the voters go to the polls in the May 9 election," Pasculli said. He said such comments drive voters away from the polls, instead of ensuring free, open elections.

To clear up the situation, the officials said, they have called on the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, Rep. Frank J. Guarini, D-Jersey City, U.S. Sens. Frank R. Lautenberg, D-Secaucus, and Bill Bradley, D-Morris, as well as County Elections Superintendent Harvey L. Birne.

In a story published in The Hudson Dispatch yesterday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter F. Timpone said voting records seized after the Nov. 8 election revealed a consistent pattern of federal election law violations.

He said a grand jury is now looking into the violations, which include instances of people casting two ballots, voting although they no longer lived here and casting votes in the names of people who never went to the polls.

Pasculli said he also believes the prosecutors are being inadvertently "used" by local poli-

ticians. Although Timpone declined to say whether the election violations point to any particular group or person, Pasculli said he was concerned because the comments fall in line with allegations in a suit filed by Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

Della Fave was in November and is once again a challenger for Pasculli's mayoral seat.

Della Fave said yesterday he was not disturbed by the published reports, but said he hopes federal investigators will quickly conclude the inquiry.

"I wish it were completed, but the fact that they've been so thorough is a good sign," Della Fave said.

The officials said they are assisting help to prevent further disclosures from prosecutors, ensure a quick conclusion to the federal investigation and regain control of the voter registration books and absentee ballots now being held by the FBI office in Newark.

"Basically I think the comments made by the assistant U.S. attorney during the course of an investigation are inappropriate," said Scarinci.

City clerk focuses on ballot dilemma

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

The Hudson Dispatch

A state Superior Court ruling, a state law and a legal opinion from the Hoboken Law Department are driving City Clerk James Farina to frustration in his attempts to design a May 9 election ballot.

After meeting with Hudson County election officials for nearly two hours, Farina said he had seriously considered going to Superior Court today to ask Judge Burrell Ives Humphreys how he should set up the municipal ballot.

Instead, Farina is now planning to invite a member of the Hoboken Law Department and a representative from the county election office to oversee the ballot drawing scheduled in Hoboken tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Although Farina is not asking for trouble, he expects the candidates who are not running on a ticket with a mayoral candidate to have some questions about the fairness in the drawing procedure.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli is running on a ticket with council candidates Richard Del Boccio, Lourdes Arroyo and Richard England. Councilman Joseph Della Fave is running for mayor with council candidates Helen Cunniff, Abraham Lao and Joseph Rafta.

Daniel Tumpson and Steve Busch are running as a team for two at-large council seats representing Save Hoboken from Over-Development. Florence Amato, former school principal Liz Falco and Roy Huelbig, a

City clerk focuses on ballot dilemma

representing Save Hoboken from Over-Development. Florence Amato, former school principal Liz Falco and Roy Huelbig, a

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City clerk focuses on ballot dilemma

Continued from Page 1

former firefighter, are running as independent candidates for city council.

Hoboken has never had the bracketing of mayoral candidates with council seats on its municipal ballot.

"The fairest way is the way we always did it, without bracketing," Farina said.

Under that system, the names of mayoral candidates were drawn from the lottery box. Then, in a separate drawing, the position of each council candidate was determined.

Consequently, the names of the mayoral candidate did not necessarily have a relationship with any of nearby council candidate names on the ballot.

Last fall, after City Council President Robert Ranieri, an independent mayoral candidate in November, sought a legal ruling on the bracketing of Pasculli with Del Boccio in the special election, Judge Humphreys allowed bracketing.

The mayor's name appeared directly above Del Boccio's on the voting ballot. But because it was a special election, the election of candidates by a 50-percent-plus margin required by the state's Faulkner Act didn't apply, Farina said.

In preparation for tomorrow's drawing and Farina's need to design a municipal ballot, the city clerk asked Allen Ross, of the county election office, who oversaw the voting machines four years ago when Councilman Steve Cappiello was defeated by the late Mayor Thomas Vezzetti, to meet with him in Hoboken.

The two soon discovered logistic problems.

The May election is under the jurisdiction of the Faulkner Act; thus candidates must win by a 50-percent-plus margin. Ross said that each time a lever for mayor is pulled, the action sets off a trigger to determine the total vote so that the margin of victory can also be determined.

Consequently, the names of the mayoral candidates must be in a separate column from the council candidates. Ross said that it is also necessary to place all the council candidates in the same column to determine an accurate number

of votes cast, again to determine the 50 percent plus one. "Humphreys' ruling creates problems for the 50-percent-plus-one rule mandated by the Faulkner Act," Farina said.

Farina and Ross, with the assistance of Law Director Eugene O'Connell and Assistant City Attorney Thomas Calligy, decided that the mayoral candidates will run vertically in column A. The names of the council candidates will run vertically in Column B.

However, Della Fave and Pasculli's running mates will begin directly across from their names. Farina offered candidates the option to be grouped together based on a legal opinion given to him March 1 by Calligy who, in light of Humphreys' ruling, wrote:

"It is suggested that you notify each candidate of the option to be bracketed with other candidates before the time scheduled for the drawing."

To further complicate matters, Farina is also troubled by a sense of fair play. For example, council candidates who are not attached to a mayoral candidate look like they're seventh best. "In this system, there is no fairness in the ballot position for independent candidates," Farina said.

The six council candidates running on a mayoral ticket will have their positions determined by the mayoral candidates, whose names will be drawn first. The two SHOD members, Falco and Huelbig, will have their names on the ballot after those six opponents.

"People in Hoboken will be able to find our names," said Rafta, who added that issues in the election will be trust, commitment and competence.

7 go for 4 in Hoboken school race

By James Efstathiou

Seven candidates will compete for four seats on the Hoboken Board of Education in the April 4 election.

The field is split into two groups, with four candidates competing for a full three-year term and three candidates vying to fill the remaining two years of Vivian Flora-Distaso's term. Flora-Distaso left the board last September.

The school district is currently implementing a corrective action plan after failing a state Level 3 review. The schools, like many in New Jersey, are facing significant cuts in state funding in the upcoming budget year.

The candidates for a three-year term are:

• **James Farina, 41**, a lifelong Hoboken resident seeking his sixth consecutive term on the school board.

Farina, the Hoboken city clerk, is running on a ticket backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli. He was appointed twice to the board and elected twice, and he has served as vice president for two years.

Farina attended public schools and completed his high school education following his discharge from the U.S. Army. He is married with two children, one of whom attends a parochial school. His wife, Patricia, is a clerk in the school board's administrative offices.

"I've been on the school board through most of the bad times," he said. "If I get re-elected, I'd like to help the school district get certified and be brought up to a standard so the children get the quality education they need and deserve and I'd like to be part of that."

• **Michael Rossano, 28**, who is making his third bid for the school board on the administration-backed ticket. He ran two unsuccessful campaigns for the board in 1986 and 1987.

A lifelong resident of Hoboken, Rossano attended private schools, then went to St. Peter's College in Jersey City for a business degree. He is employed as a foreign equities coordinator for a Wall Street bank.

"I'm running because I think I can make a difference



Trincellita

Belfiore

Rossano

Farina

DePalma

Hottendorf

with the people I'm running with," Rossano said. "I'm a very dedicated individual and the board needs input from different community members. As a parent, I'm concerned for the education of my children and the children of my community as a whole."

Rossano is the single parent of twin daughters, both of whom attend private schools. He is a former president of the St. Francis Catholic Youth Organization and a member of the St. Francis Parish Council.

• **Otto Hottendorf, 80**, a school board trustee for 34 years before his defeat at the polls in 1986, who is running as an independent.

A lifelong resident of Hoboken, Hottendorf is a graduate of Hoboken High School, which was later renamed Dearest School. He continued his education through correspondence courses, vocational training and educational workshops. He is a retired supervisor with a meat processing company.

First appointed to the board in 1952, Hottendorf served as board president several times during his tenure. He was director of the New Jersey School Boards Association for 15 years and represented Hudson County for that organization.

"When I left the school board the amount of money to be raised by local taxes was approximately \$5.5 million per year and today the amount to be raised by local taxes is \$15.5 million," said Hottendorf. "In other words, it went up in three years 300 percent. That's the real reason I'm running because the present membership apparently doesn't know the value of money."

• **William Pittman, 40**, a Hoboken firefighter who is making his first bid for public office as an independent school board candidate.

Born in North Carolina, Pittman has lived most of his life in Hoboken and is a graduate of Hoboken High School. He attended classes at Jersey City State College before joining the U.S. Air Force where he was a flight engineer during the Vietnam War.

Upon his discharge from the service, Pittman joined the Hoboken police department, where he worked for nine years. In 1965, he became a firefighter and is currently stationed at the Observer Highway Truck No. 2.

"I see the children down on the western end of the city and I want them to have a thorough education without putting an extra tax burden on the residents," said Pittman. "There's room for reform. I feel that the board and the people of the community, the parents in particular, must work together to achieve these goals."

The candidates for a two-year term:

• **Perry Belfiore, 37**, a local contractor and former teacher, who is making his third run as an independent candidate for the school board. He previously served eight months on the board when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Vivian Flora-Distaso.

DePalma is running with Pasculli's support. She has one daughter who attends Catholic school.

Originally from Jersey City, DePalma has lived in Hoboken since 1973. She attended Catholic high school and went on to Jersey City State College where she earned advanced degrees in education and state certification as a school supervisor and reading specialist. DePalma has taught eighth grade in the Jersey City school system for 16 years.

"I feel that as a concerned citizen, I have a lot to offer and that I understand the needs of an urban school district," DePalma said. "I feel that the Hoboken school system has made a lot of progress and that I can help them to continue in the right direction so that our children will be prepared to meet the needs of their future."

• **Nick Trincellita, 38**, a Hoboken firefighter who is making his first run for public office.

A lifelong resident of Hoboken, Trincellita graduated from Hoboken High School and attended Rutgers University for two years. He has been a firefighter for 10 years and is currently stationed at Observer Highway Truck No. 2.

"I'm running to improve the education for children in the city of Hoboken," said Trincellita. "I think it's been improved a little over the last couple of years, but there's a lot of potential there. I don't see any reason for ours not being one of the better school systems in the state."

Trincellita is married with one son in public school.

• **Claire DePalma, 37**, who is making her first bid for public office as part of an administration-backed ticket. She has served on the school board since December when she was appointed by the board to fill the unexpired term of Vivian Flora-Distaso.

DePalma is running with Pasculli's support. She has one daughter who attends Catholic school.

Originally from Jersey City, DePalma has lived in Hoboken since 1973. She attended Catholic high school and went on to Jersey City State College where she earned advanced degrees in education and state certification as a school supervisor and reading specialist. DePalma has taught eighth grade in the Jersey City school system for 16 years.

"I feel that as a concerned citizen, I have a lot to offer and that I understand the needs of an urban school district," DePalma said. "I feel that the Hoboken school system has made a lot of progress and that I can help them to continue in the right direction so that our children will be prepared to meet the needs of their future."

Tax assessor, mayor reach an agreement

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Tax Assessor Hugh McGuire have reached an accord concerning the assessor's plans to contest nearly 200 reductions in property valuation allowed by the Hudson County Tax Board.

"I have instructed Hugh McGuire to contact each property owner to arrange a conference to avoid the cost and further aggravation of another tax appeal," Pasculli said yesterday.

"I understand that Mr. McGuire has a professional responsibility, but he should also understand the plight of the Hoboken taxpayer," he added.

McGuire said that he would comply with the mayor's request.

Pasculli called in the assessor after he learned that McGuire planned to fight at the state Tax Court the valuations of properties that were lowered by the county tax board.

Pasculli said homeowners have spent enough money on legal fees and invested enough of their time in contesting the valuations of their property before the county. He said he wanted to avoid repeating the cost and experience of going before the state.

But McGuire explained that the county lowered the value of land on nearly 100 residential properties. He said that if the reduction in value were allowed to stand, then "every taxpayer on individual blocks will have automatic tax appeals for 1989. It would disrupt the uniformity — I have to proceed with the appeals."

The city conducted its first city-wide revaluation of properties at "full and fair market values" last year for the first time in 17 years.

The company hired to perform the work was Real Properties Appraisals.

In a related matter, McGuire said, he is withholding the city's last payment to RPA because he is dissatisfied with some of its work, specifically its defense of its values before the county.

McGuire said he also is displeased with some of the computer programming.

The assessor said he will withhold payment of \$43,000 plus a \$38,000 payment for another bill until he is satisfied with the work.

McGuire met yesterday with RPA representatives in an effort to resolve the issue.

Sewage commissioner wants raise

HOBOKEN—It was nearly three hours after the Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewerage Authority launched yet another of its weekly "special meetings" last night when Weehawken Councilman Edward Keating decided to ask for a raise.

"How long will we be shackled with this?" asked Keating, one of seven authority commissioners. He said he is tired of meeting for hours week after week, plus working on his own time, for "a meager \$100 a month."

The authority, formed last year to build and operate sewage treatment systems that meet state and federal standards, is attempting to get the plans in motion.

Authority Secretary Edwin J. Chiusi, who also is Hoboken business administrator, said pay for commissioners is currently capped at \$1,200 per year. It is believed commissioners can be paid up to about \$2,500 per year under state law. All three municipalities would have to pass ordinances to authorize the raise, Chiusi said.

The worst part of all, said Keating, is that commissioners have not seen a paycheck yet. Commissioners will eventually be paid out of sewage system "user fees."

—RANDI GLATZER.

Florio will announce in Hoboken

HOBOKEN—Rep. James J. Florio has chosen this city to announce his bid for his party's gubernatorial nomination next week, a campaign spokesman said.

Florio, D-Camden, will make the announcement at Stevens Tech at 9:45 a.m. Monday. At 1:45 p.m., he will make a second announcement closer to home, on the boardwalk in Asbury Park, said Mada Liebman.

Born in Brooklyn, Florio was introduced to New Jersey when his father Vincent, a ship painter, found work at shipyards in this city.

The 51-year-old lost the 1981 governor's race to Thomas H. Kean by fewer than 1,800 votes.

He has been formally endorsed for governor by Democratic leaders in Hudson and Bergen counties.

—RANDI GLATZER.

APRIL 1989

THROUGH

APRIL 1990

Big issues face voters

Budgets in many districts could be rejected

The Hudson Dispatch 4-3-89

The April 4 Board of Education elections, which traditionally draw the lowest voter turnout of any balloting, is nonetheless marked this year by some of the most urgent issues facing Hudson County residents.

In addition to selecting school trustees, voters in Hoboken, North Bergen, Weehawken, Secaucus and Union City decide on new budgets. In Hoboken and North Bergen, the proposed budgets would bring big tax increases.

In Union City, the budget could bring state financial intervention.

The budget issues are part of a mounting statewide crisis concerning education spending. The New Jersey Education Association predicts that as many as 40 percent of the 550 districts where elections occur will have their spending plans rejected, far more than the 25 percent that usually must amend their budgets at voters' request.

The reasons for the rejections involve soaring education costs, pay increases and Gov. Thomas H. Kean's education budget, which is less generous than in previous years.

Kean has given schools about \$284 million less than the amount considered full funding under education law, a move the education association is attempting to block through legal action.

Aside from fiscal matters, voters also have a chance next week to renew or retract their support of trustees in several districts where evidence of patronage, academic deficiencies and administrative problems have been observed by state investigators.

At the same time, in Hoboken and Union City, where upcoming municipal races already are being discussed avidly, the votes cast April 4 may demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of political organizations gearing up for those races.

HOBOKEN: Voters consider a 1989-90 school budget of \$18.1 million. The spending plan includes a nearly 17 percent increase in taxes, mostly due to cutbacks in state and federal aid.

Seven candidates are vying for four Board of Education seats: three three-year terms, and a two-year slot to complete one trustee's unexpired term.

For the three-year terms, both five-term trustee James J. Farina — who is also city clerk — and Michael Rossano, a Wall Street investment coordinator, are running on a slate backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

Running independently are Otto Hottendorf, who was a school trustee from 1952 until 1986, and firefighter William Pittmann.

For the two-year term, teacher Claire DePalma is running with Pasculli's blessing to retain the seat she has held since December, when she was appointed to replace a board member who left the city. Her opponents are contractor Peter Belfiore and firefighter Nick Tricellita.

WEHAWKEN: The Board of Education that takes over in April is expected to have the task of carrying out state-mandated changes resulting from Level 3 monitoring. The 1,305-student district has come under scrutiny for charges of management

shortcomings. Voters will be asked to approve an \$8,073,960 budget for 1989-90. Spending would increase less than 2 percent above last year. But because state aid to the district was slashed roughly in half, taxpayers are being asked to shoulder a greater portion of school costs.

Eight candidates are running for three three-year terms. Hudson Freeholder Francis Pizzuta, who has served three terms, is seeking re-election. Vincent Visci, a former newspaper pressman, is running to retain the seat to which he was appointed in August.

Joseph Atallo, a property management expert who served two terms on the board and was its vice president for two years, is hoping to return. Running with Atallo is Christopher Haines, a Wall Street computer analyst. Others in the race are Roger Quintana, a member of the township Rent Leveling Board; Keith Engelhardt, a senior at Weehawken High School; Firefighter Michael Jennings; and computer programmer John Cadornini.

UNION CITY: The seven-candidate race for three Board of Education posts has taken a back seat thus far to the school district's recent budget problems.

Voters will be asked to approve a 1989-90 school budget that calls for the largest tax increase in recent years. After a dispute with county Schools Superintendent Louis C. Accella, the board earlier this month increased its proposed budget to more than \$43 million by adding \$843,000 for teachers, textbooks and other classroom services.

The budget, if approved, will add \$13.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value to the school portion of the local property tax bill.

In addition, voters will be asked to approve a special tax levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 to close a projected \$375,000 shortfall in this year's budget.

With school officials conceding that both tax questions are likely to be rejected by voters and mounting pressures here both to hold the line on taxes and to increase school funding in the face of close state scrutiny, state Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman may have to step in and resolve the budget crisis.

The Alliance Civic Association, which controls City Hall and eight of the nine board seats, is fielding one of the two full candidate tickets here. Alliance, building momentum for Mayor Robert Menendez's anticipated bid for re-election to the Assembly in November, and perhaps also to the Board of Commissioners in May 1990, has been campaigning in force.

Alliance is being challenged by a slate aligned with attorney Leonard J. Altamura's Transformation organization. Transformation has been unable to gain a toehold in government here since it emerged several years ago, but the group's three candidates have stepped up their campaigning recently, appearing at school board meetings.

Running on the Alliance slate are Rafael Fraguela, a Passaic schoolteacher who is the only

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SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

incumbent on the ballot; Michael Leggiero, executive director of the North Hudson Community Action Corp.; and Milagros Villareal, a Democratic county committeewoman who works in the Hoboken school system.

Transformation's candidates are Florence Morrell, Jose Ramon Fernandez and Helga Milan Vera. Celin Valdivia is an independent.

SECAUCUS: Here, four candidates, including two incumbents, are vying for three trusteeships. The proposed budget of \$12.2 million is only \$700,000 more than the current package.

The issue cited most often by candidates as the district's major challenge is declining enrollment. They call for increased efforts to attract tuition-paying pupils from other districts.

The youngest candidate, 30-year-old lawyer Philip J. Passanante, is making his first try for elected office.

Up for re-election is board Vice President Florence Rainone, who is seeking a fourth three-year term. Board President Carmen Ross is seeking his fifth three-year term as a trustee. He has been chairman of the Finance, Labor Negotiations, Buildings and Grounds, and Community Relations committees.

Also running is Thomas Troyer, a teacher in the Union City school system, who was a trustee from 1973 to 1976 and 1979 to 1982.

NORTH BERGEN: While rival slates have vigorously campaigned during the past two years, this year's ballot features just one challenger to the three incumbents seeking re-election.

The incumbents are Charlotte DiGennaro, 57, a Sears, Roebuck & Co. customer sales representative; Edward LaTour, 45, a programming analyst for a Connecticut company; and Louis Cardenas, 44, a General Mills sales manager who was appointed after Gus Fuller resigned.

Gadfly Herbert Shaw, 59, an electrical mechanic, is the sole challenger.

The township's political regulars are backing the incumbents. Shaw, who calls himself an opponent of political machines and regularly charges the township administration with patronage and waste, is running as an independent, as he has in previous board races.

A proposed \$34.4 million school budget, calling for \$28.3 million to be raised through property taxes, is also on the ballot.

The proposed budget would add \$8 to the tax rate of \$80.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

BERGEN RACES

FORT LEE: Three candidates are running unopposed for three-year spots on the nine-member Board of Education here. The proposed spending plan for the school system is \$22.2 million. The candidates are: Jo-Ann Ferrante Rivera, Susan I. Candee, and Frances L. Stark.

FAIRVIEW: Three candidates are running unopposed for three-year Board of Education seats. The proposed budget is \$6.8 million. The candidates are Rose Yenco, Linda Maxwell and Joan Dolecki.

EDGEWATER: Two candidates are running unopposed for two Board of Education seats here. Linda Merse is running for a one-year seat, and Andrew Kalipetis is running for a three-year seat. The proposed budget is \$3.02 million.

RIDGEFIELD: Thomas Fenelle and Ross Arzabito are running unopposed for two three-year Board of Education seats. The proposed budget is \$6.8 million.

RIDGEFIELD PARK: Four candidates here are vying for three three-year Board of Education seats. They are Rose Gatto Bramley, Robert Binetti, Raymond Dwyer Jr. and Lorraine DiArchangel. The proposed budget is \$6.5 million.

CLIFFSIDE PARK: Simon G. Bracco, Mario Pepe and Linda Wendler Valentini are running unopposed for three seats on the Board of Education here. Voters will be asked to approve a \$9.2 million budget and a \$600,000 capital outlay budget to fund improvement of the borough's schools.

PALISADES PARK: A fierce battle has erupted here for six seats on the nine-member Board of Education. Two opposing slates, Sensible Schools, representing supporters of the current board, and Save Our Schools, which says reforms are needed in the borough's school administration, have each hosted six candidates, and one independent is running.

Also, voters will be asked to approve a \$9.3 million budget.

The six candidates for three, three-year seats are: John Cerutti, John Egan and Linda Sherwood, who are all on the Save Our Schools slate. Sanford Farber, Thomas O'Malley and Jeanette Zuckerman are on the Sensible Schools slate.

Angela Burns of Sensible Schools and Paul Russo of Save Our Schools are running for one two-year seat. Running for two one-year seats are Mary Beth Smelz and Patrick James Tansey from Save Our Schools. Also running for the seats are Barbara Leifer-Woods, an independent, and Nicholas DeCarlo and Peter Marose, from the Sensible Schools slate.

FBI, National Guard may police Hoboken election

By Jo-Ann Moriarty J.J. 4-3-89

Hudson County election officials are asking the National Guard and the FBI to help police the May 9 municipal election in Hoboken, according to Betty Outlaw, deputy superintendent of elections.

The Board of Elections commissioners are expected this week to discuss the possibility of getting outside help for Hoboken in the wake of an ongoing FBI investigation of irregularities in last November's special election, Outlaw said.

"Julius (Canter, commission chairman) asked me to look into having FBI agents with badges assigned to Hoboken and also the National Guard," said Outlaw.

The outside assistance may be necessary to beef up any assistance that the county can afford to provide, such as the assignment of election deputies at polling places, she said.

The commissioners, Outlaw and Superintendent of Elections Harvey Birne are ex-

pected to discuss the issue this week.

Meanwhile, 15 campaign workers of Councilman Joseph Della Fave, a mayoral candidate in May, submitted affidavits to Outlaw before the weekend asking that the election workers assigned to three polling places last November not be reappointed.

Attorney Ray Korona, who represents the Della Fave campaign, said the request is being made because of the ongoing FBI probe and because of the numerous complaints and allegations of voting irregularities that surfaced from three polling places, two at 221 Jackson St. and one at the Wallace School.

"Until the investigation and court proceedings are completed, we don't think it is in the interest of the voters or the integrity of the election to put back the same people in places where there were all of these problems," Korona said.

The FBI confiscated voting books, balloting material, ab-

FBI, National Guard may police election

Continued from Page 1

he said. Until it concludes its investigation, the FBI is planning to keep the registration books and provide copies of voting sheets to be used in the May election, according to Della Fave campaign workers.

The affidavits signed by Della Fave campaign workers claimed that board workers went into voting booths, that they discussed with voters the candidates they should vote for, and that the judges of district board workers allowed voters to go into the voting booths, leave and "go back in again to vote for the second time," Korona said.

It is up to the Board of Elections to reappoint board workers, Outlaw said. The affidavits will be discussed this week and the county may decide to relocate some board workers, reappoint them or not reappoint them until the outcome of the FBI probe, she said.

"The commissioners have the right to change the names of the board workers even on the day of the election," she said.

Della Fave has a lawsuit pending against the county and Pasculli campaign stemming from the last election. The litigation is on hold pending the conclusion of the federal investigation, Korona said.

Pasculli is calling for a speedy conclusion to the federal probe and criticized an assistant U.S. attorney who last week revealed that the investigation focused on voters voting twice, votes cast by people no longer living in Hoboken and possible fraudulent votes.

Dick Lavinthal, a spokesman for U.S. Attorney Sam Alito, would not confirm or deny the veracity of the comments. Comments attributed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Timpone "stemmed from a misunderstanding. Nonetheless they were unauthorized. The policy of this office is not to comment on any investigation unless and until charges are brought. No charges have been filed, therefore no conclusion should be drawn," Lavinthal said in a prepared statement.

Pasculli said that "as far as the allegations are concerned, in our conversations with Mr. Sam Alito, I stand by his statements."

See FBI — Page 9.

6 THE JERSEY JOURNAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1989

Voters to elect school board trustees

By Blanca M. Quintanilla

Voters in several West and North Hudson municipalities go to the polls today to elect trustees to the school boards and vote on school budgets.

In Union City, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., while balloting in Hoboken, Weehawken, North Bergen and Kearny will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. Voters in East Newark and Secaucus will vote from 1 to 9 p.m. at the regular polling places.

In addition to electing school board members, voters in these communities will be asked to support the proposed 1989-1990 budgets and other issues.

In Union City, seven candidates are competing for three three-year terms on the school board. Mayor Robert Menendez' Alliance Civic Association controls all but one seat on the nine-member school panel. Alliance is supporting three candidates.

The lone non-Alliance trustee, Joseph Bonacci Sr., is not running for reelection. Incumbent trustees Rafael Fraguela, Millie Villareal and Michael Leggiero are the Alliance-backed candidates.

Attorney Leonard Altamura's Transformation political group has entered three candidates in the race. They are Florence Morrell, Jose Ramon Fernandez and Helga Milan Vera.

Celin Valdivia is the only independent candidate. The biggest issue in this election are the district's financial problems and a proposed \$43 million budget.

If passed as proposed, the school budget would add \$13.17 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to the tax rate.

A second question on the ballot will determine whether an additional tax of about \$1.40 per \$1,000 assessed valuation will be levied against property owners to make up for a projected \$460,000 deficit in the current school year. The city tax rate is \$123.30 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

In North Bergen, voters



will choose three of four candidates and decide on the \$35.7 million budget.

North Bergen residents have turned down the budget the last 15 consecutive years. This year, it seems the budget — which ballooned \$5 million over last year's \$30.8 million — will encounter a similar fate, according to school board secretary John J. Duffy.

Taxpayers must raise \$28.3 million of the total budget. If it passes, it will add \$8 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation to the tax rate.

Meanwhile, three incumbents backed by the administration will seek re-election to the Board of Education. They are Charlotte DiGennaro, 57; Louis Cardenas, 44, who is running for his first full term; and Edward T. LaTour, 45.

Independent candidate Herbert Shaw, 59, who has run unsuccessfully for a seat on the board for 15 consecutive years, is trying again.

Voters in Weehawken will select three school trustees from a field of eight. Among the incumbent candidates are board veteran Francis Pizzuta, 50, who is seeking his fourth consecutive term on the board and Vincent Visci, 65, who was appointed to the board last August to fill the unexpired term of retiring trustee Lynn Arricale. The race features political newcomers in Keith Engelhardt, an 18-year-old senior at Weehawken High School, Christopher Haines, 22, a Wall Street analyst, and John Cadornini, 40, a computer programmer.

Candidates who have been unsuccessful in the past include Joseph Atallo, 34, a former two-term school board trustee; Roger Quintana, 31, a

small business owner and real estate broker, running in his fifth campaign; and Michael Jennings, 50, a township firefighter who is making his second try for a seat on the school board.

The Weehawken school district is implementing a state-mandated corrective action plan as a result of its failure to pass Level III monitoring. The district, like many in the state, is facing the upcoming budget year with drastic reductions in state funding.

Weehawken voters will be asked to approve an \$8 million total budget and a \$287,500 capital outlay question for building improvements. If the budget passes as proposed, taxpayers will have to raise \$6.2 to support school spending. The increase will add approximately \$7 per \$1,000 in assessed property valuation.

In Hoboken, seven candidates will complete for four seats on the school board. The field is split into two groups competing for a full three-year term and three candidates vying to fill the remaining two years of Vivian Flora-Distaso's term, who left the board last September.

Those running for a full term include James Farina, 41, who is seeking his sixth consecutive term on the board; Michael Rossano, 28, who ran twice unsuccessfully; Otto Hottendorf, 80, a former school board president; and William Pittman, 40, an independent running for the first time.

The candidates for the two-year term are Perry Belfiore, 37, an incumbent; Nick Tricellita, 38, and Claire DePalma, 37, who was appointed to fill in Flora-Distaso's unexpired term.

Hoboken taxpayers are also facing six public questions and are being asked to support a \$28.7 million total budget. If the budget passes as proposed, taxpayers will raise \$18.1 million. Voters will be asked to approve a \$1.1 million bond issue to modernize the district's safety system, a \$2.6 million bond for renovations to the John F. Kennedy Stadium, an-

other \$682,000 to upgrade boilers and the hot water system, and an additional \$635,000 to make repairs to the elevators.

In Kearny, voters will be asked to approve a \$20.1 million current expense budget, another \$193,365 in capital outlay, and a \$1.6 million separate bond proposal for school improvements.

Seven candidates are vying for three three-year seats on the school board. The incumbents are Daniel G. Gray, Mary S. Torres, and Richard Weber. The challengers are Michael P. Cicchino, Adeline Boyd and Ronald Graham.

In Secaucus, residents will be asked to elect three members to three-year terms on the board. Four candidates, including two incumbents are vying for the seats. The incumbents are Carmen L. Ross and Florence Rainone. Philip J. Passanante and former school board member Thomas Troyer are also running.

Secaucus residents are being asked to vote on a \$9.8 million current expense budget and a \$250,000 capital outlay. The expense budget is up 6.3 percent increase over last year, representing a 57 cent rise per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

In East Newark, all four candidates are incumbents and face no opposition. Rose Evaristo, Carmen Cadete, William Lupkovich and Juan Cosme are seeking three-year terms.

East Newark residents are also being asked to vote on a \$794,518 budget that will raise local property taxes by approximately two percent.

DISPATCH 4-5-89

School plumber pleads innocent

By RANDI GLATZER
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—The chief plumber for the Board of Education pleaded innocent yesterday to federal charges that he extorted \$1,500 from a Jersey City contractor in 1986.

Anthony Rotondi, 46, was arraigned before Judge Nicholas Politan in U.S. District Court in Newark on a three-count indictment.

The indictment is the first handed up since federal authorities launched a probe in mid-1988 involving the board and two contractors.

Federal prosecutors charge Rotondi demanded kickbacks from Ram Excavation, accepted the money, and later obstructed justice by trying to influence a witness to lie about the \$1,500 payment. A trial before Politan is scheduled for May 23.

If convicted, Rotondi could face a total of 35 years in prison and fines of \$500,000, federal prosecutors said.

Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine yesterday said he planned to suspend Rotondi today without pay. He said that at the board's next meeting on April 11, he will recommend a suspension without pay.

"I would have to await the outcome of a trial before a dismissal," Fine said. "If he's not guilty, what grounds do I have for dismissing him?"

As chief plumber, Rotondi earns \$26,534 yearly for handling routine plumbing jobs in the city's eight schools such as repairing toilets and water fountains, board Secretary Anthony Curko said. He said major jobs are handled by outside firms.

Rotondi and his attorney, Patricia Costello of the Hoboken firm McAlevy & Costello, declined to comment on the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter F. Timpone, who is handling the case for

the government, also refused to comment.

The charges apparently are related to Ram Excavation's emergency work performed after a water main broke outside Hoboken High School in January 1986.

Officials later reported that Ram Excavation was the only company available to do the job, and the contract required no board approval because of the emergency situation. The company does plumbing work in addition to excavation.

Some board members later questioned the \$11,000 contract, because the cost seemed higher than it should have been.

In July 1988, federal officials subpoenaed board records for the contract.

The extortion and obstruction of justice took place on Jan. 18, 1986, and in March 1986, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors charge Rotondi instructed a witness, Clarence Robertson, to leave out critical information about the contract when he was called to testify so Rotondi could avoid criminal charges. Records for numerous board contracts with Mayo Lynch & Associates of Secaucus, an engineering firm, also were seized. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the investigation is continuing.

School budgets defeated

Old guard gets voters' approval



Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, center, hands out election pamphlets yesterday to Carmella Tricollini outside Alliance Civic Association's headquarters on Bergenline Avenue. Standing in the doorway at left is Commissioner Bruce D. Walter.

By JEFFREY RUBIN
The Hudson Dispatch 4-5-89

Election Dispatches
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For Hudson County, yesterday's Board of Education elections were marked by the trademarks of board races from years past — tight voter turnout, the general support of entrenched political organizations and the expected rejection of virtually all proposed school budgets.

In Hoboken, North Bergen and Union City, slates backed by the incumbent administrations won easily even as increased school budgets put forth by representatives of those administrations were sent back by voters seeking relief from taxes that are becoming more onerous with the loss of state urban aid. Weehawken's budget was also rejected.

The rejection of the budgets reflected predictions by the New Jersey School Boards Association that spending plans in up to 50 percent of the 550 elections statewide would go down to defeat. Only in Secaucus, where the increase was comparatively mild, did the budget pass.

Union City's Alliance Civic Association, testing its strength with an eye toward the municipal election next year, found more

support than it bargained for as its candidates overwhelmingly won in districts where it never has before.

In Hoboken, a candidates' slate backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli also steamrolled to victory, but because it ran virtually unopposed, it is unclear how this will affect its chances for reelection next month.

Here is a roundup of the races:

UNION CITY: Voters here sent a clear message yesterday — no new taxes — as they defeated a \$43 million spending plan for 1989-90 and a special levy designed to close a gap in the current budget.

The 1989-90 budget, a controversial plan that includes one of the largest tax increases in recent years, went down to a huge defeat.

But voters apparently separated the budget from the people responsible for drafting it, electing three trustees backed by the organization that has controlled the school board since 1984.

Three Alliance Civic Association candidates — Millagros Villarreal, Michael Leggiero and incumbent Trustee Raphael Fraguola — won after one of the city's quietest campaigns in many years.

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ELECTION AT A GLANCE

HUDSON RACES		SECAUCUS	
HOBOKEN School Budget: \$18.1 million		SECAUCUS School Tax Levy: \$9.8 million	
Current Expense	Yes 739	Yes	451
No	902	No	404
Capital Outlay	Yes 495	Yes	430
No	495	No	407
Stadium Bond: \$2.46 million	Yes 1,137	Philip Passanante	471
No	769	Carmen Ross	417
		Florence Rainone	405
		Thomas Troyer	460
Safety Bond: \$1.12 million		NORTH BERGEN School Budget: \$34.4 million	
Yes	940	Current Expense	404
No	785	No	2,644
Boilers, Hot Water Bond: \$472,000	Yes 909	Capital Outlay	334
No	923	Yes	2,645
Elevators Bond: \$435,000	Yes 851	3 three-year terms	3,096
No	870	No	2,907
		Charlotte DiGenaro	2,907
		Edward LaTour	2,878
		Louis Cardenas	2,878
		Herbert Shaw	745
Michael Rossano	1,857	BERGEN RACES	
James J. Farina	1,811	FORT LEE School Budget: \$22.2 million	
Otto Hottendorf	1,263	Yes	400
William Pittmann	1,029	No	330
		3 three-year terms	330
Claire DePalma	1,294	Jo-Ann F. Rivera	538
Peter Belfiore	920	Susan I. Candee	531
Nick Trincicelli	278	Frances L. Stark	523
WEEHAWKEN School Budget: \$8,873,940		PALISADES PARK 3 three-year terms	
Current Expense	490	John Cerutti	1,585
Yes	547	John Egan	1,400
Capital Outlay	480	Linda Sheppard	1,334
Yes	540	Santoro Farber	1,125
No	540	Thomas O'Malley	1,005
3 three-year terms	640	Jenette Zuckerman	1,000
Joseph Atallo	590	1 two-year term	1,459
Francis Pizzuta	570	Paul Russo	957
Christopher Haines	441	Angela Burns	957
Michael Jennings	350	FAIRVIEW School Budget: \$4.8 million	
Vincent Viscio	308	Yes	114
Roger Quintana	258	No	129
Keith Engelhardt	230	3 three-year terms	114
John Cadornini	230	Linda Maxwell	196
UNION CITY School Budget: \$43 million		Rose Yenco	186
Current Expense	809	Joan Dolecki	180
Yes	2,406	CLIFFSIDE PARK School Budget: \$9.2 million	
Capital Outlay	776	Yes	433
Yes	2,445	No	474
No	2,445	School Improvement: \$400,000	443
3 three-year seats	3,516	Yes	443
Millagros Villarreal	3,483	No	495
Michael Leggiero	3,450	3 three-year terms	495
Rafael Fraguola	2,274	Linda W. Valentin	828
Jose R. Fernandez	2,382	Simon G. Bracco	822
Florence Morrill	2,049	Mario Pepe	810
Helga Milan Vera	2,049		
Celin Valdivia	681		

—Compiled by DAVID LIPPMAN.

Funding slashed

STATE AID SHOCKER

Service cuts, tax hikes on way, officials say

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN
The Hudson Dispatch 4-5-89

Hudson County mayors and other political leaders said property taxes will go up and services will be cut after the state announced yesterday that aid to nine county municipalities will be slashed \$10 million below 1988 levels.

City officials have expected since January deep cuts in the Aid to Distressed Cities Program, which was reduced to \$7C million from \$120 million last year. But many were shocked when state officials announced exactly how much aid each community will get.

The funding announcement precedes a rally in Trenton tomorrow of mayors, school officials and municipal union executives calling for increased aid

for the state's financially troubled urban areas.

Overall, Hudson County municipalities received \$12.7 million, \$10.05 less than last year's \$22.75 million allotment, a 44 percent dropoff. But the funding decline range widely among the eight municipalities receiving urban aid.

Kearny, which was allocated 80 percent less than in 1988, had the greatest decline, while Hoboken, which had its 1989 level cut by 20 percent, suffered the least.

East Newark, which was granted \$150,000 in 1988 was eliminated from the program this year.

Jersey City, the second hardest-hit municipality among those that received aid, was allocated \$6.5 million, 43 percent less than the \$11.5 million it received last

STATE GRANTS DROP

Municipality	1988	1989	% Change
Bayonne	1.15	.85	-30%
Hoboken	2.5	2.0	-20%
East Newark	.15	0	N/A
Jersey City	11.5	6.5	-43%
Kearny	2.95	.587	-80%
North Bergen	1.0	.442	-56%
Union City	.066	.350	+31%
Weehawken	1.4	.475	-66%
West New York	1.45	1.1	-24%
TOTAL	22.75	12.7	-44%

Amounts in millions of dollars.
Source: Community Affairs Department, Trenton.

year. Mayor Anthony R. Cucci said the shortfall would lead to budget cuts in every municipal department.

"What we received is a far cry from the \$31 million we requested," said Cucci. He said that, if the budget were not cut, the \$5 million shortfall would lead to a tax increase of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The increase would cost the owner of

the average home in Jersey City — assessed at \$100,000 — \$100 more a year, according to Cucci.

In Union City, whose 1989 allocation is \$350,000 — 31 percent less than the \$660,506 received last year — Mayor Robert Menendez said he was deeply upset by the funding level.

"There will definitely be cuts in

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AID
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city services," said Menendez, who is also a Democratic assemblyman. "I'm not going to ask the people to pay more in taxes."

Yesterday's announcement led to renewed calls for Assembly passage of a property tax-relief package that would, among other things, add \$65 million to the Aid to Distressed Cities Program. Mayors and other political leaders across the county pledged to attend a rally in Trenton tomorrow to demand passage of the package.

"The goal (of the rally) is to get

property tax relief," said Menendez. He said buses for Trenton will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. from the municipal parking lot at Bergenline Avenue and 38th Street.

Barry Skokowski, who as director of the state Local Government Services Division is responsible for allocating the distressed cities funds, said the \$70 million now included in the program is not enough to meet municipal needs.

"I absolutely think that the extra money is needed," he said, speaking by telephone from his

Trenton office. "Let's watch very carefully what happens in Trenton over the next few weeks."

The Senate, controlled by Democrats, has approved a \$320 million school aid and tax relief plan, but Assembly consideration of the package is being held up by Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, R-Union, who says he is against additional taxes.

The plan, which Gov. Thomas H. Kean has promised to sign into law if passed by both houses, includes repeal of the \$170 million Ford Act property tax credit applied against the state income tax; an increase of the wholesale beverage tax from 7.5 to 13.3 percent; and the levy of a 3-cent tax on plastic properties.

Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski has calculated the package would bring \$40.4

million in additional aid to the county. "Unless this package is adopted, our municipalities, and the county itself, face a property tax disaster," said Janiszewski. He said that Hardwick, a candidate for governor, by refusing to allow the Assembly to consider the package, is manipulating the governmental process to his own advantage.

Menendez said that Hardwick is "single-handedly holding back the bills from consideration."

A spokesman for Hardwick said the speaker is in favor of additional aid for municipalities, but is against new taxes to raise the money. Hardwick believes that extra urban aid funds can be found by trimming the \$12 billion state budget, said the spokesman, Tom Damm.

Police policy frowns on high-speed chases

By Kery Murakami
J.J. 4-5-89

Police officers in Hudson County say they have a thousand stories about high speed chases. Ask and they'll trot out tales of careening down city streets in pursuit of fleeing suspects.

Chases, after all, are the stuff of movies and television shows. They are romantic and dangerous.

But in the aftermath of Monday's car chase in Hoboken that killed a teen-ager, Hudson County police said they'd rather avoid the chases, which often lead to tragedy.

Anything can go wrong — a pedestrian can step off a curb at the wrong time, a pothole can jar a car out of control, or the road can be slick from the rain as it was on Monday when a stolen car trying to elude police crashed into a tour bus on "Dead Man's Curve" in Hoboken.

Spokesmen for county municipalities said yesterday they enforce strict policies barring the no-holds-barred, fruit-cart-smashing chases familiar to television viewers.

The standard is the same in all the police departments. If the risk involved is greater than the value of the arrest, police officers are supposed to back off.

Traffic violations or minor offenses like a broken tail light "never warrant prolonged pursuit... at excessive speeds," according to Jersey City Police.

"The need for apprehension... must be weighed against the dangers involved," according to the policy.

The decision whether Jersey City police pursue a suspect, as in other departments in the county, is left to the ranking officer in the police radio room. Officers who disobey orders to

call off a chase face punishment, according to a general order issued by Jersey City Police Chief Walter Adams last year. Adams yesterday refused to discuss the policy.

But Edward Zloty, chief of the Hudson County Sheriff's Department, said, "The days of patrol cars flying through the streets are over." Under his department's policy, officers are ordered to "exercise safe driving practices at all times," he said.

A number of Jersey City Police officers said they agree with the regulation, noting it is common sense. Some said high speed chases are often unnecessary. They said officers can radio other cars and report in which direction the suspects are fleeing and arrange to have them blocked.

One South District officer said people in a stolen car will abandon it at the first chance after eluding police to

avoid being caught in the car.

It was not known why the suspects in Monday's chase did not get out of the car after eluding police.

A further clamp on hot-rodding police is a state law which mandates that drivers of emergency vehicles have the "duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons."

But police said Monday's accident showed that rules and regulations cannot eradicate the dangers posed by cars fleeing from police.

Weehawken police officials said Officer Joseph Burke "went by the book" in pursuing a stolen 1987 black Pontiac Monte Carlo in Monday's chase.

As the police car crossed into Hoboken in pursuit of the car, Burke notified Hoboken police. He drove his patrol car no faster than 45 mph, police said, because the rain made roads

too slick to go any faster.

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VOTE

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Rossano, defeated twice while running on the reform slate, won a three-year seat yesterday on Pasculli's slate with 1,857 votes.

Also on that ticket, City Clerk James J. Farina won his sixth term as trustee with 1,811 votes. Claire DePalma, appointed in December to fill the seat of a trustee who moved out of town, won the two-year seat with 1,294 votes. The third winner was 80-year-old Otto Hottendorf, who served the board for 34 years before being unseated in 1986.

School band use facing investigation

By Agustin Torres
J.J. 4-5-89

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There has been severe public criticism from city officials and local activists who said the Board of Education, which is dominated by the local Democratic Party aligned with the Alliance Civic Association, has used public funds and school children to benefit a partisan political function during school hours.

"It's inconceivable that, in a school district which could face a state takeover and where test scores have been very low, they would let students out of the building for political reasons," said Commissioner Charles Velli, an administration critic. "Alliance will use taxpayers' monies, children or anyone just to get any of their local, county or state candidates elected."

"I'm really not sure what the proper procedure should be," said Louis Accolla, the state Department of Education representative in Hudson County. "I will have to do some research."

On Monday, school administrators were not certain who gave the band permission to perform at a political gathering for Congressman James Florio who is seeking the Democratic Party nomination for governor. But yesterday Superintendent of Schools Richard Hanna said his assistant, Joseph Marini, handled the affair.

"We received a call on Thursday from Florio's people asking for the band and they even offered a donation that would go directly to the band," said Marini. "I thought it wouldn't be such a bad thing since it was at Stevens Institute of Technology and the county science fair was being held there."

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"The crazy thing is that most of the parents of those kids in the band are traditionally Republican and they don't know their children are being used to promote a Democrat," said Velli, who is a Democrat.

School budgets defeated

Old guard gets voters' approval

By JEFFREY RUBIN

The Hudson Dispatch 4-5-89

For Hudson County, yesterday's Board of Education elections were marked by the trademarks of board races from years past — light voter turnout, the general support of entrenched political organizations and the expected rejection of virtually all proposed school budgets.

In Hoboken, North Bergen and Union City, slates backed by the incumbent administrations won easily even as increased school budgets put forth by representatives of those administrations were sent back by voters seeking relief from taxes that are becoming

Election Dispatches appear on Page 24

more onerous with the loss of state urban aid. Weehawken's budget was also rejected.

The rejection of the budgets reflected predictions by the New Jersey School Boards Association that spending plans in up to 50 percent of the 550 elections statewide would go down to defeat. Only in Secaucus, where the increase was comparatively mild, did the budget pass.

Union City's Alliance Civic Association, testing its strength with an eye toward the municipal election next year, found more

support than it bargained for as its candidates overwhelmingly won in districts where it never has before.

In Hoboken, a candidates' slate backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli also steamrolled to victory, but because it ran virtually unopposed, it is unclear how this will affect its chances for reelection next month.

Here is a roundup of the races: **UNION CITY:** Voters here sent a clear message yesterday — no new taxes — as they defeated a \$43 million spending plan for 1989-90 and a special levy designed to close a gap in the current budget.

The 1989-90 budget, a controversial plan that includes one of the largest tax increases in recent years, went down to a huge defeat.

But voters apparently separated the budget from the people responsible for drafting it, electing three trustees backed by the organization that has controlled the school board since 1984.

Three Alliance Civic Association candidates — Millagros Villarreal, Michael Leggiero and incumbent Trustee Raphael Fraguola — won after one of the city's quietest campaigns in many years.

Please see VOTE Page 8



Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, center, hands out election pamphlets yesterday to Carmela Tricoli outside Alliance Civic Association's headquarters on Bergenline Avenue. Standing in the doorway at left is Commissioner Bruce D. Walter.

DON MCCOY THE HUDSON DISPATCH

ELECTION AT A GLANCE

HUDSON RACES	
HOBOKEN School Budget \$18.1 million	SECAUCUS School Tax Levy: \$9.4 million
Current Expense	Yes.....452
Yes.....739	No.....404
No.....902	Capital Outlay
Capital Outlay	Yes.....430
Yes.....695	No.....407
No.....895	3 three-year terms
Stadium Bond: \$2.06 million	Philip Passanante.....671
Yes.....1,137	Carmen Ross.....617
No.....769	Florence Rainone.....605
Safety Bond: \$1.72 million	Thomas Troyer.....460
Yes.....960	NORTH BERGEN
No.....785	School Budget: \$34.4 million
Boilers, Hot Water Bond: \$692,000	Current Expense
Yes.....979	Yes.....404
No.....803	Capital Outlay
Elevators Bond: \$435,000	Yes.....334
Yes.....851	No.....2,645
No.....870	3 three-year terms
3 three-year terms	Charlotte DiGennaro.....3,006
Michael Rossano.....1,857	Edward LaTour.....2,907
James J. Farina.....1,811	Louis Carrietas.....2,378
Otto Hottendorf.....1,263	Herbert Shaw.....745
William Pittmann.....1,039	BERGEN RACES
Claire DePalma.....1,024	FORT LEE
Peter Beilore.....920	School Budget—\$22.2 million
Nick Trincelita.....278	Yes.....400
WEEHAWKEN	No.....330
School Budget \$6,873,940	3 three-year terms
Current Expense	Jo-Ann F. Rivera.....538
Yes.....490	Susan I. Candee.....331
No.....547	Frances L. Stark.....523
Capital Outlay	PALISADES PARK
Yes.....48	3 three-year terms
No.....440	John Cerutti.....1,585
3 three-year terms	John Egan.....1,400
Joseph Atallo.....640	Linda Sherwood.....1,334
Francis Pizzola.....590	Sanford Farber.....1,125
Christopher Haines.....570	Thomas O'Malley.....1,005
Michael Jennings.....441	Janelle Zuckerman.....1,000
Vincent Vrocl.....308	1 two-year term
Roger Quintana.....258	Paul Russo.....1,439
Keith Engelhardt.....230	Angela Burns.....957
John Cadorini.....230	FAIRVIEW
UNION CITY	School Budget: \$6.8 million
School Budget: \$43 million	Yes.....114
Current Expense	No.....129
Yes.....809	3 three-year terms
No.....2,406	Linda Marwell.....195
Spec. Tax Levy: \$466,000	Rose Yencz.....186
Yes.....776	Joan Dolecki.....180
No.....2,645	CLIFFSIDE PARK
3 three-year seats	School Budget: \$9.2 million
Millagros Villarreal.....3,516	Yes.....433
Michael Leggiero.....3,483	No.....878
Rafael Fraguola.....3,430	School Improvement: \$600,000
Jose R. Fernandez.....2,274	Yes.....443
Florence Morrell.....2,282	No.....895
Helga Milan Vera.....2,047	3 three-year terms
Celin Valdivia.....681	Linda W. Valentin.....828
	Simon G. Bracco.....822
	Mario Pepe.....810

—Compiled by DAVID LIPPMAN.

Funding slashed

STATE AID SHOCKER

Service cuts, tax hikes on way, officials say

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN

The Hudson Dispatch 4-5-89

Hudson County mayors and other political leaders said property taxes will go up and services will be cut after the state announced yesterday that aid to nine county municipalities will be slashed \$10 million below 1988 levels.

City officials have expected since January deep cuts in the Aid to Distressed Cities Program, which was reduced to \$70 million from \$120 million last year. But many were shocked when state officials announced exactly how much aid each community will get.

The funding announcement precedes a rally in Trenton tomorrow of mayors, school officials and municipal union executives calling for increased aid

for the state's financially troubled urban areas.

Overall, Hudson County municipalities received \$12.7 million, \$10.05 less than last year's \$22.75 million allotment, a 44 percent dropoff. But the funding decline ranged widely among the eight municipalities receiving urban aid.

Kearny, which was allocated 80 percent less than in 1988, had the greatest decline, while Hoboken, which had its 1989 level cut by 20 percent, suffered the least.

East Newark, which was granted \$150,000 in 1988, was eliminated from the program this year.

Jersey City, the second hardest-hit municipality among those that received aid, was allocated \$6.5 million, 43 percent less than the \$11.5 million it received last

year. Mayor Anthony R. Cucci said the shortfall would lead to budget cuts in every municipal department.

"What we received is a far cry from the \$31 million we requested," said Cucci. He said that, if the budget were not cut, the \$5 million shortfall would lead to a tax increase of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The increase would cost the owner of

the average home in Jersey City — assessed at \$100,000 — \$100 more a year, according to Cucci.

In Union City, whose 1989 allocation is \$350,000 — 31 percent less than the \$660,506 received last year — Mayor Robert Menendez said he was deeply upset by the funding level.

"There will definitely be cuts in

Please see AID Page 12

Source: Community Affairs Department, Trenton.

AID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city services," said Menendez, who is also a Democratic assemblyman. "I'm not going to ask the people to pay more in taxes."

Yesterday's announcement led to renewed calls for Assembly passage of a property tax-relief package that would, among other things, add \$65 million to the Aid to Distressed Cities Program. Mayors and other political leaders across the county pledged to attend a rally in Trenton tomorrow to demand passage of the package.

"The goal (of the rally) is to get

property tax relief," said Menendez. He said buses for Trenton will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. from the municipal parking lot at Bergenline Avenue and 38th Street.

Barry Skokowski, who as director of the state Local Government Services Division is responsible for allocating the distressed cities funds, said the \$70 million now included in the program is not enough to meet municipal needs.

"I absolutely think that the extra money is needed," he said, speaking by telephone from his

Trenton office. "Let's watch very carefully what happens in Trenton over the next few weeks."

The Senate, controlled by Democrats, has approved a \$320 million school aid and tax relief plan, but Assembly consideration of the package is being held up by Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, R-Union, who says he is against additional taxes.

The plan, which Gov. Thomas H. Kean has promised to sign into law if passed by both houses, includes repeal of the \$170 million Ford Act property tax credit applied against the state income tax; an increase of the wholesale beverage tax from 7.5 to 13.3 percent; and the levy of a 3-cent tax on plastic properties.

Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski has calculated the package would bring \$40.4

million in additional aid to the county. "Unless this package is adopted, our municipalities, and the county itself, face a property tax disaster," said Janiszewski. He said that Hardwick, a candidate for governor, by refusing to allow the Assembly to consider the package, is manipulating the governmental process to his own advantage.

Menendez said that Hardwick is "single-handedly holding back the bills from consideration."

A spokesman for Hardwick said the speaker is in favor of additional aid for municipalities, but is against new taxes to raise the money. Hardwick believes that extra urban aid funds can be found by trimming the \$12 billion state budget, said the spokesman, Tom Damm.

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Police policy frowns on high-speed chases

By Kery Murakami

J.J. 4-5-89

Police officers in Hudson County say they have a thousand stories about high speed chases. Ask and they'll trot out tales of careening down city streets in pursuit of fleeing suspects.

Chases, after all, are the stuff of movies and television shows. They are romantic and dangerous.

But in the aftermath of Monday's car chase in Hoboken that killed a teen-ager, Hudson County police said they'd rather avoid the chases, which often lead to tragedy.

Anything can go wrong — a pedestrian can step off a curb at the wrong time, a pothole can jar a car out of control, or the road can get slick from the rain as it was on Monday when a stolen car trying to elude police crashed into a tour bus on "Dead Man's Curve" in Hoboken.

Spokesmen for county municipalities said yesterday they enforce strict policies barring the no-holds-barred, fruit-cake-smashing chases familiar to television viewers.

The standard is the same in all the police departments. If the risk involved is greater than the value of the arrest, police officers are supposed to back off.

Traffic violations or minor offenses like a broken tail light "never warrant prolonged pursuit... at excessive speeds," according to Jersey City Police.

"The need for apprehension... must be weighed against the dangers involved," according to the policy.

The decision whether Jersey City police pursue a suspect, as in other departments in the county, is left to the ranking officer in the police radio room. Officers who disobey orders to

call off a chase face punishment, according to a general order issued by Jersey City Police Chief Walter Adams last year. Adams yesterday refused to discuss the policy.

But Edward Zloty, chief of the Hudson County Sheriff's Department, said, "The days of patrol cars flying through the streets are over." Under his department's policy, officers are ordered to "exercise safe driving practices at all times," he said.

A number of Jersey City Police officers said they agree with the regulation, noting it is common sense. Some said high speed chases are often unnecessary. They said officers can radio other cars and report in which direction the suspects are fleeing and arrange to have them blocked.

One South District officer said people in a stolen car will abandon it at the first chance after eluding police to

avoid being caught in the car.

It was not known why the suspects in Monday's chase did not get out of the car after eluding police.

A further clamp on hot-rodding police is a state law which mandates that drivers of emergency vehicles have the "duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons."

But police said Monday's accident showed that rules and regulations cannot eradicate the dangers posed by cars fleeing from police.

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