

Sinatra enjoys cozy corner in Hoboken Library

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

You don't know what you're missing Frank. Of Blue Eyes.

You could have been here today when Hoboken's Free Public Library celebrates its 100th birthday.

But thanks for the letter. It'll be added to the library's Sinatra memorabilia section. As part of the birthday celebration today, there will be a science exhibit, a magic show at noon, and cake and punch. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Library Supervisor Terry Sasso started the Sinatra shrine 11 years ago. He received a letter from the Hoboken native for this year's anniversary: "Congratulations on 100 years of being there, Hoboken Public Library. I may not have spent much time in the building on Park Avenue, but we are all family," the singer wrote.

If Sinatra remembers anyone from his "time" at the library it is probably Lucille Cunningham, who ran the building for four decades until her death in 1979.

A proper woman, Cunningham had strong feelings about some books, her former co-workers said. She kept some books, particularly about sex, under lock and key in her inner director's office.

"We had 'Joy of Sex' here," Sasso recalled. "But whenever a patron requested it, it was unavailable."

The book is now on the shelf. The Sinatra museum shares the same quarters of tens of thousands of photographs, city directories dating back to 1854, and newspaper clippings in scrapbooks spanning three decades.

There are photographs of



Sasha Rosado, 10 and Venus Ramirez, 11, fifth graders from D. S. Kealey School, Hoboken, use Hoboken's Public Library, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. At left is Ismael Cruz, 12.

Photo by Laurie Butcher

the June 30, 1900 Hoboken fire on the waterfront that killed 245 people. The photos show horse-drawn hearses stretching the length of Washington Street.

The Sinatra collection, located in the corner of the second floor, contains more than a dozen books about the singer, thousands of newspaper clippings and photographs.

Former Mayor Steve Capriello held a grand ceremony at the library 13 years ago when he donated an original portrait of the Sinatra and his mother, Dolly. Sinatra didn't show up then either.

But a decision to hang the portrait of the two smiling Sinatras dead center in the library was bitterly contested by patrons. The portrait now hangs off to the right of the main circulation desk.

Still other patrons complained that the library bought Kitty Kelley's 600-page expose into the singer's life in her book, "His Way." There was even an attempt to prevent Kelley from using the Sinatra files to do research.

"It was a public library, I would not keep the material from her. I didn't like the book, but I couldn't keep it

from the public," Sasso said. In this same room is the Martindale Hubbell law directory, a set of reference books that cost about \$2,000. They were purchased two years ago by Catherine Muranda, head reference librarian.

Overlooking Church Square Park, this stately, three-floor brick structure of Italian Renaissance style was built by the Stevens Family with \$26,000 nearly a century ago and opened in 1894.

Hoboken was the third library in the state to organize under the General Library

Act of 1884. The city's first library opened Oct. 2, 1890 in the basement of the Second National Bank Building at Second and River streets.

Richard Burke, who began the library directory in January, is hoping for state or federal grant to preserve the historical archives and put some of the material on microfilm. The library also wants to replace the building's copper dome.

Every school day from 4 to 5 p.m. is homework hour and librarians will help children. A goal of the library is to make it more an integral part of the community.

Taxi fare hike expected Hoboken poised to approve 75-cent increase

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The cost of catching a cab here would soon jump from \$1.75 to \$2.50 under a series of changes in the city's taxi regulations expected to gain City Council approval at tomorrow night's meeting.

The fare increase, which would take effect early next month, is included in an ordinance that also calls for higher fees and stricter regulation for the city's cab owners and drivers.

While taxi owners are pleased that the council is moving forward with the first fare increase in a decade after months of discussion, they feel the 75-

cent boost is too little too late.

"We're not satisfied," said Richard Revoir, the owner of Hoboken Quick Service. "The cost of insurance is skyrocketing, the cost of repairs is skyrocketing and gasoline is going through the roof. They're giving us 75 cents after 10 years? We may have to fight it."

Revoir and other owners have battled the city on many of the proposed changes in the taxi rules. In many cases, the city has backed down.

For example, the city originally proposed boosting the annual medallion fee from \$50 to \$500. When the owners squawked that the increase was "outrageous," the city agreed to set the fee at \$100.

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TAXI

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The annual license fee for individual drivers will rise from \$15 to \$25 under the ordinance.

Taxi owners also balked at the city's proposal to increase the number of available taxi medallions from 43 to 60, saying the city's streets are already jammed with more than enough cabs. Officials agreed to freeze the number of medallions at 43.

In addition, the measure would establish a dress code for cab drivers and allow the city to set standards for cleanliness and maintenance of cabs.

Councilman Edwin Duroy, a co-sponsor of the revised taxi ordinance, said he understands the owners would like to see a larger fare increase, but feels that 75 cents is a step in the right direction.

"If you were to do an economic analysis, you might find out the owners are right," Duroy said. "But because of the demand that exists here during certain times of the day, taxis never stop mov-

ing. I think 75 cents would really add up."

The most lucrative times for taxis are the morning and evening rush hours, when commuters go to and from the PATH train station. At other times, the taxi stand near the station is packed with cabs waiting for fares.

Revoir and other owners believe the busy hours don't offset the slow times. And the proposed fare increase doesn't offset the rising cost of doing business, they said.

"We'd like to see the council double the fare," Revoir said. "Seventy-five cents works out to 7 1/2 cents a year, considering there hasn't been a raise in 10 years. That just isn't enough."

Revoir said taxi owners are also struggling because of an increasing number of livery cabs on the city's streets. The liveries are operating as cabs without paying the same fees, Revoir charged.

Duroy acknowledged that the council is considering more stringent regulation of liveries.

Elysian executive pleads guilty

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

Ernest Badaracco Jr., who as chief executive of Elysian Federal Savings Bank guided the thrift to tremendous growth during the boom years of the 1980s, pleaded guilty yesterday to four felony charges.

Badaracco admitted to defrauding Hoboken-based Elysian of \$350,000 between 1984 and his ouster by the institution's board of directors in 1987.

He faces a maximum of 20 years in

Badaracco faces 20-year sentence, \$1M fine

prison and \$1 million in fines when he is sentenced on Dec. 17 before U.S. District Judge Alfred Lechner.

"I am very satisfied (by the plea)," said U.S. Attorney Michael Chertoff. "The problems at Elysian were very visible and the crimes are a classic case of the problems that lie at the root of the S&L industry."

Badaracco's indictment in August and subsequent plea is the second

major bank fraud victory for the U.S. Attorney's Office in as many months. In September, the president of United Savings Bank of Paterson pleaded guilty to defrauding his thrift of \$2.5 million.

Badaracco, 59, told Lechner yesterday he received \$350,000 in business for three electrical contracting firms he and members of his family controlled, in return for granting

loans to contractors.

He also admitted to having intentionally deceived the Elysian board concerning benefits.

Badaracco authorized loans by Elysian to the contractors on the condition they hire Badaracco Brothers, Co. of Hoboken, 1067 Electric of Hoboken, and Bad-Mar, Inc. of Hackensack. Each company was either owned by Badaracco or a member of his family.

Chertoff said Badaracco's crimes were not the sole reason for Elysian's collapse in February of 1989 at a cost to taxpayers of \$33.5 million.

He had faced 200 years in prison and fines of \$10 million in the indictment on additional charges of extortion. Chertoff said he could not comment on the plea agreement, but acknowledged that other investigations into Elysian's collapse were continuing.

A source familiar with the investi-

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Elysian executive admits defrauding S&L

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gation said in exchange for admitting to four felony charges, Badaracco would become a witness for the government in the ongoing probe. That investigation will focus on crimes involving other thrift officers and contractors, the source said.

Badaracco, who lives in Brielle, was not available for comment. His attorney, Gerald Miller of Jersey City, was not available.

Badaracco also faces civil suits from four developers to

recover money lost in joint ventures with Elysian to develop real estate in Hoboken. The developers claim Badaracco threatened to foreclose on their loans if they didn't hire one or all of the electrical companies.

"I can't see much of a difference between Badaracco's plea in this case and my case," said Perry Belfiore, one of the developers. The civil suits, which are before U.S. District Judge Maryanne Trump Barry, were placed on hold until the criminal case was resolved.

Badaracco guided Elysian through a period of tremendous growth after assuming the helm in the 1970s of the institution which was founded by his father and Antonio Vezzetti, father of the late Hoboken Mayor Thomas Vezzetti.

Assets grew from less than \$30 million in 1970 to \$286 million in August of 1987 when Badaracco was ousted by Elysian's board, about a month after a routine audit by the Federal Home Loan Board.

Elysian's board hired a New York management compa-

ny to run the thrift.

The managers quickly implemented new accounting procedures and added to reserves to cover bad real estate deals.

Elysian was placed into conservatorship by the Office of Thrift Supervision and transferred to the Resolution Trust Corp.

The RTC sold Elysian's branches and certain assets and liabilities to Pamrapo Savings Bank of Bayonne on May 31, 1990.

Hoboken waterfront vote trial ends

JERSEY CITY — The two-week trial revolving around alleged voting improprieties in Hoboken's July referendum on waterfront development ended yesterday, with the attorney challenging the waterfront plan's defeat delivering his final argument.

John Carbone, representing the Committee to Save Hoboken, asked Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia of Hudson County Superior Court here to erase the 12-vote defeat of the city's proposed \$30 million development agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Carbone said state law allows him to ask D'Italia to simply change the election's results, but he asked the judge to "send it back to the ultimate judges — send it back to the judges in Hoboken," referring to voters there.

D'Italia said the case would be "given highest priority," but did not indicate when he would hand down a decision.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

Hoboken traffic flowing freely again

By Patricia Scott
Journal staff writer

Motorists accustomed to an agonizingly slow trickle of traffic along Hoboken's 14th Street viaduct have cause to rejoice: after four years of repair work, the span is fully operational once again.

County Executive Robert Janiszewski joined local and state officials at the foot of the viaduct yesterday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the formal re-opening of the 14th Street viaduct.

The massive repair project, which began in May 1987, cost \$9.2 million, up \$500,000 from the original estimates of \$8.7 million. Repairs were made by William F. Hegarty Construction, Inc. Eighty percent of the project was funded by the federal Highway Authority, the remainder by state funds.

"This moment has been long

Viaduct repairs completed after 4 years; \$9M project expected to last for 20 years

awaited," Janiszewski said yesterday. "What's even more important, however, is that the 14th Street viaduct now has a life expectancy of 20 years."

State engineers stress that the county must provide continuous maintenance over those 20 years, if the bridge is to remain in prime condition.

More than 17,000 vehicles travel each day over the 80-year-old span, which links Hoboken's 14th Street with the Union City-Jersey City Heights border near the Doric Towers.

Original projections called for repair work to be completed by May 1988, but the extreme decay com-

pounded repairs and caused numerous contractual snags and delays.

Problems at the span included huge holes in steel plates beneath the roadway, rust and corrosion throughout the bridge, deteriorated girders and beams, cracks in the abutments and bent and broken bolts.

In the early 1980's, state traffic consultants suggested the complete replacement of the 1,460-foot-long span. County Engineer Borivoj Jasek, who attended yesterday's re-opening ceremonies, said the in-depth level of repair work necessitated the alternate closing of the road's sides.

Corrosion of structural beams

was the primary problem, according to DOT engineer Ike Mardekian, chief state engineer for the project.

In a separate project, the DOT in 1982 set up a temporary concrete abutment along the viaduct's south wing, about nine feet out from the 100-foot-high retaining wall of the Palisades. The abutment was built to protect motorists from falling rocks.

The 100-year-old retaining wall that borders Washington Park has been crumbling for some time, officials said.

The concrete barriers narrow the road by about three yards and force motorists to make narrow turns to avoid hitting the abutment. There are no announced plans to remove the barriers.

County officials yesterday said they are investigating if any plans are in the works to correct that situation.

Hoboken closing Industrial School doors after 94 years

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken City Council will vote tonight on the \$34 million budget, which contains nearly \$3 million more in spending and carries an estimated tax rate increase of \$4.50.

The time-honored Industrial School, which has been operating for 94 years, is not being funded by the administration and will close unless the council intervenes tonight.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius yesterday said he doesn't want the city to contribute \$23,000 to run the night school because "it is the biggest, political patronage clubhouse in the city."

Two teachers, women in their 80s,

have been teaching at the school for 50 years.

When told of the business administrator's remark, Josephine Valente, school director, responded, "give me a break. He's nuts."

A public hearing on boosting taxi cab fares from \$1.75 to \$2.50 will also be held tonight.

Concerning the budget, the 1990 spending plan is expected to increase the existing rate of \$17.52 to \$21.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, according to Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who said he is not happy with the rate but that it was the best he could do given the city's financial status.

Pasculli based his 1990 spending plan on receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New

Jersey to co-develop the southern waterfront.

But in a special referendum, voters rejected the plan and the 50-year deal with the bistate agency. The state intervened and is lending Hoboken \$7.2 million to get out of its fiscal predicament.

Even with that money, because of increased spending, increases in operational costs as well as reductions in state aid, the city's tax rate will go up by nearly \$4.50.

The Board of Education handed teachers a \$5 million contract in April giving 344 teachers more than a 30 percent raise over a three-year period.

As part of an austerity plan, Pasculli said he has laid off 110 city

workers. Councilman Joseph Della Fave said that only 60 of those workers are full-time employees.

The mayor eliminated funding for the Industrial School, opened 94 years ago by the Stevens Family to provide night classes for adults.

The state's financing of \$21,000 depends on the city's funding. The school is open four nights of week and, aside from a \$5 registration fee, is free to the public.

The courses include instructions in computers, beginning and advanced typing, foreign languages as well as English as a Second Language. Art lessons, sewing, millinery and ceramic classes are also offered.

But Chius says the program it has lost its purpose as an Industrial

School. He objected to a plan to begin teaching resume writing this fall, a skill he said is not necessary to get a job in a factory.

Josephine Valente, director of the school, said that Chius' remark about the school being a patronage mill was "ridiculous."

"This school has been here for 94 years and lasted dozens of mayors. To say it is a political is ridiculous," Valente said.

"If it is political, why did they send 20 police officers here a year and a half ago to learn how to type," Valente said.

She said that the school has an enrollment of 350 people annually. This September was the first time the doors did not open.

\$34 million budget defeated by Council

By Eugene King
Journal correspondent

The Hoboken City Council dealt Mayor Patrick Pasculli's administration two stiff defeats last night, as it killed the proposed \$34 million 1990 budget and saved the Hoboken Industrial School.

The proposed budget would have increased spending by \$3 million and hiked taxes by \$4.50.

Councilman Richard England said the fiscal problem was so bad, he could shut down the city government tomorrow, lay off all city employees, and taxes would only decrease 30 cents.

Anne Cerbo, chairwoman of PUSH, or People United to Save Hoboken, stood and asked the mayor to resign for the good of the city.

"On behalf of the PUSH organization, I am calling on the City Council to ask Mayor Pasculli to resign from his political office because he is a complete failure as the chief administrator of the city of

Hoboken." Councilman Edwin Duroy defended the budget. He said that if the council did not pass it, the state would intervene, which would lead to even higher taxes.

Voting against the budget were England, Thomas Newman, Joseph Della Fave and Steve Capriello. Councilmen David Roberts, Duroy, Lourdes Arroyo, and Richard Del Boccio voted for the budget. The weary councilmen moved into an emergency session to solve the budget crisis. The meeting was expected to last into early Thursday morning.

In a second political setback, the Pasculli administration's plans to cut funding to the Hoboken Industrial School were sidetracked.

The council voted unanimously to add \$20,000 to the budget to save the school.

The City Council referred a request by Hoboken cabbies for a fare increase to the city department of Transportation for further study.

Referendum election violations inquiry in Hoboken culminating

By Earlene C. McMichael
Journal staff writer

The state Superior Court inquiry into allegations of improprieties during Hoboken's July 10 waterfront referendum election is winding down after four weeks of detailed testimony in Jersey City.

Closing arguments began yesterday, and more arguments are expected at 1:30 p.m. today before Hudson County Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia.

Attorney John M. Carbone, representing the Committee to Save Hoboken which requested the court inquiry, anticipates D'Italia will rule by early next week.

Carbone contends 14 legal votes were rejected during the referendum election, which, if counted now, could make a difference in the election results.

Seven uncounted absentee ballots should have been tabulated and seven voters were unable to vote at the polls because sites were not open or voting materials had not arrived, Carbone said.

J.J. 10-17-90

On the ballot was a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey proposal to develop Hoboken's southern waterfront, which voters defeated by 12 votes.

Authority officials say the project would have cost up to \$600 million and netted the city about \$30 million over a six-year period.

The Committee to Save Hoboken, which supported the proposal, requested in court records that D'Italia either declare the proposal duly passed or void election results and order another one.

The committee claims non-residents voted; unofficial personnel operated polling sites; legal votes were rejected by some polling places that did not open on time; and votes were cast in the names of dead people.

Yesterday, attorney Ira Karasick, representing a group which opposed the waterfront proposal and fought hard to win voters the power to decide its fate, conceded some irregularities occurred but not enough to warrant overturning the election.

He noted not one "scintilla" of testimony suggested that fraud, corruption or misconduct took place — the legal requirements to void an election.

"When you look at the alleged misconduct, it comes down to mere irregularities," said Karasick, representing the Coalition for a Better Waterfront.

He said irregularities must be aimed at helping a faction win the election. Such evidence was not revealed during the 13 days of court testimony, he said.

Attorney Thomas P. Callig, representing Hoboken City Clerk James Farina, blasted the Hudson County Board of Elections for trying to blame his client for any mistakes made on Election Day, such as leaving polling sites unmanned.

Callig said the ultimate authority that ensures polling places are properly staffed lies with the Board of Elections.

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After budget rejected

State blasts Hoboken

Threatens to yank \$7.2 million in aid

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Upset by the City Council's rejection of a 1990 municipal budget, state officials yesterday threatened to revoke a \$7.2 million emergency aid package designed to save the city from financial chaos.

Barry Skokowski, director of the state Local Government Services Division, urged the council to reconsider its vote or face the possibility of losing state funding.

"Barry is obviously very upset at the council's inability to adopt a budget after all the work he and city representatives did to put together the aid package," said state spokesman Jay Johnston.

"He feels he was working in good faith and is not convinced the council is doing the same."

But the four council members who opposed — and defeated — the \$34 million budget Wednesday defended their vote yesterday. They called the budget's defeat a statement against new taxes and Mayor Patrick Pasculli's spending policies.

Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman, ardent Pasculli foes, appeared unwilling to change their positions.

"I'm not giving my approval to a budget when I've been arguing against the administration's spending practices all along," Della Fave said.

"We're looking at a 25 percent tax increase because we spent money we didn't have."

The council deadlocked 4-4 on the budget. A majority was needed to pass the plan.

Councilmen Steve Cappiello and Richard F. England Jr. joined Newman and Della Fave in voting against the budget. Council members David Roberts, Lourdes



MAYOR PATRICK PASCULLI
Says vote was 'irresponsible'

Arroyo, Richard Del Boccio and Edwin Duroy voted to adopt the spending plan.

Council President E. Norman Wilson, who would have cast the deciding vote, was ill and did not attend the meeting.

The budget would have increased the local property tax rate from \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value to about \$21.80 per \$1,000.

If the council does not adopt a budget soon, the city — which has yet to send out third-quarter tax bills — will face cashflow problems, said city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Without a budget, and therefore a tax rate, the city has been forced to borrow \$13 million so far this year to meet its own financial obligations, as well as those of the school system. Chius said the council's action will cost the city \$3,300 a day in interest on

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State to Hoboken: Pass budget now

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The state warned Hoboken yesterday to end its deadlock and adopt the municipal budget or risk losing a \$7.2 million loan.

The threat has apparently broken the 4-4 deadlock on the City Council and the budget — now listed at \$34 million — is expected to be approved at a special council meeting next week.

Councilman Richard England, who had broken his ties with Mayor Patrick Pasculli and voted against the budget, had a change of heart and says he will not jeopardize the state money.

He had voted against passage with Councilmen Joseph Della Fave, Thomas Newman and Steve Cappiello.

England said he would vote for the budget, "if I get pressed into 'pass what you got or increase the rate'."

Cappiello, after the state threat, said he would reconsider his vote after he has a chance to speak about wasteful spending to Barry Skokowski, state director of local government services.

England also wants state permission to lower the amount of money the city has to earmark for uncollected taxes.

That budget item affects the tax rate.

Pasculli, who said he was disappointed by the council's 4-4 vote Wednesday night, said he will call a special meeting next week.

"Our councilmen have become role models for U.S. con-

Closing arguments presented in Hoboken referendum case

J.J. 10-18-90

Attorneys yesterday presented the last of closing arguments in a state Superior Court inquiry into allegations of improprieties during Hoboken's July 10 waterfront referendum election.

Now the case is in the hands of Judge Arthur N. D'Italia, who has been asked to either void the election results which defeated a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey waterfront proposal or declare the proposal duly passed. He may rule by next week.

The Committee to Save Ho-

boken, which supported the defeated proposal and requested the court inquiry, claims in court papers that numerous improprieties occurred, including non-residents voting and votes being cast in the names of dead people.

Yesterday, closing arguments were presented by the committee's attorney, John M. Carbone, and by state Deputy Attorney General David Dembe, on behalf of the Hudson County Board of Elections and the county Office of the Superintendent of Elections.

BUDGET

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outstanding tax anticipation notes.

England, usually a staunch Pasculli ally, said he simply couldn't stomach the tax increase.

"I realize the risk involved," England said. "I just don't know that we did all we could to identify new revenues. I see it as my responsibility to provide the best services for the lowest amount of taxes. I don't know if we're giving our residents a fair shake."

Pasculli said he is waiting for a letter from Skokowski before calling an emergency council meet-

ing to vote on the budget again. The mayor characterized a vote against the budget as "political posturing and rhetoric and totally irresponsible."

The budget stalemate appears to have shattered recent efforts to forge a new spirit of council cooperation.

Overshadowed by Wednesday's deadlock were two resolutions, one sponsored by Della Fave and the other by Roberts, that outlined a series of measures aimed at getting an earlier — and more complete — jump on the budget process.

Hoboken Council to meet tonight on budget passage

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer 10-22-90

A special Hoboken City Council meeting has been called for tonight to break a deadlock over the 1990 city budget, which would increase the tax rate by nearly \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli called for the meeting on Friday.

At the same time, Barry Skokowski, the state's director of local government services, issued a tersely worded letter warning council members they could jeopardize the \$7.2 million state aid package by failing to adopt a spending plan.

"Failure to adopt a budget is an

abdication of the responsibility of the governing body," Skokowski wrote.

"If the budget is not adopted within seven days, you will be in violation of the local budget law and this directive."

An unadopted budget would go to Skokowski's office. Hoboken is the only municipality in the state without an adopted budget, said Jay Johnston, Skokowski's aide.

The \$34 million budget will most likely pass tonight. Councilmen Richard England and Steve Cappiello, who joined Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman in opposition to the budget last week, said they will reverse their earlier votes if the state aid is at risk.

Newman and Della Fave have opposed the administration's spending policies for the last year. Cappiello's criticism has become public in the last few months.

Even if the budget is approved tonight, taxpayers can expect to receive one walloping tax bill between now and December to cover the last two tax quarters.

In normal years, taxpayers receive bills in August and November to fund the last six months of a spending plan. Those bills also cover any tax increases because the first two tax bills are estimated based on the existing tax rate, said Louis Picardo, tax collector.

This year is different. Taxpayers

will get two quarters in one bill and will absorb the tax increase in one bill instead of two.

The council deadlocked last week because a Pasculli ally joined administration critics. England, a Pasculli ally, opposed the budget because it contains about a 25 percent increase in the tax rate. The existing rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation will increase to \$21.80.

City Council President E. Norman Wilson has been ill and unable to attend council meetings. Voting for the budget were council members Richard Del Boccio, Lourdes Arroyo, David Roberts and Edwin Duroy.

Pasculli based his 1990 spending plan on receiving \$8 million from the

Port Authority from a deal to co-develop the southern waterfront. But residents in a special July referendum rejected that plan.

The state subsequently intervened and loaned Hoboken \$7.2 million. Without that money, the tax rate would have increased to \$27.50.

Pasculli will also introduce tonight a seven-point plan asking the council to set up workshops and resolve ways to increase revenues other than from real estate taxes, increase the city's tax base, develop a six-year fiscal plan, adopt a zero spending budget system, and evaluate staff in city departments and the Board of Education. Della Fave made a similar request last October.

State may take over

Hoboken deadlocked on budget

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — In a move that could cripple the city financially, the City Council last night failed to adopt a \$34 million municipal budget for 1990.

The council deadlocked 4-4 on the spending plan.

The tie vote means the state may be forced to draw up this year's budget for the city and strike a local tax rate.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he

was shocked by the vote. He and other officials said the vote would have dire consequences.

City Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said that without a budget, the city could have a hard time paying its bills.

"I'm appalled that the council would act so irresponsibly," he said. "This could cause immediate cash flow problems."

Councilman Richard F. England Jr., usually a staunch Pasculli ally, cast the decisive fourth vote to defeat the budget. He joined Council Members

Joseph Della Fave, Thomas Newman and Steve Cappiello. Council Members David Roberts, Lourdes Arroyo, Edwin Duroy and Richard Del Boccio voted to adopt it. Council President E. Norman Wilson was ill and did not attend the meeting.

"I can't bring myself to vote for this budget," said England, clearly uncomfortable with his decision. "If I'm going to be identified as the enemy of the people, so be it."

The proposed \$34 million spending plan included a nearly

25 percent increase in the local tax levy. The budget called for a property tax rate of roughly \$21.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The current rate is \$17.52 per \$1,000.

The budget also reflected what Pasculli called "the most ambitious austerity program this city has ever had."

"I'm disappointed. I'm embarrassed," Pasculli said. "The vote against the budget is nothing more than political rhetoric. That's all I've heard for two months."

Last night's vote marked the second time since July that the city has teetered on the brink of fiscal disaster. On July 10, voters rejected a \$30 million development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, creating an \$8 million gap in this year's budget.

In the wake of the July vote, Pasculli and his supporters on the council scrambled to fill the shortfall. The state eventually came to the rescue with a \$7.2

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On Port Authority project

Lawyers defend Hoboken referendum

By PETER F. DONOHUE
The Hudson Dispatch

JERSEY CITY — Attorneys yesterday urged Hudson County's top judge not to tamper with the public rejection of a \$600 million project to rebuild part of Hoboken's decayed waterfront.

In his final argument in a case challenging the results of a July referendum, attorney Ira Karasick said Hoboken's voters narrowly — but soundly — defeated the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey project.

"Overall, we had a well-run and smooth election," Karasick told Assign-

ment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia of Hudson County Superior Court, he said. "The results were close, but a close result doesn't mean an election should be overturned."

Karasick represents the Coalition for a Better Waterfront. The coalition helped defeat, by 12 votes, a plan for the Port Authority to lease 32 acres of city land and build 3.2 million square feet of residential, commercial and office space.

The defeat created a massive revenue shortfall for the city, which had expected to receive \$8 million this year from the Port Authority. The city laid off close to 120 municipal employees earlier this

month.

The legal challenge to the polling was launched by the Committee to Save Hoboken, led by city police Sgt. Thomas Meehan.

The committee, claiming the referendum was rife with irregularities, wants D'Italia to invalidate enough votes to change the outcome or order a second election.

John Carbone, committee attorney, is expected to give his final argument today. State Deputy Attorney General David Dembe, representing the Hudson County Board of Elections, also is to give his final pitch today.

During 13 days of testimony, Carbone produced 14 voters he says were illegally barred from voting. Half of those went to the polling places which either were not open or were understaffed, according to Carbone. The others cast absentee ballots that the board wrongly rejected, Carbone said.

But Karasick yesterday questioned the legitimacy of Carbone's claims.

Hoboken Police Officer Frank Soto, for example, testified that he went to his polling place at 7 a.m. when it was supposed to be open, Karasick said. But Soto left after waiting just five minutes,

even though he didn't have to be at work until 8 a.m., Karasick said, adding the polling place opened no later than 7:30 a.m.

"You have to make some effort, which means you have to ask some questions and wait sometimes," Karasick said.

Karasick dismissed allegations that Board of Elections officials and city Clerk James J. Farina purposely mishandled the referendum.

"There's not one scintilla of evidence to suggest fraud," he said, "not one scintilla of evidence to suggest corruption."

HOBOKEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

million aid package. After last night's vote, it appeared those efforts may have been in vain.

The state may now be forced to take over the city's budget, possibly pushing the tax rate even higher.

Hoboken finally OKs budget

Dispatch 10-23-90
Two councilmen switch to save \$7M in state aid

Hoboken council approves municipal budget for 1990

Continued from Page 1

Even with the state aid or development money, the tax rate increased by \$4.28 — the current rate is \$17.52 — because of increased spending, increases in costs and reduction in state aid.

"The answer is not always cutting personnel and services," Pasculli said. After the waterfront deal was rejected, Pasculli axed 110 jobs from the city payroll and submitted the budget to the council in August.

Pasculli said he will not rehire the employees who lost their jobs. But Councilman Richard Del Boccio, who took a weekend tour of the city, said that perhaps the administration cut too heavily in the Public Works Department.

While the mayor criticized the council for failing to make a specific recommendation on the budget, Newman and Della Fave noted that the budget was nearly 75 percent spent before the council ever received it.

"This is not an austerity

budget. It is a spending budget. If the cuts remain intact next year, we will have an austere budget and layoffs of a serious magnitude," Della Fave said, adding that the layoffs have little impact on the 1990 budget.

When the council failed to adopt a budget last week, the state warned Hoboken that the \$7.2 million loan would be in jeopardy.

For that reason, Councilmen Steve Cappiello and Richard England reversed their votes and supported the budget last night.

With City Council President E. Norman Wilson recovering from surgery and absent from last week's meeting, the council deadlocked on the budget.

Supporting it were Councilmen David Roberts, Lourdes Arroyo, Edwin Duroy and Del Boccio.

Della Fave and Newman still opposed the budget last night because they said they disagreed with the administration's spending policies.

But Della Fave and New-

man joined the rest of the council in accepting Pasculli's offer to set up workshops to begin forming a six-year fiscal plan and begin work on next year's budget.

Della Fave said that, in anticipation of a pending fiscal crisis, he suggested last October the administration establish a five-year fiscal plan and set up budget workshops.

Pasculli said he has sent a strong message to the Board of Education to reduce spending, specifically by closing schools and consolidating classes.

"I think we have to join hands, join shoulders, roll up our sleeves and work together," Pasculli said.

Newman said the "tough decisions" involve making cuts in the police, fire and school departments because those three areas absorb most of the cost of running a government.

"Everything else is nickels and dimes," Newman said, adding that if Hoboken streamlines its spending, it may be in a better position for receiving state aid.

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Facing the loss of more than \$7 million in emergency state funding, two City Council members switched their votes last night to help approve a \$34 million city budget.

Councilmen Richard F. England and Steve Cappiello dropped their opposition to the spending plan because they feared the loss of state aid.

"I changed my vote to avoid an implied threat of reduced funding from the state," England said. "I certainly don't want a \$21.80 tax rate, but I'll be damned if I'm going to risk another \$4.50 tax increase."

With their votes, the council approved the budget 6-2.

The spending plan calls for a tax rate of \$21.80 per \$1,000 of a property's assessed valuation. The current rate is \$17.52 per \$1,000.

Only Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman continued to oppose the budget.

Last Wednesday, the council deadlocked 4-4 on the budget. The four councilmen voting "no" said they could not approve the budget's 25 percent property tax increase.

But Friday, the state threatened to yank \$7.2 million it had given Hoboken to help close a budget deficit, which was created when voters rejected a \$30 million development deal with the Port Authority.

Barry Skokowski, director of the state Local Government Services Division, ordered the council to approve the budget by the end of this week.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli warned that if the city failed to heed Skokowski, the state would take control of the budget process. The loss of state aid could mean an even higher tax increase, Pasculli said.

Councilman David Roberts, acting as president for yesterday's emergency meeting,

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PATRICK PASCULLI
Warns of possible intervention

Hoboken approves a budget

Dispatch 10-23-90
Tax rate to rise \$4.28

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken City Council broke its deadlock on the 1990 budget and approved last night the \$34 million spending plan which will increase the tax rate by \$4.28 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Taxpayers will be paying from \$500 to several thousand dollars more in taxes.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said third and fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed at the same time. Property owners can expect to receive them in mid-November.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who suffered a setback because he based his budget on getting \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a waterfront deal that residents aborted in July, told the council the city is not out of its financial mess.

"No one likes a \$21 plus (\$21.80) tax rate. But it is an economic fact of life. And we are going to have to confront other looming costs," Pasculli said, noting that health benefits increased this year by 63 percent and added \$1 to the tax rate.

After residents rejected the waterfront deal, the state intervened and loaned the city \$7.2 million to help fund the budget deficit.

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

At long last, Hoboken acts

Hoboken finally did it. With only two months left in 1990, the city finally passed its 1990 municipal budget. A little late, sure. But also in the nick of time. Had the City Council waited much longer before resolving its petty political differences, the city might have lost \$7 million in emergency state aid.

What else would you expect from a city which perfected the Fiscal Follies?

First, the city counted on receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority despite the fact that voters had yet to approve the development deal.

When the deal — and the money — fell through, the council and Mayor Patrick Pasculli scrambled for alternatives. They fired 100 municipal employees, sought state aid and hiked the tax rate.

The budget they devised was an imperfect solution, but it seemed it would work — until the council failed last week to approve the budget.

That's when the state threatened to yank the emergency aid it had provided just weeks before.

The threat worked. On Monday, in an emergency session, the council voted, 6-2, to adopt the budget.

Councilmen Richard F. England and Steve Cappiello changed their votes from "nay" to "aye" to assure the passage. England's decision was a difficult one because he had spoken so eloquently against the spending plan days earlier. Cappiello's was difficult because he is a long-time foe of Pasculli.

In fact, all six councilmen who approved the budget faced a difficult choice. The budget carries with it a 25 percent tax hike. Approving any tax increase is a political liability; approving such a steep hike could be politically fatal.

But there is no way around it. Hoboken officials have painted themselves into a corner. They made mistakes and are paying for them. Unfortunately, they are paying for them with taxpayer money.

A vote against the spending plan is a vote against reality. Hoboken is in the midst of its worst financial crisis in years. No solution is going to be simple, and all will require sacrifices. To believe otherwise is naive.

Sure, voters will be displeased. And they may very well toss out the incumbents in the next election.

But if they do, it won't be because the incumbents voted for the budget. It will be because the incumbents created the mess that left them no choice but to vote for the budget.

We were wrong

The Hudson Dispatch blundered dreadfully yesterday, when we accused E. Norman Wilson of "wimping out" on his responsibility to cast the crucial vote on Hoboken's budget.

Mr. Wilson, the Hoboken City Council president, did not attend a crucial meeting Wednesday, when council deadlocked, 4-4, on proposals for a budget that would have increased taxes 25 percent. The budget is already overdue, and the state is making noises about cutting off all aid until Hoboken adopts one.

We knew that Mr. Wilson was ill, but we said he could have attended the meeting anyway.

Wrong. Mr. Wilson has been in St. Mary Hospital for 10 days undergoing surgery. He went under the knife yesterday for the third time in 10 days. His doctors say there is no way on earth they would have let him leave the hospital Wednesday for a vote or for any other reason.

"Norman's no wimp. He's a hard-working public servant," says Hoboken Mayor Pat Pasculli. "If he could have been there, he would have been."

We were wrong, and we apologize to Mr. Wilson and to the citizens of Hoboken who may have been misled by our editorial.

In Our Opinion

Cuts will help Hoboken future

It's not surprising that the Hoboken City Council finally approved the 1990 municipal budget essentially as proposed by the administration of Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

The city budget dilemma had been lingering far too long.

It's true there had been little incentive for council members to wish to associate themselves with a city budget that not only raises taxes this year but includes a loan from the state that may have an adverse financial effect in the future. But by the same token, there were few constructive suggestions from budget opponents about cuts that would help this year's municipal expenditures, and continued delay might have threatened the package of financing help that had been worked out with the state.

Even after the vote this week, the late budget will mean that the tax bills will be sent out terribly late. The city taxpayers will be getting a severe shock when they get both the August and November property tax bills late next month.

The two positive signs for the future were the spending cuts in the budget, which even administration critic Joseph Della Fave said would produce an austere budget if they remain in effect next year, and the offer of Pasculli to set up workshops leading to a six-year fiscal plan.

Cuts late in the calendar year have little effect on that year's budget, but that doesn't make them unimportant.

They should signal a commitment to keep down the amount of money that goes from the taxpayer to the public employee. That kind of commitment must be kept even while seeking new sources of revenue for the financially strapped city.

Hoboken plan

Schools could be closed

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Two of the city's six elementary schools could be shut down next September under an ambitious consolidation plan being considered by the Board of Education.

The city's school system would be divided into two zones, each with two schools.

One school in each zone would serve pre-kindergarten through Grade 3; the other would handle Grades 4 to 7.

Eighth graders would be moved to Hoboken High School.

"I'm excited about this plan," said board member Claire DePalma. "I'm sure some parents aren't going to be happy, but I think this addresses the question that our buildings are underused, and I know it's sound educationally."

Under the plan, which is an outgrowth of the board's recently completed five-year facilities study, the Thomas Connors School and the Joseph Brandt

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SCHOOLS

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School would be shuttered at the end of the 1990-91 school year.

The plan appears to be a response to community calls for fiscal austerity and consolidation in light of continuing increases in local property taxes to fund the school system.

The board has a budget of about \$31 million for this school year. The spending plan required an increase of about \$3 in the local tax levy of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

While the school budget continues to climb, student population has declined steadily for more than a decade. The board expects this year's 3,300 students to dip to about 3,000 next year

and bottom out at about 2,500 in five years.

DePalma, who named Mark Toscano and Ed Garcia as other board members backing the consolidation plan, said the district would save about \$200,000 by closing two schools next year and would also trim about a dozen teachers from the payroll.

While concerned with holding down growing costs, Toscano insisted the board's priority is offering the city's students a good education.

"I will not push an economic plan just for economics," Toscano said. "We are going to need the community to come out and get involved in this."

In Zone 1, Connors students would be divided between the Daniel Kealey School — an "early learning center" serving youngsters up to Grade 3 — and A.J. Demarest School, which would become a "middle school" for Grades 4 to 7.

In Zone 2, Brandt children would be divided between the Salvatore Calabro School and the Wallace School, which would serve as an early learning center and middle school respectively.

The board hopes to demolish the substandard Connors building and build a new school on the same site. That project is contingent on the availability of funds, board members said.

Official faces down a dangerous enemy

20 drums of PCBs will soon be gone

By DAVID REILLY
Dispatch 10-31-90
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Developer Anthony Dell'Aquila yesterday hired a company to cart 20 drums of highly toxic chemicals off his waterfront property — more than a year after the state ordered him to remove the containers.

In a letter to state authorities, Dell'Aquila Enterprises said it hired Clean Ventures Inc. to dispose of the drums, which are filled with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs.

The company will pay for the cleanup and also will hire security guards to watch the drums until they are removed.

PCBs are dangerous chemicals usually found in electrical systems and transformers. They are believed to cause cancer and birth defects.

In June 1989, the state Department of Environmental Protection ordered Dell'Aquila to remove all hazardous materials from his property next to the Hudson River.



Peter Cohen, Hudson County emergency management coordinator, studies one of the 20 barrels of PCBs found in Hoboken.

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DRUMS

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The agency also slapped the developer with more than \$20,000 in fines.

"Apparently, since (the drums) are still there, they haven't complied with the order," said Richard Fulton, a DEP spokesman. "It's possible we may be compelled to take this to the state Attorney General's Office for further action."

Fulton said Dell'Aquila also could face more fines for defying the earlier DEP order.

Paul DeFilippo, Dell'Aquila's attorney, had no comment on the drums or the department's comments.

Fulton said the DEP discovered two weeks ago that the drums were still on the property when agency inspectors inventoried the drums.

But the DEP did not take ac-

tion against Dell'Aquila because the inspectors did not think the drums posed a health hazard, Fulton said.

"They found that the drums were not leaking and that there was no discharge," Fulton said. "They did report a potential hazard if the drums deteriorate further."

Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremietti said there isn't a health threat as long as the drums are contained.

"But if the (PCBs) should be released, then it's a problem," Tremietti said.

The 20 55-gallon drums are badly rusted and have been sitting in the open for more than a year, said Peter Cohen, Hudson County emergency management coordinator.

Because of their rusted con-

dition, Cohen and the Fire Department did not want the drums stored on a pier only 50 feet from the Hudson River.

"This is a hazardous material," Cohen said. "It has to be taken care of immediately."

If inhaled, PCBs can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, according to the state Health Department. High levels of exposure to the chemical can also damage the skin.

The Coast Guard is monitoring the situation, said James McGranahan, the agency's director of community relations.

Neither the Coast Guard nor the New Jersey State Police Marine Unit could find any evidence that the dangerous chemicals have leaked into the Hudson River.

Retesting for firefighter candidates

By Zachary Gaulkin
Journal staff writer

Candidates for firefighter jobs in Jersey City and Hoboken may have to take qualifying exams over again because of a federal lawsuit charging that the tests given last year were racially biased.

A settlement in the year-old lawsuit against the New Jersey Department of Personnel is close, according to Ann Crawford, a spokesperson for the state Attorney General's Office. Federal, state and local officials from 12 cities met last week with U.S. District Court Judge Nicholas H. Politan in an ongoing effort to reach an agreement, and another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Although the Attorney General's Office did not give out details, the proposed settlement is reported to include the requirement that successful candidates retake three

Settlement in federal suit on physical tests reported near; Hudson cities didn't use list

physical tests, two of which the U.S. Justice Department says led to biased results.

More than 600 people in Jersey City passed the test, according to Douglas Foster, who represents 75 firefighter candidates in Jersey City, for the state Attorney General's Office. The existing test to stand. The U.S. Justice Department threw the test out in 1989 because too few African-American candidates were among the top finishers.

The Justice Department said two of the three physical tests — a tunnel crawl and a steep climb — led to biased results because they favored the score of black candidates and made them less likely to be

appointed. The settlement is reported to change the policy to make those tests ungraded and grade only an "agility" run, which the Justice Department has said did not lead to unfair results. Officials at the Justice Department could not be reached for a comment.

The test, which includes a written exam, is administered by the state Department of Personnel and is used to create an eligibility list, with candidates appointed in the order of their scores. The list, valid for one year, expired in August.

The agreement between the state and the Justice Department is also reported to include a requirement that three cities — Newark,

Trenton and New Brunswick — compensate those who were not appointed but would have been had the results not been skewed. Neither Jersey City nor Hoboken appointed firefighters from the disputed list.

Hoboken has held off hiring new firefighters for budgetary reasons. "Right now, Hoboken has no intention of hiring anyone," said Richard Tremietti, chief of the Hoboken Fire Department. Hoboken has 140 firefighters, one-sixth of whom are minorities. Tremietti said four of the top 10 candidates in Hoboken were members of minority groups.

Jersey City fire officials could not be reached for a comment but have said in the past that hiring has been put off both for budgetary reasons and because of the uncertainty over the tests. There are 631 officers and firefighters in the Jersey City Fire Department, according to personnel records.

HUDSON COUNTY RATES

DISTRICT	1990 TAX RATE	1989 TAX RATE	INCREASE-DECREASE	PERCENT CHANGE
BAYONNE	\$156.85	\$147.10	+\$9.75	6.63%
EAST NEWARK	58.07	51.72	+\$6.35	12.28
GUTTENBERG	34.60	33.55	+\$1.05	3.13
HARRISON	25.51	23.06	+\$2.45	10.63
HOBOKEN	21.73	17.52	+\$4.21	24.03
JERSEY CITY	35.95	31.57	+\$4.38	13.87
KEARNY	39.30	32.00	+\$7.30	22.81
NORTH BERGEN	85.52	86.14	-\$0.62	-0.72
SECAUCUS	13.31	12.92	+\$0.39	2.0
UNION CITY	160.07	132.36	+\$27.71	20.93
WEEHAWKIN	108.27	102.91	+\$5.36	5.2
WEST NEW YORK	186.42	186.42	-\$0	0.0
*GARBAGE RATE ADD'L	\$3.98	\$3.77	+\$0.21	5.6%

This is a list of tax rates struck by the Hudson County Board of Taxation late Friday for all county communities. The first column shows the 1990 tax rate on property per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The second column shows the 1989 rate. The third column shows the increase or decrease in dollars. The last column shows the percentage change in the rate.

Journal chart

HOBOKEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exhorted his colleagues to end the impasse.

"I hope we will reconsider and pass this budget here tonight," Roberts said. "We want to keep control of the budget process here and not have the state of New Jersey take control and decide what our municipal tax rate is."

Cappiello said the state's warnings caused his change of heart. "I've changed my vote not so much to satisfy anybody," Cappiello said. "But more so to avoid a still-to-come higher amount of money that would have had to be paid by the people of this city."

Roberts and council members Lourdes Arroyo, Edwin Duroy and Richard Del Boccio also voted for the budget. Council President E. Norman Wilson, absent for last week's vote, again missed the budget meeting because of illness.

Della Fave said he and Newman continued to oppose the

budget because the city failed to deal with its fiscal woes when they first emerged over a year ago.

"Our vote was consistent with how we've been voting and what we've been saying for the past year," Della Fave said.

Della Fave would not say if he knew before the meeting that Cappiello and England were ready to change their votes. But he hinted that both he and Newman knew their opposition would not block the budget again.

"I think we would not have allowed a crisis and chaotic situation to continue," Della Fave said.

The council also set a schedule of budget meetings to begin dealing with the 1991 spending plan. Members hoped that by setting work sessions early they could avoid the confusion and delays that normally go with the budget process.

Toxic drums pose dilemma

DISPATCH 10-30-90

Business suffers

Gerrino is hit by pickets

Union is sought at glitzy eatery

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Before deciding what to order for lunch at Gerrino Ristorante yesterday, diners had to first decide whether to cross a picket line in front of the River Street restaurant.

Protesting what they called unfair labor practices, about a dozen members of the Secaucus-based Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 69 demonstrated outside the restaurant between about 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Gerrino Raza, who owns the restaurant, disputed charges he is keeping the union out and said he would relish a vote among his workers, who he said he believes are opposed to Local 69.

"I'm asking for an election," Raza said, sitting in the 11-year-old restaurant many consider the finest in the city. "I don't think a majority of my people want the union."

Yesterday was the third day pickets have marched outside the restaurant. On Friday and Saturday, about six demonstrators stood in the cold from 5 p.m. until about 8:30, Raza said. A police officer posted near the picket line yesterday said the demonstrators have been peaceful.

S. Lee Cohen, the attorney representing the union, said management has ignored a National Labor Relations Board consent order to negotiate with Local 69.

Nearly a year ago, about 12 of the restaurant's roughly 15 workers indicated to union officers that they wanted Local 69.

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The 15th Street pier in Hoboken, right, is the home of many 55-gallon drums of what is believed to be polychlorinated biphenyls, a highly toxic substance.

PCBs seen as threat to Hudson workers

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Officials were working last night to figure out how to remove 20 rotting 55-gallon drums — apparently filled with highly toxic PCBs — that were found earlier in the day by a pier on the Hudson River.

The metal drums were marked with yellow hazardous materials stickers that warned they were filled with polychlorinated biphenyls, a liquid that is believed to cause cancer and birth defects.

The rusted drums were found behind developer Anthony Dell'Aquila's waterfront property near the 15th Street pier.

The Hudson Dispatch notified county officials about the drums after receiving a complaint from a reader.

It was unclear how long the drums had been by the pier, or

how they got there. The county also didn't know whether the hazardous containers were on Dell'Aquila's property.

But emergency workers knew they didn't belong by the Hudson River.

"PCBs are very dangerous, even in small amounts," said Peter Cohen, Hudson County emergency management coordinator. "This material has to be dealt with immediately."

Under the direction of Charles Ebersol, Hoboken deputy fire chief, police and fire officials cordoned off the area around the drums after being called to the scene.

If inhaled, PCBs can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, according to the state Health Department. High exposures to the chemical can also damage the liver.

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DRUMS

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Skin and liver cancer can result from prolonged exposure to PCBs, according to a department fact sheet on the chemical.

The department also said the chemical is a "teratogen," a substance that causes birth defects.

Because of these dangers, many scientists believe there is no safe exposure level to PCBs.

Emergency workers from the state Department of Environmental Protection inspected the drums last night.

Officials did not plan to try to remove the drums until today.

Cohen said the drums probably came from an earlier cleanup of

an electrical room on the property. PCBs are used in electrical systems and transformers.

Cohen said some of the drums appeared to be leaking. He could not say whether any of the PCBs have reached the river, which is only about 50 feet from where the drums rested.

The environmental agency will have to test the liquid in the drums to make sure it is PCBs. But for now, officials are acting on the assumption that the containers are hazardous.

"It would be awfully stupid for somebody to label it PCBs if they weren't," Cohen said. "So with that labeling, you have to assume that it is PCBs."

Political foe says Pasculli received cash

Former allies say mayor took \$5,000 for 1989 campaign

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer
The Jersey Journal

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli accepted \$5,000 in cash contributions for his May 1989 mayoral campaign, according to two people who say they contributed part of the money.

Salvatore D'Amelio, who is involved in an effort to unseat Pasculli, and Helen Macri, a former City Council president, said they and Joseph Lisa gave Pasculli a total of \$5,000 for his mayoral campaign last spring.

D'Amelio, chairman of the Hoboken Republican Party, and Macri said they gave the money about two weeks before the election. D'Amelio gave \$1,750, Macri gave \$1,750 and Lisa gave \$1,500, D'Amelio and Macri said.

There is no record of a \$5,000 cash contribution in Pasculli's reports for the non-partisan mayoral election. It is illegal to give or accept a cash campaign contribution of more than \$100, according to state election officials.

The failure to report campaign contributions is also illegal. There is no record of any contributions to Pasculli from D'Amelio, Macri, Lisa or the Hoboken Republican Party.

Pasculli said he doesn't recall accepting any cash campaign contributions from the three people.

D'Amelio said Macri, a city director under Pasculli, and Lisa, a certified public account-

ant, gave the cash campaign contribution to Pasculli after they were told by Lisa that an agent of Pasculli's campaign requested the money.

D'Amelio and Macri were questioned by The Jersey Journal about the alleged contribution and confirmed that they gave Pasculli the money.

Lisa said a month ago that he may have given Pasculli money but could not remember the exact amount or other details.

"If someone said it happened, it happened," he said.

When questioned recently, Lisa refused to comment on any aspects of his alleged involvement with the contribu-

tion or meetings with D'Amelio and Macri.

D'Amelio and Macri said they have no bank records showing the withdrawal of the money they allegedly gave Pasculli.

"I can't believe these things are being said. That is all I am going to say. I couldn't tell you what they contributed and who contributed what. I don't recall," Pasculli said.

D'Amelio is a prime mover in People United to Save Hoboken, a new Hoboken organization that is politically opposed to Pasculli. Macri said she attended two meetings of the group, but is no longer associated with it.

D'Amelio said Lisa, a Democrat, was interested in forming the group, but did not attend any meetings.

Helen, Joe Lisa and I gave \$5,000 in cash about two weeks before the election," D'Amelio said.

After Pasculli was elected, they later gave another \$5,000 in cash to Pasculli for three candidates on his ticket to help them with the June 13, 1989 council runoff election, D'Amelio and Macri said.

"The first time was at my house. The second time I think was at Joe's (Lisa) office," Macri said. "I gave a cash contri-



Patrick Pasculli
Hoboken mayor

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Political foe says Pasculli received cash

Continued from Page 1

bution because I believed Pasculli would do the best for this town," she said.

D'Amelio said it bothered him when he first found out that Pasculli did not report the first contribution, but he did not inform law enforcement officials because "It's not my style." He said he would be willing to testify that he gave a cash campaign contribution.

Macri said she did not know that the alleged contribution was never reported. D'Amelio and Macri said they did not know it is illegal to give a candidate a cash contribution of more than \$100.

D'Amelio said that he agreed to endorse and support Pasculli months before the election after the mayor promised to give his son, Sal D'Amelio Jr., a job as an in-house attorney for the Board of Education at a salary of \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year. D'Amelio said Pasculli did not ask for campaign contributions at that meeting.

D'Amelio said that Pasculli also agreed to appoint candidates of D'Amelio's choosing to all city boards, including the Planning Board, Rent Control Board, Housing Authority and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

"At the end of the meeting,

we looked at Patty and said, 'We want to do something for you.' Patty said, 'No,' D'Amelio said. D'Amelio said Lisa and Macri were at that meeting.

Pasculli said making political appointments was a "normal, mundane aspect of running for office." He said he made no political appointments based on deals.

At a later meeting he had with Pasculli and council candidate Richard England, D'Amelio said, England balked at the idea of giving D'Amelio's son a salary of \$45,000. D'Amelio said England thought the salary "sounded a little heavy" but that it was possible to get the job. Pasculli, however, agreed to the job and salary, D'Amelio said. "Nothing was a problem with Patty," D'Amelio said.

Macri was appointed director of Parks and Public Buildings at a salary of \$35,000. Her job was eliminated in September because of cutbacks in the budget.

Macri said her cash contribution to Pasculli "is going to look like I got a job out of it." She denied she gave a cash contribution to Pasculli in exchange for a job.

Pasculli appointed Lisa to the Hoboken Housing Authority. It is a non-paying position.

Election Law

- All campaign contributions of more than \$100 must be reported.
- Cash contributions over \$100 are illegal — either to give or receive.
- Short campaign report forms can be filed by candidates if they spend less than \$2,000.
- Short forms must list contributors if the amount donated is more than \$100.
- The first offense carries a \$1,000 fine.
- If the law is violated knowingly and willfully the violation becomes a criminal offense and carries a fine of up to \$7,500 and a prison sentence of up to 18 months.

When questioned about appointments made after he was elected, Pasculli said that he made an appointment to the Rent Control Board based on recommendations of the Republican Party.

Sal D'Amelio Jr. said City Clerk James Farina and Pasculli were "working on getting" him a job after the election, but "Then they couldn't do it."

In deciding which candidates to endorse for the May 1989 election, D'Amelio said he and Macri and Lisa met with Pasculli and his supporters as well as the campaign of Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who unsuccessfully challenged Pasculli to a four-year term. D'Amelio and Macri said they decided they would endorse Pasculli and aggressively campaign on his behalf. The election was non-partisan.

D'Amelio said he would use his influence with the Republican Party for Pasculli. He said the Republican Party sent letters to registered party members endorsing the mayor and his stance on the waterfront development.

Pasculli said he did have meetings with 40 to 50 Republicans during the campaign.

According to D'Amelio, Lisa said that Farina approached him for campaign contributions two weeks before the election and months after the Republican Party had endorsed Pasculli.

"Joe Lisa mentioned that at one of the meetings, Jimmy Farina mentioned that they were running short on money. That was mentioned on a couple of occasions," D'Amelio said.

Farina is also president of the Board of Education and a close friend of Pasculli.

"We had a meeting, Helen, I and Joe. We were trying to decide what to give. The first question I asked was will they take a check. No, he (Lisa) said, they were looking for cash," D'Amelio said.

"We were under the impression, if we gave a check or cash, that it was going to get

reported. I didn't like the idea about the cash. When I heard about the cash, I asked who was going to come down and get this money. When I was told it was going to be Jimmy (Farina), I said no dice, no way, no how. If Patty is looking for the money, let Patty come down," D'Amelio said.

Lisa said he could not remember that meeting.

D'Amelio said he and Macri decided to give \$1,750 each and Lisa gave \$1,500. Macri confirmed those amounts, saying, "That is about right."

"He (Lisa) went back and arranged it. It was no problem. We met, I think, on a Saturday morning up at Helen's house," D'Amelio said. He and Macri said the meeting was about two weeks before the May 9 election.

At breakfast, Macri served fruit, eggs, sausages and Danish, D'Amelio said.

"We were talking about the campaign. Helen at the time, had the envelope, she put it on the table," D'Amelio said.

D'Amelio said \$5,000 in cash was in the white envelope.

"I grabbed it and pushed it toward Patty (Pasculli). He (Pasculli) looked at Jimmy and Jimmy grabbed the envelope. They said they were very grateful and we told them we hoped this would help their campaign," D'Amelio said.

D'Amelio said he thought the \$5,000 was an extension of the original agreement he had with Pasculli for the job for his son and the appointments to the boards.

"They both expressed their appreciation and said that they would never forget us. We told them, hey, you know we're in it and all we can do to help you, we are all too happy to," D'Amelio said.

Farina said that he had meetings with various people about the campaign and the Board of Education election but that he had no knowledge of meetings involving cash contributions.

Farina said he never accepted a cash contribution.

Pasculli said he believes these accusations are being leveled against him as part of a campaign to destroy him politically.

"I'm saying that there is an agenda here. I'll look into the records to see what Helen contributed," Pasculli said.

Pasculli said the breakfast "may have happened, I just don't recall."

D'Amelio said that after Pasculli was elected, he was told by Lisa that the Pasculli organization was seeking more money for the council runoff election.

D'Amelio said that once he had endorsed Pasculli, he felt an obligation to give the cash contributions when he was asked for them.

He said he thought at the time "We've got to see this side win. Because we expect him to do what he promised on behalf of the city and we expect him to keep his obligations and commitments to the Republican Party."

When asked why he gave money the second time, D'Amelio said, "We had to follow it through, there was no choice on that. When you get that deeply involved with something like this ... it bothers you, believe me, it bothers you. It bothered me."

About a week before the June 13 runoff, D'Amelio and Macri said, they and Lisa gave another \$5,000 cash contribution to the Pasculli organization. They each gave the same amount of money as the first contribution — D'Amelio and Macri \$1,750 and Lisa \$1,500 — D'Amelio and Macri said. The meeting took place in Lisa's Washington Street office, Macri and D'Amelio said.

"I had the envelope. I put it in front of Patty. Again he looks at Jimmy and Jimmy takes the envelope. It was like the Laurel and Hardy act," D'Amelio said.

Copies of the financial statements of the three council candidates on Pasculli's ticket show no record of contributions from D'Amelio, Macri, Lisa or the Hoboken Republican Party. Each candidate reports that he spent no more than \$2,000 for the runoff election and did not receive any contribution of more than \$100 from anyone.

Lisa said he had "nothing to say" when asked about a cash contribution.

"I have no comment about anything," Lisa said. He said at one point, however, that he would "not call a cop if someone is double parked."

When asked about the contributions about a month ago, Lisa at that time said, "It may have happened."

At that time, Lisa acknowledged that he had "helped raise money," for the Pasculli campaign and met Pasculli and his running mates at several locations, including Macri's house, the East L.A. restaurant and at a restaurant in Weehawken.

England confirmed that he talked to D'Amelio about getting D'Amelio's son a job as a Board of Education attorney. England said he wanted to reduce legal costs the board pays.

"Sal was trying to get his son a job as the school board attorney for quite a while," said England, a former Board of Education president. England said that he believed the school board could save money by having an in-house attorney at a salary of \$25,000 to eliminate the need to pay a private attorney \$100 an hour to attend board meetings.

England said that these discussions took place before he became a council candidate in the May, 1989 election.

England said he and Pasculli met with Macri and D'Amelio at Macri's house after England became a council candidate.

England said D'Amelio presented a list of demands at the meeting, including a job for D'Amelio's son and slots for other people on city boards and commissions. England refused to list the exact demands.

When asked if Pasculli told D'Amelio that getting his son a job was no problem, England said, "No, I don't remember that at all. The mayor did say that, if elected, there would be an expansion of government" and that the government reorganization would "provide an administration job for Helen. As far as the others (demands), he (Pasculli) would look into to see what we could do."

England said D'Amelio and Macri said they would "help out" the campaign, but money was not discussed.

Macri said she gave Pasculli the cash for the runoff because "I didn't question it. They ran as a team."

When asked why she gave both contributions, Macri said, "When you run a campaign, it always needs money."

Macri said no demands or requests were made by either her or D'Amelio when meeting with Pasculli and his candidates other than in broad terms that the mayor would consider making appointments.

"Whatever came around, if they felt that anybody fit the bill," Macri said about the possibility of getting jobs or appointments. "Nothing written in stone."

PICKETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to represent them, according to Cohen.

When Raza heard about the potential union presence in his restaurant, he tried to induce workers into disavowing the union, Cohen said.

"We had virtually every worker signed up," Cohen said. "At that point, there was an attempt to destroy our majority by coercion and offers of benefits. This was illegal."

By issuing a consent order to Raza compelling him to negotiate with the union, the NLRB essentially bypassed the election process, Cohen said. The union seeks health, pension and other benefits for cooks, waiters and dishwashers at the restaurant.

Cohen said the picketing will continue "as long as it takes to bring Gerrino to the bargaining table."

Raza said he would like to see the issue resolved as soon as possible because it has taken a bite out of his business.

"Things are already slow," he said. "Of course, this only makes them worse."

Pasculli accusers held key jobs under Cappelletto

Salvatore D'Amelio, Helen Macri and Joseph Lisa held key positions under Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto, whose 12-year reign ended five years ago with the election of Mayor Thomas Vezetti.

D'Amelio, 68, a lifelong Hoboken resident, chairman of the Hoboken Republican Party, and owner of Adams Sales and Service, a plumbing supply company, served as director of health and welfare.

He broke with Cappelletto in 1985 and supported Vezetti who died in office in March, 1988. Vezetti appointed D'Amelio's son, Salvatore Jr., then 27, Law Department director in January, 1988.

Macri, who owns real estate in Hoboken and Sorkin's stationery store, was City Council president and a council member for four and a half years. She did not seek re-election in 1985 and headed Cappelletto's

unsuccessful campaign for a fourth term. Lisa was hired in 1984 as internal auditor for the City Council. He resigned the day before Vezetti submitted an ordinance to abolish the job. After Vezetti died, Pasculli, as interim mayor, appointed Lisa finance director but he resigned the day before he was to start, saying his accounting firm partners did not want him to take a leave of absence.

Clean water will not come cheaply

J.J. 6-4-90
By Dan Rosenfeld
Journal staff writer

Flushing the toilet is getting financially and environmentally expensive. Sewer systems are considered a major environmental villain and taxpayers will pay \$2 billion over the next two decades to protect New Jersey waterways from biological and toxic sewage. "That's one of the prices of clean water," said John Keith, Department of Environmental Protection assistant commissioner. "No one said a clean environment would be cheap."

Not improving sewers could be even more expensive. The state lost \$2 billion in tourism revenue in 1988 when beaches routinely closed because of bacteria from

faulty sewer systems forcing government into action, Keith said. The Clean Water Enforcement Act signed last month by Gov. Jim Florio places municipalities under the threat of heavy fines and possible jail time for sewer authority executives if sewer plants are not quickly improved. While the pump over the bill was directed at "mad polluters," much of the legislation is aimed at threatening municipalities into upgrading sewer systems. "We're trying to significantly influence how local sewage authorities do business," Keith said. On paper most Hudson County municipality comply with DEP regulations, but these claims quickly fall apart. "I don't see any way how municipal-

ities can avoid fines," said George Crimmins, chairman of the Hudson County Utilities Authority. "In some places in Hudson County there is a violation every day." Jersey City and Bayonne have hooked onto the \$500 million Passaic Valley sewerage plant, but numerous sewage lines never make it there. The tidal basin, more commonly called the Morris Canal, is almost continuously polluted with Jersey City wastes. North Bergen is under a building ban because of sewage breakdown at its central plant. "There are places along the north Hudson where homes have been connected to outflow lines," he added.

See CLEAN WATER — Page 6

Crimmins, EPD clash

Hoboken lost \$9.4 M

DISPATCH 10-30-90

Sewage grants diverted

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

Clean water isn't cheap

Continued from Page 1

Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City are already under state orders to upgrade the Tri-City system.

"Hoboken's paying \$20,000 a month in fines to the DEP," Crimmins said. "This is just going to compound the situation."

Richard Wolff, chairman of Tri-City, said the negotiations with the DEP and federal environmental officials sped their progress.

Secaucus, which has the most effective sewage treatment in the county, still has to improve its system because it discharges waste into Mill Creek, a freshwater body.

Sewage authorities will now have to screen their industrial clients and test waste water coming into the plants. This process, called pre-treatment, is aimed at minimizing the amount of toxins flowing through sewer plants.

The act's main flaw is that it doesn't address combined sewer outflows, environmentalists said. At least seven times a year combined sewers dump thousands of gallons of raw sewage into waterways, Wolff said. All sewer systems in Hudson County are combined. The DEP expects to fine 70 percent of all municipalities for not meeting standards during dry weather.

The act kicks in July 1, 1991 and most early fines may be negotiated away, but if municipalities continue to violate minimum pollution standards an automatic fine schedule

from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per offense is triggered.

"Fines help when a publicly owned treatment works is foot-dragging, but there's a certain point at which fining a municipal government is counterproductive," said William Goldfarb, a professor of environmental law at Cook College and a water quality expert.

"What do you do with a very poor municipality?"

Goldfarb predicts that many publicly owned sewer systems will be taken over by the state because of continued pollution woes.

"We'll see court placed masters taking charge, similar to the Jersey City school system," Goldfarb said.

In addition to secondary plant upgrades to break down human wastes, many pipes and connections will have to be inspected by municipalities. More inspections will lead to increases in construction.

"Some of the Hoboken sewer system is wooden," Wolff said. "We're dealing with systems that are 150 to 200 years old."

Federal grants for sewerage improvements were canceled this year by the Bush Administration. State low interest loans are available, but eventually have to be paid. All pipes point to a massive undertaking has to be done," Crimmins said. "I don't want to guess what will happen to sewerage rates because they're already doubling now."

HOBOKEN — More than \$9.4 million in federal grants that could have gone toward upgrading the city's sewage-treatment plant went instead to similar projects elsewhere in the state, officials said yesterday.

The loss of federal funding appears to have reignited a simmering feud between the two local utility authorities responsible for making improvements at the sewage plant.

In a memorandum dated Oct. 16 and addressed to, among others, Mayor Patrick Pasculli and George W. Crimmins Jr., Hudson County Utility Authority executive director, blames the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority for losing the money.

Crimmins indicated that the authority's opposition to building a sludge gasifier as part of the upgraded plant caused the state to bypass the project when doling out federal funds. By not authorizing the contractor to begin the project by July 1, the sewerage authority jeopardized the grants, according to the memorandum.

"Had the HUCWSA not canceled the May 31 preconstruction conference and delayed the contract signing until Sept. 17, this project would have received a grant increase of \$9,421,294 in fiscal year 1990," Crimmins wrote in the memorandum.

The authority began trying to scuttle the gasifier project almost immediately after awarding a \$34 million contract for its construction nearly a year ago.

Claiming the gasifier is polluting, inefficient and unreliable,

the tri-municipality authority is appealing a judge's order to proceed with construction.

In the gasification process, sewage sludge is turned into gas. The gas is then burned to help power the plant.

State officials confirmed yesterday that the tri-municipality authority lost out on more than \$9 million in new federal funds for work on the nearly \$95 million project, but not because of the delays.

Gene Chebra, the state Environmental Protection Department's bureau chief in the Division of Administration and Management, said that, when the application for additional funds was filed in January, the state had not approved the gasifier. The EPD did not issue an air-quality permit for the facility until May 21.

"They submitted an application by the deadline," Chebra said. "We returned it because the plant itself hadn't received final authorization."

As far as the July 1 deadline mentioned by Crimmins in his memo, Chebra said, "It's not me. I don't know what he's referring to."

Crimmins yesterday denied blaming the tri-municipality authority for the loss of the grants.

"Apparently there's some confusion on this," he said. "The thrust of the memo was simply to update everyone on the status of the grant situation."

Authority Chairman Richard Wolff referred to the lost grant money as a "red herring."

"If anyone thinks that \$9 million would have changed my position on the gasifier, they're dead wrong," Wolff said.

Will Dell'Aquila have the last laugh?

Hoboken Reporter 11-11-90
Mabon may have to foot cost of PCB removal

Along with the Hoboken Shipyards, Mabon Nugent may have inherited the cost of removing 20 rotting 55-gallon drums of highly toxic PCBs. In an Oct. 30th article in the Hudson Dispatch, it was revealed that the drums were sitting on the 15th Street pier which, beginning Nov. 21 will belong to Mabon Nugent. The drums' presence is in violation of a year-old order from the Department of Environmental Protection requiring Dell'Aquila to remove them.

On Thursday, the same day in which the Mabon/Dell'Aquila settlement, Cathy Corton, a vice president at Mabon Nugent, said that she did not know about the drums. The following day, Corton said that Mabon Nugent would likely foot the bill for their removal.

"We are financially responsible for the implementation of the current clean-up plan. To the extent that it involves the PCB drums and that they are on our property, it seems that we would be responsible," she said.

This is in spite of the fact that recently Dell'Aquila, under pressure from the DEP, hired Clean Ventures, a Perth Amboy-based environmental company, to cover the drums and cart them away.

As of Friday, the drums, which contain waste from electrical transformers, had been repacked but were still on the pier.

Under the agreement, Mabon would split all environmental clean-up costs up to \$300,000 with the Citizen's First National Bank — Mabon pays for any costs above that amount. Citizen's First is a lender on the remaining 19 acres still owned by Dell'Aquila and has no interest in the 45 acres which will transfer to Mabon. It is involved in the clean-up effort as the result of a \$500,000 bond which it posted with the Department of Environmental Protection on Dell'Aquila's behalf about two years ago, according to Corton.

— Alex Ladd

Was Pasculli given \$3,000?

Mayor may have taken illegal donations

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The city's Republican Party chairman, who claims he gave \$3,000 in cash campaign contributions to Mayor Patrick Pasculli, said yesterday he was unaware it was illegal to make such donations.

Salvatore D'Amelio also said it is "coincidental" that he decided to talk about the contributions at the same time he is organizing a movement to have Pasculli recalled.

"I don't know what's legal and what's not legal as far as campaign declarations," D'Amelio said. "I'm not looking to harm (Pasculli)."

State election laws prohibit anyone from giving or receiving cash contributions of more than \$100.

D'Amelio maintains that he, former

Councilwoman Helen Macri, and local accountant Joseph Lisa combined to give Pasculli and city Clerk James Farina — a Pasculli ally — \$5,000 at two different meetings during the spring of 1989.

Macri refused to comment yesterday and Lisa did not return phone calls.

D'Amelio, who cannot remember the exact dates of the meetings, said one took place "about two weeks" before the May election and the second occurred just before the City Council runoff.

First-time violators of the election law face fines of up to \$1,000.

Pasculli, who served as a councilman before becoming mayor, has never been fined by the state Election Law Enforcement Commission for financing infractions.

Violators also could face criminal prosecution if they broke the law "knowingly or willingly." If convicted, they could be

"I don't know what's legal and what's not legal as far as campaign declarations." SALVATORE D'AMELIO

slapped with fines up to \$7,500 and a maximum 18-month prison sentence.

"Ignorance of the law is no excuse," said Fred Herrmann, executive director of the commission. "The law says that giving cash contributions of more than \$100 is illegal, just as receiving those donations is."

Herrmann would not say if his agency is investigating D'Amelio's allegations.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale and officials from the state Attorney General's Office and the U.S.

Attorney's Office said they were not investigating the case.

Pasculli and Farina, who is also the city Board of Education president, said they have not been interviewed by authorities.

And D'Amelio said he discussed his accusations only with newspaper reporters. He said he did not file a complaint with any government agency because he "never had occasion" to do so.

Pasculli and Farina refused to comment on D'Amelio's allegations yesterday, referring all questions to their attorneys, Joseph Hayden and Thomas DeClemente.

"My client denies doing anything unethical," Hayden said yesterday. "The public can judge for itself whether the people making these allegations are motivated by a desire for good government or a desire for political assassination."

Tuesday night, before the allegations became public, Pasculli denied any wrongdoing and said the charges were "deeply rooted in politics."

D'Amelio heads a group called People United to Save Hoboken, which is bent on ousting Pasculli from City Hall.

"I think he's been a complete failure as a chief administrator and a political leader," D'Amelio said. "The man isn't running his own ball game."

While he maintains Pasculli promised to appoint Republicans to key city boards in exchange for GOP support in the mayoral campaign, D'Amelio denied the cash contributions were payments for those commitments.

"No way, no how was there any understanding whatsoever that it was quid pro quo," D'Amelio said. "The two things were separate in my mind."

Contributions to Pasculli to be probed

J.J. 11-1-90
Feds, state or county to act

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writers

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale said yesterday he will investigate allegations that Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli took hefty illegal campaign contributions in cash.

"I will check with the U.S. Attorney's office and the Attorney General to see if there is an ongoing investigation or if they plan to conduct an investigation," DePascale said.

"If not, we will open a file and take a look," DePascale said.

"There will be an investigation. By whom the investigation will be conducted, it is too early to tell," he added.

The prosecutor's comments were in response to a news story in The Jersey Journal in which two people said they each gave Pasculli \$1,750 in cash about two weeks before the May 9, 1989 municipal election.

According to Salvatore D'Amelio, chairman of the Hoboken Republican Party, and Helen Macri, a former City Council president, they each gave Pasculli \$1,750 in cash pri-

or to the municipal election. It is illegal to give or accept a cash contribution of more than \$100, according to election laws. All contributions of more than \$100 must be reported to the state elections commission.

D'Amelio and Macri said that they each gave Pasculli another \$1,750 in cash about a week before the June 13 runoff election. According to D'Amelio and Macri, Joseph Lisa, a certified public accountant, joined them in giving Pasculli a cash contribution before the municipal election and again before the runoff election.

Lisa will not comment but in an earlier interview said he may have given the money.

Frederick Herrmann, the director of the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, would not say if the agency will conduct an investigation into the published report.

"In general terms, any matter before the commission we think is a possible criminal violation, we have the authority to refer to the Attorney General's Office," Herrmann said.

"We would wait until the

Costumed pollution fighters trick or treat in Hoboken

J.J. 11-1-90
By Dan Rosenfeld
Journal staff writer

On the scariest day of the year Toxic Avengers trick-or-treated around Hoboken to frighten residents into pushing for pollution prevention.

Six Toxic Avengers dressed like fluorescent Zoros in black capes, masks and glowing shirts talked to people about the billions of pounds of toxins used in New Jersey.

The environmental trick-or-treat run by the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group was a continuation of the lobby group's efforts to push for passage of the Pollution Prevention Act pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"It's Halloween so we're out telling people about the

scary amount of toxins in the state," said Marian Wise, an environmental attorney for NJPIRG. "We have more Superfund sites and more hazardous waste site than any other state in the country."

The majority of state environmental laws regulate the amount of toxic waste industry can spew out. More than 179 million pounds of toxic waste was legally released into New Jersey air, land and water in 1988, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Industry used or produced 7.4 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in 1987, according to the federal Toxic Release Inventory Data Base.

The Pollution Prevention Act would call on industry to replace toxic materials like acetone and methanol with less

toxic or non-toxic materials. Industry officials and DEP representatives would set a realistic timetable for switching to environmentally benign materials.

"It would make companies do an inventory and see where they could stop pollution from ever happening," Wise said. "We're not talking about making them do anything they can't."

Hoffman-LaRoche, the pharmaceutical giant and a top polluter, conducted an internal audit of toxic waste and use. That accounting convinced it to cut emissions by 90 percent by the end of the century, said Alfred Wasilewski, a Hoffman-LaRoche spokesman.

Judith Yaskin, DEP commissioner, has repeatedly called for pollution controls. NJPIRG members say the Pol-

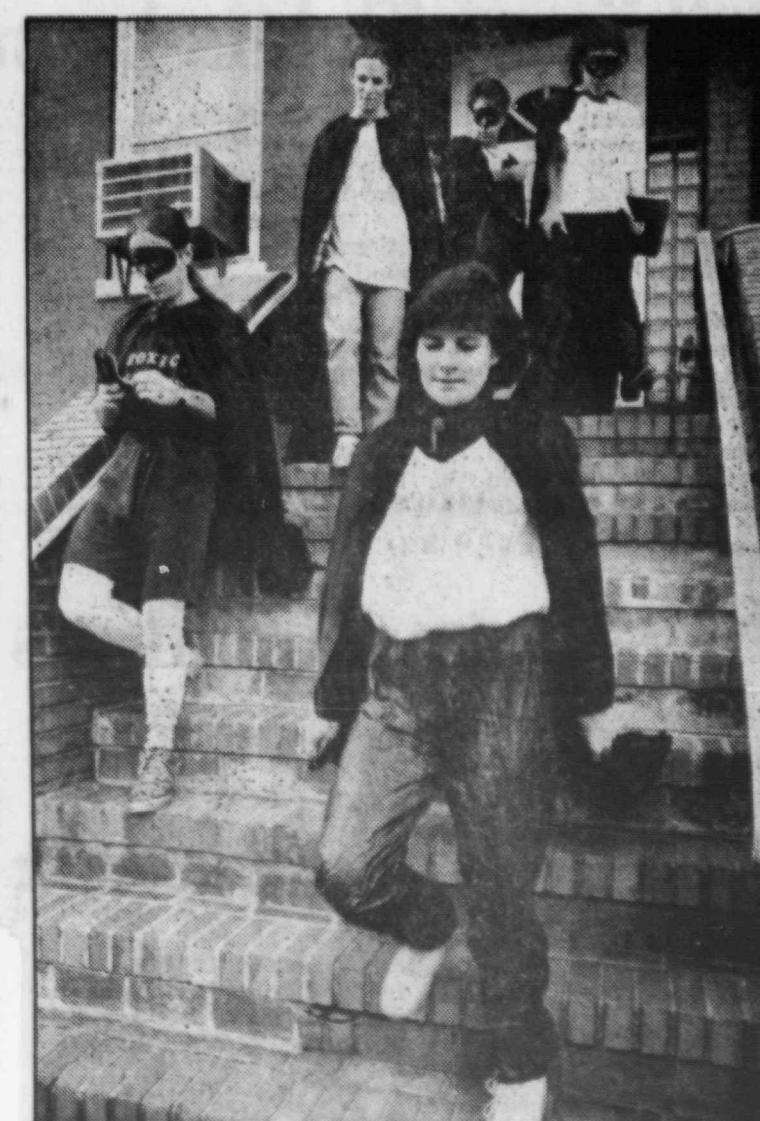
lution Prevention Control Act will accomplish that and could cut toxic emissions in half. The Appropriations Committee is scheduled to vote on it Dec. 3. Environmentalists say the bill, which has been endorsed by Gov. Jim Florio, appears to have the necessary votes to pass.

"We've gotten 35,000 signatures state-wide," said Angela Bonarrigo, the lead Avenger. "We go out every night talking to people but we usually don't look like this."

Another piece of pending legislation is aimed at reducing heavy metals in packaging. The metallic covering on many champagne bottles contains lead as do most electronic devices.

An informed community is the best method of convincing industry to change materials it chooses to use.

"The Toxic Avengers are saying we are no longer going to tolerate the numbers of toxics used by industry," Wise said. "We're trying to tell the average citizen that they are the greatest toxic avenger."



Members of the Toxic Avengers, an environmental protest group, leave a home in Hoboken after alerting the residents to the threats of toxic waste.

Campaign contributions to be probed

Continued from Page 1

attorney general completes its investigation before we decided to do a civil investigation," he added.

"But I can assure you, we don't ignore situations like this," Herrmann said, adding, "We would not ignore any story of that nature."

Public officials both inside and outside his administration said the allegations create a

cloud over his administration. Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who served as Pasculli's campaign manager, said he never received any cash contributions from Lisa, D'Amelio and Macri.

Steve Busch, head of a Coalition for a Better Waterfront, said that rumors about cash campaign contributions are part of Hudson County's political landscape.

"But to have people admit it is a different story," Busch said. "I hope there is an investigation."

Chuck Davis, spokesman for the attorney general, would not comment on whether there is an investigation or plans for one. Local officials and political figures outside Hoboken either questioned the motivations of Pasculli's accusers or were noncommittal.

"Getting cash in itself is nothing. Reporting it is the issue," said Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann, calling the accusations politically-motivated. County Executive Robert Janiszewski said D'Amelio "is obviously on the opposite side of the political spectrum" from Pasculli. County GOP Chairman Aaron Schulman called on D'Amelio to quit as city chairman.

See CAMPAIGN — Page 4

Clean water will not come cheaply

J.J. 6-4-90
By Dan Rosenfeld
Journal staff writer

Flushing the toilet is getting financially and environmentally expensive. Sewer systems are considered a major environmental villain and taxpayers will pay \$2 billion over the next two decades to protect New Jersey waterways from biological and toxic sewage.

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See CLEAN WATER — Page 6

Crimmins, EPD clash

Hoboken lost \$9.4 M

DISPATCH 10-30-90

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By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

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Gene Chebra, the state Environmental Protection Department's bureau chief in the Division of Administration and Management, said that, when the application for additional funds was filed in January, the state had not approved the gasifier. The EPD did not issue an air-quality permit for the facility until May 21.

"They submitted an application by the deadline," Chebra said. "We returned it because the plant itself hadn't received final authorization."

As far as the July 1 deadline mentioned by Crimmins in his memo, Chebra said, "It's news to me. I don't know what he's referring to."

Crimmins yesterday denied blaming the tri-municipality authority for the loss of the grants.

"Apparently there's some confusion on this," he said. "The thrust of the memo was simply to update everyone on the status of the grant situation."

Authority Chairman Richard Wolff referred to the lost grant money as a "red herring."

"If anyone thinks that \$9 million would have changed my position on the gasifier, they're dead wrong," Wolff said.

Will Dell'Aquila have the last laugh?

Hoboken Reporter 11-11-90
Mabon may have to foot cost of PCB removal

Along with the Hoboken Shipyards, Mabon Nugent may have inherited the cost of removing 20 rotting 55-gallon drums of highly toxic PCBs. In an Oct. 30th article in the Hudson Dispatch, it was revealed that the drums were sitting on the 15th Street pier which, beginning Nov. 21 will belong to Mabon Nugent. The drums' presence is in violation of a year-old order from the Department of Environmental Protection requiring Dell'Aquila to remove them.

On Thursday, the same day in which the Mabon/Dell'Aquila settlement, Cathy Corton, a vice president at Mabon Nugent, said that she did not know about the drums. The following day, Corton said that Mabon Nugent would likely foot the bill for their removal.

"We are financially responsible for the implementation of the current clean-up plan. To the extent that it involves the PCB drums and that they are on our property, it seems that we would be responsible," she said.

This is in spite of the fact that recently Dell'Aquila, under pressure from the DEP, hired Clean Ventures, a Perth Amboy-based environmental company, to cover the drums and cart them away.

As of Friday, the drums, which contain waste from electrical transformers, had been repacked but were still on the pier.

Under the agreement, Mabon would split all environmental clean-up costs up to \$300,000 with the Citizen's First National Bank — Mabon pays for any costs above that amount. Citizen's First is a lender on the remaining 19 acres still owned by Dell'Aquila and has no interest in the 45 acres which will transfer to Mabon. It is involved in the clean-up effort as the result of a \$500,000 bond which it posted with the Department of Environmental Protection on Dell'Aquila's behalf about two years ago, according to Corton.

— Alex Ladd

Was Pasculli given \$3,000?

Mayor may have taken illegal donations

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The city's Republican Party chairman, who claims he gave \$3,000 in cash campaign contributions to Mayor Patrick Pasculli, said yesterday he was unaware it was illegal to make such donations.

Salvatore D'Amelio also said it is "coincidental" that he decided to talk about the contributions at the same time he is organizing a movement to have Pasculli recalled.

"I don't know what's legal and what's not legal as far as campaign declarations," D'Amelio said. "I'm not looking to harm (Pasculli)."

State election laws prohibit anyone from giving or receiving cash contributions of more than \$100.

D'Amelio maintains that he, former

Councilwoman Helen Macri, and local accountant Joseph Lisa combined to give Pasculli and city Clerk James Farina — a Pasculli ally — \$5,000 at two different meetings during the spring of 1989.

Macri refused to comment yesterday and Lisa did not return phone calls.

D'Amelio, who cannot remember the exact dates of the meetings, said one took place "about two weeks" before the May election and the second occurred just before the City Council runoff.

First-time violators of the election law face fines of up to \$1,000.

Pasculli, who served as a councilman before becoming mayor, has never been fined by the state Election Law Enforcement Commission for financing infractions.

Violators also could face criminal prosecution if they broke the law "knowingly or willingly." If convicted, they could be

"I don't know what's legal and what's not legal as far as campaign declarations," SALVATORE D'AMELIO

slapped with fines up to \$7,500 and a maximum 18-month prison sentence. "Ignorance of the law is no excuse," said Fred Herrmann, executive director of the commission. "The law says that giving cash contributions of more than \$100 is illegal, just as receiving those donations is."

Herrmann would not say if his agency is investigating D'Amelio's allegations.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale and officials from the state Attorney General's Office and the U.S.

Attorney's Office said they were not investigating the case.

Pasculli and Farina, who is also the city Board of Education president, said they have not been interviewed by authorities.

And D'Amelio said he discussed his accusations only with newspaper reporters. He said he did not file a complaint with any government agency because he "never had occasion" to do so.

Pasculli and Farina refused to comment on D'Amelio's allegations yesterday, referring all questions to their attorneys, Joseph Hayden and Thomas DeClemente.

"My client denies doing anything unethical," Hayden said yesterday. "The public can judge for itself whether the people making these allegations are motivated by a desire for good government or a desire for political assassina-

tion." Tuesday night, before the allegations became public, Pasculli denied any wrongdoing and said the charges were "deeply rooted in politics."

D'Amelio heads a group called People United to Save Hoboken, which is bent on ousting Pasculli from City Hall.

"I think he's been a complete failure as a chief administrator and a political leader," D'Amelio said. "The man isn't running his own ball game."

While he maintains Pasculli promised to appoint Republicans to key city boards in exchange for GOP support in the mayoral campaign, D'Amelio denied the cash contributions were payments for those commitments.

"No way, no how was there any understanding whatsoever that it was quid pro quo," D'Amelio said. "The two things were separate in my mind."

Contributions to Pasculli to be probed

J.J. 11-1-90
Feds, state or county to act

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul DePascale said yesterday he will investigate allegations that Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli took hefty illegal campaign contributions in cash.

"I will check with the U.S. Attorney's office and the Attorney General to see if there is an ongoing investigation or if they plan to conduct an investigation," DePascale said.

"If not, we will open a file and take a look," DePascale said.

"There will be an investigation. By whom the investigation will be conducted, it is too early to tell," he added.

The prosecutor's comments were in response to a news story in The Jersey Journal in which two people said they each gave Pasculli \$1,750 in cash about two weeks before the May 9, 1989 municipal election.

According to Salvatore D'Amelio, chairman of the Hoboken Republican Party, and Helen Macri, a former City Council president, they each gave Pasculli \$1,750 in cash pri-

or to the municipal election. It is illegal to give or accept a cash contribution of more than \$100, according to election laws. All contributions of more than \$100 must be reported to the state elections commission.

D'Amelio and Macri said that they each gave Pasculli another \$1,750 in cash about a week before the June 13 runoff election. According to D'Amelio and Macri, Joseph Lisa, a certified public accountant, joined them in giving Pasculli a cash contribution before the municipal election and again before the runoff election.

Lisa will not comment but in an earlier interview said he may have given the money.

Frederick Herrmann, the director of the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, would not say if the agency will conduct an investigation into the published report.

"In general terms, any matter before the commission we think is a possible criminal violation, we have the authority to refer to the Attorney General's Office," Herrmann said.

"We would wait until the

See CAMPAIGN — Page 4

Costumed pollution fighters trick or treat in Hoboken

J.J. 11-1-90
By Dan Rosenfeld
Journal staff writer

On the scariest day of the year Toxic Avengers trick-or-treated around Hoboken to frighten residents into pushing for pollution prevention.

Six Toxic Avengers dressed like fluorescent Zoros in black capes, masks and glowing shirts talked to people about the billions of pounds of toxins used in New Jersey.

The environmental trick-or-treat run by the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group was a continuation of the lobby group's efforts to push for passage of the Pollution Prevention Act pending before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"It's Halloween so we're out telling people about the

scary amount of toxins in the state," said Marian Wise, an environmental attorney for NJPIRG. "We have more Superfund sites and more hazardous waste site than any other state in the country."

The majority of state environmental laws regulate the amount of toxic waste industry can spew out. More than 179 million pounds of toxic waste was legally released into New Jersey air, land and water in 1988, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Industry used or produced 7.4 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in 1987, according to the federal Toxic Release Inventory Data Base.

The Pollution Prevention Act would call on industry to replace toxic materials like acetone and methanol with less

toxic or non-toxic materials. Industry officials and DEP representatives would set a realistic timetable for switching to environmentally benign materials.

"It would make companies do an inventory and see where they could stop pollution from ever happening," Wise said. "We're not talking about making them do anything they can't."

Hoffman-LaRoche, the pharmaceutical giant and a top polluter, conducted an internal audit of toxic waste and use. That accounting convinced it to cut emissions by 90 percent by the end of the century, said Alfred Wasilewski, a Hoffman-LaRoche spokesman.

Judith Yaskin, DEP commissioner, has repeatedly called for pollution controls. NJPIRG members say the Pol-

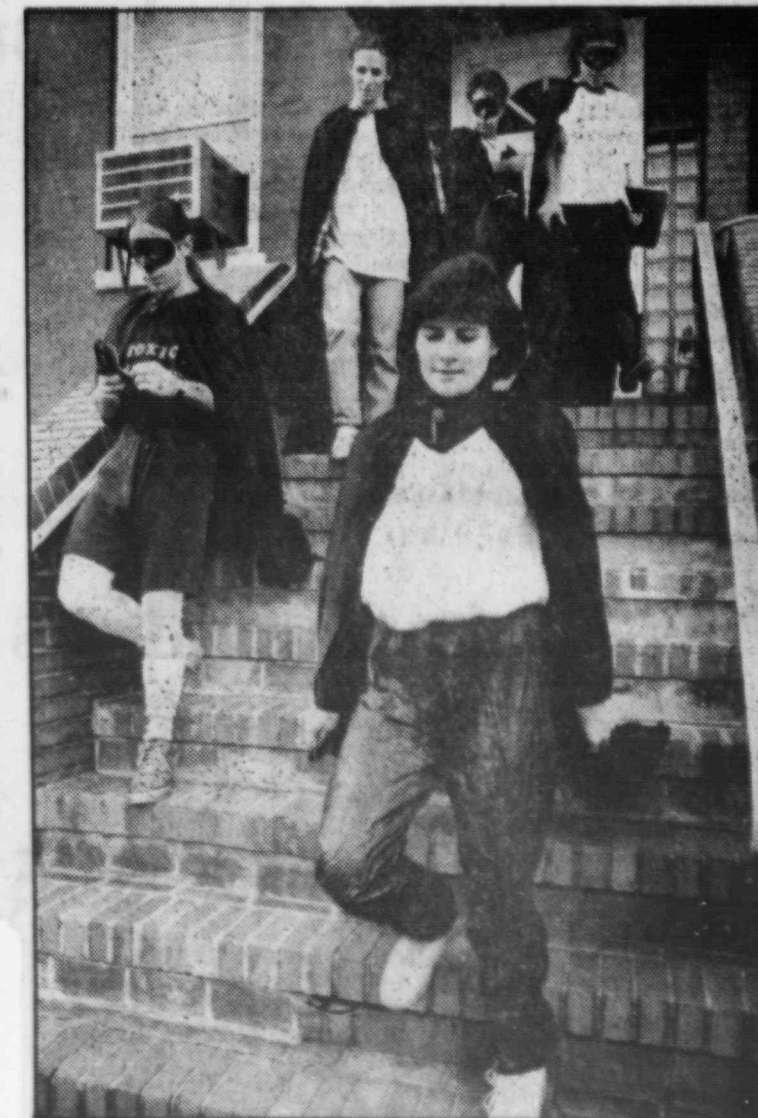
lution Prevention Control Act will accomplish that and could cut toxic emissions in half. The Appropriations Committee is scheduled to vote on it Dec. 3. Environmentalists say the bill, which has been endorsed by Gov. Jim Florio, appears to have the necessary votes to pass.

"We've gotten 35,000 signatures state-wide," said Angela Bonarrio, the lead Avenger. "We go out every night talking to people but we usually don't look like this."

Another piece of pending legislation is aimed at reducing heavy metals in packaging. The metallic covering on many champagne bottles contains lead as do most electronic devices.

An informed community is the best method of convincing industry to change materials it chooses to use.

"The Toxic Avengers are saying we are no longer going to tolerate the numbers of toxics used by industry," Wise said. "We're trying to tell the average citizen that they are the greatest toxic avenger."



Journal photo by Larry Cutshall
Members of the Toxic Avengers, an environmental protest group, leave a home in Hoboken after alerting the residents to the threats of toxic waste.

Campaign contributions to be probed

Continued from Page 1

attorney general completes its investigation before we decided to do a civil investigation," he added.

"But I can assure you, we don't ignore situations like this," Herrmann said, adding, "We would not ignore any story of that nature."

Public officials both inside and outside his administration said the allegations create a

cloud over his administration. Business Administrator Edwin Chiuso, who served as Pasculli's campaign manager, said he never received any cash contributions from Lisa, D'Amelio and Macri.

Steve Busch, head of a Coalition for a Better Waterfront, said that rumors about cash campaign contributions are part of Hudson County's political landscape.

"But to have people admit it is a different story," Busch said. "I hope there is an investigation."

Chuck Davis, spokesman for the attorney general, would not comment on whether there is an investigation or plans for one. Local officials and political figures outside Hoboken either questioned the motivations of Pasculli's accusers or were noncommittal.

"Getting cash in itself is nothing. Reporting it is the issue," said Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann, calling the accusations politically-motivated. County Executive Robert Janiszewski said D'Amelio "is obviously on the opposite side of the political spectrum" from Pasculli. County GOP Chairman Aaron Schulman called on D'Amelio to quit as city chairman.

Hoboken rehiring almost spur walk-out

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The rehiring of two city workers with ties to Hoboken political leaders nearly triggered a walk-out by municipal employees still reeling from the layoffs for budget reasons of 100 fellow city workers.

The protest in Hoboken City Hall was averted yesterday by municipal union officers, who advised city workers to stay at their jobs despite discontent over the rehiring of two entrance level clerks.

"In my 33 years in City Hall, I have never seen the city workers in an uproar that they wanted to walk out," said Mary Lou McGrath, municipal union secretary.

The unrest was triggered by the rehiring of two entrance level clerks for the tax collector's office. The two women, Joan Dobbins and Frances Lucatorto, are half-sisters. The latter is married to the nephew of City Clerk James Farina. The nephew is a public works employee.

"People are really up in arms because they brought back people

with two years on the job over people with 10 years on the job, and the girls are both related to Jimmy Farina through marriage," said James Fisher, municipal workers union president.

"It smells of politics," Fisher said.

Farina and Mayor Patrick Pasculli could not be reached for comment.

The most upsetting aspect of the rehiring, McGrath said, is that both women were hired back from a lay-off list and given promotions that normally take more than 20 years to achieve.

Both women were account clerks, McGrath said. The next rank is senior clerk and the highest rank is principal clerk, she said. McGrath said that only eight city employees are principal clerks. She said that she attained that rank after 25 years on the job.

"It may be legally right, but morally and ethically, it is a slap in the face to every city employee," McGrath said.

Dobbins and Lucatorto are sec-

ond and third, respectively, on the rehiring list for clerks, McGrath said. At least one woman was bypassed, she said. The status of another woman with 12 years as a welfare investigator account clerk is still being reviewed by Civil Service, she said.

Dobbins has 315 days as a certified account clerk and Lucatorto has been certified for 173 days, McGrath said.

"It is blatantly unfair," said one veteran employee.

Although Pasculli said that he would not rehire city employees because of a fiscal crisis, about 100 workers received their walking papers in September. Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the clerks were needed to run the tax collector's office to send out tax bills.

Chius said that he wouldn't have cared if the workers walked off their jobs.

"We would find out how many more people we wouldn't need," Chius said, adding that if the senior workers left their jobs, the city would save more money.

Fisher, home recovering from surgery, said that he discouraged workers from walking out because they would be vulnerable to suspensions or firings.

"But something has got to be done to show that we are all disgusted by the action," Fisher said.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said that tax collector's office needed more people to send tax bills.

The collector's office lost two more clerks since the massive layoffs became effective in September, Chius said.

McGrath said that both women should not have been called back. Instead, they were brought back out of sequence and given a higher title," McGrath said, "and it is causing chaos."

Councilman Steve Cappiello said that the council agreed to staff the tax collector's office with two more clerks. He said that he was unaware of the workers who would be called back.

He said that he would ask the council to review the matter.

Teachers leave at final bell

After-school programs need staff in Hoboken

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Two Hoboken school trustees fear that despite extra state money for the district there is a shortage of teachers interested in staffing new after-school programs, specifically ones for latch key children.

"It is a big problem, even when we are offering big money," said Trustee Claire DePalma. "They are struggling to get people to do it," she said.

Trustee Ed Garcia said money is available for after-school programs "but no one wants to work those hours. The money is there. But we are not getting the staff. We are not getting a willingness to work the hours."

Dr. Theodore Jenkins, director of curriculum, who is rewriting the curriculum with the teachers' committee, said there is a shortage of teachers.

Hoboken will receive an additional \$3.8 million next year from the state Quality of Education Act of 1990. DePalma and Garcia want to earmark some of that for after-school programs, specifically tutoring and helping with homework.

"We are sending kids home at 2:30 to empty houses. We

Teachers go at final bell

Continued from Page 1

who wants an after-school job and who doesn't. I am sure that there are people who want them," Boscia said.

Trustee Perry Belfiore agreed it is too early to say teachers will not be available for new programs next fall. "They're assuming and you know what happens when you assume," Belfiore said.

One indicator that both DePalma and Garcia point to is the in-house curriculum committee, designed to revise the district's teaching plan.

DePalma and Garcia said there is a shortage of teachers to serve on that committee, which meets once a week for two hours and offers an hourly stipend. Belfiore said the stipend isn't enough to interest teachers.

Boscia said she was not aware there was a shortage on the committee.

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Hoboken will receive an additional \$3.8 million next year from the state Quality of Education Act of 1990. DePalma and Garcia want to earmark some of that for after-school programs, specifically tutoring and helping with homework.

"We are sending kids home at 2:30 to empty houses. We

need to provide a safe place for latch key kids," DePalma said. "The after-school program is going to depend on staffing. The curriculum committee offers \$22 an hour for social studies and science. No one wants to stay after school."

Jenkins attributes the lack of teachers on the committee to two reasons. One is that teachers are not comfortable developing curriculum for social studies and science. The other is that teachers have after-school responsibilities and want to go home to their families or to another job, he said.

He said that DePalma and Garcia have a valid point. "It is not a question of money, but teachers have other responsibilities."

Belfiore noted that one reason summer school was discontinued was because of the lack of teachers.

DePalma, Garcia and Belfiore are hopeful that the consolidation of six schools, which now each contain pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, to a district of four schools with two buildings containing pre-kindergarten to third grade and two other buildings with fourth grade to seventh grade, will help staff the after school programs.

Instead of six separate buildings trying to provide instruction for nine or 10 grades, two schools can concentrate on two age groups, trustees say.

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Pasculli's attorney dismisses charges of wrongdoing

County Prosecutor to consider entering investigation

By Alex Ladd

An attorney for Mayor Patrick Pasculli stated on Thursday that the mayor denies any wrongdoing regarding his campaign finances amidst allegations by the mayor's political opponents that they gave him cash contributions during his 1989 mayoral campaign.

"Mayor Pasculli denies that he did anything illegal, improper or unethical," said attorney Joseph Hayden. "He will leave it up to the public to decide whether these belated accusations are the product of public spirited citizens or an attempt at political assassination. We are researching a possible civil action for libel and slander."

"Mayor Pasculli denies that he did anything illegal, improper or unethical," said attorney Joseph Hayden. "He will leave it up to the public to decide whether these belated accusations are the product of public spirited citizens or an attempt at political assassination. We are researching a possible civil action for libel and slander."

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The chairman of the Hoboken Republican party, Sal D'Amelio Sr., and Helen Macri, the recently dismissed director of the Department of Parks and Public Properties, alleged in an article in Wednesday's Jersey Journal that along with accountant Joe Lisa, they gave \$5,000 in cash to the 1989 Pasculli mayoral campaign in which Pasculli defeated Hoboken City Councilmember Joseph Della Fave.

D'Amelio also claims that the three again contributed \$5,000 at Pasculli's behest to three administration-backed councilmembers in a runoff election in 1989.

According to Frederick Hermann, a director for the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, it is illegal to give or receive cash contributions of over \$100. The law also states that any contribution of over \$100 must be reported according to name and address of the contributor. The Jour-

nal article states that the contributions were not listed in Pasculli's campaign records.

According to Hermann, should his office determine that an illegal contribution was willfully and knowingly made or received, he will refer the case to the state Attorney General's office. According to Hermann, the office carries a fine of up to \$7,500 and a prison sentence of up to 18 months.

Lisa and Macri could not be reached for comment.

D'Amelio confirmed to the Reporter on Thursday his allegation that he, Macri and Lisa donated the money to Pasculli. However, he denies that this action was timed to discredit the mayor as part of the newly formed anti-administration group which D'Amelio recently helped found, calling itself "People United to Save Hoboken" (PUSH).

"Absolutely not, there is no relationship at all. These (members of PUSH) are a group of people who are looking at what can possibly be done to deal with a \$10 (sic) tax increase... I was asked by a reporter if these things occurred and I saw no reason to say that they didn't," he said.

SAL

from cover

said, "My intention was to have Helen Macri run for mayor. She was involved in her business and it was not appropriate so we (the Hoboken Republican Party) had to support one or the other. We had a meeting with Joe Della Fave, which was a delightful meeting, and then we had a feeling-out meeting with Pasculli. When we met with the Republican Party, the majority wanted to support Pasculli. I didn't like the influence that Laurie Fabiano and Steve Block had on Joe Della Fave. With that, we sat down with Pasculli and his people". According to D'Amelio, he agreed to support and endorse Pasculli months before the election after Pasculli agreed to appoint candidates of his choosing to several city boards and to appoint his son as an in-house attorney for the Board of Education.

It was "weeks before" the May 1989 election, in which Pasculli decisively beat Joe Della Fave, that D'Amelio says the first alleged cash contribution of \$5,000 occurred. He denies that the alleged contribution was in exchange for appointments.

During the Pasculli administration, D'Amelio says that their relationship deteriorated further with the failure of Pasculli to appoint his Republican candidates to city boards. He said that he was particularly disappointed when Pasculli did not put Helen Macri on the administration ticket as councilwoman-at-large.

"Pasculli said that as far as he was concerned, he was already committed to Dick England. Although England is a Republican, I didn't like the way that it was done. We are the Republican Party in Hoboken - we should choose," he said. "He replaced other Republicans, but not through our organization. I brought it to his attention on several occasions. I said that we are trying to build on a partisan basis - our interest was to build on a county, state and federal level, but on the local level we were trying to build the party around him, in his favor, providing that he comply with his statement to the Republican Party as to what he would do benefit the citizens of Hoboken, which he has not done."

Besides being the founder of the anti-administration PUSH movement, D'Amelio is the owner of Adams Sales and Service, a plumbing supply company located on Jefferson Street.

have until early December to accept the plans or submit counter-proposals.

Ultimately, Hurley says, "every parish, whether it has a school or not, will participate in co-sponsorship. The Archbishop wants to be sure Catholic education is available to every child who wants one."

Both St. Joe's and OLG schools are in financial trouble, Hurley and school administrators report. "It's conceivable that [without co-sponsorship], two or three years down the line, neither school will be operating," Hurley says. OLG, one of the oldest Catholic schools in the state, has been operating since 1864.

After studying demographics, costs, building conditions and enrollment, the archdiocese suggested OLG's building be the co-sponsorship site, Hurley says.

"No one wants to lose their school," says the Reverend Terry Pescatore, pastor of St. Joe's, "but circumstances mandate it, even more than the Archbishop. Economic reasons have already deprived a lot of children of a Catholic education. The archdiocese has been very, very generous whenever we ask," he says, but that just isn't enough. "We can't do it alone."

The archdiocese's co-sponsorship plan is not the final word, he stresses. Parish or organizations are meeting several times a week to decide how best to proceed, Pescatore says, though he adds that enactment of the archdiocese plan is "very likely."

This proposed move follows the beginning of co-sponsorship two months ago of John Paul II School by Hoboken's St. Francis and St. Ann parishes. According to the Rev. Mike Guglielmelli, pastor of St. Francis, the unification is going well, although there are some "rough spots," caused by some parishioners' misconception that their school has been closed. However, he says, John Paul II is "holding its own financially, the kids get along pretty well, and it's functioning smoothly" for a two-month old venture.

St. Peter and Paul, the only other parochial grammar school in Hoboken, has bucked trends and is doing quite well for itself, both in finances and enrollment, according to the Rev. Bob Chabak, pastor of the church. The 24-year-old building which has low operating costs, is almost too small for the growing enrollment he says.

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According to McGrath, account clerks represent entry level positions followed in rank by senior clerk and principle clerk.

There is one person ahead of the two rehired workers on the reemployment list for account clerks who, according to the payroll department, has been certified since July 20, 1989. According to Chius, however, that list is only in effect within the title of account clerk.

The two rehiring comes after the layoff of about 100 municipal employees in September. They were requested by Picardo in light of one retirement and one leave of absence in the tax collector's office. According to Picardo, in a letter to Hoboken Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack, the city's recent layoffs reduced the office's staff from six to four employees. The retirement and leave of absence would leave his office with only two employees, including himself, at a time when tax bills are scheduled to go out, Picardo said in his letter.

As of Friday, however, according to the payroll department, the worker who is listed by Picardo as scheduled for retirement had not yet filed the necessary retirement papers. Those papers must be filed at least three months before a retirement can go into effect. With the two new hirings then, there are presently five people on salary at the tax collector's office, according to the city payroll office.

The workers who, according to Picardo, will be retiring and going on a leave of absence have respective salaries of \$28,141 and \$24,917 per year. Picardo has recommended that the two rehired workers, who started working on Thursday, be brought back at their previous salary of \$16,692.

See TEACHERS — Page 4

Sal D'Amelio Sr.; a power broker or power spoiler?

By Alex Ladd

11/4/90 Hoboken Reporter

Salvatore D'Amelio, 68, the man who is alleged to

have given cash contributions to Mayor Patrick Pasculli (see page 4) has deep roots in Hoboken politics dating back to the late 50's when he was appointed Health and Welfare director under the Grogan administration. The political relationship between Salvatore D'Amelio and Pasculli has had its ups and downs, but a division could be seen coming as early as the Vezzetti administration, when Pasculli was a young councilmember and D'Amelio's son was city attorney.

D'Amelio broke with Steve Cappiello in 1985 to support Tom Vezzetti, whose election victory that same year ended the 12-year reign of the Cappiello administration. D'Amelio remembers when he was on a committee to pick three councilmembers-at-large to run on the Vezzetti ticket.

"Through (Angelo) Valente, (Patrick) Caulfield and myself, we selected three councilmembers-at-large. Pasculli insisted that he run as one of the candidates. He was a councilman in the 6th ward and wanted to upgrade his position to at-large and we accepted."

D'Amelio's support for Vezzetti also helped him have his son Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. appointed city attorney in January of 1986.

"I'm sure that (the appointment) was related to my support," D'Amelio said. "But it was also because he (Vezzetti) was impressed with my son as an individual."

Vezzetti would later call the appointment of Sal D'Amelio Jr. one of the biggest mistakes of his administration. The late mayor complained that D'Amelio Jr. was failing to cooperate with his administration by supporting council ordinances to remove the mayor's zoning board appointment power and to put the Department of Public Safety under the Law Department. Vezzetti also alleged that D'Amelio Jr. interfered in zoning board matters in order to win approval

of \$25 million Presidential Towers project planned for property that his father owned.

Ironically, during the early days of the Vezzetti administration, Pasculli was one of the staunchest allies of D'Amelio's son. Indeed after a political falling out between D'Amelio Jr. and Vezzetti, the late mayor claimed that he had appointed D'Amelio Jr. partly because of pressure from Pasculli.

Vezzetti fired D'Amelio Jr. on July 1, 1986, only to see him re-hired the next day by the city council. It was Pasculli who seconded the resolution to re-hire.

"I believe that the mayor acted callously and irresponsibly and I believe that it represents a deliberate action to destroy a person with a career in law... he is placing the reputation of a hard working attorney at stake," Pasculli said at the time.

D'Amelio Jr. was fired again in October of 1986, this time with the approval of the council and Patrick Pasculli. D'Amelio claimed that Pasculli had betrayed his son by failing to support him a second time.

"He moved against my son unfairly and it was extremely wrong," D'Amelio said. "Pasculli and (Dave) Roberts made it clear that if Vezzetti moved against him, that they wouldn't go with him... they said that they wanted his resignation. (My son) was just shocked as many other people were because he expected his support against (Laurie) Fabiano. Whatever deals Pasculli made, I don't know - his actions speak for themselves," D'Amelio said.

After that initial falling out between the two, why did D'Amelio go on to support Pasculli during the 1989 mayoral election against councilmember Joe Della Fave?

"I for one did not want to support Pasculli," D'Amelio

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Catholic schools may be co-sponsored

St. Joe's, OLG directed to consider options

By John M. Croyley

Hoboken's Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's grammar schools have been directed by the Archdiocese of Newark to prepare by December a plan for co-sponsorship, an archdiocese spokesperson said recently, and if the archdiocese's suggested plan is adopted, the OLG building will house the two parishes' students and St. Joe's school will close. It would be the second such co-sponsorship in as many years, and would reduce the number of Catholic grammar schools in Hoboken to three.

Urban Catholic schools are, in many cases, victim to the same changes that af-

fect public schools: rising costs and dwindling enrollment. Coupled with shrinking congregations - whose donations support schools - some schools are hard-pressed to survive.

Representatives of the two Hoboken parishes were among those from 40 parishes who met in early October to discuss co-sponsorship - the support of one school by two or more parishes. To ensure Catholic education remains in the community," says archdiocese spokesperson Michael Hurley, the archdiocese, after extensive study, prepared co-sponsorship proposals for each of the parishes. They

Tax collector's office rehiring angers union members

Seniority roll overlooked; political favoritism charged

By Alex Ladd

Municipal Employees Association (MEA) president James Fisher stated that his union will be looking into the city's rehiring of two employees to the tax collector's office after receiving several complaints from union members citing that they were rehired because of political favoritism. The rehiring nearly led to a walkout on Thursday by workers at City Hall.

The two workers in question are related to City Clerk James Farina by marriage, leading to the charges of political favoritism.

"We called our attorney and will be researching this and certainly will take whatever action we can," Fisher said. "They have rehired two people with minimal seniority. They have four years between them. Out of 100 people that were laid off, 50 have more seniority. We had people ask if they could walk off the job over this. It's the kind of thing that aggravates you and completely aggravates the workers."

The hiring is legal," said City Business Administrator Ed

Chius. "The tax collector has a right to pick who he wants. He's picked people that have experience in that department."

MEA secretary Mary Lou McGrath says that while the action may be legal, the city, in rehiring the two workers, has bypassed several city workers with more experience. According to McGrath, one of the workers rehired, Joan Dobbins, has 315 days seniority as a certified account clerk, and the other, Frances Lucatorto, has been certified 173 days in the same title.

Lucatorto is married to Farina's nephew and Dobbins is Lucatorto's half sister.

"We have nothing to do with that (the rehiring)," said Farina. "That was worked out between (City Business Administrator) Ed Chius and (Tax Collector) Louis Picardo. If it was up to me, I'd hire everyone back."

McGrath says that many union members are also angry that the two workers are being hired at a title higher than principle clerk.

"It takes people 16 years to get that title," McGrath said.

Hearing set today

Hoboken gasifier fight to continue

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN - Work on a controversial sludge gasifier already has begun, but the legal battle against the \$34 million facility is scheduled to continue in a Hackensack courtroom today.

Today's hearing, in front of a three-judge panel in the appellate division of state Superior Court, will address the question of whether the gasifier requires a state-issued solid waste permit.

The Hoboken-Union City Weehawken Sewerage Authority, which is appealing a lower court ruling, maintains the

facility needs the permit because it would create ash residue. The state Environmental Protection Department disagrees.

Tri-city authority attorney Frank Leanza said he hopes the appeals court will render a speedy decision.

"To date not much has happened at the job site," Leanza said. "The judges seem sympathetic to the need for quick action in this matter."

In August, Hudson County Superior Court Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing ruled against the authority. She ordered the agen-

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technology in which sewage sludge is floated over hot sand to create gas. The gas is then burned to help power the plant.

Almost as soon as they awarded the contract, a majority of the tri-city authority commissioners began battling to stop construction of the gasifier on environmental and economic grounds.

But at its last meeting, the authority voted unanimously to return the pelletization report back to its engineers for further study. The commissioners said they were troubled by the presence of a huge smokestack - also included in the gasifier - as part of the pelletization process.

"I'm deadly opposed to any smokestack," said Abraham Antun, a Union City representative on the authority. "And I'd rather deal with fines than build something I don't want."

Antun was referring to possible federal fines if the sewage treatment plant is not upgraded by July 1992.

"Everyone's focusing more on deadlines than on what we're doing, what it's going to cost and what the impact is going to be," Antun added.

Hoboken rehiring almost spur walk-out

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer 11/2/90

The rehiring of two city workers with ties to Hoboken political leaders nearly triggered a walk-out by municipal employees still reeling from the layoffs for budget reasons of 100 fellow city workers.

The protest in Hoboken City Hall was averted yesterday by municipal union officers, who advised city workers to stay at their jobs despite discontent over the rehiring of two entrance level clerks.

"In my 33 years in City Hall, I have never seen the city workers in an uproar that they wanted to walk out," said Mary Lou McGrath, municipal union secretary.

The unrest was triggered by the rehiring of two entrance level clerks for the tax collector's office. The two women, Joan Dobbins and Frances Lucatorto, are sisters. The latter is married to the nephew of City Clerk James Farina. The nephew is a public works employee.

"People are really up in arms because they brought back people

with two years on the job over people with 10 years on the job, and the girls are both related to Jimmy Farina through marriage," said James Fisher, municipal workers union president.

"It smells of politics," Fisher said. Farina and Mayor Patrick Pasculli could not be reached for comment.

The most upsetting aspect of the rehiring, McGrath said, is that both women were hired back from a lay-off list and given promotions that normally take more than 20 years to achieve.

Both women were account clerks, McGrath said. The next rank is senior clerk and the highest rank is principal clerk, she said. McGrath said that only eight city employees are principal clerks. She said that she attained that rank after 25 years on the job.

"It may be legally right, but morally and ethically, it is a slap in the face to every city employee," McGrath said.

Dobbins and Lucatorto are sec-

ond and third, respectively, on the rehiring list for clerks, McGrath said. At least one woman was bypassed, she said. The status of another woman with 12 years as a welfare investigator account clerk is still being reviewed by Civil Service, she said.

Dobbins has 315 days as a certified account clerk and Lucatorto has been certified for 173 days, McGrath said.

"It is blatantly unfair," said one veteran employee.

Although Pasculli said that he would not rehire city employees because of a fiscal crisis, about 100 workers received their walking papers in September. Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the clerks were needed to run the tax collector's office to send out tax bills.

Chius said that he wouldn't have cared if the workers walked off their jobs.

"We would find out how many more people we wouldn't need," Chius said, adding that if the senior workers left their jobs, the city would save more money.

Fisher, home recovering from surgery, said that he discouraged workers from walking out because they would be vulnerable to suspensions or firings.

"But something has got to be done to show that we are all disgusted by the action," Fisher said.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said that tax collector's office needed more people to send tax bills.

The collector's office lost two more clerks since the massive layoffs became effective in September, Chius said.

McGrath said that both women should not have been called back.

"Instead, they were brought back out of sequence and given a higher title," McGrath said, "and it is causing chaos."

Councilman Steve Cappiello said that the council agreed to staff the tax collector's with two more clerks. He said that he was unaware of the workers who would be called back.

He said that he would ask the council to review the matter.

D'Amelio was unable to recall the exact dates of the contributions and says he has no withdrawal slips.

D'Amelio says that he did not know at the time that the alleged contributions were made that such contributions are illegal.

"That would have been awful, ridiculous and ignorant if I had participated in knowingly violating the law," he said. D'Amelio said he first found out that the contributions were not included in Pasculli's election record "a couple of months ago." When asked why he did not report the omission to the authorities, he answered, "I don't see any reason why I don't know whether the money was used for other purposes that were legal. Also, I believe that it is their responsibility to make the declarations."

In addition, D'Amelio says that he, Macri and Lisa donated an additional \$5,000 after Pasculli was elected to support Pasculli-backed at-large councilmembers for the June '89 council runoff. The second donation was also not included in the financial statement, according to the Jersey Journal.

D'Amelio says that he decided to give his support to Pasculli after Pasculli, then a councilmember, agreed to appoint nominees from the Hoboken Republican party to various city agencies and to consider a job for his son Salvatore D'Amelio Jr. as an in-house attorney to the Board of Education (see sidebar). D'Amelio says that his agreement with Pasculli came months before the alleged contribution and that the two were not related.

"No way/no how was there any mention of patronage," D'Amelio Sr. said.

Hudson County Prosecutor Paul De Pascual refused to comment the following day as to whether his office would conduct an investigation into the matter. In Thursday's Jersey Journal, however, De Pascual was quoted as saying that his office would open an investigation if the state or federal attorney general had not already done so.

Teachers leave at final bell

5-5 11/13/90
After-school programs need staff in Hoboken

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Two Hoboken school trustees fear that despite extra state money for the district there is a shortage of teachers interested in staffing new after-school programs, specifically ones for latch key children.

"It is a big problem, even when we are offering big money," said Trustee Claire DePalma. "They are struggling to get people to do it," she said.

Trustee Ed Garcia said money is available for after school programs "but no one wants to work those hours. The money is there. But we are not getting the staff, we are not getting a willingness from the HTA (Hoboken Teachers' Association). I don't know if there is going to be a change in attitude."

Louise Cuttillo Boscia, HTA vice president, said she was not aware of a shortage of teachers to work after-school programs. "They should make the programs, post the jobs and see what happens," Boscia said. "If they haven't offered positions, how do they know that no one wants them," she asked.

"It's too speculative. There are 380 teachers. I don't know

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Teachers go at final bell

Continued from Page 1

who wants an after-school job and who doesn't. I am sure that there are people who want them," Boscia said.

Trustee Perry Belfiore agreed it is too early to say teachers will not be available for new programs next fall. "They're assuming and you know what happens when you assume," Belfiore said.

One indicator that both DePalma and Garcia point to is the in-house curriculum committee, designed to revise the district's teaching plan.

DePalma and Garcia said there is a shortage of teachers to serve on that committee, which meets once a week for two hours and offers an hourly stipend. Belfiore said the stipend isn't enough to interest teachers.

Boscia said she was not aware there was a shortage on the committee.

Dr. Theodore Jenkins, director of curriculum, who is rewriting the curriculum with the teachers' committee, said there is a shortage of teachers.

Hoboken will receive an additional \$3.8 million next year from the state Quality of Education Act of 1990. DePalma and Garcia want to earmark some of that for after-school programs, specifically tutoring and helping with homework.

"We are sending kids home at 2:30 to empty houses. We

need to provide a safe place for latch key kids," DePalma said. "The after-school program is going to depend on staffing. The curriculum committee offers \$22 an hour for social studies and science. No one wants to stay after school."

Jenkins attributes the lack of teachers on the committee to two reasons. One is that teachers are not comfortable developing curriculum for social studies and science. The other is that teachers have after-school responsibilities and want to go home to their families or to another job, he said.

He said that DePalma and Garcia have a valid point. "It is not a question of money, but teachers have other responsibilities."

Belfiore noted that one reason summer school was discontinued was because of the lack of teachers.

DePalma, Garcia and Belfiore are hopeful that the consolidation of six schools, which now each contain pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, to a district of four schools with two buildings containing pre-kindergarten to third grade, and two other buildings with fourth grade to seventh grade, will help staff the after school programs.

Instead of six separate buildings trying to provide instruction for nine or 10 grades, two schools can concentrate on two age groups, trustees say.

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Pasculli's attorney dismisses charges of wrongdoing

County Prosecutor to consider entering investigation

By Alex Ladd

An attorney for Mayor Patrick Pasculli stated on Thursday that the mayor denies any wrongdoing regarding his campaign finances amidst allegations by the mayor's political opponents that they gave him cash contributions during his 1989 mayoral campaign.

"Mayor Pasculli denies that he did anything illegal, improper or unethical," said attorney Joseph Hayden. "He will leave it up to the public to decide whether these belated accusations are the product of public spirited citizens or an attempt at political assassination. We are researching a possible civil action for libel and slander."

"Mayor Pasculli denies that he did anything illegal, improper or unethical," said attorney Joseph Hayden. "He will leave it up to the public to decide whether these belated accusations are the product of public spirited citizens or an attempt at political assassination. We are researching a possible civil action for libel and slander."

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The chairman of the Hoboken Republican party, Sal D'Amelio Sr., and Helen Macri, the recently dismissed director of the Department of Parks and Public Properties, alleged in an article in Wednesday's Jersey Journal that along with accountant Joe Lisa, they gave \$5,000 in cash to the 1989 Pasculli mayoral campaign in which Pasculli defeated Hoboken City Councilmember Joseph Della Fave.

D'Amelio also claims that the three again contributed \$5,000 at Pasculli's behest to three administration-backed councilmembers in a runoff election in 1989.

According to Fredrick Herrmann, a director for the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, it is illegal to give or receive cash contributions of over \$100. The law also states that any contribution of over \$100 must be reported according to name and address of the contributor. The Jour-

nal article states that the contributions were not listed in Pasculli's campaign records.

According to Herrmann, should his office determine that an illegal contribution was willfully and knowingly made or received, he will refer the case to the state Attorney General's office. According to Herrmann, the offense carries a fine of up to \$7,500 and a prison sentence of up to 18 months.

Lisa and Macri could not be reached for comment. D'Amelio confirmed to the Reporter on Thursday his allegation that he, Macri and Lisa donated the money to Pasculli. However, he denies that this action was timed to discredit the mayor as part of the newly formed anti-administration group which D'Amelio recently helped found, calling itself "People United to Save Hoboken" (PUSH).

"Absolutely not, there is no relationship at all. These (members of PUSH) are a group of people who are looking at what can possibly be done to deal with a \$10 (sic) tax increase.... I was asked by a reporter if these things occurred and I saw no reason to say that they didn't," he said.

SAL

from cover

said, "My intention was to have Helen Macri run for mayor. She was involved in her business and it was not appropriate so we (the Hoboken Republican Party) had to support one or the other. We had a meeting with Joe Della Fave, which was a delightful meeting, and then we had a feeling-out meeting with Pasculli. When we met with the Republican Party, the majority wanted to support Pasculli. I didn't like the influence that Laurie Fabiano and Steve Block had on Joe Della Fave. With that, we sat down with Pasculli and his people." According to D'Amelio, he agreed to support and endorse Pasculli months before the election after Pasculli agreed to appoint candidates of his choosing to several city boards and to appoint his son as an in-house attorney for the Board of Education.

It was "weeks before" the May 1989 election, in which Pasculli decisively beat Joe Della Fave, that D'Amelio says the first alleged cash contribution of \$5,000 occurred. He denies that the alleged contribution was in exchange for

appointments.

During the Pasculli administration, D'Amelio says that their relationship deteriorated further with the failure of Pasculli to appoint his Republican candidates to city boards. He said that he was particularly disappointed when Pasculli did not put Helen Macri on the administration ticket as councilwoman-at-large.

"Pasculli said that as far as he was concerned, he was already committed to Dick England. Although England is a Republican, I didn't like the way that it was done. We are the Republican Party in Hoboken — we should choose," he said. "He replaced other Republicans, but not through our organization. I brought it to his attention on several occasions. I said that we are trying to build on a partisan basis — our interest was to build on a county, state and federal level, but on the local level we were trying to build the party around him, in his favor, providing that he comply with his statement to the Republican Party as to what he would do to benefit the citizens of Hoboken, which he has not done."

Besides being the founder of the anti-administration PUSH movement, D'Amelio is the owner of Adams Sales and Service, a plumbing supply company located on Jefferson Street.

have until early December to accept the plans or submit counter-proposals.

Ultimately, Hurley says, "every parish, whether it has a school or not, will participate in co-sponsorship. The Archbishop wants to be sure Catholic education is available to every child who wants one."

Both St. Joe's and OLG schools are in financial trouble, Hurley and school administrators report. "It's conceivable that [without co-sponsorship], two or three years down the line, neither school will be operating," Hurley says. OLG, one of the oldest Catholic schools in the state, has been operating since 1864.

After studying demographics, costs, building conditions and enrollment, the archdiocese suggested OLG's building be the co-sponsorship site, Hurley says.

"No one wants to lose their school," says the Reverend Terry Pescatore, pastor of St. Joe's, "but circumstances mandate it, even more than the Archbishop. Economic reasons have already deprived a lot of children of a Catholic education. The archdiocese has been very, very generous whenever we ask," he says, but that just isn't enough. "We can't do it alone."

The archdiocese's co-sponsorship plan is not the final word, he stresses. Parish organizations are meeting several times a week to decide how best to proceed. Pescatore says, though he adds that enactment of the archdiocese plan is "very likely."

This proposed move follows the beginning of co-sponsorship two months ago of John Paul II School by Hoboken's St. Francis and St. Ann parishes. According to the Rev. Mike Gugliemelli, pastor of St. Francis, the unification is going well, although there are some "rough spots," caused by some parishioners' misconception that their school has been closed. However, he says, John Paul II is "holding its own financially, the kids get along pretty well, and it's functioning smoothly" for a two-month old venture.

St. Peter and Paul, the only other parochial grammar school in Hoboken, has bucked trends and is doing quite well for itself, both in finances and enrollment, according to the Rev. Bob Chabak, pastor of the church. The 24-year-old building, which has low operating costs, is almost too small for the growing enrollment he says.

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According to McGrath, account clerks represent entry level positions followed in rank by senior clerk and principle clerk.

There is one person ahead of the two rehired workers on the reemployment list for account clerks who, according to the payroll department, has been certified since July 20, 1989. According to Chius, however, that list is only in effect within the title of account clerk.

The two rehiring came after the layoff of about 100 municipal employees in September. They were requested by Picardo in light of one retirement and one leave of absence in the tax collector's office. According to Picardo, in a letter to Hoboken Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack, the city's recent layoffs reduced the office's staff from six to four employees. The retirement and leave of absence would leave his office with only two employees, including himself, at a time when tax bills are scheduled to go out, Picardo said in his letter.

As of Friday, however, according to the payroll department, the worker who is listed by Picardo as scheduled for retirement had not yet filed the necessary retirement papers. Those papers must be filed at least three months before a retirement can go into effect. With the two new hirings then, there are presently five people on salary at the tax collector's office, according to the city payroll office.

The workers who, according to Picardo, will be retiring and going on a leave of absence have respective salaries of \$28,141 and \$24,917 per year. Picardo has recommended that the two rehired workers, who started working Thursday, be brought back at their previous salary of \$16,692.

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Catholic schools may be co-sponsored

St. Joe's, OLG directed to consider options

By John M. Cropley

Hoboken's Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's grammar schools have been directed by the Archdiocese of Newark to prepare by December a plan for co-sponsorship, an archdiocese spokesperson said recently, and if the archdiocese's suggested plan is adopted, the OLG building will house the two parishes' students and St. Joe's school will close. It would be the second such co-sponsorship in as many years, and would reduce the number of Catholic grammar schools in Hoboken to three.

Urban Catholic schools are, in many cases, victim to the same changes that affect public schools: rising costs and dwindling enrollment. Coupled with shrinking congregations — whose donations support schools — some schools are hard-pressed to survive.

Representatives of the two Hoboken parishes were among those from 40 parishes who met in early October to discuss co-sponsorship — the support of one school by two or more parishes. To ensure Catholic education remains in the community," says archdiocese spokesperson Michael Hurley, the archdiocese, after extensive study, prepared co-sponsorship proposals for each of the parishes. They

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The two workers in question are related to City Clerk James Farina by marriage, leading to the charges of political favoritism.

"We called our attorney and will be researching this and certainly will take whatever action we can," Fisher said. "They have rehired two people with minimal seniority. They have four years between them. Out of 100 people that were laid off, 50 have more seniority. We had people ask if they could walk off the job over this. It's the kind of thing that aggravates you and completely aggravates the workers."

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Chius. "The tax collector has a right to pick who he wants. He's picked people that have experience in that department."

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Hoboken gasifier fight to continue

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN 11/13/90

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GASIFIER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to release the gasifier contract to Terminal Construction Co. of Wood-Ridge.

Wefing's decision came nearly a year after the tri-city Utilities Authority awarded the contract to Terminal. The award was contingent on the state approving an air-quality permit for the gasifier. Gasification is an innovative technology in which sewage sludge is floated over hot sand to create gas. The gas is then burned to help power the plant.

Almost as soon as they awarded the contract, a majority of the tri-city authority commissioners began battling to stop construction of the gasifier on environmental and economic grounds.

But at its last meeting, the authority voted unanimously to return the pelletization report back to its engineers for further study. The commissioners said they were troubled by the presence of a huge smokestack — also included in the gasifier — as part of the pelletization process.

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"To date not much has happened at the job site," Leanza said. "The judges seem sympathetic to the need for quick action in this matter."

In August, Hudson County Superior Court Judge Dorothea O.C. Wefing ruled against the authority. She ordered the agen-

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City Hall is falling down — not alone

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken public buildings are falling down and at least one is a risk to pedestrians, an engineer has reported to the city.

The Fire Department had to secure the Multi-Service Building at Second and Grand streets after a piece of plywood measuring four feet by 80 feet fell from the building, said James Caulfield, a engineer hired by the city.

"If six people were standing at the bus stop, four would be dead," Caulfield said.

Three council members took an early morning tour yesterday of the Multi-Service Building and the HOPES building at 916 Garden St. Both facilities house daycare and senior citizens programs.

Hoboken's crumbling public structures give the City Council cause for concern

"It looks dangerous," Councilman Thomas Newman said of the HOPES (Hoboken Organization against Poverty and Economic Stress) building.

"We've got to do something," he said. Apparently part of the stone facade is falling from the building, even near the entrance.

The Multi-Service Building is getting a new roof. But rain got in the walls and the plywood broke away from the structure, Caulfield said.

Newman said the council will heed Caulfield's advice to replace the stucco now while the scaffolding for the roofing is still in place.

But while the City Council is concerned about two heavily traveled buildings, Business Administrator Edwin Chius noted that City Hall is also falling down.

The scaffolding outside the building — built in 1855 and completed in 1911 — is to catch falling stone, he said.

And the fire house, built at the turn of the century in Romanesque style, at Madison and Newark streets is also structurally unsound, said Chius.

"We are worried about the building," Chius said. The firehouse takes the beating of heavy truck traffic on both sides, he said. "It doesn't do any good with all that vibrations," he said.

Roy Haack, director of public works, noted that when it snows outside, "it snows inside that building."

No money to restore City Hall has been earmarked since the Cappiello administration, Chius said. The council has twice turned down a request for \$2 million to restore the structure, he said.

"City Hall is a huge problem, very expensive and we haven't begun to look at that," said Newman.

Hoboken tax bills could go out this week

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken property owners may be getting their tax bills by the end of this week despite an in-house controversy in the city tax collector's office.

City tax officials worked overtime on Veteran's Day trying to get the tax bills ready for mailing by the end of this week yesterday, said Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack.

Property owners will receive an envelope with two tax bills, one for the third and fourth quarters, as well as the difference of the increase on the tax rate, Goldsack said.

The existing rate of \$17.52 will increase by nearly \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In dollars, that means

owners of houses valued at \$200,000 will be paying about \$840 more in taxes. Owners of homes valued at \$300,000 will be paying \$1,200 more in taxes.

The bills will go out either the end of next week or the beginning of next.

Meanwhile, the city workers union is demanding that the City Council determine if the two clerks in the tax collector's office were rehired out of turn.

David Roberts, acting city council president, said yesterday he is prepared to lay off the two clerks if the city determines that they were hired back out of sequence.

The rehiring of the two clerks, Joan Dobbins and Frances Lucatorto, has caused a controversy among city work-

ers. The Hoboken Municipal Employees Union contends that other clerks with more seniority were bypassed when the city hired back the two women, who were also given promotions.

Tax bills are late because the city did not adopt its budget until last month. Mayor Patrick Pasculli based his spending plan on a development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey but voters rejected the plan at the polls.

Consequently Pasculli laid off about 100 city workers.

James Fisher, municipal workers' union president, demanded that the council intervene and respect the union's seniority.

Tax Collector Louis Picardo asked for the two women back because they are already

trained and the office needs to get the tax bills out immediately.

Goldsack said that he supports the rehiring of the two women.

"It isn't a question of legality, it is a question of need," Goldsack said.

Roberts said he, too, doesn't care if the rehiring is within the law.

"I'm not going to argue with Louis and Nickie. It just appears to be unfair, whatever their logic is for bringing them back. It appears to be wrong to the rest of the workforce and the workforce has to have confidence we are doing things fairly," Roberts said.

Council members are still awaiting a legal opinion from Law Director Eugene O'Connell, instructed to review the matter with Civil Service.

'Too many' Hoboken teachers are natives

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The state Education Department is telling Hoboken's schools to reach beyond teaching basic skills and develop a curriculum that integrates thinking skills of problem solving and reasoning in the classroom.

The report, prepared by a state external review team, notes the school system is heavy with native Hoboken teachers and recommends the district hire from outside the district to bring in new ideas.

The report particularly recommends the Board of Education conduct a national or statewide search for a superintendent to succeed Walter Fine, who retires in January.

"There is discussion and speculation as to his replacement. The perception is that the next superintendent has been identified already," the report notes.

It also recommends the school board "recruit a superintendent with expert leadership skills to capitalize on the efforts already in place in the district and to bring in new

ideas and directions."

The 20-page report is required by the Quality Education Act of 1990, and was developed by an external review team, which was dispatched to local districts to identify needs and make recommendations.

Ultimately, a plan will be developed by the review team and local school district on using any new money provided under the Quality Education Act.

Hoboken is projected to receive about \$3.8 million in new funds from the state. There is already a push on the City Council to use that money for tax relief.

None of the school trustees saw the report as a reprimand, instead viewing it as an endorsement of the efforts to improve education.

"It points out we have been doing a good job and traveled a long road, but we have many more miles to go before we can rest," said trustee Perry Belfiore. "The consensus on the board is to make the system meaner and leaner, excise fat and augment learning for the children."

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The things that dreams are made of

By Miri Ascarelli
Journal staff writer

Fantasy becomes reality in Hoboken

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HUD

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■ No limits on how much employees could spend while traveling.

■ Unnecessary use of outside consultants.

■ More vehicles kept and insured than are needed.

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The strike force also said that North Bergen's authority is rife with nepotism, has too many workers and improperly spent more than \$12,000 on meals.

In Hoboken, there is an excessive amount of vehicles, and inadequate cash controls allow "for the opportunity to embezzle or misappropriate funds," the report said.

Throughout the state, housing authority commissioners respon-

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Rehired Hoboken clerk faces firing

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A clerk hired by the Hoboken Tax Collector's office will most likely be out of a job if the City Council follows the recommendation of Law Director Eugene O'Connell.

While the rehiring of Frances Lucatorto was "proper and legal" according to Civil Service, O'Connell is recommending she be replaced with the first clerk on the city's layoff list.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he supports O'Connell's recommendation.

"While the state Department of Personnel recognizes the tax collector's position to rehire those with familiarity with the position, it seems the city has an obli-

gation to hire from the reemployment list," Pasculli said.

The rehiring of Lucatorto spurred controversy among city employees because they said veteran clerks were bumped from the reemployment list.

The Municipal Employees Union demanded the city investigate the rehiring.

James Fisher, union president, claimed that Lucatorto and her half-sister, Joan Dobbins, were brought back to work because the former is married to the nephew of City Clerk James Farina.

Both women were given promotions when they rehired, union officials said.

Farina said that he had nothing to do with the rehiring and that the decision was made by the City Coun-

cil on the recommendation of the tax collector and finance director.

O'Connell said the rehiring was legal but that it was not ethically correct.

Tax Collector Luis Picardo requested that Lucatorto and Dobbins be rehired because they worked in the office before 110 city workers lost their jobs in September because of the budget crunch.

O'Connell said that the first clerk on the rehiring list should be appointed in a temporary position. He said that in January, if permanent positions are made, the city should hire from the Civil Service tax clerk list.

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"My controller had a stroke," Gallo explained. "We had to get the budget prepared for June and he was out from May until August."

The report also blasts the agency for its purchasing policies and for not advertising for competitive bidding on professional services contracts.

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See HOBOKEN — Page 4

Planning, parent apathy plague schools

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Ten school officials in Hoboken and Union City are ignoring long-range improvements in their troubled districts while grappling with the immediate goal of pulling themselves out of Level 3 monitoring, according to state reports.

The reports, released yesterday, also noted that both districts suffer from a lack of parental involvement and are hampered by buildings that were "built for another era."

On the positive side, the reports commended both districts for implementing new educational programs and reorganizing their respective business offices.

The reports were compiled by external

review teams assembled by the state Education Department as a way of helping Hoboken, Union City and 28 other urban districts spend additional state aid.

Hoboken is due to receive about \$3.8 million in new state money next year under the five-year Quality of Education Act. Union City can expect to get almost \$13.8 million.

While the state is committed to increasing funding for needy, urban districts, officials will be closely watching where the money goes, said Education Department spokesman Roger Shatzkin.

The recommendations have been made in such a way to encourage the districts to come up with their own solutions," Shatzkin said. "The districts will, however, have to submit improvement

plans, as well as their budgets for state approval."

The reports released yesterday paint negative and positive aspects of the two districts in fairly broad strokes. Both reinforce findings already published in previous Level 3 reports.

In Union City, for example, the report

Please see SCHOOLS Page 12

City Hall is falling down — not alone

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken public buildings are falling down and at least one is a risk to pedestrians, an engineer has reported to the city.

The Fire Department had to secure the Multi-Service Building at Second and Grand streets after a piece of plywood measuring four feet by 80 feet fell from the building, said James Caulfield, a engineer hired by the city.

"If six people were standing at the bus stop, four would be dead," Caulfield said.

Three council members took an early morning tour yesterday of the Multi-Service Building and the HOPES building at 916 Garden St. Both facilities house daycare and senior citizens programs.

Hoboken's crumbling public structures give the City Council cause for concern

"It looks dangerous," Councilman Thomas Newman said of the HOPES (Hoboken Organization against Poverty and Economic Stress) building.

"We've got to do something," he said. Apparently part of the stone facade is falling from the building, even near the entrance.

The Multi-Service Building is getting a new roof. But rain got in the walls and the plywood broke away from the structure, Caulfield said.

Newman said the council will heed Caulfield's advice to replace the stucco now while the scaffolding for the roofing is still in place.

But while the City Council is concerned about two heavily traveled buildings, Business Administrator Edwin Chius noted that City Hall is also falling down.

The scaffolding outside the building — built in 1855 and completed in 1911 — is to catch falling stone, he said.

And the fire house, built at the turn of the century in Romanesque style, at Madison and Newark streets is also structurally unsound, said Chius.

"We are worried about the building," Chius said. The firehouse takes the beating of heavy truck traffic on both sides, he said. "It doesn't do any good with all that vibrations," he said.

Roy Haack, director of public works, noted that when it snows outside, "it snows inside that building."

No money to restore City Hall has been earmarked since the Capello administration, Chius said. The council has twice turned down a request for \$2 million to restore the structure, he said.

"City Hall is a huge problem, very expensive and we haven't begun to look at that," said Newman.

Hoboken tax bills could go out this week

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken property owners may be getting their tax bills by the end of this week despite an in-house controversy in the city tax collector's office.

City tax officials worked overtime on Veterans' Day trying to get the tax bills ready for mailing by the end of this week yesterday, said Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack.

Property owners will receive an envelope with two tax bills, one for the third and fourth quarters, as well as the difference of the increase on the tax rate, Goldsack said.

The existing rate of \$17.52 will increase by nearly \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In dollars, that means

owners of houses valued at \$200,000 will be paying about \$840 more in taxes. Owners of homes valued at \$300,000 will be paying \$1,200 more in taxes.

The bills will go out either the end of this week or the beginning of next.

Meanwhile, the city workers' union is demanding that the City Council determine if the two clerks in the tax collector's office were rehired out of turn.

David Roberts, acting city council president, said yesterday he is prepared to lay off the two clerks if the city determines that they were hired back out of sequence.

The rehiring of the two clerks, Joan Dobbins and Frances Lucatorto, has caused a controversy among city workers. The Hoboken Municipal Employees Union contends that other clerks with more seniority were bypassed when the city hired back the two women, who were also given promotions.

Tax bills are late because the city did not adopt its budget until last month. Mayor Patrick Pasculli based his spending plan on a development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey but voters rejected the plan at the polls.

Consequently Pasculli laid off about 100 city workers.

James Fisher, municipal workers' union president, demanded that the council intervene and respect the union's seniority.

Tax Collector Louis Picardo asked for the two women back because they are already trained and the office needs to get the tax bills out immediately.

Goldsack said that he supports the rehiring of the two women.

"It isn't a question of legality, it is a question of need," Goldsack said.

Roberts said he, too, doesn't care if the rehiring is within the law.

"I'm not going to argue with Louis and Nickie. It just appears to be unfair, whatever their logic is for bringing them back. It appears to be wrong to the rest of the workforce and the workforce has to have confidence we are doing things fairly," Roberts said.

Council members are still awaiting a legal opinion from Law Director Eugene O'Connell, instructed to review the matter with Civil Service.

'Too many' Hoboken teachers are natives

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The state Education Department is telling Hoboken's schools to reach beyond teaching basic skills and develop a curriculum that integrates thinking skills of problem solving and reasoning in the classroom.

The report, prepared by a state external review team, notes the school system is heavy with native Hoboken teachers and recommends the district hire from outside the district to bring in new ideas.

The report particularly recommends the Board of Education conduct a national or statewide search for a superintendent to succeed Walter Pine, who retires in January.

"There is discussion and speculation as to his replacement. The perception is that the next superintendent has been identified already," the report notes.

It also recommends the school board "recruit a superintendent with expert leadership skills to capitalize on the efforts already in place in the district and to bring in new

ideas and directions."

The 20-page report is required by the Quality Education Act of 1990, and was developed by an external review team, which was dispatched to local districts to identify needs and make recommendations.

Ultimately, a plan will be developed by the review team and local school district on using any new money provided under the Quality Education Act.

Hoboken is projected to receive about \$3.8 million in new funds from the state. There is already a push on the City Council to use that money for tax relief.

None of the school trustees saw the report as a reprimand, instead viewing it as an endorsement of their efforts to improve education.

"It points out we have been doing a good job and traveled a long road, but we have many more miles to go before we can rest," said trustee Perry Belfiore.

"The consensus on the board is to make the system meaner and leaner, excise fat and augment learning for the children," James Farina, president of the

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HUD

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Parade workers plan surprises

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN *Dispatch 11/15/90*
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Don't have a cow, man. Have a turkey. There's plenty new in the 64th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, not the least of which is a giant Bart Simpson balloon.

The bug-eyed Bart was one of many characters clogging the Macy's production studio warehouse on Willow Avenue yesterday, as workers put the finishing touches on floats, balloons and, for the first time, fallons.

"What's a fallon?" asked Manfred G. Bass, the man who puts the whole show together. "Why, it's a combination float and balloon, of course. Every year we're doing something to make the parade bigger and better."

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PARADE

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The first fallons are the Wicked Witch of the West and Paddington Bear. If they prove successful, others will be added next year, Bass said.

Bass, 50, has been topping himself for 30 years, and this year is no exception. Macy's representatives expect more than 80 million people to view the parade in person and on television.

Besides Bart and the two fallons, Bass and his 25-person crew have several other surprises for parade fans this year, including a huge Clifford the Big Red Dog balloon.

"We've got artists, sculptors, welders, all types of craftspeople working here," Bass said. "Everybody pulling together to

make this the best parade there is."

By last night, the floats and balloons should all have received their final touchups.

Beginning early in the evening, they will be led through the Lincoln Tunnel on their way to what Bass called "the longest-running show on Broadway."

Though this is Bass' 30th year with the parade, he still has a schoolboy's gleam in his eye when describing one of his favorite new additions to the parade cast, the Tiny Toons float sponsored by Warner Bros.

"It just brings out the kid in everybody," Bass said. "And that's the challenge for us each year, to keep making it magical."

Eateries not being inspected

By Jo-Ann Moriarty *Journal staff writer*

Hoboken has no health inspectors to inspect restaurants or public health investigators to crack down on landlords who are not providing heat or hot water.

Health Director Patricia Mitten said the crisis began two weeks ago when her only public health investigator became ill and has not been able to work.

The office's only licensed inspector who does spot checks in any of the city's 264 restaurants recently went on maternity leave, Mitten said.

"I have no one," Mitten said.

Hoboken residents have been calling The Jersey Journal complaining that they cannot get a health inspector to answer the telephone in the public complaint office.

"I have no one to cover this office except myself. I have been here for 30 years and I have never had things this bad and I am fed up," Mitten said.

City Hall laid off 110 municipal workers in September because of a severe fiscal crisis. At the beginning of the year, the Health Department had two licensed inspectors who checked restaurants and two public health investigators and a part-time employee.

"There are 264 restaurants in Hoboken and right now, none of them are being covered," Mitten said. "We were doing pretty good until all hell broke loose," she said.

"My licensed inspector was

See ECONOMIC — Page 4

THREATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our dream is gone."

Jackie said she will close the Shamrock, a tidy little store on the first floor of a four-story brick building at 413 First St., by the end of this month.

Neither she nor her husband have any idea who is trying to drive them out of business — or

why. Police and fire investigators have a few leads, but no arrests and no answers.

"We have no enemies here," Jackie said. "We haven't had any problems in the neighborhood. . . . It's heartbreaking. We were doing good. We were building the business."

The Khalis' problems started less than two months after the Shamrock opened on July 26.

First, there was the attempted burglary. Then, a month later, they found gasoline-soaked carpet in a hallway next to the store. Police called it an arson attempt.

In October, gasoline was found in the store. Another arson attempt, it was called. That's when the Khalis' insurance company canceled the store's policy.

On Friday, an unknown caller phoned an arson threat to a city official. One night later, someone broke into the store.

Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno said detectives are investigating the incidents with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Arson Squad.

Fire Chief Richard Tremietied said his office has made the case a priority. Fire investigators have thoroughly checked the

building so that, in case of another arson attempt or fire, firefighters can extinguish a blaze as quickly as possible.

"Somebody's trying to frighten us," Jackie said. "Well, it's worked."

Folding the business will hurt the Khalis financially — the couple invested \$40,000 — but the hurt goes deeper than that. Owning their own store had long been an ambition of the Khalis.

Years ago, Jackie's father, Michael Carmody, owned the Shamrock Bar on Hudson Street, since defunct. He also ran the Shamrock Taxi Co. in Hoboken. That's why the Khalis named their store the Shamrock Deli.

"The Shamrock name is ruined," Jackie said. "My family name is ruined."

So, too, is her love for her hometown. Jackie, who now lives in Union City, said she opened a store in Hoboken because of her roots here. She, her seven sisters and a brother were all born and raised in Hoboken.

The homecoming was not heartwarming.

"I thought we should open here because I'm from here," Jackie said. "Now I'm being forced out of here."

'Our dream is gone'

DISPATCH 11/20/90
Threats prompt closing
Owners give up on thriving deli

By DAVID REILLY

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Only four months after they opened the Shamrock Deli, Jackie and Ali Khalil are closing the store — victims of a series of break-ins and threats that has left them frightened and authorities baffled.

There was an attempted burglary in August, attempted arsons in September and October, and a break-in and threat of arson last week.

Yesterday, Jackie Khalil said that she and her husband were too scared to stay open.

"We'll lose money, but we won't lose our lives," she said.

Please see THREATS Page 4



Ali Khalil boards up a back window of the Shamrock Deli on First Street in Hoboken after bars were bent in an apparent attempted break-in.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Economic layoffs cut inspection staff

Continued from Page 1

going to have a baby in November. I was told to hire someone but it is not easy to find inspectors.

"You have to have a college degree, an eight-week course and a license. It is not easy," Mitten said.

The public health investigator, who inspects apartments for heat, hot water, roach and rodent control or sewerage backup, plans to retire.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said

that he has informed the City Council of the shortage in the office.

He said it is up to the council to appropriate money for more personnel.

"I believe that they are going to authorize the health officer to rehire in the areas of the shortage."

"As time goes on, it shows that many areas of the personnel on staff were performing essential duties," Pasculli said.

Housing advocate Thomas

Olivieri, who works in the Office of Community Development, said that the Health Department had a good record of cracking down on landlords who didn't provide heat or hot water.

Mitten said the lack of service will have an impact on the community.

"Some people have no heat right now. If there is an outbreak with food poisoning, we are going to wind up having problems," she said.

Irate parents storm Hoboken meet on school closings

J.J. 11/3/90
Irate parents crowded into the Hoboken Board of Education meeting last night to get some answers about the reported reorganization plan that would close one grammar school and convert four others.

Both board member Marc Toscano and School Superintendent Walter J. Fine tried to alleviate the fears of the parents by saying that no plan is in place.

"Don't believe what you

read in the papers," Fine said.

Toscano told the more than 100 parents that a plan is being considered that would convert Calabro and Kealey grammar schools to grades pre-kindergarten through third grade, and convert Wallace and Demarest schools into grades four through seven.

Under the possible plan, eighth-graders would enter Hoboken High and the Brandt School would be closed with the board considering rebuilding the Connors School.

Board member Ed Garcia, who arrived at the meeting more than an hour late, wanted to know why the board was dis-

cussing the reorganization plan when "it's not on the agenda." His statement was greeted by angry rejoinders from the parents.

"It's your district, but you have to think of all the students," Fine said as he attempted to calm the vocal parents.

Toscano reiterated that no plan has been set, only that a proposal was made to the management council consisting of the superintendent, assistant superintendent and principals of the schools, and that "as soon as we have their feelings, we will go to each site (school) management council to discuss

it.

"Nothing is written in stone," he said. "We have to come up with the best idea."

Fine recommended that the parents go to each school's site management council and offer any ideas they have.

In other action, the board heard a report on test scores. According to school officials, basic skills test scores have increased dramatically since the district fell into Level 3 state monitoring four years ago.

The board also was advised that the Hoboken City Council appointed Councilman Richard England to serve as liaison to the board in all bud-

getary matters.

The board approved payment of \$16,700 to the Italiano, Lisa and Co. for preparing and submitting the statutory audit for their fiscal year ending June 30: \$4,595.44 to Organization Analysis and Practice, Inc. for its first payment on a 1990-91 contract as Level 3 consultants and \$75,508.82 to K-Laine Welding Co., Inc. as second payment for the replacement of the boiler at the Kealey School.

Also, the board paid \$8,372.44 to Harsen and Johns Partnership, an architectural firm, for services rendered at three schools.

Hoboken cops want voices heard on radios

J.J. 12/31/90
By Yvonne Latty *Journal staff writer*

Hoboken police and firefighters implored the city council last night to fund re-

placement of what they claim is an outdated and dangerous communication system.

"The system is 60 years old and a threat to the life and safety of the public at large," said Police Lt. John Howl.

Howl played a tape recording of an officer requesting backup while in pursuit of a stolen car. All listeners could hear was static and the garbled voice of the officer whose words could not be deciphered.

Police are asking for a separate wave length, new radios and new hand-held radios. They currently share their wave length with six other entities who frequently can be heard.

"You can hear Bridgeport Comm., as though it were Union City," said Sergeant Thomas P. Meehan of the Police Superior Officers Association.

Meehan held a two-way radio, its center covered with a thick wad of scotch tape.

He claimed the tape was the only thing that holds the circuits of most of the officer's radios together.

"Sometimes you have to hold it upside down or turn it in all kinds of different directions to get them to work," he said.

Out of 32 hand-held radios eight are in the shop, a third of the radio population, Meehan said.

"It's a dangerous situation that can only get worse," he said.

"We understand the city has money problems but something has to be done about this before it's too late."

Captain Jack Lisa of the Fire Department echoed the complaints of the police department representatives.

"Communication in the fire department has collapsed," he said. "We desperately need computer upgrades."

Lisa said the department's voice alarm system is down to 60 percent capacity, the radio system is in serious need of updating and the pull box alarm is antiquated with only 30 still operable.

Lisa is requesting a computerized system that would allow firefighters to be able to speak directly with dispatchers, local and state police, PATH, Hospitals and ambulances.

"Any alternatives will leave large holes," he said.

The council vowed to take a look at the system and see what can be done.

"There are things that we can definitely be without, but others we just can't," said Councilman Richard Del Boccio.

"This is a matter of life and safety. We need to conduct an investigation of the equipment that is so sorely needed."

However, City Council President Dave Roberts said the new system could cost the financial troubled city close to a million dollars.

"I can see the importance of the equipment but austerity is on everyone's mind."

In other business parking fines were hiked in the city. The new rates mean commercial vehicles parked overnight will be fined \$25, up from the current fine of \$5.

No housing 'bias' found in Hoboken

J.J. 11/19/90

HUD clears city's authority but doesn't address politics

By Jo-Ann Moriarty *Journal staff writer*

After investigating for nearly two years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has concluded that the Hoboken Housing Authority does not discriminate against minorities in its tenant selection.

"The investigation was a waste of time," said Nellie Moyeno, a former city director who initiated the probe. She wanted HUD to look into political favoritism.

The large number of minority tenants at the projects is indicative that the housing agency does not discriminate on the basis of race or skin color, she said.

Moyeno wanted the federal probe to determine if the applicants with political connections were getting the subsidized apartments.

She filed a complaint with HUD's regional office in New York two years ago on behalf of 39 applicants who, she reported, had waited as long as 11 years for a public housing apartment.

"If you don't have a political godfather, you don't get in,"

Moyeno still insists two years after her initial complaint.

Adam Glantz, spokesman for the New York HUD office, said that the issue of people with political connections getting apartments over applicants on a waiting list was not within the scope of the federal investigation.

He said he did not know of an agency in HUD that could investigate an allegation that people with political connections get subsidized apartments.

"The complaint was based on Title VI," Glantz said, and focused on whether applicants were bypassed because of their "race, color or national origin."

The housing authority manages 1,355 units and rents are based on income. Only about 30 apartments annually become available, according to housing officials.

Glantz said the complaint was taken seriously but, of 22 applicants interviewed by HUD investigators, only one made "a passing reference" to needing political connections.

Dominick Gallo, Hoboken Housing Authority executive

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Gallo says Moyeno plays politics

Continued from Page 1

director, said he would have been happier if the official HUD letter closing the complaint had cleared the authority of charges that it gives apartments to those with political connections.

Gallo said that it was not unusual for applicants to wait at least six years for an apartment.

Gallo accused Moyeno of playing politics because she supported Mayor Patrick Pasculli's opponent in the mayoral contest that was ongoing at the time that she filed the complaint.

Moyeno said that the complaint was filed because appli-

cants came to her office after they were unsuccessful in getting explanations about their applications from the authority.

Pasculli subsequently replaced Moyeno because, he said, he had the right to pick his city directors. George Guzman got Moyeno's job.

While Glantz said that the complaint was taken seriously, HUD records show that the federal investigator came to Hoboken City Hall on two occasions to interview applicants, last Dec. 6 and again April 30 of this year.

Moyeno said that she was "disgusted and frustrated" that HUD interviewed the appli-

cants in City Hall because "they were scared to go there" and worried about being seen "coming forward."

She said the federal agency should have gone into the project without notifying the administration. "It was not an investigation," she said.

Guzman and Glantz noted that almost all the applicants on the HUD list have gotten into the housing projects.

To Moyeno, that is proof that politics plays a role in landing an apartment.

"Take a look at the list. Most of them got apartments. Why? Because something was investigated about having political affiliations," she said.

More study on gasifier alternatives asked

By Agustin Torres *Journal staff writer*

The Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority commissioners last night requested continued research on alternatives to a gasifier plant — including burning sludge outside Hudson County — while it seeks state approval for pelletization, the process that turns the residue of treated wastewater into pellets.

At the session, engineers for the tri-city authority reported that a "short stack" pelletization plant can be constructed as an alternative to the gasifier's 98-foot tall stacks.

After listening to the engineering report on the smoke stacks, Authority Treasurer Abraham Antun said the most

viable proposal under pelletization, as an alternative to burning sludge, is to approve construction at a Hoboken site allowing for a stack only three feet higher than the building.

A critic of the gasifier stacks which drew the public ire, Antun said the unique pelletization construction allows the stack to be literally encompassed by the building allowing for "a yard" above the main structure. The height of the plant has yet to be determined but commissioners said it would not have the impact of a gasifier.

Authority engineers said

with pelletization, the sludge is "indirectly heated" turning the residue into "pellets." In gasification, sludge is heated above hot sands, and the steam is used for secondary energy.

Antun did not want to vote in favor of the pelletization report until he was able to examine other alternatives to gasification under investigation. Among those alternatives is burning the sludge elsewhere.

The agency has contacted other sewerage authorities, some of which showed interest in either taking the sludge at a fee or becoming partners in the building of an incinerator out-

side of Hudson County. Among those agencies were the Stoney Brook Authority in Princeton and the North West Bergen County Sewerage Authority of Waldwick.

Chairman Richard J. Wolff said the commissioners will eventually approve the report because it is essential to keep the process of seeking approval for the state Department of Environmental Protection going even while other alternatives are explored.

The Tri-city commissioners are expected to meet with area environmentalists Dec. 4 at Hoboken High School.

Foes preparing own waterfront plan

Architect to study area

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With a judge expected to decide next week whether city residents will get a second chance to vote on a \$30 million waterfront development agreement, the plan's opponents are busy preparing their own proposal in the event a new election is called.

Members of the coalition that helped defeat the plan in July are confident that voters would reject the comprehensive Port Authority of New York and New Jersey plan again, but say they want to put their own proposal forward to stifle talk that they are simply anti-development obstructionists.

"What we want to do is plan it in such a way that the public feels confident they'll be able to use that waterfront space," said Ron Hine of the Coalition for a Better Waterfront.

The group has hired New York architect Craig Whitaker to look at the city's entire Hudson River waterfront and draw up plans for a development it feels fits the scale of the Mile-Square City.

Whitaker, who was involved in designing plans for the never-built Westway superhighway in Manhattan, is getting help from a planning committee composed of eight architects, two planners and one traffic engineer. The committee members all live here and have volunteered their expertise and time, Hine said.

"They have been working for about two months and they're making a lot of progress," he said, adding that the coalition expects to unveil its plan early next year. "They are clearly not lightweights. They know what they're doing. And they've got a good idea of what the city can handle."

In a July special election, resi-

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The Hoboken waterfront is the site of a controversial development plan. DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Marineview leftovers--\$55,000

Tenant/landlord lawsuits end; tenant/tenant spat begins

By John M. Copley

In what is heralded as the end of seven years of legal battles over rent increases between the group known as Tenants For Affordable Rent (TAR) and the owner of Grogan Marineview Towers on Third and River streets, the Marineview Housing Company has agreed to pay TAR \$55,000 to drop all pending litigation. TAR has tentatively agreed to accept the settlement and drop its objections to past rent increases. The payment would be divided among TAR's 95 members, an arrangement many of the building's 1,400 other tenants see as unfair.

Jim Lisa, a Hoboken housing attorney who has informally advised a group of the mostly non-TAR tenants who are trying to form a tenants' association, says the anger comes from disappointment. "There may have been misrepresentations by the management or by TAR," he says. "Tenants were misled to believe that a decision rendered in favor of TAR would favor them too."

An unsigned letter obtained from a tenant, printed on Marineview stationery and distributed in mid-1989 to the two buildings reads "if any rent reductions are granted by the Court, they will be applied to all tenants..." TAR member Ed Mecka said this was a trick by Marineview management to torpedo TAR's legal efforts, by making TAR's dues-paying members quit TAR.

Seeing a monetary settlement awarded to only a small portion of the tenants is dismaying for many who thought they would benefit from the case. What they thought was a rent rollback fight has ended, with no monetary gain for themselves, and a rent hike looming December 1.

Rents will increase almost nine percent, and range from \$390 for a first tier, ground floor studio

to \$903 for a second tier, 25th floor, two-bedroom with balcony. (Apartments rented after 1984 pay the second tier of rents, about 10 to 12 percent more than pre-1985, first tier apartments.)

Doug Wiedman, agent of Kriegman and Smith, Inc., the building managers, could not be reached for comment on the origin of the letter. He said earlier last week that the settlement was reached to "end the financial and mental strain and divisiveness of constant litigation."

Many non-TAR tenants perceive that TAR stopped fighting the December 1 rent increase in return for a \$55,000 "buyout" for its members. Also, in the past, tenants say, TAR has avoided rent increases that other tenants have paid.

Cecilia Bailey claims that TAR withheld payment of rent increases while it contested them in court. She and other non-TAR tenants paid the increase. Only when the increase was reduced by the courts did TAR pay it, she said, adding that TAR was never held accountable for the extra money that other tenants had to pay in the interim.

Another man claimed the same thing, but didn't complain then (and does not wish to be identified now) because he is at management's mercy. "I want a two bedroom apartment and somewhere along the line I'm going to have to kiss someone's butt."

Annette Illing, co-chair of TAR, declined comment on the \$55,000 settlement. "Until the settlement is consummated, next week or the week after, I am reluctant to comment," Mecka said Bailey's charges are untrue. "All legal actions

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HOBOKEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents defeated the city's partnership agreement with the Port Authority by 12 votes. The agreement called for construction of a 3.2 million-square-foot mixed-use development.

Voters cited the project's size, the Port Authority's involvement and dissatisfaction with Mayor Patrick Pasculli's administration as some of the reasons they opposed the project.

The city lost \$8 million in anticipated lease payments when the agreement was defeated. Pasculli then laid off more than 100 municipal employees and sought an emergency \$7.2 million state loan package to meet the budget shortfall.

A group calling itself the Committee to Save Hoboken formed in the wake of the referendum election and filed suit to have the results changed because of what they called "voting irregularities."

Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City heard the case and could issue a ruling as early as Monday. Also expected shortly is the report from a City Council subcommittee convened to re-examine the agreement.

Meanwhile, the Port Authority has not yet given up its interest in developing the 32 waterfront acres.

When the bistate agency's 1991 budget was unveiled last week, the spending plan included \$9.8 million for development of the waterfront site.

"We will wait to determine what action is appropriate in connection with that project as things happen in Hoboken," authority spokesman Armando Arrastia said yesterday. "Right now, it's too early to tell."

How do you spend \$3.8 million in state aid?

School programs vs. tax relief

By Alex Ladd

Hoboken Reporter 11/25/90

Hoboken's Board of Education is scheduled to get \$3.8 million from the state for the 1991 school year and in the aftermath of a 25 percent property tax hike, how that money is spent will come increasingly into focus. Meanwhile, Governor Florio, who is having to deal with the political fallout of the Nov. 6 election which was widely seen as a rebuke by the voters of his tax package, has begun implying that at least some of the money should go towards tax relief.

Hoboken is one of 30 urban districts which will benefit from the Florio administration's Quality Education Act. The act would bring the state in compliance with the Abbott vs. Burke state Supreme Court decision which seeks to bring poorer urban districts up to par with their richer suburban counterparts. Under the act, those municipalities are eligible for a five percent increase in state aid. The act would take effect next September.

School superintendent Walter Fine says that he would like to see an expansion of programs which the schools recently instituted, many of which were praised by the state.

Fine said this week that he would like to see the money spent in the areas of parental involvement, science, libraries and foreign languages.

"I would like to have a teacher in every school certified to teach French, Italian, Spanish and possibly German. I would like to see in every school a fully qualified science teacher with science equipment such as a science lab. Also, a fully equipped library with certified librarian in every elementary school."

"The High school is looking for more help. I would like them to work with at-risk children," he said.

However, with the board of education spending nearly \$11,000 per student and with over half of the city's tax revenue going towards the school budget, many Hobokenites think that shortage of money is not the problem with Hoboken's schools.

As part of the Quality Education Act, an external review team recently reviewed the Hoboken school system and detailed areas that the state wants to see improved. While the report praised the school for introducing new innovative

programs, it said that those programs "were not evaluated against goals and objectives for effectiveness." The report also criticized the Hoboken's school system for duplication of services and for not having a vision that is identifiable by its staff and the community.

The Board of Education must file a report by Dec. 15th with the state Department of Education detailing a five-year educational plan in order to qualify for additional aid next year. In mid-January it has to submit a budget with line by line spending items for the increased state money.

Fine says that board is in a "Catch 22" because it is getting money from the state to improve programs and will be asked for tax relief.

"We hope to hold as close as possible to the budget this year and still put these programs into effect."

City Business Administrator Ed Chius says that he would like to see the entire amount used for tax relief.

"The board of education should use the money for tax relief and should make the consolidation of buildings a priority by closing two buildings and using the money from the sale towards improving buildings," he said.

Chius says that he feels that after the Nov. 6 election, the

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SPEND

from cover

state will be more receptive towards using the money for tax relief.

"Judging from the Governor's speeches this month and from comments I've seen in the papers, they want the money spent for tax relief, rather than infusing all that money into new programs at once."

Board Trustee Mark Toscano says that the board of education should not start counting state money before it arrives for other reasons besides the possibility that some of it may go towards tax relief.

"The money is an assumption right now," he said. "Florio is doing some side steps now and no one knows how much

money we'll be getting. I'm very concerned about that. Our school budget is going to encumber quite a few additional expenses in the 1991-92 school year."

According to Toscano, school spending will increase by \$6 million "before we can even by a pencil." Those increases will come from \$1.5 million in pension and social security costs, approximately \$2.5 million in raises — per the latest teacher's contract — and \$2.1 million in insurance.

In the meantime, the board will begin its budget meetings on Dec. 3rd. Councilmember Richard England, a former board trustee and president, will be the liaison for the city council during those meetings.

Although England will be sitting in on the meetings, he will not actually participate in the creation of the budget.

England described his role in sitting in on the meetings that of a "fly on the wall."

"I think I'm familiar with the school budget and I've planted the seeds for intelligent questions to be raised," said.

"My personal goal is \$2 million (for tax relief). Whether I can pull it off, I don't know," England said.

England says that the city council will be looking for "bare bones budget."

"Even those members of the council who are employees of the Hoboken Board of Education (Councilmembers Ed Duroy and Richard Del Bocco) are saying they want barebones budget," England said.

The budget will go before voters in the spring school elections and if defeated, will go before the city council.

MARINEVIEW

from cover

handled through the court systems. It's inconceivable that anyone could sidestep, paying legally due money."

Lisa said that there may be legal action forthcoming, "not to set aside the decision in favor of TAR," but because of questions "about the validity of the agreement between TAR and the housing company."

Also, reportedly, former TAR

members who allowed their memberships to lapse after the initial \$100 membership fee are considering legal action against TAR.

Several tenants say they joined TAR and paid the first of several fees, which were levied to pay TAR attorney Ray Korona, but not the subsequent fees. Since the \$55,000 benefits only current TAR members, these people will not see any money.

The heralded conclusion of Marineview legal battles may turn out to be merely a pause to regroup.



The fine for neglecting to feed a parking meter in Hoboken could jump to \$10.

Violators, beware!

Hoboken is hiking parking fines

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — For the first time in a decade, the cost of breaking the city's parking regulations is scheduled to climb.

The City Council is expected to adopt wholesale fine increases at its meeting tonight. Officials believe the new fines — to take effect Dec. 23 — could boost revenue by at least \$500,000 next year.

At the same time, they said, stiffer penalties should force persistent violators to obey the parking rules, leaving city streets cleaner and less crowded.

"When it comes to tickets, people here have had a pretty good deal for a long time," said city Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack. "After 10 years, we thought it was about time to make increases."

Goldsack said the city took in about \$1.5 million in parking violation fines this year and last year. Hiking the fines could push that figure up to \$2 million — and help officials keep taxes from rising next year, Goldsack said.

In most cases, fines are scheduled to jump by \$5. With many violations now carrying a \$5 price tag, that means a 100 percent increase.

Fines for overtime meter parking and parking in a prohibited area, for example, would go from \$5 to \$10.

If the new penalties are approved, cars left in front of fire hydrants will earn their owners \$35 tickets, as opposed to the current \$15 fine. The fine for double parking will rise from \$5 to \$15.

Double parking is one of the most serious problems plaguing the city, according to Lt. John Aiello, head of the police department's traffic division. About half of the 148,000 tickets written by city police officers last year was for double parking.

"We have seven cars for every 10 house-

holds here," Aiello said. "People are parking everywhere there's a spot, whether it's legal or not. I had hoped to bump the double parking fine up to \$35, but some people thought that was too much. Now that would be a real deterrent."

In addition to the tickets issued by police officers, parking enforcement agents wrote nearly 100,000 for violation of the city's alternate side of the street regulations. Most of the tickets went to out-of-town drivers, Goldsack said.

The cost of those violations will rise from

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TICKETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$15 to \$20.

"Hopefully, a bigger fine will keep these people from using our streets as a parking lot," he said. "As it is now, it's cheaper for them to take the ticket than put their car in a garage. And it keeps us from sweeping our streets."

Last drop gives workers a bitter taste

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The final agreement for Maxwell House workers who will be laid off when the Hoboken plant closes requires them to sign a release freeing the company from all legal claims.

"It sounds like blackmail to me," said a veteran worker.

The plant closing agreement detailing severance pay and other benefits was announced yesterday by Maxwell House management and union representatives.

They must release Maxwell House from legal claims

The agreement requires employees to sign a disclaimer when they receive their severance pay.

The clause reads: "As an additional condition, an employee must sign a written general release on form designated by the employer of any and all claims against the employer."

That clause does not bar employees from legal recourse for compensation for a work-related injury or

health condition but keeps them from challenging the financial benefits and bonuses offered in the closing agreement, according to Nan Redmond, spokeswoman for General Foods, parent company of Maxwell House.

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"They are giving what the contract

See **MAXWELL HOUSE** — Page 4

Maxwell House severance pay linked to releases

Continued from Page 1 offered plus a little more," said Chris Byrnes, a boiler operator with more than 35 years on the job.

"They could have done a heck of a lot better," he added.

"A lot of people worked for Maxwell House right from high school and they're falling through the cracks, they're hurting," said Byrnes, who said he is getting all the benefits because he is over 55.

But a veteran employee who will be a month shy of 55 when the plant

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The closing agreement that employees remain on the condition that they remain on the job until their termination date. Kraft General Foods announced in June it would close the Hoboken plant because of a decline in coffee consumption.

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Maxwell House offering 40 jobs

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Reese said a contractor has not been selected but work should take most of the year to complete.

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The final workers will be laid off in March 1992 when the plant shuts down.

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Foes preparing own waterfront plan

Architect to study area

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With a judge expected to decide next week whether city residents will get a second chance to vote on a \$30 million waterfront development agreement, the plan's opponents are busy preparing their own proposal in the event a new election is called.

Members of the coalition that helped defeat the plan in July are confident that voters would reject the comprehensive Port Authority of New York and New Jersey plan again, but say they want to put their own proposal forward to stifle talk that they are simply anti-development obstructionists.

"What we want to do is plan it in such a way that the public feels confident they'll be able to use that waterfront space," said Ron Hine of the Coalition for a Better Waterfront.

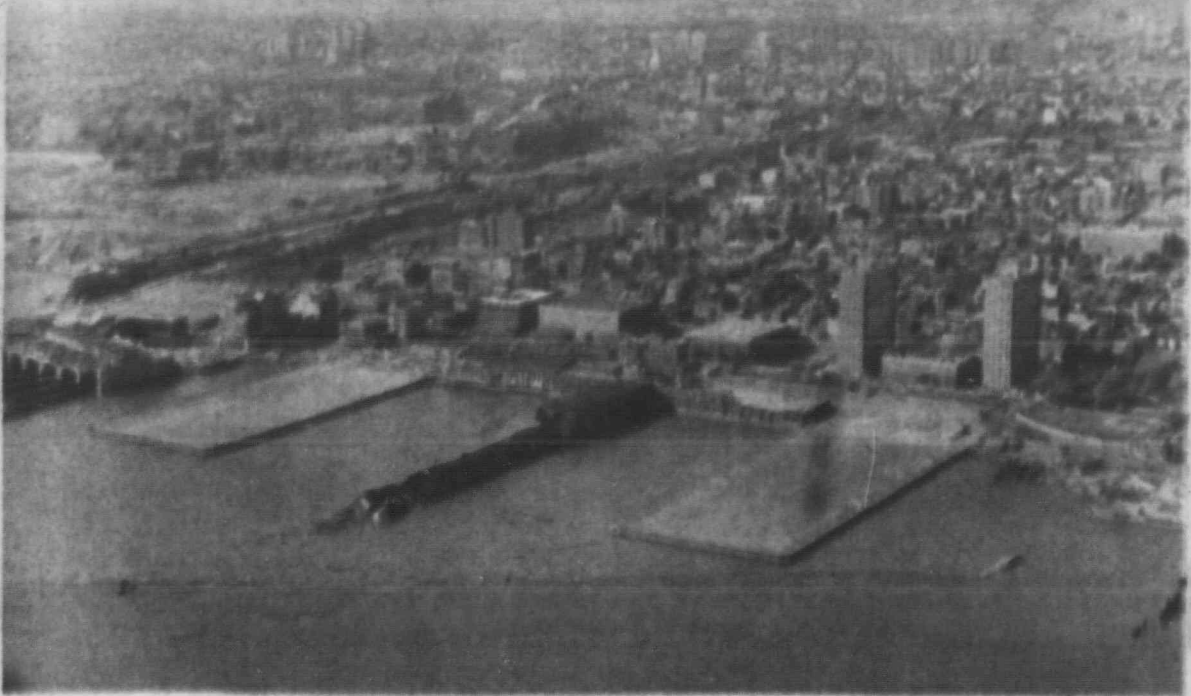
The group has hired New York architect Craig Whitaker to look at the city's entire Hudson River waterfront and draw up plans for a development it feels fits the scale of the Mile-Square City.

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Please see **HOBOKEN** Page 6



The Hoboken waterfront is the site of a controversial development plan. DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Marineview leftovers--\$55,000

Tenant/landlord lawsuits end;
tenant/tenant spat begins

By John M. Copley

In what is heralded as the end of seven years of legal battles over rent increases between the group known as Tenants For Affordable Rent (TAR) and the owner of Grogan Marineview Towers on Third and River streets, the Marineview Housing Company has agreed to pay TAR \$55,000 to drop all pending litigation. TAR has tentatively agreed to accept the settlement and drop its objections to past rent increases. The payment would be divided among TAR's 95 members, an arrangement many of the building's 1,400 other tenants see as unfair.

Jim Liao, a Hoboken housing attorney who has informally advised a group of the mostly non-TAR tenants who are trying to form a tenants' association, says the anger comes from disappointment. "There may have been misrepresentations by the management or by TAR," he says. "Tenants were misled to believe that a decision rendered in favor of TAR would favor them too."

An unsigned letter obtained from a tenant, printed on Marineview stationery and distributed in mid-1989 to the two buildings reads "...if any rent reductions are granted by the Court, they will be applied to all tenants..." TAR member Ed Mecka said this was a trick by Marineview management to torpedo TAR's legal efforts, by making TAR's dues-paying members quit TAR.

Seeing a monetary settlement awarded to only a small portion of the tenants is disappointing for many who thought they would benefit from the case. What they thought was a rent rollback fight has ended, with no monetary gain for themselves, and a rent hike looming December 1.

Rents will increase almost nine percent, and range from \$390 for a first tier, ground floor studio

to \$903 for a second tier, 25th floor, two-bedroom with balcony. (Apartments rented after 1984 pay the second tier of rents, about 10 to 12 percent more than pre-1985, first tier apartments.)

Doug Wiedman, agent of Kriegman and Smith, Inc., the building managers, could not be reached for comment on the origin of the letter. He said earlier last week that the settlement was reached to "end the financial and mental strain and divisiveness of constant litigation."

Many non-TAR tenants perceive that TAR stopped fighting the December 1 rent increase in return for a \$55,000 "buyout" for its members. Also, in the past, tenants say, TAR has avoided rent increases that other tenants have paid.

Cecilia Bailey claims that TAR withheld payment of rent increases while it contested them in court. She and other non-TAR tenants paid the increase. Only when the increase was reduced by the courts did TAR pay it, she said, adding that TAR was never held accountable for the extra money that other tenants had to pay in the interim.

Another man claimed the same thing, but didn't complain then (and does not wish to be identified now) because he is at management's mercy. "I want a two bedroom apartment and somewhere along the line I'm going to have to kiss someone's butt."

Annette Illing, co-chair of TAR, declined comment on the \$55,000 settlement. "Until the settlement is consummated, next week or the week after, I am reluctant to comment," Mecka said Bailey's charges are untrue. "All legal actions

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HOBOKEN

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How do you spend \$3.8 million in state aid?

School programs vs. tax relief

By Alex Ladd Hoboken Reporter 11/25/90

Hoboken's Board of Education is scheduled to get \$3.8 million from the state for the 1991 school year and in the aftermath of a 25 percent property tax hike, how that money is spent will come increasingly into focus. Meanwhile, Governor Florio, who is having to deal with the political fallout of the Nov. 6 election which was widely seen as a rebuke by the voters of his tax package, has begun implying that at least some of the money should go towards tax relief.

Hoboken is one of 30 urban districts which will benefit from the Florio administration's Quality Education Act. The act would bring the state in compliance with the Abbott vs. Burke state Supreme Court decision which seeks to bring poorer urban districts up to par with their richer suburban counterparts. Under the act, those municipalities are eligible for a five percent increase in state aid. The act would take effect next September.

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As part of the Quality Education Act, an external review team recently reviewed the Hoboken school system and detailed areas that the state wants to see improved. While the report praised the school for introducing new innovative

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The Board of Education must file a report by Dec. 15th with the state Department of Education detailing a five-year educational plan in order to qualify for additional aid next year. In mid-January it has to submit a budget with line by line spending items for the increased state money.

Fine says that board is in a "Catch 22" because it is getting money from the state to improve programs and will be asked for tax relief.

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from cover

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The heralded conclusion of Marineview legal battles may turn out to be merely a pause to regroup.



The fine for neglecting to feed a parking meter in Hoboken could jump to \$10.

Violators, beware!

Hoboken is hiking parking fines

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — For the first time in a decade, the cost of breaking the city's parking regulations is scheduled to climb. The City Council is expected to adopt wholesale fine increases at its meeting tonight. Officials believe the new fines — to take effect Dec. 23 — could boost revenue by at least \$500,000 next year.

At the same time, they said, stiffer penalties should force persistent violators to obey the parking rules, leaving city streets cleaner and less crowded.

"When it comes to tickets, people here have had a pretty good deal for a long time," said city Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack. "After 10 years, we thought it was about time to make increases."

Goldsack said the city took in about \$1.5 million in parking violation fines this year and last year. Hiking the fines could push that figure up to \$2 million — and help officials keep taxes from rising next year, Goldsack said.

In most cases, fines are scheduled to jump by \$5. With many violations now carrying a \$5 price tag, that means a 100 percent increase.

Fines for overtime meter parking and parking in a prohibited area, for example, would go from \$5 to \$10.

If the new penalties are approved, cars left in front of fire hydrants will earn their owners \$35 tickets, as opposed to the current \$15 fine. The fine for double parking will rise from \$5 to \$15.

Double parking is one of the most serious problems plaguing the city, according to Lt. John Aiello, head of the police department's traffic division. About half of the 148,000 tickets written by city police officers last year was for double parking.

"We have seven cars for every 10 house-

holds here," Aiello said. "People are parking everywhere there's a spot, whether it's legal or not. I had hoped to bump the double parking fine up to \$35, but some people thought that was too much. Now that would be a real deterrent."

In addition to the tickets issued by police officers, parking enforcement agents wrote nearly 100,000 for violation of the city's alternate side of the street regulations. Most of the tickets went to out-of-towners, Goldsack said.

The cost of those violations will rise from

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TICKETS

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\$15 to \$20.

"Hopefully, a bigger fine will keep these people from using our streets as a parking lot," he said. "As it is now, it's cheaper for them to take the ticket than put their car in a garage. And it keeps us from sweeping our streets."

Maxwell House offering 40 jobs

There will be a job, if not a pot of gold, at the end of the rainbow for 40 of the 650 workers at Maxwell House's doomed Hoboken plant.

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The Jacksonville Maxwell House plant now has about 360 employees.

Last drop gives workers a bitter taste

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The final agreement for Maxwell House workers who will be laid off when the Hoboken plant closes requires them to sign a release freeing the company from all legal claims.

"It sounds like blackmail to me," said a veteran worker.

The plant closing agreement detailing severance pay and other benefits was announced yesterday by Maxwell House management and union representatives.

They must release Maxwell House from legal claims

The agreement requires employees to sign a disclaimer when they receive their severance pay.

The clause reads: "As an additional condition, an employee must sign a written general release on form designated by the employer, of any and all claims against the employer."

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members who allowed their memberships to lapse after the initial \$100 membership fee are considering legal action against TAR.

Several tenants say they joined TAR and paid the first of several fees, which were levied to pay TAR attorney Ray Korona, but not the subsequent fees. Since the \$55,000 benefits only current TAR members, these people will not see any money.

The heralded conclusion of Marineview legal battles may turn out to be merely a pause to regroup.



The fine for neglecting to feed a parking meter in Hoboken could jump to \$10.

Violators, beware!

Hoboken is hiking parking fines

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — For the first time in a decade, the cost of breaking the city's parking regulations is scheduled to climb. The City Council is expected to adopt wholesale fine increases at its meeting tonight. Officials believe the new fines — to take effect Dec. 23 — could boost revenue by at least \$500,000 next year.

At the same time, they said, stiffer penalties should force persistent violators to obey the parking rules, leaving city streets cleaner and less crowded.

"When it comes to tickets, people here have had a pretty good deal for a long time," said city Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack. "After 10 years, we thought it was about time to make increases."

Goldsack said the city took in about \$1.5 million in parking violation fines this year and last year. Hiking the fines could push that figure up to \$2 million — and help officials keep taxes from rising next year, Goldsack said.

In most cases, fines are scheduled to jump by \$5. With many violations now carrying a \$5 price tag, that means a 100 percent increase.

Fines for overtime meter parking and parking in a prohibited area, for example, would go from \$5 to \$10.

If the new penalties are approved, cars left in front of fire hydrants will earn their owners \$35 tickets, as opposed to the current \$15 fine. The fine for double parking will rise from \$5 to \$15.

Double parking is one of the most serious problems plaguing the city, according to Lt. John Aiello, head of the police department's traffic division. About half of the 148,000 tickets written by city police officers last year was for double parking. "We have seven cars for every 10 house-

holds here," Aiello said. "People are parking everywhere there's a spot, whether it's legal or not. I had hoped to bump the double parking fine up to \$35, but some people thought that was too much. Now that would be a real deterrent."

In addition to the tickets issued by police officers, parking enforcement agents wrote nearly 100,000 for violation of the city's alternate side of the street regulations. Most of the tickets went to out-of-towners, Goldsack said.

The cost of those violations will rise from

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TICKETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$15 to \$20.

"Hopefully, a bigger fine will keep these people from using our streets as a parking lot," he said. "As it is now, it's cheaper for them to take the ticket than put their car in a garage. And it keeps us from sweeping our streets."

Last drop gives workers a bitter taste

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The final agreement for Maxwell House workers who will be laid off when the Hoboken plant closes requires them to sign a release freeing the company from all legal claims.

"It's sounds like blackmail to me," said a veteran worker.

The plant closing agreement detailing severance pay and other benefits was announced yesterday by Maxwell House management and union representatives.

They must release Maxwell House from legal claims

The agreement requires employees to sign a disclaimer when they receive their severance pay.

The clause reads: "As an additional condition, an employee must sign a written general release of any and all claims against the employer."

That clause does not bar employees from legal recourse for compensation for a work-related injury or

health condition but keeps them from challenging the financial benefits and bonuses offered in the closing agreement, according to Nan Redmond, spokeswoman for General Foods, parent company of Maxwell House.

"It releases the company of any possible legalities pertaining to that agreement. In other words, the employee couldn't take severance allowance and so forth and come back and

say that it was not a fair agreement," Redmond said. "Any kind of illness or injury is in a separate category."

Scheduled meetings with the 400 hourly wage-earners to explain the new pact were canceled unexpectedly after Leo Cinaglia, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 56, was unable to attend because of an ulcerated retina, said union spokesman Mike Shannon.

"We feel very good about this agreement," said Plant Manager Bert Quarfordt. "We believe it fulfills Maxwell House's promise to provide a wide-ranging program of transitional support for employees."

While many plant workers had not seen the seven-page agreement, signed last week by Quarfordt and Cinaglia, those who had rated it from "It sucks" to "Not bad" or "It's better than nothing."

"They are giving what the contract

See **MAXWELL HOUSE** — Page 4

Maxwell House severance pay linked to releases

Continued from Page 1
offered plus a little more," said Chris Byrnes, a boiler operator with more than 35 years on the job.

"They could have done a heck of a lot better," he added.

"A lot of people worked for Maxwell House right from high school and they are falling through the cracks, they're hurting," said Byrnes, who said he is getting all the benefits because he is over 55.

But a veteran employee who will be a month shy of 55 when the plant

closes March 24, 1992 said he will not be eligible for a monthly stipend the company offers employees who are not eligible for Social Security. The bonus would have added \$300 to his \$500 monthly pension, he said.

The closing agreement is predicated on the condition that employees remain on the job until their termination date. Kraft General Foods announced in June it would close the Hoboken plant because of a decline in coffee consumption.

Employees who leave their jobs

before their scheduled termination date but with the permission of the company will receive half their severance pay. Employees who leave without notice forfeit any bonus or severance pay.

Severance pay or termination allowance is calculated by age and seniority.

Employees between 48 and 55 with 25 years service will receive an additional bonus of \$10,250, according to the agreement.

Employees with less than five

years seniority will receive a six-week bonus if they work until their termination date. A 10-week bonus will be given to employees covered by the contract if they work until the plant closes.

The company will extend medical coverage for three months beyond the plant closing.

The company may extend medical insurance beyond that for retiring employees, but that issue is still under review said Redmond.

The company will offer early re-

tirement with a bonus of \$15,000 but those employees will not be eligible for stay-on bonuses.

A training refund program giving workers \$2,500 reimbursement for courses approved by the company and completed by July 1, 1992 is also offered.

Employees accepting transfer to another company owned by Kraft General Foods or parent company Philip Morris will not be entitled to termination allowance or stay-on bonus but will be given \$3,000 for relocation.

Marineview leftovers--\$55,000

Tenant/landlord lawsuits end; tenant/tenant spat begins

By John M. Copley

What is heralded as the end of seven years of legal battles over rent increases between the group known as Tenants For Affordable Rent (TAR) and the owner of Grogan Marineview Towers on Third and River streets, the Marineview Housing Company has agreed to pay TAR \$55,000 to drop all pending litigation. TAR has tentatively agreed to accept the settlement and drop its objections to past rent increases. The payment would be divided among TAR's 95 members, an arrangement many of the building's 1,400 other tenants see as unfair.

Jim Lisa, a Hoboken housing attorney who has informally advised a group of the mostly non-TAR tenants who are trying to form a tenants' association, says the anger comes from disappointment. "There may have been misrepresentations by the management or by TAR," he says. "Tenants were misled to believe that a decision rendered in favor of TAR would favor them too."

An unsigned letter obtained from a tenant, printed on Marineview stationery and distributed in mid-1989 to the two buildings reads "...if any rent reductions are granted by the Court, they will be applied to all tenants..." TAR member Ed Mecka said this was a trick by Marineview management to torpedo TAR's legal efforts, by making TAR's dues-paying members quit TAR.

Seeing a monetary settlement awarded to only a small portion of the tenants is dismaying for many who thought they would benefit from the case. What they thought was a rent rollback fight has ended, with no monetary gain for themselves, and a rent hike looming December 1.

Rents will increase almost nine percent, and range from \$390 for a first tier, ground floor studio

to \$903 for a second tier, 25th floor, two-bedroom with balcony. (Apartments rented after 1984 pay the second tier of rents, about 10 to 12 percent more than pre-1985, first tier apartments.)

Doug Wiedman, agent of Kriegman and Smith, Inc., the building managers, could not be reached for comment on the origin of the letter. He said earlier last week that the settlement was reached to "end the financial and mental strain and divisiveness of constant litigation."

Many non-TAR tenants perceive that TAR stopped fighting the December 1 rent increase in return for a \$55,000 "buyout" for its members. Also, in the past, tenants say, TAR has avoided rent increases that other tenants have paid.

Cecilia Bailey claims that TAR withheld payment of rent increases while it contested them in court. She and other non-TAR tenants paid the increase. Only when the increase was reduced by the courts did TAR pay it, she said, adding that TAR "was never held accountable for the extra money that other tenants had to pay in the interim."

Another man claimed the same thing, but didn't complain then (and does not wish to be identified now) because he is at management's mercy. "I want a two bedroom apartment and somewhere along the line I'm going to have to kiss someone's butt."

Annette Iling, co-chair of TAR, declined comment on the \$55,000 settlement. "Until the settlement is consummated, next week or the week after, I am reluctant to comment," Mecka said Bailey's charges are untrue. "All legal actions

continued on page 4

Maxwell House offering 40 jobs

There will be a job, if not a pot of gold, at the end of the rainbow for 40 of the 650 workers at Maxwell House's doomed Hoboken plant.

Despite a sluggish economy, Maxwell House plans to begin work on a \$30 million expansion of its Jacksonville, Fla., plant in January or February, a company official said.

Workers at the Hoboken plant have been promised first crack at any jobs at the Florida plant which should become available next summer.

The Jacksonville plant "beat out" the Hoboken facility earlier this year in a massive union contract concessions sweepstakes.

Stephen C. Hornik, business representative for United Food Commercial Workers Local 56 in Hoboken, said many workers have expressed a desire to move to Jacksonville but believes some will change their minds.

As part of \$4.8 million concession to encourage Maxwell House to stay in Jacksonville, the state of Florida is providing \$1.8 million for a new bridge and entrance to the plant near downtown Jacksonville.

In Jacksonville, plant manager James Reese told The Associated Press, "We're moving right along."

Reese said a contractor has not been selected but work should take most of the year to complete.

Maxwell House's parent company, General Foods USA, announced in June that it would keep the Jacksonville processing plant open and close the plant in Hoboken because of excess capacity at the two East Coast factories.

The company will begin the first round of layoffs in Hoboken June 1.

The final workers will be laid off in March 1992 when the plant shuts down.

The Jacksonville Maxwell House plant now has about 360 employees.

School Board hears from angry parents

Meeting becomes shouting match over school closings

By John M. Cropley *Hoboken Reporter* 11-25-90

A packed session of the Hoboken School Board Tuesday evening, scores of parents voiced concerns over the board's undisclosed plans to consolidate the system's buildings. Most of the criticism was from Fourth Ward parents whose children attend Connors School, which Board of Education sources say needs most to be replaced or rebuilt.

The meeting's turnout was heavy to hear discussion on a motion made by Trustee Angel Alicia that would set aside any proceeds from the sale of school buildings for the repair or replacement of Connors, which has outdated electrical wiring, inadequate toilet facilities and no gymnasium. A very vocal and not particularly friendly group of parents—characterized by Superintendent Walter Fine as "rebellious"—for their hemming and hawing while waiting two hours for the trustees to discuss the motion—seized the opportunity to make their views heard.

"As a parent, my main concern is what's going to happen to the children while Connors is being repaired," Michelle Russo said, her statements cheered by others in the room. Many of the audience members pointed out that Rue School was closed for renovation a few years ago and now is going to be sold. They worried that the same fate might be suffered by Connors, the most geographically isolated school in the system, forcing their children to walk farther.

They demanded to know the full extent of the Board's plans, complaining of a lack of official communication on the subject. Trustee Marc Toscano reported that the plan being studied most closely would put all of the pre-K to

third graders in Kealey and Calabro, all of the fourth through seventh graders in Demarest and Wallace, and all of the eighth graders in Hoboken High School.

After a moment of stunned silence, the parents shouted "no!" almost in unison and began to argue with the Trustees.

As Thanksgiving approached, legends came to mind of Colonial American children walking miles through the snow to go to a one room school house, which their parents paid for by donating a few bushels of corn to the headmaster. Now, children walk a few blocks to schools that cost over \$10,000 per student per year and climbing. It made one appreciate America's progress.

"I don't like the idea of children being shuffled around without input from the parents," one said. Eventually, Alicia's resolution was withdrawn. According to Board Vice President Geraldine Pantoliano, the various schools' on-site management teams—which parents par-

ticipate in—will help assemble a plan for closing schools. "I understand their concerns," Pantoliano said. "If they don't want it [a particular school closing], I don't want it."

There are presently six operating elementary schools in Hoboken. Their enrollment is less than half their designed capacity, and for the eldest four, aging ungracefully, maintenance and heating costs are staggering. Trustees have said some consolidation is unavoidable, in light of the schools' record \$34 million budget and local and regional economic problems. Equally unavoidable is parent outcry. Rather than "not in my backyard," as people say to prisons or garbage dumps, the cry in Hoboken will no doubt be "not out of my backyard," when the neighborhood school is proposed to be closed.

As Thanksgiving approached, legends came to mind of Colonial American children walking miles through the snow to a one-room schoolhouse which their parents paid for by donating a few bushels of corn to the headmaster. Now, children walk a few blocks to schools that cost over \$10,000 per student per year. It made one appreciate America's progress.

In other business, standardized test results were reviewed. Ninth grade High School Proficiency Test scores rose to 71 percent passing in 1990, up from 59 percent in 1989 and 53 percent in 1988. Grade six and three basic skills test scores have shown comparable improvement since the institution of level three state monitoring in the mid-1980's.

Hoboken tavern under fire

But city's ABC rules there's no evidence

By Joy Jacobs *Journal correspondent* 11/23/90

Angry Hoboken residents complained about a local bar at an Alcoholic Beverage Commission hearing last night, but got no satisfaction because they had no proof.

The hearing came in the wake of residents' complaints that their community is becoming a "weekend party town" and that many patrons of local bars and clubs are disruptive.

Temper flared and voices were raised as more than 50 complained about recent incidents of noise and rowdiness around the area of Billabong's, a tavern at 13th Street and Park Avenue.

"This hearing came about because people were becoming very irate," said Nicholas DeTrizio, an ABC commissioner. "We wanted to find out what the board could do to answer citizens' complaints. If nothing is documented, nothing can be done. Hopefully, we can come to some agreement in a meeting with police, the city council, and the public."

He said the ABC could take action against the bar only if

See NEIGHBORS — Page 4

Hoboken is becoming a weekend party town for young and restless

By Jo Ann Moriarty *Journal staff writer* 11/23/90

Hoboken is becoming a weekend hot spot for out-of-towners who have discovered that the Mile Square City is a safe place to have a fun time.

But some of the thousands of youths exiting the city at 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights leave behind a trail of toppled trash cans, a stream of obscenities and puddles of urine.

Several local residents who talked to The Jersey Journal complained about women urinating in the middle of city streets, an activity Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno said he has seen on Washington Street.

"I grabbed one kid on Eighth Street who had thrown around trash cans from 14th Street," LaBruno said.

"We turned around and he picked up every can he threw. He had a choice. Do that or get arrested," LaBruno said.

Within the past year, it has become apparent to law enforcement officers and local residents that the city is drawing weekend partying.

"It is a mecca for young persons," said LaBruno, adding, "In a two-block area, there are 3,000 people under 25 drinking."

There has been an increase in active liquor licenses and many of them are being trans-

ferred to the Downtown area near the PATH station, says Law Director Eugene O'Connell.

"Hoboken has a lot of nice taverns and restaurants, and it has the reputation of being a nice community. People come here because they know it is a nice town," O'Connell said.

"We don't want anything to get out of hand," he said.

"You can dance with a lampshade on your head, but if you spill a beer on someone, you're out of here."

Perry Belfiore *Manager of Harrigan's tavern*

Michael Acciardi, who manages a new bar, Shooters, for his wife, Lisa Ferrick, agrees Hoboken has a reputation as a safe, fun place. The bar, located two blocks from the PATH, has an occupancy limit of 637 people.

Acciardi figures that 60 percent of his clientele is from out of town and that many are New Yorkers.

"There is a New York atmosphere in this town. That's what's going on. You have to wait in line to get in here," said

See PARTY — Page 4

Hoboken council seeks places to cut

By Kaki Kozielek *Journal correspondent* 11/30/90

Against a backdrop of economic woes, the Hoboken City Council met in special session last night to further hash out a plan to meet the expected \$14.5 million deficit in the 1991 budget.

It was the second in a series of meetings to be held through December. The Board of Education and the Fire Department were cited in particular as being bloated.

"We have a very senior teaching staff, all earning top salary," said Councilman Thomas Newman. He pointed out that declining enrollment in the schools has resulted in smaller classes.

"We just can't have a high-paid staff as well as a high teacher-to-student ratio," Newman said that solving this prob-

lem is "up to the teachers union and the Board of Education."

However, Councilman Richard F. Englund lamented that the Board of Education is not eager to be "helped" with its budget by the City Council.

Newman also hinted that the Fire Department may be overstaffed in light of Hoboken's fire protection needs.

"Do we really need 31 firefighters (including administrators) on the payroll 24 hours a day for two to three two-alarm fires a year?" he asked. "It's very expensive. We're essentially standing around waiting for something to happen."

Earlier in the meeting, Fire Chief Richard R. Tremietti met with council members to discuss training firefighters in emergency medical services.

"Something like this would be cost-effective for the fire department and

should be explored," he said.

However, when asked if the City Council can provide funds for training firefighters, Peggy Thomas, head of the Community Development Association, said such a service would duplicate what is already provided by the volunteer corp.

Tremietti also addressed the council on controlling overcrowding in Hoboken's more popular bars and restaurants.

"Dangerous and unlawful situations" may currently exist and the fire department plans to contact all Hoboken bars and restaurants about complying with legal occupancy limits, he said.

He added that the department plans to implement a system of spot checks and education to try to prevent occurrences such as the Happy Land Social Club incident in the Bronx, in which more than 80 people died in a fire.

Neighbors complain of overflowing tavern

Continued from Page 1

the owners violated local statutes. "People are coming out of the side door with beer bottles and then there's glass all over the street," said a resident.

Other residents complained of drunken patrons of the bar ringing doorbells in the neighborhood around 3 a.m. Several

people complained of the spill-over of bar patrons crowding the streets.

Bar owner Maurice Skerritt of Long Island took issue with the major complaint. "The main complaint is that people are leaving the bar with drinks," Skerritt said. "It's absolutely impossible for people to get past the bouncers (with drinks)."

He said he doubted if anyone could leave the bar by the side door because bouncers are stationed there.

Residents were adamant that police were not doing anything to help the situation. No police records or summonses could be produced to support the complaints.

Part-time security

Hoboken cops lose tavern jobs

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN *The Hudson Dispatch* 11/28/90

HOBOKEN — City police officers can no longer hold part-time security jobs at local taverns while off-duty, the city's Legal Department says.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said state law forces the city to bar such moonlighting. But a police superior and police union officers blasted the new regulation, saying it would pull uniformed officers off the streets during weekend nights when they are most needed to keep an eye on rowdy bar-hoppers.

"What it means is we're going to have eight less cops out there on Fridays and Saturdays," said Capt. Carmen LaBruno. "Right now, we're getting about 3,000 people under the age of 25 packed

into a two-block area on weekend nights. We certainly don't need less cops out there."

About eight bars in the city employ an off-duty officer to work an outside security detail late Fridays and Saturdays.

Bar owners pay the officers about \$15 per hour to stand outside and keep pedestrian traffic moving and noise to a minimum from about 11:30 p.m. until 3:30 a.m.

O'Connell said the city potentially could be held liable for the actions of an off-duty officer working as a club security guard.

"There haven't been any problems so far," O'Connell said. "But if there was some kind of disturbance, and a bar patron sued an officer, the city could be

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Shooters Saloon at Newark and River streets in Hoboken is one of several such establishments that have employed off-duty city police officers for weekend security. The city's law director now has ruled the practice illegal under state law.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

COPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the hook for a lot of money. "It's gotten to the point where we need a regulation," he said. "I'm sure it's not going to make everybody happy, but that's the law."

In the last six months, the city has flourished as the night life capital of Hudson County, with new taverns opening almost monthly and out-of-towners filling every parking space and bar stool.

Many residents have complained to police about the boisterous crowds that stream from the bars at closing time. Police have issued summonses to several of the newer establishments for failing to control their clientele.

For that reason, the Police Department has encouraged off-

duty officers to work security jobs at taverns.

"I'm a little disappointed in this decision," said John O'Connor, who owns the Down Under nightclub on Washington Street and was one of the first to employ an off-duty officer about a year ago. "I think having a uniformed officer working outside definitely had a deterrent effect on people who might have thought about causing trouble."

John Rutkowski, president of the PBA, Local 2, said city residents are going to be the real losers under the new regulation.

"The department is short of manpower as it is," Rutkowski said. "We're out there making sure the neighborhoods are safe. And we're doing it at no cost to the city."

Party crowd disturbs Hoboken's mornings

Continued from Page 1

Acciardi. "People come here because it's New Jersey, they know it's safe. They go across the river to New York to get mugged."

Open just a month, the owners have received five summonses from police for violating state liquor laws, specifically allowing an act of violence within an establishment and serving to intoxicated persons.

The city tried to shut the bar the night before Thanksgiving but was prevented by a Superior Court ruling. A hearing before the local Alcoholic Beverage Control commission will be held Dec. 12.

Like seven other bar owners, Acciardi had hired off-duty Hoboken cops to work weekends, when bars close at 3 a.m. But that practice has been suspended because it violates state statutes, LaBruno said.

Mayor Patrick Pasculi has instructed LaBruno and O'Connell to educate tavern and restaurant owners about their responsibilities, and to coordinate other city departments to crack down on offenders.

Acciardi and Perry Belfiore, whose wife is co-owner of Harrigan's, which opened in July, said their establishments are packed on weekends.

Belfiore said Hoboken is drawing crowds from outside Hudson County because New York has lost its appeal and because Hoboken has a good reputation.

"We have never had a complaint. There is a cop stationed at the door. You can dance with a lamp shade on your head, but if you spill a beer on someone, you're out of here," Belfiore said.

Young people arrive either

in cars or at the PATH and go on a "pub crawl" of Hoboken, Belfiore said. Students at one college outside of Hudson County have printed maps of Hoboken with arrows pointing to bars and timetables for the best time to be in those taverns, LaBruno said.

"Hoboken has always been a party town — the Barbary Coast was on River Street. We are resuscitating and putting into place quality places," Belfiore said.

And while he described Billabong's as a "nice place," residents at Park and 13th streets are expected to complain about noise and poor patron behavior at an ABC hearing tonight at 6 in City Hall.

"Between 1 and 3 a.m., they fight, they urinate in the basements, they throw garbage cans and disrupt the neighborhood," said one Uptown resident who did not want to be identified.

A waitress at an Uptown bar, who also did not want to be named, complained to The Journal that the bar she works is so crowded, "that I have been reduced to kicking people in the ankle to get through a crowd. That's after asking someone 20 times to move."

Police said that overcrowding is a major contributor to bar brawls.

LaBruno said he will address the City Council tomorrow night on the need to provide more patrolmen at bars on weekends. He said patrolmen are stationed at both ends of the city to crack down on drunk drivers.

Of the total arrests made last year — when the department was honored by the state for its aggressive DWI program — 75 percent were out-of-towners, LaBruno said.

Urban mayors unite to keep school money

By John A. Oswald *Journal staff writer* 11/28/90

Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann and Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculi joined a group of urban mayors yesterday to mount a political counter-attack against efforts to dismantle Gov. Jim Florio's Quality Education Act.

At a meeting convened by Mayor Thomas Dunn of Elizabeth, McCann, Pasculi and a dozen representatives of the state's poorer school districts complained bitterly about the New Jersey Education Association's fight

against the QEA and what they saw as a possible retreat on the part of formerly "courageous" Democratic state legislators.

The QEA bill went through the Legislature in the first six months of Florio's term, passing on June 21 and signed into law July 3.

It increases aid to the 30 poorest school districts in the state and reduces and eventually discontinues aid to 108 wealthy districts. Most of the other districts will have state funding reduced.

The mayors also agreed to call for hearings around the state on the law

itself and possible revisions.

McCann said the group of urban mayors, whose municipalities stand to benefit economically next year from the act, will meet with Florio next week to let him know they do not want the measure altered.

"We just want to make sure that they understand that there are two sides to this thing. So far they have heard from suburban mayors, but they have not heard anything from the urban mayors," McCann said. His city is set to reap as much as \$40 million in additional aid in the 1991-92 school year.

"It appears there is strong support among the urban mayors to reestablish their support for the Quality Education Act," Pasculi said. Hoboken is set to receive some \$4 million in additional aid the first year of the act.

"This represents a direct benefit to the taxpayers in urban communities," he added. Also attending yesterday's session was a representative of Union City Mayor Robert Menendez.

Jersey City, Hoboken and Union City all experienced double digit property tax hikes in 1990, and politicians in all three municipalities are

hoping for tax relief next year through Florio's act.

Both McCann and Pasculi said they would fight against any watering down of the QEA, arguing any alternative may violate the state Supreme Court Abbott v. Burke ruling that found the state's financing formula was unconstitutional as applied to poorer urban districts.

"The Quality Education Act was rushed through because Florio could see opposition mounting," said Marilyn J. Morheuser of the Education

See MUNICIPALITIES — Page 5

Municipalities could benefit from Florio school law

Continued from Page 1

Law Center Inc., who addressed yesterday's mayors meeting in Elizabeth.

Morheuser was the lead attorney in the Abbott v. Burke case.

Under Florio's act, districts would contribute to teacher pensions, but a bill introduced by Assembly Minority leader Chuck Haytaian, R-Warren, would return those costs to the state.

"This bill is a cruel, mean-spirited and the further destruction of the urban city school system," Dunn said.

Haytaian said Tuesday, "I don't see how shifting the costs of pensions and Social Security to the state will cause racial disharmony."

Haytaian, many municipalities and the NJEA contend property taxes will rise to cover pensions.

Ms. Morheuser, whose group wants pension funding returned to individual districts, said the \$900 million pension fund is a quarter of all state money being spent for education.

"With the state paying the pension benefits, more state aid goes to wealthier districts,

where teachers retire at a higher salary and where there are more teachers per pupil," she said.

Senate Republicans, led by Sen. John H. Dorsey, R-Morris, also are proposing changing the school funding formula and making the state responsible for teachers' pension and Social Security payments.

The governor's office Tuesday released an analysis of the Dorsey plan.

The analysis said that "the

GOP proposal would bring substantial increases in property taxes statewide — an estimated \$563 million or \$523 million

more than the Quality Education Act if school budgets increased at 8.5 percent."

The tax increases would affect every county, but especially hard hit would be Bergen (\$42 million), Burlington (\$33 million), Camden (\$35 million), Essex (\$78 million), Middlesex (\$54 million), Monmouth (\$51 million), Morris (\$31 million), and Ocean (\$33 million), said Tom Corcoran, who conducted the analysis.

McCann, whose school district is the first in the nation to be taken over by a state government, was designated commander of the counterattack.

"Our culprit is the teacher's union. We have to have the political will to recognize it," McCann said.

The NJEA's main concern is pushing salaries up, and one of the main problems facing school districts and urban areas is the demand by teachers for higher salaries, he said.

Many in the audience of school administrators and aides, as well as the mayors and business administrators, gave McCann a standing ovation.

Pemberton Township Mayor Jean Dwane joined the chorus of anti-teacher rhetoric,

condemning teachers for "bringing politics into teaching."

Reached later for comment, NJEA spokeswoman Karen Joseph responded with a quote from association president Betty Kraemer, "When politics gets out of education, education will get out of politics."

"We never said the poorer districts don't need more money."

"But does that mean we no longer address the needs of the other children because of the 30 special needs districts?" Joseph said.

School Board hears from angry parents

Meeting becomes shouting match over school closings

By John M. Cropley *Hoboken Reporter* 11-25-90

A packed session of the Hoboken School Board Tuesday evening, scores of parents voiced concerns over the board's undisclosed plans to consolidate the system's buildings. Most of the criticism was from Fourth Ward parents whose children attend Connors School, which Board of Education sources say needs most to be replaced or rebuilt.

The meeting's turnout was heavy to hear discussion on a motion made by Trustee Angel Alica that would set aside any proceeds from the sale of school buildings for the repair or replacement of Connors, which has outdated electrical wiring, inadequate toilet facilities and no gymnasium.

A very vocal and not particularly friendly group of parents—characterized by Superintendent Walter Fine as rude, for their hemming and hawing while waiting two hours for the trustees to discuss the motion—seized the opportunity to make their views heard.

"As a parent, my main concern is what's going to happen to the children while Connors is being repaired," Michelle Russo said, her statements cheered by others in the room. Many of the audience members pointed out that Rue School was closed for renovation a few years ago and now is going to be sold. They worried that the same fate might be suffered by Connors, the most geographically isolated school in the system, forcing their children to walk farther.

They demanded to know the full extent of the Board's plans, complaining of a lack of official communication on the subject. Trustee Marc Toscano reported that the plan being studied most closely would put all of the pre-K to

third graders in Kealey and Calabro, all of the fourth through seventh graders in Demarest and Wallace, and all of the eighth graders in Hoboken High School.

After a moment of stunned silence, the parents shouted "no!" almost in unison and began to argue with the Trustees.

As Thanksgiving approached, legends came to mind of Colonial American children walking miles through the snow to go to a one room school house, which their parents paid for by donating a few bushels of corn to the headmaster.

Now, children walk a few blocks to schools that cost over \$10,000 per student per year and climbing. It made one appreciate America's progress.

"I don't like the idea of children being shuffled around without input from the parents," one said.

Eventually, Alica's resolution was withdrawn. According to Board Vice President Geraldine Pantoliano, the various schools' on-site management teams—which parents par-

ticipate in—will help assemble a plan for closing schools. "I understand their concerns," Pantoliano said. "If they don't want it [a particular school closing], I don't want it."

There are presently six operating elementary schools in Hoboken. Their enrollment is less than half their designed capacity, and for the eldest four, aging ungracefully, maintenance and heating costs are staggering. Trustees have said some consolidation is unavoidable, in light of the schools' record \$34 million budget and local and regional economic problems. Equally unavoidable is parent outcry. Rather than "not in my backyard," as people say to prisons or garbage dumps, the cry in Hoboken will no doubt be "not out of my backyard," when the neighborhood school is proposed to be closed.

As Thanksgiving approached, legends came to mind of Colonial American children walking miles through the snow to a one-room schoolhouse which their parents paid for by donating a few bushels of corn to the headmaster. Now, children walk a few blocks to schools that cost over \$10,000 per student per year. It made one appreciate America's progress.

In other business, standardized test results were reviewed. Ninth grade High School Proficiency Test scores rose to 71 percent passing in 1990, up from 59 percent in 1989 and 53 percent in 1988. Grade six and three basic skills test scores have shown comparable improvement since the institution of level three state monitoring in the mid-1980's.

Hoboken council seeks places to cut

By Kaki Kozlek *Journal correspondent*

Against a backdrop of economic woes, the Hoboken City Council met in special session last night to further hash out a plan to meet the expected \$14.5 million deficit in the 1991 budget.

It was the second in a series of meetings to be held through December.

The Board of Education and the Fire Department were cited in particular as being bloated.

"We have a very senior teaching staff, all earning top salary," said Councilman Thomas Newman. He pointed out that declining enrollment in the schools has resulted in smaller classes.

"We just can't have a high-paid staff as well as a high teacher-to-student ratio," Newman said that solving this prob-

lem is "up to the teachers union and the Board of Education."

However, Councilman Richard F. England lamented that the Board of Education is not eager to be "helped" with its budget by the City Council.

Newman also hinted that the Fire Department may be overstaffed in light of Hoboken's fire protection needs.

"Do we really need 31 firefighters (including administrators) on the payroll 24 hours a day for two to three two-alarm fires a year?" he asked. "It's very expensive. We're essentially standing around waiting for something to happen."

Earlier in the meeting, Fire Chief Richard R. Tremittedi met with council members to discuss training firefighters in emergency medical services.

"Something like this would be cost-effective for the fire department and

should be explored," he said.

However, when asked if the City Council can provide funds for training firefighters, Peggy Thomas, head of the Community Development Association, said such a service would duplicate what is already provided by the volunteer corp.

Tremittedi also addressed the council on controlling overcrowding in Hoboken's more popular bars and restaurants.

"Dangerous and unlawful situations" may currently exist and the fire department plans to contact all Hoboken bars and restaurants about complying with legal occupancy limits, he said.

He added that the department plans to implement a system of spot checks and education to try to prevent occurrences such as the Happy Land Social Club incident in the Bronx, in which more than 80 people died in a fire.

Hoboken tavern under fire

But city's ABC rules there's no evidence

By Joy Jacobs *Journal correspondent*

J-5 11/29/90
Angry Hoboken residents complained about a local bar at an Alcoholic Beverage Commission hearing last night, but got no satisfaction because they had no proof.

The hearing came in the wake of residents' complaints that their community is becoming a "weekend party town" and that many patrons of local bars and clubs are disruptive.

Temper flared and voices were raised as more than 50 complained about recent incidents of noise and rowdiness around the area of Billabong's, a tavern at 13th Street and Park Avenue.

"This hearing came about because people were becoming very irate," said Nicholas De-Prizio, an ABC commissioner.

"We wanted to find out what the board could do to answer citizens' complaints. If nothing is documented, nothing can be done. Hopefully, we can come to some agreement in a meeting with police, the city council, and the public."

He said the ABC could take action against the bar only if

See NEIGHBORS — Page 4

Hoboken is becoming a weekend party town for young and restless

By Jo-Ann Moriarty *Journal staff writer*

Hoboken is becoming a weekend hot spot for out-of-towners who have discovered that the Mile Square City is a safe place to have a fun time.

But some of the thousands of youths exiting the city at 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights leave behind a trail of toppled trash cans, a stream of obscenities and puddles of urine.

Several local residents who talked to The Jersey Journal complained about women urinating in the middle of city streets, an activity Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno said he has seen on Washington Street.

"I grabbed one kid on Eighth Street who had thrown around trash cans from 14th Street," LaBruno said.

"We turned around and he picked up every can he threw. He had a choice. Do that or get arrested," LaBruno said.

Within the past year, it has become apparent to law enforcement officers and local residents that the city is drawing weekend partying.

"It is a mecca for young persons," said LaBruno, adding, "In a two-block area, there are 3,000 people under 25 drinking."

There has been an increase in active liquor licenses and many of them are being trans-

ferred to the Downtown area near the PATH station, says Law Director Eugene O'Connell.

"Hoboken has a lot of nice taverns and restaurants, and it has the reputation of being a nice community. People come here because they know it is a nice town," O'Connell said.

"We don't want anything to get out of hand," he said.

"You can dance with a lampshade on your head, but if you spill a beer on someone, you're out of here."

Perry Belfiore
Manager of Harrigan's tavern

Michael Acciardi, who manages a new bar, Shooters, for his wife, Lisa Ferrick, agrees Hoboken has a reputation as a safe, fun place. The bar, located two blocks from the PATH, has an occupancy limit of 637 people.

Acciardi figures that 60 percent of his clientele is from out of town and that many are New Yorkers.

"There is a New York atmosphere in this town. That's what's going on. You have to wait in line to get in here," said

See PARTY — Page 4

Neighbors complain of overflowing tavern

Continued from Page 1

the owners violated local statutes. "People are coming out of the side door with beer bottles and then there's glass all over the street," said a resident.

Other residents complained of drunk patrons of the bar ringing doorbells in the neighborhood around 3 a.m. Several

people complained of the spill-over of bar patrons crowding the streets.

Bar owner Maurice Skerritt of Long Island took issue with the major complaint. "The main complaint is that people are leaving the bar with drinks," Skerritt said. "It's absolutely impossible for people to get past the bouncers (with drinks)."

He said he doubted if anyone could leave the bar by the side door because bouncers are stationed there.

Residents were adamant that police were not doing anything to help the situation. No police records or summonses could be produced to support the complaints.

Part-time security

Hoboken cops lose tavern jobs

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — City police officers can no longer hold part-time security jobs at local taverns while off-duty, the city's Legal Department says.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said state law forces the city to bar such moonlighting. But a police superior and police union officers blasted the new regulation, saying it would pull uniformed officers off the streets during weekend nights when they are most needed to keep an eye on rowdy bar-hoppers.

"What it means is we're going to have eight less cops out there on Fridays and Saturdays," said Capt. Carmen LaBruno. "Right now, we're getting about 3,000 people under the age of 25 packed

into a two-block area on weekend nights. We certainly don't need less cops out there."

About eight bars in the city employ an off-duty officer to work an outside security detail late Fridays and Saturdays.

Bar owners pay the officers about \$15 per hour to stand outside and keep pedestrian traffic moving and noise to a minimum from about 11:30 p.m. until 3:30 a.m.

O'Connell said the city potentially could be held liable for the actions of an off-duty officer working as a club security guard.

"There haven't been any problems so far," O'Connell said. "But if there was some kind of disturbance, and a bar patron sued an officer, the city could be

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Shooters Saloon at Newark and River streets in Hoboken is one of several such establishments that have employed off-duty city police officers for weekend security. The city's law director now has ruled the practice illegal under state law.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Urban mayors unite to keep school money

By John A. Oswald
Journal staff writer

Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann and Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli joined a group of urban mayors yesterday to mount a political coalition attack against efforts to dismantle Gov. Jim Florio's Quality Education Act.

At a meeting convened by Mayor Thomas Dunn of Elizabeth, McCann, Pasculli and a dozen representatives of the state's poorer school districts complained bitterly about the New Jersey Education Association's fight

against the QEA and what they saw as a possible retreat on the part of formerly "courageous" Democratic state legislators.

The QEA bill went through the Legislature in the first six months of Florio's term, passing on June 21 and signed into law July 3.

It increases aid to the 30 poorest school districts in the state and reduces and eventually discontinues aid to 108 wealthy districts. Most of the other districts will have state funding reduced.

The mayors also agreed to call for hearings around the state on the law

itself and possible revisions.

McCann said the group of urban mayors, whose municipalities stand to benefit economically next year from the act, will meet with Florio next week to let him know they do not want the measure altered.

"We just want to make sure that they understand that there are two sides to this thing. So far they have heard from suburban mayors, but they have not heard anything from the urban mayors," McCann said. His city is set to reap as much as \$40 million in additional aid in the 1991-92 school year.

"It appears there is strong support among the urban mayors to reestablish their support for the Quality Education Act," Pasculli said. Hoboken is set to receive some \$4 million in additional aid the first year of the act.

"This represents a direct benefit to the taxpayers in urban communities," he added. Also attending yesterday's session was a representative of Union City Mayor Robert Menendez.

Jersey City, Hoboken and Union City all experienced double digit property tax hikes in 1990, and politicians in all three municipalities are

hoping for tax relief next year through Florio's act.

Both McCann and Pasculli said they would fight against any watering down of the QEA, arguing any alternative may violate the state Supreme Court Abbott v. Burke ruling that found the state's financing formula was unconstitutional as applied to poorer urban districts.

"The Quality Education Act was rushed through because Florio could see opposition mounting," said Marilyn J. Morheuser of the Education

See MUNICIPALITIES — Page 5

Party crowd disturbs Hoboken's mornings

Continued from Page 1

Acciardi. "People come here because it's New Jersey, they know it's safe. They go across the river to New York to get mugged."

Open just a month, the owners have received five summonses from police for violating state liquor laws, specifically allowing an act of violence within an establishment and serving to intoxicated persons.

The city tried to shut the bar the night before Thanksgiving but was prevented by a Superior Court ruling. A hearing before the local Alcoholic Beverage Control commission will be held Dec. 12.

Like seven other bar owners, Acciardi had hired off-duty Hoboken cops to work weekends, when bars close at 3 a.m. But that practice has been suspended because it violates state statutes, LaBruno said.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli has instructed LaBruno and O'Connell to educate tavern and restaurant owners about their responsibilities, and to coordinate other city departments to crack down on offenders.

Acciardi and Perry Belfiore, whose wife is co-owner of Harrigan's, which opened in July, said their establishments are packed on weekends.

Belfiore said Hoboken is drawing crowds from outside Hudson County because New York has lost its appeal and because Hoboken has a good reputation.

"We have never had a complaint. There is a cop stationed at the door. You can dance with a lamp shade on your head, but if you spill a beer on someone, you're out of here," Belfiore said.

Young people arrive either

in cars or at the PATH and go on a "pub crawl" of Hoboken, Belfiore said. Students at one college outside of Hudson County have printed maps of Hoboken with arrows pointing to bars and timetables for the best time to be in those taverns, LaBruno said.

"Hoboken has always been a party town — the Barbary Coast was on River Street. We are re-educating and putting into place quality places," Belfiore said.

And while he described Billabong's as a "nice place," residents at Park and 13th streets are expected to complain about noise and poor patron behavior at an ABC hearing tonight at 6 in City Hall.

"Between 1 and 3 a.m., they fight, they urinate in the basements, they throw garbage cans and disrupt the neighborhood," said one Uptown resident who did not want to be identified.

A waitress at an Uptown bar, who also did not want to be named, complained to The Journal that the bar she works is so crowded, "that I have been reduced to kicking people in the ankle to get through a crowd. That's after asking someone 20 times to move."

Police said that overcrowding is a major contributor to bar brawls.

LaBruno said he will address the City Council tomorrow night on the need to provide more patrolmen at bars on weekends. He said patrolmen are stationed at both ends of the city to crack down on drunk drivers.

Of the total arrests made last year — when the department was honored by the state for its aggressive DWI program — 75 percent were out-of-towners, LaBruno said.

Municipalities could benefit from Florio school law

Continued from Page 1

Law Center Inc., who addressed yesterday's mayors meeting in Elizabeth.

Morheuser was the lead attorney in the Abbott v. Burke case.

Under Florio's act, districts would contribute to teacher pensions, but a bill introduced by Assembly Minority leader Chuck Haytaian, R-Warren, would return those costs to the state.

"This bill is a cruel, mean-spirited and the further destruction of the urban city school system," Dunn said.

Haytaian said Tuesday, "I don't see how shifting the costs of pensions and Social Security to the state will cause racial disharmony."

Haytaian, many municipalities and the NJEA contend property taxes will rise to cover pensions.

Ms. Morheuser, whose group wants pension funding returned to individual districts, said the \$900 million pension fund is a quarter of all state money being spent for education.

"With the state paying the pension benefits, more state aid goes to wealthier districts,

where teachers retire at a higher salary and where there are more teachers per pupil," she said.

Senate Republicans, led by Sen. John H. Dorsey, R-Morris, also are proposing changing the school funding formula and making the state responsible for teachers' pension and Social Security payments.

The governor's office Tuesday released an analysis of the Dorsey plan.

The analysis said that "the GOP proposal would bring substantial increases in property taxes statewide — an estimated \$563 million or \$523 million

more than the Quality Education Act if school budgets increased at 8.5 percent."

The tax increases would affect every county, but especially hard hit would be Bergen (\$42 million), Burlington (\$33 million), Camden (\$35 million), Essex (\$78 million), Middlesex (\$54 million), Monmouth (\$51 million), Morris (\$31 million), and Ocean (\$53 million), said Tom Corcoran, who conducted the analysis.

McCann, whose school district is the first in the nation to be taken over by a state government, was designated commander of the counterattack.

"Our culprit is the teacher's union. We have to have the political will to recognize it," McCann said.

The NJEA's main concern is pushing salaries up, and one of the main problems facing school districts and urban areas is the demand by teachers for higher salaries, he said.

Many in the audience of school administrators and aides, as well as the mayors and business administrators, gave McCann a standing ovation.

Pemberton Township Mayor Jean Dwane joined the chorus of anti-teacher rhetoric,

condemning teachers for "bringing politics into teaching."

Reached later for comment, NJEA spokeswoman Karen Joseph responded with a quote from association president Betty Kraemer. "When politics gets out of education, education will get out of politics."

"We never said the poorer districts don't need more money."

"But does that mean we no longer address the needs of the other children because of the 30 special needs districts?" Joseph said.

Maxwell House shutdown

Maxwell severance is up to \$25G

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Almost five months after Maxwell House decided to close its coffee plant here, company executives joined union leaders yesterday to announce the details of severance packages being offered to the factory's nearly 600 workers.

Under the closing agreement, workers between the ages of 48 and 55 who have worked at the landmark facility for at least 25 years stand to get as much as

\$25,000 plus a year's salary upon leaving their jobs. Younger workers and those with less seniority will get less money. Company officials said they feel the agreement is equitable, while union officials said they made the best of a bad situation. "It's the best deal we could get under the circumstances," said Mike Shannon, business agent for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 56, which represents about 400 plant workers. "It's a shutdown, not a negotiation."

In June, Maxwell House announced plans to close the 51-year-old processing plant in early 1992 in favor of a similar facility in Jacksonville, Fla. The first layoffs are scheduled to take effect in June 1992. Maxwell House's parent company — General Foods USA — said it was forced to close one of the two plants because of declining coffee consumption. Jacksonville won the bi-state battle largely because of lower labor costs and its proximity to Latin

American supply points.

A Maxwell House spokesman would not comment specifically on job opportunities elsewhere in the corporation, but said representatives from the company's Houston plant visited the city last week with jobs to offer. The company is offering relocation allowances of up to \$3,000 to employees who take jobs with other General Foods operations.

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Hoboken turns to state Wants aid, advice in planning development

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A delegation of city officials will travel to Trenton today to ask the state for money and help in building support for the city's waterfront development plans.

The officials are hoping the state will continue sending aid until they can reap revenue from waterfront development. And the city wants the state to help it choose a development plan that residents will support.

"The city is not asking for a position on any specific plan," said Assemblyman Bernard F. Kenny Jr., D-Hoboken. "We're asking them to listen to a number of conceptual approaches and to start a dialogue over those proposals."

Kenny, Mayor Patrick Pasculli and four city councilmen who serve on the council's Waterfront Development Committee will meet with state officials to discuss these issues.

"We need their support," Kenny said. "Either through analysis, advice, money or whatever can be done."

Kenny said the city wants to include the state in

its waterfront planning from the beginning of talks on development.

Last week, after a judge upheld the results of a July special election that defeated one development proposal, the city increased its efforts to find a new plan. The City Council met last night in closed session to discuss waterfront development.

Voters rejected a plan that called for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to develop the waterfront. The city would have received \$30 million under a lease agreement with the authority.

The city wants to avoid another defeat. "We're at this critical juncture where we're trying to achieve a consensus," Kenny said. "We want to involve them now, rather than go down there when it's all done and cry the blues."

The city was forced to seek late help from the state when voters rejected the Port Authority plan. The state eventually gave the city a \$7 million no-interest loan to close a budget gap caused by the plan's defeat.

Councilman David Roberts said the city delegation would meet with Barry Skokowski, director of the state Local Government Services Division, to see how much aid the city can expect in 1991.

Hoboken board trims school closing plan

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education plans to close one school next September instead of two, because some members worry that too many changes are happening too quickly.

"It's too much, too soon," said Trustee Perry Belfiore, chairman of a committee to consolidate the six elementary schools.

Some school trustees wanted to close two elementary schools in September and create primary and middle schools by placing eighth graders in Hoboken High School.

But James Farina, president of the Board of Education, said a majority of the board would not support

that plan because teachers and parents believed it was too disruptive to execute by the fall.

The school board is also looking for a new superintendent to replace Walter Fine, who retires in February.

"We were moving too quickly and shuffling the kids around," Farina said. "I want to get a consensus of the way the boards feel to see where we are heading."

The board is now planning on closing only Connors School, located in the Fourth Ward, in the fall. According to board members, that school will reopen after it is renovated or rebuilt.

The board is also abandoning its earlier plan to build two new schools through a state program that would allow the school district to finance huge amounts of money through bonding without requiring a public vote.

"That's on the back burner," Farina said. Belfiore's committee also plans to recommend that the Board and Demarest schools be used as middle schools to house grades five through eight and that Calabro, Wallace and Kealey schools for primary grades of pre-kindergarten to fourth grades.

"I think there are five votes for that," Belfiore said. Belfiore said that his own

thoughts about closing two schools have changed because there is no market to sell the buildings and empty school buildings are expensive to maintain.

The first thing you have to do is find a use before you close the building or else you will displace people for no reason at all," Belfiore said.

Farina said the board may vote tonight on the plan to close one school building.

Farina noted that closing a school may not save the district money because the school board is under pressure to renovate its existing buildings.

Although there will be some teachers laid off by the school closing, some will be

used to staff new programs being developed to pull the system out of Level 3 state monitoring.

Board member Ed Garcia opposes closing Connors School because the district does not have the money to repair or rebuild at this time.

"I don't believe in closing down Connors unless there is money to repair it," Garcia said. "The kids that need it the most are going to suffer the most," he added.

The Board of Education closed the Rue School about three years ago. A portion of the first floor is rented to Nuestror Ninos daycare.

Belfiore is pushing a plan to put the three publicly-funded daycares into the Rue School as well as the services provided by the Health Department.



Matt Muzio wears the T-shirt he designed with his brother.

That's the ticket

Parking protest T-shirts hit home

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — When Washington Street T-shirt maker Matt Muzio combined his art with a growing frustration over the city's dire parking situation, he discovered plenty of people who shared his feelings.

Using a simple design — the words "Welcome to Hoboken," laid over a blown-up image of a city parking ticket — Muzio silk-screened three dozen T-shirts Saturday night. He sold them all in a day and a half.

"They hit home with just about everybody," said Muzio, who shared credit for the brainstorm with his brother, Edward.

There's too many cars in this city and not enough parking spaces. Somebody's got to do something about it."

Muzio, 25, was cranking out five dozen more T-shirts yesterday to meet the holiday demand. Before he finished making them, 30 of the shirts were already sold.

"They're really cool," said Maria Morrison, manager of Roses Etc. on Washington Street. She bought a T-shirt; her boss bought 18.

"They're very appropriate for Hoboken," Morrison said. "Sure people park illegally, but it's like you don't have a choice around here."

Last year, police officers and parking enforcement agents teamed to issue nearly

250,000 in parking tickets in the Mile-Square City, where there are seven cars for every 10 households.

Last month, the City Council increased the fines for breaking most parking regulations. In addition to raising more money for the city, officials felt that higher penalties might steer motorists away from parking violations.

But as far as Muzio and other Washington Street merchants are concerned, higher fees are not the answer to the space problems.

"There's no places, so people park at hydrants, in crosswalks, at bus stops," Muzio said. "I've talked to people who've gotten so

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Public health inspector, aide hired in Hoboken

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Ending a six-week absence of no restaurant inspections in Hoboken, Health Director Patricia Mitten said yesterday that she has hired a full-time inspector this week.

With the hiring of Frank Sasso of Hoboken as a public health inspector, Mitten said she also has hired a part-time inspector. Both positions can inspect restaurants and respond to complaints about no heat, hot water or sewerage backup, she said.

"While it is not great, it's

something," Mitten said yesterday.

Because of budget cutbacks, retirements and leaves of absence, the health office was left with no health inspectors to examine supermarkets, restaurants or greengrocers for the last six weeks. The office did not have anyone to respond to tenant complaints about lack of heat or sewerage backup.

Mitten was left alone answering telephone calls and manning the office last month when the one health inspector went on maternity leave and the public health investigator went on sick leave.

Job abolished in Hoboken dispute

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Assistant City Clerk Robert Drasheff, who is also a Hudson County freeholder, has been axed from his \$46,000 job.

The City Council, at the behest of City Clerk James Farina, abolished the job when it was about to be handed over to Marion Roland, the Hoboken

municipal court administrator.

Drasheff had been the director of welfare since 1980. Three years ago, he became Farina's assistant and did both jobs with each office splitting the cost of his salary.

But Drasheff left the welfare office last year and Civil Service subsequently called for a ranking of candidates for Drasheff's permanent position as assistant city clerk.

Roland, a widow, came in first because her husband, Peter, was a World War II veteran. She has worked in City Hall for 25 years.

Roland said she wanted the job because it paid \$10,000 more than her job and she wanted to beef up her pension. Instead of giving her the job, someone in City Hall came up with the idea of changing Drasheff's title and cutting his

salary by \$10,000.

Drasheff also gets about \$25,000 annually as a freeholder.

The City Council will vote next week on an ordinance to create a deputy city clerk for a four-year term at a salary of \$36,500. Farina said he supports the ordinance because it's economical and it gives the City Council more control over the position.

Hoboken targeting transit plan

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Fearful that a temporary solution could become a permanent headache, the City Council is expected to adopt a resolution tomorrow night opposing New Jersey Transit's proposal to create a busway along the city's waterfront.

Council members said NJ Transit should avoid diesel-powered buses and look to innovative, environmentally sound alternatives — such as a light-rail system — while formulating its waterfront transportation plans.

"I think the city has to be sensitive to transportation when we try to advance waterfront development," Councilman David Roberts said. "But when you talk about an interim busway, you start to worry that it might become permanent."

Earlier this year, NJ Transit's Hudson River Waterfront Transportation Office announced plans to fashion a 7.5-mile north-south transitway — some existing roads combined with new pieces — to be used almost exclusively by buses. The busway, which would extend from Liberty State Park in Jersey City to Gorge Road in Edgewater, was conceived as an interim solution to the transit needs generated by waterfront development.

The project would cost between \$27 million and \$30 million, with the federal government contributing about \$20 million, according to Martin E. Robins, director of the NJ Transit waterfront office.

Robins said he was not surprised by the council's concern about the plan. He described it as part of the "ongoing discussions" between his office and local officials about the future of mass transit in Hudson County.

"We're being flexible in our

Please see TRANSIT Page 4

For peace and beer

City and bars map strategy

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With the city's reputation as a great place to spend a weekend evening spreading through New Jersey, officials and tavern owners are mapping out strategies to keep business booming at bars and restaurants, but maintain peace on the streets outside.

In recent months, residents have bombarded City Hall with complaints about rowdy patrons wreaking havoc in their neighborhoods when exiting the most popular bars.

Officials and most bar owners said they are ready to work together to protect the quality of life in the city.

"It's a balancing act," said Acting Police Chief Carmen LaBruno. "The bars want to do business, and we've got to protect the public."

During a recent 10-day period, officers responded to 120 bar-related calls, many of them dealing with rowdiness, police records show. About 70 of the calls came in on a Friday or Saturday night.

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TRANSIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

plans," Robins said. "It's an extremely dynamic situation, especially in Hoboken. I think we all want to see the waterfront connected by public transportation."

Hartz Mountain Industries now runs five buses an hour during peak hours — between 7 and 9 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. — from the Erie Lackawanna train ter-

minal here to the Lincoln Harbor development in Weehawken.

Robins said the interim transitway plans would add one bus per hour to that schedule. He added that stringent state regulations are expected to reduce bus emissions by as much as 90 percent by 1994.

With the state Transportation Executive Council announcing last week that funding for a per-

manent waterfront rail line will not be available until the end of the decade, the need for a temporary transit plan is even greater, Robins said.

But Roberts said the city should not be pushed toward something it doesn't want.

"I think a light-rail system makes a lot more sense," Roberts said. "We don't need more buses."

Hoboken wants waterfront deal

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Despite an aborted waterfront plan with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Hoboken officials asked the state yesterday to help the city discuss a new deal with the agency.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, state Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, D-Hoboken, and a City Council committee on waterfront development met yesterday with a representative of Gov. James Florio on Hoboken's plans to develop its derelict piers.

"We wanted to solicit their help in advancing a waterfront development program, primarily in helping out an arrangement with the Port Authority because they are very influential in that area," Pasculli said.

J.J. 12/12/90

Pasculli said he planned to call the Port Authority today to set up a meeting for next week. The Port Authority has said it is waiting to hear from Hoboken.

Pasculli and the Port Authority struck a deal last year to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development on the Hudson River. The partnership included a 50-year financial contract with the bistate agency.

But voters narrowly rejected the Pasculli/P.A. plan during the summer.

Since that time, the Port Authority has remained in the wings, although the agency did earmark \$147 million in its budget next year for a waterfront development in New Jersey.

The enabling legislation allowing the Port Authority to enter into the development business requires a de-

velopment in both New York and New Jersey. A P.A. waterfront project is under way in Queens.

The Coalition for a Better Waterfront, a grassroots organization which successfully challenged the Pasculli plan through the special referendum, plans to present an alternative plan as early as January.

Calling it the people's plan, Steve Busch, a CBW spokesman, said that the group is developing a plan based on a questionnaire it mailed to residents through a series of meetings the coalition has held since the Pasculli plan's defeat in July.

"We are looking at much more open space and public amenities and everything has to be within the character of Hoboken," Busch said. "We are not looking at the

waterfront as a cash cow to solve the budgetary woes. We are looking at long range planning for the whole waterfront and to open the whole waterfront up to the public," Busch said.

Councilmen David Roberts, Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman, who make up the council committee charged with developing an alternative plan, are recommending to the full council that the Port Authority take a minor role on Hoboken's waterfront.

Their recommendations have been presented to the council in a draft report which has yet to be adopted by the full body.

The councilmen said that the city's challenge is to see how the Port Authority can be best used to serve public purpose while allowing Hoboken to remain in the driver's seat.

Maxwell House employees vent their anger

Plant-closing plan leaves many bitter

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The final plant-closing agreement at Maxwell House in Hoboken has transformed quiet, loyal workers into angry and fearful men who see a bleak future.

For six months, veteran workers have kept their heads down and said very little about Kraft General Foods USA's decision to close the 50-year-old plant in March, 1992.

Most of the 450 workers adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude until Kraft, a subsidiary of Philip Morris, produced a

See PLANT-CLOSING — Page 4



Maxwell House workers Horst Paetzold, Jim Reilly and Matty Triosi discuss their future.

Rank and file workers assail union leaders

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Blue collar workers at Maxwell House in Hoboken say that the company's plant-closing contract for the March, 1992 shutdown is making their futures a lot bluer.

Many of the veteran workers will be in their late 40s and mid-50s when the city's largest industrial employer turns off its landmark neon sign.

Unless they are 55 years old by March 24, 1992, they will walk away with only their severance pay and a 10-week pay bonus. Those between the

See RANK AND FILE — Page 4

Maxwell House employees vent their anger

Plant-closing plan leaves many bitter

Continued from Page 1
plant-closing plan they say will hurt their futures and their families.

The Maxwell House men are no longer silent. They are bitter, and they are scared. "Anyone who has an accident will be destroyed," said Horst Paetzold, who will be 54 when the plant closes. After nearly 30 years on the job, Paetzold will leave with his severance pay and a cash bonus. That's it.

His medical coverage will run out after three months, and there are no other retirement benefits.

"We are being bought off with a few thousand dollars after 28, 29 and 30 years on the job. We are being cast off in our middle age as socially unemployable," said Kenneth Vervoordt, a shop steward.

Dressed in a blue work shirt bearing the oval Maxwell House logo, Vervoordt like many of his production line co-workers chain-smoked as he talked about the plant's demise.

"I'll be almost 51 when the plant closes and I'll have almost 29 years on the job. We are being frozen out of hospitalization and the supplement to Social Security," Vervoordt said.

When Maxwell House President Ray Viault announced the decision to keep a factory in Jacksonville, Fla., open and close the operation in Hoboken, he assured the workers they would be provided for.

"We recognize that we have a deep obligation to you, and we do not take that obligation lightly. We intend to accord you the respect you have earned and the support you need to make a constructive and satisfying change," Viault wrote. "We will provide a wide array of support, financial and otherwise, in the transition ahead."

The reality of the plant closing agreement is personi-

fied by a worker like Daniel Cappiello. He came to Maxwell House 23 years ago after a stint in the military.

His full head of hair belies his age, 45. When the gates close, he will leave with his severance pay and a 10-pay bonus.

A father of four, Cappiello chain-smoked during the interview and specifically spoke about his fears about losing family health insurance.

"This is the only job I've ever had," Cappiello said. "I need to work."

He had a "wait-and-see" attitude before the closing agreement was announced because Maxwell House is owned by Philip Morris, one of the country's richest corporations.

The final agreement was recently explained to the rank and file union members by plant management and union leadership. The contract extends medical and pension benefits only to workers 55 years and older.

"I know that I am not their son or daughter. But I thought they would open their pocketbook a little bit," Cappiello said.

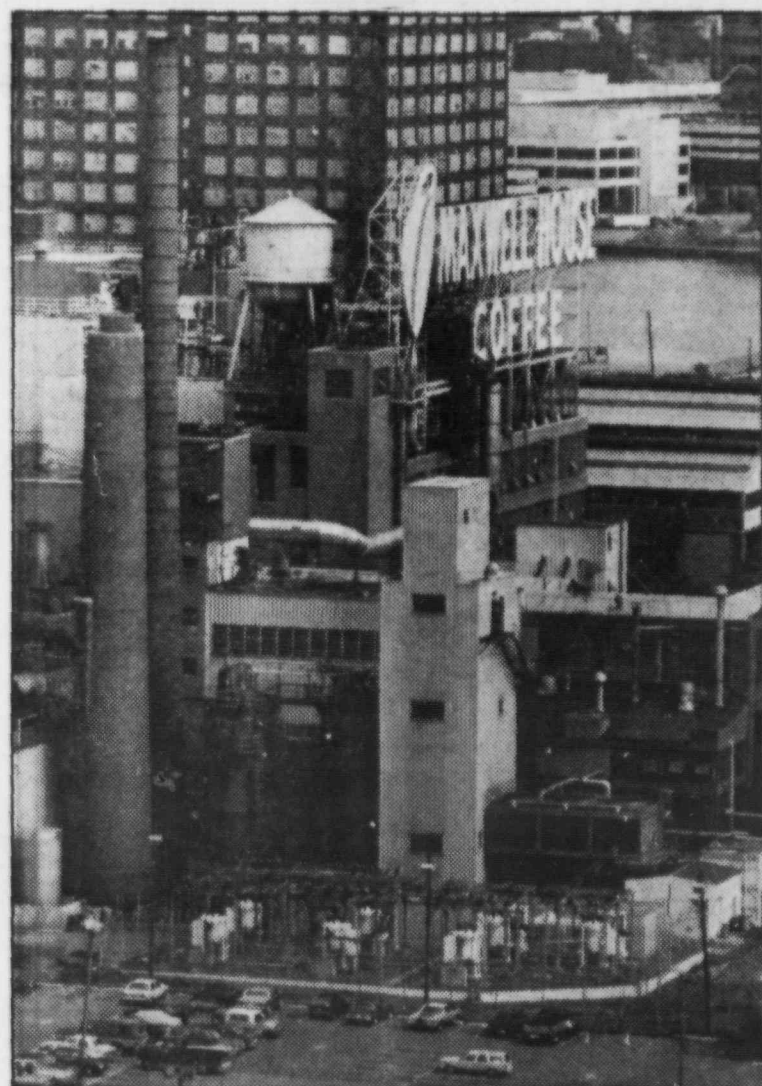
Kenneth McAvoy, who has a pleasant smile, will have worked on the production line 33 years when the plant closes. He will be 54 years old.

Although McAvoy's smile is pleasant, the anger eating away shone through when he talked about his pension. Instead of the \$1,100 monthly check he expected, he will live on a monthly pension of \$600.

Joseph Savitsky will be 54 when the plant closes. After 37 years on the job, he will walk away with his severance pay and a bonus. His pension will be \$600 a month.

"I get nothing," Savitsky said.

James Reilly came to Maxwell House when he was 17



As the Maxwell House plant in Hoboken heads for a shutdown, its workers are saddened and angry.

years old, right out of St. Peter's Preparatory School.

He won't reach 55 until 11 months after the plant closes in March, 1992 and will not be eligible for medical benefits or a supplement to his Social Security.

"We thought that there was more to our job than just a salary. We thought there was a relationship," said Reilly. "You get a sense of worthlessness when you find out you are a dollar sign."

Plant manager Bert Quarfordt defends the package as a good deal. "Overall, the package is a very good one. It is very competitive, it meets the needs of a broad range of people and it is far greater than what the contract calls for," Quarfordt said. "If we had gone by the contract, the list would have been a lot shorter."

Salaries employees in their 20s up to their 50s can get health coverage for up to four years. That option is not available to blue-collar workers.

Quarfordt said that the agreement for salaried employees was the standard corporate close-out agreement that the parent company offers its employees. The hourly employees' agreement was written by the local plant management.

Production and maintenance workers want the same

Rank and file assail union leaders

Continued from Page 1

ages of 48 and 54 who have worked at the factory for at least 25 years will also get a \$10,250 bonus.

All workers will lose their medical coverage and the supplement to Social Security the company had previously given retiring employees when they reached 55.

Instead of the \$1,100 monthly pension they expected when they retired, they will receive on the average a monthly pension of \$600.

Rank and file union members say their leadership abandoned them because of the medical insurance and retirement issues.

Plant manager Bert Quarfordt called the \$10,250 bonus "a reward" because the company recognized that age group would "have more difficulty in the market place finding a job."

Kraft General Foods USA, a subsidiary of the Philip Morris Co., said it was closing the Hoboken plant because of a decline in coffee consumption.

Salaried employees 50 years old with 15 years seniority will be allowed to defer a portion of their severance pay to retain their medical benefits until their retirement benefits become effective at 55.

Quarfordt said that the company is considering carrying the medical benefits for blue-collar workers in their 50s but right now they do not have that option.

Employees receive \$12 a month for every year they worked up to a 30-year cap.

For example, Ken McAvoy will be 54 when the plant closes and will have put in 33 years. His monthly pension with the supplement would have been \$1,100 but he will receive only \$600 because he will be months shy of 55.

Those few months will lose him the supplement that he estimates would amount to \$30,240 until he reaches 62, when Social Security kicks in.

offer. Shop stewards say union members are angry with the agreement and with their own leadership.

"They signed away the loss of our pension, the loss of our hospitalization," said Lee Hinklin, a shop steward.

"People want to hold back and put their union dues in escrow," said Rudy Valentino, also a shop steward.

Another sore issue is the supplement to Social Security. Until 1973, the union contributed a nominal amount but the company assumed the costs to develop an early retirement program.

Union members believe they have a vested entitlement to the supplement. Workers say it is out of their control the plant is closing before they reach 55. They want the option of assuming full benefits when they reach 55.

"Their contention is that the supplement is theirs to distribute. Our contention is that the supplement is every employee's because we have been adding to it," said veteran worker James Reilly.

When the company took over the supplement cost, Reilly contends the union still paid for it indirectly by accepting a lower wage increase or forfeiting another benefit during collective bargaining.

In dollars, the supplement means several hundred dollars added to monthly pension checks.

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Court upholds Hoboken vote on waterfront

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The results of a special referendum held six months ago in Hoboken in which residents stopped a massive waterfront project with the Port Authority were upheld yesterday in court.

Superior Court Judge Arthur N. D'Italia, in a 37-page ruling, dismissed a challenge to the July 10 election results made by the Committee to Save Hoboken, a group started by police and fire union officials.

By a 12-vote margin, voters rejected a 50-year contract Mayor Patrick Pasculli signed with the Port Authority of New

York and New Jersey to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development at the southern end of the city.

The vote was 4,418 against the development to 4,406 in favor.

In his ruling, D'Italia validated eight votes challenged by the Committee to Save Hoboken.

D'Italia ruled that five absentee votes were improperly rejected by the Hudson County Board of Elections. Another three would-be voters "frustrated by the Board irregularities" did not vote either because the polls opened late or

See ELECTION — Page 4

Election results validated

Continued from Page 1

machines malfunctioned, D'Italia found. "This number is insufficient to alter the result of the election," he wrote.

And while D'Italia noted that there were some problems with the county's preparation for Election Day, he ruled that "there is no evidence that any of the irregularities identified by petitioner interfered with the will of the electorate as expressed at the polls."

Attorney John Carbone, counsel for the Committee to Save Hoboken, attempted to invalidate the election — in hopes of a new one — by challenging residents who had moved within the city but voted at their former polling places.

D'Italia ruled that those votes should be counted. The election was defended by attorney Ira Karasick, who represented the Coalition for a Better Waterfront, which spearheaded the campaign for a public vote on the city's pact with the P.A.

"The decision shows that the judge was thorough and his well-reasoned opinion shows what we have been saying all along," Karasick said. "In spite of all the money and the intense scrutiny and extensive efforts made by the police and fire unions and other members of the Committee to Save Hoboken, the challengers were unable to produce enough evidence to alter an election as close as this."

"The election was clean and well run," he added.

Annette Iling, spokeswoman for the Coalition for a Better Waterfront, said the challengers to the election "never once spoke about the substance of the election — the Hoboken/Port Authority agreement."

"The court has showed that there was insufficient broad base support for the city to go ahead with the project," Iling said. "Anyone who went around on Election Day knows that it was one of the cleanest elections in recent Hoboken history."

She said that the ruling means "that we should be moving ahead instead of looking back at a state agreement that people really don't want."

Pasculli said he was "very pleased that the judge felt Hoboken conducted itself honorably in the election. I would be less than candid, however, if I did not admit that I would have been pleased with another chance to bring our case to the voters of Hoboken."

Police Sgt. Thomas Meehan, head of the police union and spokesman for the Committee to Save Hoboken, said the committee felt vindicated.

"They only won by four votes. There were problems with the election. We are sorry the judge did not believe other things," Meehan said. "I hope the city comes up with another plan and gets it off the ground really quick. I just got my tax bill. I am not happy with it."

Contract bidding eyed

Transit agency ripped

Bus company cites unfair competition

By PETER F. DONOHUE

The Hudson Dispatch

A Hoboken bus company claims New Jersey Transit is trying to squash its competitors through fraud, corruption and abuse of power.

In a lawsuit filed in Superior Court in Hudson County, Academy Bus Tours Inc. accused NJ Transit of engaging in "destructive competition."

Academy's complaint concerns a 30-month, \$855,000 contract that NJ Transit awarded in October to New Jersey Transit Bus Operations Inc. The contract was for bus routes from New York City to the Meadowlands.

Bus Operations is the operating company of NJ Transit, a public agency. Under a state-legislated program, Bus Operations handles most of NJ Transit's routes, but the agency can solicit proposals from private companies for some routes.

NJ Transit solicited proposals for the Meadowlands route; Academy submitted a proposal. But an attorney for Academy said yesterday that NJ Transit violated its own regulations and federal guidelines in setting the

Please see TRANSIT Page 6

Approval sought for theater

Music producer appearing before zoning board Thursday

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — After almost a year at the drawing board, a local freelance music producer is moving closer to his goal of establishing a performing arts center in the Jefferson Trust building here.

Joseph DePascale is scheduled to appear before the city's zoning board Thursday night to request variances that would allow him to proceed with plans for a 500 to 600-seat theater in the historic former bank at the corner of 1st and Clinton streets.

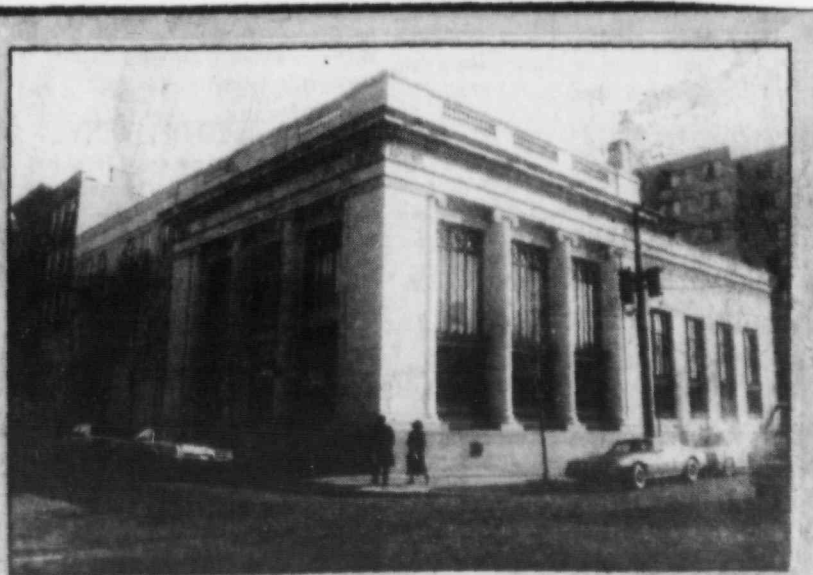
"It's still pretty far off in the future," DePascale said yesterday. "First I need the approval. Then I've got to get the funding."

The main variance he is seeking has to do with the amount of off-street parking he would have to provide for the center's patrons, he said.

DePascale envisions the theater — which would take up about 75 percent of the building's 10,000 square feet — as a local version of the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel. In addition to dance and theater offerings, DePascale mentioned Harry Connick Jr. and the Indigo Girls as the kind of musical performers that might appear at the arts center.

DePascale said such a theater would fill a major need in this city, which has an active arts community, but precious little performance space.

Please see THEATER Page 4



The Jefferson Trust Co. in Hoboken may be converted to a theater for the performing arts.

TRANSIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

specifications for the contract.

Attorney Joseph J. Ferrara said NJ Transit told its subsidiary not to include certain operating costs that other companies — such as Academy — had to include in their proposals.

Academy's lawsuit also claims Bus Operations wrongfully kept certain costs out of its proposal for a contract to provide bus service between the Atlantic City Rail Road Terminal and casinos there. That contract has not been awarded.

"If this is to be a competitive process, everyone has to be on the same playing field," Ferrara said.

Deputy Attorney General E. Philip Isaac, representing NJ Transit, called the allegations of fraud "nonsense."

Isaac said Bus Operations, also named as a defendant in the lawsuit, was awarded the Meadowlands contract because its contract proposal was about \$25,000 a year cheaper than Academy's.

NJ Transit policy allows companies to exclude certain costs — such as salaries for employees already in place — from their contract proposals, Isaac said.

Isaac said Academy could have done the same and was rightfully denied the contract.

"If New Jersey Bus Operations can run the service cheaper, because it's bigger and has certain advantages, why should the taxpayers subsidize Academy?" Isaac said.

NJ Transit is exempt from state bidding regulations when it comes to running bus routes, Isaac said. NJ Transit doesn't have to hire the company with the cheapest proposal, as bidding regulations generally require,

Isaac said. Although filed in Superior Court in Jersey City, Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia ruled the case belongs before the state Appellate Division.

D'Italia ruled NJ Transit is a state administrative agency and not completely independent of the executive branch.

Albert Hasbrouck, assistant to the executive director of NJ Transit, said the agency has taken contract proposals for 43 bus routes since 1986. All but two of those contracts were awarded to private companies, Hasbrouck said. The remaining two were awarded to Bus Operations, he said.

NJ Transit's 1990 budget is about \$640 million, with \$38 million coming from the federal government. The balance comes from the state, fares, and other sources, Hasbrouck said.

THEATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Groups like the Hudson Chamber Symphony and the Renegade Theater Company are doing great things, but they don't have the space they need," DePascale said. "A place like this, I think they'd probably be able to fill it."

A performance space would also be a boon to local culture mavens tired of traveling to the Garden State Arts Center or into New York City for dance, theater or music events.

"There's plenty of people who don't want to deal with New York and the tunnel and all the aggravation," he said. "If we got the reputation for having good-quality events, I think we could easily attract good-sized crowds."

The Jefferson Trust building has served a variety of uses since it ceased being a bank during the 1930s. For many years, a clothing manufacturing business operated there.

In 1983, the West Bank Construction company bought the

building. Its offices are there now.

Daniel Gans, a West Bank partner, said the company has tried to encourage local groups to use the building for arts shows and performances. He said making the building into a permanent performance space would be logical.

"We're real estate developers," Gans said. "We want to see the building used. We think it's an interesting idea to do that with it. Now, it will be up to the community to decide."

Judge upholds defeat

Hoboken waterfront project still dead

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Hudson County's top judge yesterday upheld the 12-vote defeat of the city's \$600 million waterfront development plan.

Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia of county Superior Court said the results of a July special election — in which

voters rejected the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey project — should stand.

In doing so, D'Italia dismissed the arguments of the project's supporters that the election was rife with fraud and irregularities.

The judge's decision was cheered by opponents of the waterfront plan.

"What's validated here is the electoral

process, and the democratic process," said Ira Karasick, the attorney defending the outcome of the referendum. "The public will be vindicated."

The decision was the final blow to the Port Authority plan, which officials said would bring more than \$30 million to the city.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said the plan's defeat has pushed the city to the brink of

fiscal disaster.

"There's no winners in this case. Hoboken's a loser all the way around," said John Carbone, the attorney trying to overturn the election. "Hoboken's going to have a financial travail that's unheard of in municipal government."

Following the release of D'Italia's opinion yesterday, Pasculli said he was disappointed but would not fight the

decision.

"We accept the voters' decision and the judge's opinion," Pasculli said. "I would be less than candid, however, if I did not admit that I would have been pleased with another chance to bring our case to the voters of Hoboken."

The supporters of the waterfront plan

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PROJECT

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had not decided last night if they would appeal.

"We're looking into it with our attorney," said Thomas Meehan, chairman of the Committee to Save Hoboken. "To say the least, we were disappointed, but we don't feel we lost."

In a 37-page opinion, D'Italia found that eight votes not counted by election officials should have been included in the final tally.

But even if these votes had been cast in favor of the development plan, they would not have been enough to change the election's outcome.

"We got cut down a little, but not enough," Karasick said. "We were still four votes apart."

Meehan said the eight votes that were improperly rejected highlighted deeper problems in the election.

"It just wasn't enough," Meehan said.

Annette Illing of the Coalition for a Better Waterfront said D'Italia's decision showed that — contrary to Meehan's assertions — there was no wrongdoing by the opponents of the waterfront plan.

"They used rumor and innuendo as their guides, instead of facts," Illing said. "Anyone who was around on Election Day watching what was happening understood it was one of the cleanest elections in Hoboken's history."

Both the city and the opponents of the Port Authority plan said they are developing new plans for the waterfront in the wake of the election.

Hoboken seeks P.A.'s role on piers

J.J. 12/19/90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken officials resumed talks with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey yesterday about the Mile Square City's waterfront for the first time in seven months in an informal closed-door meeting.

While officials from both sides of the Hudson River were tight-lipped after the 90-minute session in the World Trade Center, they described the meeting as positive and friendly and that another session will be scheduled before the end of the year.

The most significant development at the meeting, said one participant, was the role Councilman Joseph Della Fave played in outlining the various degrees of involvement the Port Authority may have on Hoboken's waterfront.

Della Fave opposed a plan produced by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to co-develop a 3.2 million square foot

First meeting in months held to define agency, city relationship on waterfront

project with the Port Authority. Della Fave objected to the 50-year financial agreement and the size of the project.

After Pasculli and the Port Authority signed an agreement last Dec. 27, the Coalition for a Better Waterfront called for a public vote. Residents rejected the Pasculli/P.A. plan in July. Since that time, there has been no discussion between the city and the bistate agency.

But one member of the mayor's entourage said that Della Fave was forthright with the Port Authority in describing several roles the bistate agency may play on Hoboken's waterfront.

According to one Hoboken official, one scenario had the Authority serving as financial backer and funding the infrastructure for future

development.

Frank Garcia, head of world trade and economic development for the Port Authority, did not rule out any role that the P.A. may play, according to Hoboken officials. But Garcia said that Hoboken owed the bistate agency \$7 million and that the Port considered that money part of its investment on Hoboken's waterfront.

The \$7 million is upfront money the port gave Hoboken when Pasculli signed a 50-year contract just about a year ago.

"It was a very good, frank meeting," Della Fave said. "We talked about different strategies and where they would fit in."

P.A. spokesman Allen Morrison was equally elusive.

"We had a useful discussion and

we anticipate that a further discussion will be held but right now there is no date," Morrison said.

Attending the meeting were Della Fave and Councilmen David Roberts and Thomas Newman, who all sit on the council's committee on waterfront development; Pasculli, Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, Councilman Richard England, Law Director Eugene O'Connell and Business Administrator Edwin Chi-us.

"It was a very positive meeting, an open exchange of ideas and a discussion of some strategies," Roberts said.

"Hopefully it will result in Hoboken being able to utilize some of the resources and financial assistance that the port has," he added.

Pasculli said that the meeting explored a "number of conceptual approaches toward waterfront development." But the mayor declined to specify on any plans to scale down the project developed by his administration.

Hoboken will offer minor role to P.A.

J.J. 12/3/91
Bi-state agency still may take part in development

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Despite a public vote against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey developing the Hoboken piers, a City Council committee will ask the bi-state agency if it is willing to take a minor role on the waterfront.

Hoboken voters last July narrowly rejected a plan backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to co-develop the city's three derelict piers with the P.A.

Nonetheless, the P.A., in its budget, earmarked \$147 million for a waterfront development in Hoboken.

P.A. spokesman Allen Morrison would not elaborate on the city's plan to reduce the role of the bi-state agency in Hoboken.

"We are not engaged in any discussions with the city. We continue to await an indication of how the city wants to proceed with waterfront development and what role they would like us to play, if any," Morrison said.

A state Superior Court judge, in a decision released before the weekend, upheld the special referendum in which voters rejected a plan to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development with the P.A.

A committee made up of Councilmen Thomas Newman and Joseph Della Fave, critics of the Pasculli plan, and Councilman David Roberts, an ardent supporter, subsequently took over the administration's waterfront plan to try to develop an alternative proposal.

They are recommending the city discuss with the P.A. the possibility of taking a less dominant role in a future waterfront development.

"We still have to come to grips with what role the Port Authority will play, if any," Della Fave said.

"The one thing we are coming to grips with is that Hoboken is certainly capable of controlling the whole show ourselves," he added.

Newman said the bi-state agency cannot be the "master developer" but that a public corporation should execute the city's eventual waterfront plan.

None of the committee members wanted to be specific about their recommendations so far. But they said they are in agreement about reducing the Pasculli plan's role for the P.A. as master developer.

The committee contends that a public waterfront development corporation serving as master developer will insulate

See PASCULLI — Page 4

The Hoboken bar beat Extra officers to keep eye on revelers

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Facing its first weekend without off-duty officers working outside bars, the Police Department plans to control revelers by placing extra men on the streets and moving its mobile precinct.

About 10 police officers will patrol areas frequented by bar-hopping crowds on Friday and Saturday nights.

"I'm redeploying my men," said Capt. Carmen LaBruno. "And I'll have the mobile precinct on Washington Street between Sixth and Seventh streets."

The added manpower will make up for the loss of about nine officers who moonlight as security guards for bars on weekends, LaBruno said.

The city Law Department ruled this week that the officers are prohibited by state liquor law from working such an off-duty job.

LaBruno said the extra officers this

weekend are only a temporary measure. "The city could not afford to do this on a continuing basis," LaBruno said. "It's too expensive."

During a closed City Council meeting Thursday night, LaBruno offered alternatives:

■ Raise the drinking age in Hoboken to 25.

■ Change the bar closing time from 3 a.m. on weekends to midnight.

■ Place a penny levy on each bottle of beer sold in the city, with the proceeds to pay for officers to work outside bars.

■ Freeze the 42 unused liquor licenses in the city so that no new bars open.

■ Create an additional liquor license that bars would have to buy if they wanted to stay open after midnight, with the proceeds paying for officers to work outside bars.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said the city was

Please see BARS Page 20

Hoboken trustees huddle on superintendent search

J.J. 12/15/90
By Kaki Kozelak
Journal correspondent

The Hoboken Board of Education met in closed session last night with a representative from the New Jersey School Board Association to discuss the search for a new school superintendent.

Carol Larsen, a field service representative from the association, met with the board to compose a list of criteria necessary for any candidate for the position.

The current superintendent, Walter J. Fine, plans to resign in February.

James Farina, board president, said Hoboken parents and other members of the community were asked to aid the board in determining what qualities are desired in a new superintendent.

The board will meet again Tuesday to announce the candidates for the position, Farina said.

Earlier in the evening, a dozen parents gathered in the Board of Education, sparked by a rumor of impending school closings. Board secretary Anthony M. Curko met with the parents and advised them to go home because there were no plans last night to discuss school closings.

In other action, the board re-advised for bids to reha-

bilitate the John F. Kennedy stadium. Earlier bids were too high, board members said. The

board set a ceiling for bids at \$2 million, the amount of the bond issue approved for the work.

BARS

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considering several options.

Bars would probably have to become more responsible for dealing themselves with rowdy drinkers, the mayor said.

As the city looked for new ways to keep patrons in line, a police union officers vowed to fight to keep the off-duty jobs.

The bar posts are good for both the officers and the city, said Joseph Craven, vice president of PBA Local 2.

Because the bar owners pay the officers, the city has more police on the streets at no cost to the taxpayers, Craven said.

One official said he would carry the fight for the union.

Assemblyman Bernard F.

Kenny Jr., D-Hoboken, said he would ask the Office of Legislative Services to see whether the Law Department correctly interpreted the law that supposedly forbids the police to work the off-duty jobs.

One bar owner said he likes having the officers to maintain order outside their establishments, but would live with the change.

John O'Connor, owner of Down Under on Washington Street, said he would hire more bouncers to compensate.

"I'd rather have a cop out there," O'Connor said. "But I'll go along with whatever the city decides."

BET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment."

The North Bergen Bruins and the Hoboken Red Wings are competing for the North Jersey Section 1, Group IV championship of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

The winner will be one of 20 high school champions crowned today.

Pasculli's prediction — "16-12, Hoboken."

Gattoni envisions more of a defensive struggle: "3-0, North Bergen."

The coaches of both teams stood alongside the mayors in North Bergen Town Hall yesterday as the deal was struck.

"It's all in the spirit of friendship," said Vincent Ascolese, the Bruins coach and the school district's assistant superintendent.

"All the kids sacrifice to be a part of these programs, whether band, color guard or football," he said. "What's being shown by the mayors shows that the adults care about what the children are doing."

The Bruins beat Paterson Eastside 14-0 last week to get to the title game, boosting their record to 8-2.

Edward Stinson, coach for the Red Wings and vice principal of Hoboken High School, calls the bet "motivational."

"There won't be any hard feelings. We're here to play a football game," he said. "We are going to do it with class and dignity."

To get to the championship, the Red Wings last week defeated Memorial High School 14-13. The Red Wings' record for the season is 9-1.

"Hoboken is the birthplace of baseball, so it would be great to win (the) football championship to show our athletic diversity," Pasculli said.

Mayoral bravado? You bet!

Friendly wager on big game

By MARGIE DRUSS
The Hudson Dispatch

NORTH BERGEN — There is more than a high school football championship at stake when North Bergen battles Hoboken today. There is civic pride, too.

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and North Bergen Mayor Leo Gattoni Sr. made sure of that yesterday when they placed a friendly bet on the outcome of the game.

"We agreed that whichever high school wins will fly its banner over the opposing team's City Hall on Monday," Pasculli said. "It's a gesture of good will, sportsmanship and community involvement."

Please see BET Page 20



North Bergen Mayor Leo Gattoni Sr., left, and Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday discussed today's Hoboken-North Bergen high school football game.

Public hearing set on sludge treatment

J.J. 12/14/90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Environment Committee will hold a public hearing tonight at 7:30 to discuss alternatives to burning the byproducts of wastewater treatment.

Specifically, the meeting at the Hoboken High School will focus on pelletization, an alternative to gasification being examined by the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority.

The sewerage authority is trying to replace a state-mandated plan to build a huge incinerator with a plan to turn sludge, the byproduct of wastewater treatment, into pellets.

A study on pelletization has been prepared by engineers hired by the authority. The authority wants public input before proposing the alternative plan to the state.

"I am very happy this meeting has been assembled," Richard Wolff, chairman of the authority said yesterday. "The purpose is to familiarize the community with pelletization options. We have not voted to send it (the alternative plan) to Trenton because we wanted this meeting to take place first."

The authority approved construction of a gasifier by The Terminal Co. a year ago. But since that time the seven-member authority has been trying to prevent the plant from being built.

Members contend they were hurried into approving the gasifier because they inherited a huge secondary sewerage treatment plan from the Hudson County Utilities Authority. The HCUA oversaw the sewerage plant's update until the creation of the authority.

The state has mandated an upgrade of sewage treatment in the area served by the tri-city authority.

There is a ban on sewer hook-ups in the area, which has hampered development.

Helen Manogue, chairman of the Hoboken Environment Committee, said that several citizens groups were aware that pelletization, like gasification, requires a smokestack.

"What we are concerned about is what will be coming out of the stack," Manogue said. "We were upset what was coming out of the gasifier."

"We want the tri-city sewerage commissioners to explain the pelletization process and what kinds of effects it will have from an environmental standpoint and a financial standpoint," she said.

Unlike the gasifier, which will need a 100-foot smokestack, Wolff said that the pelletization process will require a three-foot smokestack on top of a building from four to seven stories tall.

"This process (pelletization) is like heating your home," Wolff said. "You will have the same particulates that come out of a gas burner that heats an apartment building."

Pasculli may advance a modified proposal for the waterfront

Continued from Page 1

the development from politics. "The approach is to get a greater consensus behind the plan. To get a public development corporation, start with the commercial development first and get a transportation component in place," Roberts said.

"We want to charge the corporation with development of the waterfront to get politics out of the purview and avoid the problems of the three prior administrations," he said.

"The council committee is expected to move. It is meeting with the governor and the Port Authority and it has a timetable that calls for the commercial component to commence very soon," Roberts said.

While the council is attempting to bring forward "Plan B," members are aware that Pasculli is growing impatient and may want to re-introduce a modified version of his defeated plan as early as next month.

"What we can't afford to do is re-invent the wheel and throw the baby out with the bath water," Pasculli said. "The city cannot afford to go through another two-year planning process, expending hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional planning costs and setting up another bureaucracy," he added.

When Pasculli's plan was defeated, he invited the Coalition for a Better Waterfront,

which spearheaded the anti-P.A. referendum, to develop another plan.

The committee circulated a 22-question survey and more than 500 households responded that they were opposed to the P.A.'s involvement in Hoboken, according to CBW member Annette Illing.

"The Coalition for a Better Waterfront still doesn't believe that the Port Authority is a good partner for Hoboken in its waterfront development," Illing said.

"We are trying to find out what the public wants," she said.

"We are working with architects and planners to come up with alternatives for the public to look at to see what they like best."

Pasculli has informed the council that waterfront development is imperative for fiscal stability. He said the city is already facing a \$14 million budget shortfall, which means the tax rate could increase by \$10 next year.

"We established a waterfront development corporation," Pasculli said. "If their role must be redefined to give them more authority, I have no problem with that."

"I think we are going to have to have a firm consensus on the waterfront development problem by January in order to avoid another very, very large tax increase," he said.

1,280 vehicles entered

Car thieves love Hoboken

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — If you live in this city, chances are you won't be attacked — but your car probably will be.

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Even here, some auto glass repair shops said they are starting to see a slowdown from the peak years of the mid-1980s.

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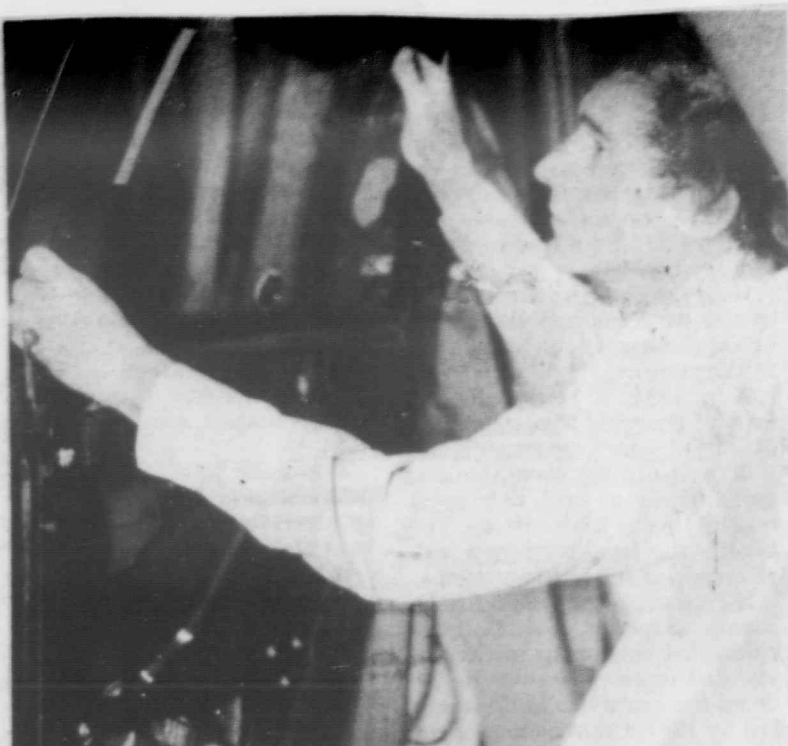
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Associated Press

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With the economy in decline, the company has decided to unload condominiums it has been renting and use the cash to buy options on land selling at depressed prices, Sorsby said.

For S&L bailout

Hudson buildings are on the block

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

Can't decide on a Christmas present for a relative who has everything?

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Or possibly an apartment sitting atop one of Hoboken's most limited resources — a garage with 23 private parking spots.

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The RTC is looking to unload many of these properties, which include commercial and residential space, by the end of the year. But don't expect fire-sale prices.

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This building at 77 River St. in Hoboken is one of several being offered for sale by the Resolution Trust Corporation, a federal agency.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Taverns will pay Hoboken for cops

J.J. 12/7/90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

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"These are not typical complaints, these people are walking in and demanding meet-

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The complaints include incidents of unruly patrons yelling and swearing, toppling trash cans and urinating in the streets.

LaBruno said he has had it with the complaints and has suggested to the City Council it raise the drinking age to 25, close bars at midnight, or prohibit the sale of bottled beer.

"It is a major problem" throughout the town," LaBruno said. "We have a quality of life issue," he said.

"The assault on police officers is almost four times the national and state average and most of the assaults are bar-related," LaBruno said.

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But Pasculli cautioned that

the city will shorten tavern hours if complaints continue. Bars close at 3 a.m. on week-ends.

Meanwhile, about 40 bar owners met this week to form a group to lobby City Hall. Edward Harrigan of Harrigan's tavern said that some bar owners will meet today with LaBruno.

But Perry Belfiore, whose wife has an interest in Harrigan's, warned that the city should not tamper with an industry that supports the local economy. "If they have a problem with one club, close it," Belfiore said. "But don't throw the baby out with the bath water. This is the only industry left in the city. Screw around with this one and we are going to see tumbleweed rolling down the center of town."

FOUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Pasculli is taking crisis management lessons from George Bush.

Around the country, many people are accusing the president of using the Persian Gulf crisis to divert the country's attention away from pressing fiscal problems back home.

Some Hoboken residents are accusing Pasculli of doing the same.

Taxpayers are feeling the bite of this year's tax hike. The city has made little progress in finding a new developer for its waterfront property. And more

tax increases could be on the way next year.

Some suggest that Pasculli is hoping to make residents forget these woes by urging on the sudden outcry over Hoboken's sometimes rowdy bar scene.

Bar owners especially feel that the mayor is trying to use them as a scapegoat and direct residents' wrath in their direction.

IF NORTH Bergen's administration thinks it can simply flush its opposition down the

drain, it should have watched Saturday night's Municipal Utilities Authority/toilet paper tax protest.

About 1,200 residents reportedly filled Schutzen Park for an MUA opposition dance.

Speakers featured James Wiley, who has spearheaded the attack on the Board of Commissioners and Steven Monetti, a long-time critic of Commissioner Nicholas J. Sacco.

This column was written by staff writers Edward K. Shanahan and David Reilly.

Political notebook

The Hudson Dispatch

Bob Drasheff calls it a "quirk" in the Civil Service regulations. Marian Roland calls it something else: a violation of her civil rights.

The Hoboken City Council last week created a new \$36,000-a-year city job: "deputy" city clerk.

At the same time, Drasheff resigned his \$46,500 post as "assistant" city clerk. He appeared to be the leading contender for

the new job. In fact, he appeared to be the only contender.

Of course, the fact that Drasheff is scheduled to be sworn in as a \$28,800-a-year Hudson County freeholder next month should take some of the sting out of his \$10,000 City Hall pay cut.

The backdrop to all of this was Roland's recent placement at the top of a state list of qualified candidates for the "assistant" clerk's position.

When it became clear that she could not be persuaded to back

off her push for the job, City Clerk James J. Farina, Mayor Patrick Pasculli and some council members pulled the "quirk" out of the hat. By creating the new job, the council apparently thought it could keep Drasheff in City Hall without violating state civil service rules.

Farina announced he would not be filling the "assistant" clerk's job for "budget reasons."

Roland, now Municipal Court administrator, is threatening to sue the city.

WHO SAYS the court system isn't influenced by politics?

Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann nearly took sweet revenge this week on a judge who angered him with a ruling earlier this year.

McCann reportedly tried to block the reappointment of Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing of state Superior Court for Hudson County.

But the judge pulled her own political strings and made an end run around the mayor's blocking maneuver.

The state Senate confirmed her reappointment Thursday. Earlier in the week, the Senate Judiciary Committee had sent her name in for confirmation.

But McCann tried to get Sen. Edward T. O'Connor, D-Jersey City, who heads the Judiciary Committee, to kill Wefing's reappointment.

Yet with Trenton's backing and no other opposition to Wefing, O'Connor bucked McCann and brought up the judge's reappointment.

TWO OTHER Hudson County jobs were confirmed by the Senate for state positions this week: former Mayor Anthony DiVincent of North Bergen to the state Cemetery Board, and Maurice Fitzgibbons of Hoboken to a state committee organizing the observance of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America.

SOME HOBOKEN residents think Mayor Patrick Pasculli is a bit of a quack. Please see FOUL Page 18

3-alarmer routs 4 families

J.J. 12/7/90
By Effie Pavlou
and Yvonne Latty
Journal staff writers

A three-alarm fire at a car repair shop on Jackson Street in Hoboken yesterday injured a firefighter, left the building's owner with third-degree burns and four families temporarily without a home.

The blaze caused structural damage to the three-

Firefighter, civilian hurt

story brick building at 212 Jackson St. which housed Nusan Auto and Diesel Repair.

Four vehicles stored there were destroyed by the fire.

"As of tonight they are not allowed back in the

building, said Deputy Fire Chief Edward Scharneck. "The heat from the fire damaged the water pipes and there are holes throughout the building. It was a stubborn fire. It literally got up between the walls, so at this point the structure is 'unsafe' and they have no electricity."

Scharneck said that the families are all staying with

See BUILDING — Page 6

Building's owner badly burned

Continued from Page 1
friends and relatives and may be allowed to move back at a later date.

"I saw the flames shooting out of the windows, it was very, very scary," said Anna Grosano who lives across the street from the building.

"There are families living there and the fire looked really bad. I didn't know what to do," she said.

Jose Matos, 45, one of the building's owners, suffered

third degree chemical burns on his arm. He was initially admitted to Saint Mary Hospital in Hoboken and later sent to the burn treatment unit at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston where he was listed in serious condition.

Matos was working on a van inside the building shortly before the fire started, according to Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi.

Tremittedi said Firefighter John Berkowitz was burned on

the neck by hot water, but decided to remain on duty and seek treatment later.

The fire caused heavy damage to the garage and moderate damage to the floor above, Tremittedi said.

The first alarm came at 2:10 p.m. Second and third alarms followed at 2:15 p.m., and firefighters declared the blaze under control half an hour later.

Fire Investigator Michael Lisa is working to determine the cause of the blaze.

1,280 vehicles entered

12-4-90

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Pasculli seeks consensus for waterfront plan

Mayor Patrick Pasculli urged the City Council last night to support and come to a consensus on a plan to develop the Hoboken waterfront.

Pasculli addressed his concerns in an informal discussion with the council after Councilman-at-large Richard England Jr. brought up the subject following the regular agenda of a brief special meeting in the council chambers at City Hall.

"I'm seeking a broad consensus, but I don't want to sacrifice the city," Pasculli said. "These numerous delays will do that."

"We are spending less now than we've ever spent. But we have to make up state and federal aid that we lost. We have a \$14 million shortfall."

Pasculli spoke after England told council members that he read where the waterfront would be a break-even situation.

"We are looking toward the waterfront to help our budget," he added.

Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts noted that the "project should not just pay for itself but create a positive effect for our budget."

Roberts and Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman comprise a City Council committee which was assembled to develop an alternative plan after residents rejected Pasculli's proposed 3.2-million-square-foot project with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"Let's go forward," Fourth Ward Councilman Edwin Duray said. "I see no plan. We have done nothing for six months. We must put together a plan. I'm looking for a deadline."

"The problem is that everyone speaks in the abstract," said Eugene O'Connell, city attorney. "There is no definitive statement regarding the size of the plan."

During the brief special meeting, the council passed a resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$98,925 in transfers from various departments and divisions to other departments and divisions.

The council also passed a resolution authorizing a closed session to discuss contractual and personnel matters at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, prior to the council's regular meeting.

Taverns will pay Hoboken for cops

J.J. 12/7/90

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

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But Perry Belfiore, whose wife has an interest in Harrigan's, warned that the city should not tamper with an industry that supports the local economy. "If they have a problem with one club, close it," Belfiore said. "But don't throw the baby out with the bath water. This is the only industry left in the city. Screw around with this one and we are going to see tumbleweed rolling down the center of town."

FOUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Pasculli is taking crisis management lessons from George Bush.

Around the country, many people are accusing the president of using the Persian Gulf crisis to divert the country's attention away from pressing fiscal problems back home.

Some Hoboken residents are accusing Pasculli of doing the same.

Taxpayers are feeling the bite of this year's tax hike. The city has made little progress in finding a new developer for its waterfront property. And more

tax increases could be on the way next year.

Some suggest that Pasculli is hoping to make residents forget these woes by urging on the sudden outcry over Hoboken's sometimes rowdy bar scene.

Bar owners especially feel that the mayor is trying to use them as a scapegoat and direct residents' wrath in their direction.

IF NORTH Bergen's administration thinks it can simply flush its opposition down the

drain, it should have watched Saturday night's Municipal Utilities Authority/toilet paper tax protest.

About 1,200 residents reportedly filled Schuetzen Park for an MUA opposition dance.

Speakers featured James Wiley, who has spearheaded the attack on the Board of Commissioners and Steven Monetti, a long-time critic of Commissioner Nicholas J. Sacco.

This column was written by staff writers Edward K. Shanahan and David Reilly.

3-alarmer routs 4 families

J.J. 12/7/90
By Effie Pavlou
and Yvonne Latty
Journal staff writers

A three-alarm fire at a car repair shop on Jackson Street in Hoboken yesterday injured a firefighter, left the building's owner with third-degree burns and four families temporarily without a home.

The blaze caused structural damage to the three-

Firefighter, civilian hurt

story brick building at 212 Jackson St. which housed Nissan Auto and Diesel Repair. Four vehicles stored there were destroyed by the fire.

As of tonight they are not allowed back in the

building, said Deputy Fire Chief Edward Scharneck. "The heat from the fire damaged the water pipes and there are holes throughout the building. It was a stubborn fire. It literally got up between the walls, so at this point the structure is 'unsafe and they have no electricity.'"

Scharneck said that the families are all staying with

See BUILDING — Page 6

Building's owner badly burned

Continued from Page 1

friends and relatives and may be allowed to move back at a later date.

"I saw the flames shooting out of the windows, it was very, very scary," said Anna Grosano who lives across the street from the building.

"There are families living there and the fire looked really bad. I didn't know what to do," she said.

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Political notebook

Hoboken court administrator cries foul

The Hudson Dispatch

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Farina announced he would not be filling the "assistant" clerk's job for "budget reasons."

Roland, now Municipal Court administrator, is threatening to sue the city.

WHOSAYS the court system isn't influenced by politics?

Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann nearly took sweet revenge this week on a judge who angered him with a ruling earlier this year.

McCann reportedly tried to block the reappointment of Judge Dorothaea O'Connell to the state Superior Court for Hudson County.

But the judge pulled her own political strings and made an end run around the mayor's blocking maneuver.

The state Senate confirmed her reappointment Thursday. Earlier in the week, the Senate Judiciary Committee had sent her name in for confirmation.

But McCann tried to get Sen. Edward T. O'Connor, D-Jersey City, who heads the Judiciary Committee, to kill Wefing's reappointment.

Yet with Trenton's backing and no other opposition to Wefing, O'Connor bucked McCann and brought up the judge's reappointment.

TWO OTHER Hudson County jobs were confirmed by the Senate for state positions this week: former Mayor Anthony DiVincent of North Bergen to the state Cemetery Board, and Maurice Fitzgibbons of Hoboken to a state committee organizing the observance of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America.

SOME HOBOKEN residents think Mayor Patrick Pasculli is playing politics. Please see FOUL Page 18

1,280 vehicles entered

Car thieves love Hoboken

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — If you live in this city, chances are you won't be attacked — but your car probably will be.

Car thefts and break-ins occurred at a brisk pace this year, making them — once again — the city's biggest crime problem.

"There's no question about it, that it's a major problem of ours," said police Capt. Carmen LaBruno. "There's a much better chance of your car getting broken into than your house, or an assault on your person."

During the first 10 months of this year, 425 cars were stolen and nearly 1,289 vehicles were broken into in the Mile Square City.

This is about the same number of thefts as in the first 10 months of 1989, when 420 cars were stolen and 1,299 vehicles were broken into, LaBruno said.

The numbers are likely to increase this month.

"I would anticipate that we'll be seeing more work before Christmas," said Matt Sick, manager of M&M Auto Glass in Jersey City. "There are usually more thefts before the holidays because people leave packages and coats in cars while they shop."

In most parts of New Jersey, car crimes have dropped, Ron Krauss, an American Insurance Association spokesman, said.

Even here, some auto glass repair shops said they are starting to see a slowdown from the peak years of the mid-1980s.

Richard Della Fave, owner of Hoboken Glass Co. on Clinton Street, said fewer customers are coming in with windows smashed during thefts.

"Thefts come in spurts," Della Fave said. "But we're definitely seeing less of them lately."

The glass companies said the largest number of thefts occurred in 1986 and 1987 and have leveled off since then.

"It's been slowing down over the past two

years," said Nick Sancilio of West New York Auto Glass Co. "You used to have nights where 15 and 20 cars would have their windows smashed. You don't see that much anymore."

But such window-smashing sprees still occur.

On Thursday, the windows of 21 cars were broken on Frank Sinatra Drive and First Street.

Nothing was taken from the cars and police believe the window bashings were not connected.

"It's just malicious damage to property," LaBruno said.

The crimes hit the wallets of residents and insurance companies.

Together, the thefts and break-ins will amount to about \$1.2 million in property damage, LaBruno said.

City residents, LaBruno said, "are absolutely getting destroyed."



Richard Della Fave, who owns Hoboken Glass Co. on Clinton Street, fits glass into the rear side window of a customer's car.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Hoboken accepts bids for towing contract

J.J. 12/6/88

The Hoboken City Council last night accepted bids for an emergency towing contract, but the action could prove useless if Judge Joseph Ryan lifts a restraining order on an original contract today in Hudson County Superior Court.

Hoboken Towing Inc. and Hoboken Auto Body Inc. both submitted bids. Hoboken Auto Body Inc. offered prices of \$24.50 per tow and \$4.50 a day storage while Hoboken Towing Inc. offered a \$45 basic towing rate and \$10 per day storage. Business Administrator Ed Chius said.

The council did not act on the bid pending the outcome of today's 10 a.m. hearing before Ryan to determine whether his restraining order should be withdrawn.

If Ryan lifts the restraint, the emergency contract will be a moot question and Hoboken Auto Body Inc., the low bidder on the original contract last month, will handle Hoboken's towing.

The superior court judge could continue the restraining order until the Hoboken Council has a hearing on the matter next Monday.

Hoboken Law Director Eugene O'Connell said the judge issued the restraint for two reasons.

He said the low bidder did not comply with the zoning ordinance because he could not use his property for storage of cars. O'Connell said that at a council meeting last year, a representative from Hoboken Auto Body Inc. described his Hoboken property as contaminated.

Hoboken Auto Body Inc. was awarded the original contract with a low bid of \$24 on basic towing and \$5 per day storage fee as opposed to a bid from Hoboken Towing Inc. for \$45 basic towing and \$9 per day storage.

"We have to accept the low bids to protect our residents so that they pay the lowest possible towing and storage fees," O'Connell said.

The council approved an ordinance which would create the position of deputy city clerk and which would do away with the assistant city clerk's job.

The council also discussed the more than \$5 million in unpaid taxes owed the city of Hoboken.

First Assistant City Attorney Thomas Callighy explained to the council the process used to collect monies owed or to get liens on property owned by delinquent taxpayers.

Hovnanian write-down

Builder reduces value of inventory

Associated Press

RED BANK — The state's largest homebuilder said yesterday it would reduce the book value of its inventory by \$19 million because of a deflated real estate market.

Hovnanian Enterprises Inc. will take the write-down to reflect deep discounts it plans to offer for homes in Florida, New Hampshire and New York, said Larry Sorsby, the company's vice president of finance.

The non-cash write-down, which will be charged to the third quarter ended Nov. 30, is part of a new growth strategy that Hovnanian executives say will better position the company for the future.

With the economy in decline, the company has decided to unload condominiums it has been renting and use the cash to buy options on land selling at depressed prices, Sorsby said.

For S&L bailout

Hudson buildings are on the block

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

Can't decide on a Christmas present for a relative who has everything?

The Resolution Trust Corp. may have the answer.

Like a luxury condominium building — with two seventh-floor duplexes offering views of the New York skyline — across from the Hoboken PATH station.

Or a seven-apartment, handyman's special in Jersey City.

Or possibly an apartment sitting atop one of Hoboken's most limited resources — a garage with 23 private parking spots.

The RTC is selling these and other properties around the state to help fund the bailout of the savings and loan industry.

The federal government created the RTC to manage thrifts seized by the government. The RTC also sells properties that were foreclosed on by the thrifts.

Most RTC properties for sale in Hudson County were taken from Elysian Federal Savings Bank, which was seized in February 1989 and sold later that year to Pamrapo Savings Bank of Bayonne.

The RTC is looking to unload many of these properties, which include commercial and residential space, by the end of the year. But don't expect fire-sale prices.

"It's not our objective to do that," said William McNamara, an RTC credit specialist. "We

Please see BUILDINGS Page 6



This building at 77 River St. in Hoboken is one of several being offered for sale by the Resolution Trust Corporation, a federal agency.

DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Pasculli seeks consensus for waterfront plan

J.J. 12/7/90

Mayor Patrick Pasculli urged the City Council last night to support and come to a consensus on a plan to develop the Hoboken waterfront.

Pasculli addressed his concerns in an informal discussion with the council after Councilman-at-large Richard England Jr. brought up the subject following the regular agenda of a brief special meeting in the council chambers at City Hall.

"I'm seeking a broad consensus, but I don't want to sacrifice the city," Pasculli said. "These numerous delays will do that."

"We are spending less now than we've ever spent. But we have to make up state and federal aid that we lost. We have a \$14 million shortfall."

Pasculli spoke after England told council members that he read where the waterfront would be a break-even situation.

"We are looking toward the waterfront to help our budget," he added.

Sixth Ward Councilman Dave Roberts noted that the "project should not just pay for itself but create a positive effect for our budget."

Roberts and Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman comprise a City Council committee which was assembled to develop an alternative plan after residents rejected Pasculli's proposed 3.2-million-square-foot project with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"Let's go forward," Fourth Ward Councilman Edwin Duroy said. "I see no plan. We have done nothing for six months. We must put together a plan. I'm looking for a deadline."

"The problem is that everyone speaks in the abstract," said Eugene O'Connell, city attorney. "There is no definitive statement regarding the size of the plan."

During the brief special meeting, the council passed a resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$96,925 in transfers from various departments and divisions to other departments and divisions.

The council also passed a resolution authorizing a closed session to discuss contractual and personnel matters at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, prior to the council's regular meeting.

Taverns will pay Hoboken for cops

J.J. 12/7/90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The city of Hoboken is writing a payment schedule for tavern owners who want added police coverage on weekends to control the thousands of youths partying in the Mile Square City.

"The law department has determined that taverns can make direct payments to the city and the city then could assign police officers to their locations," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said yesterday.

Eight tavern owners were hiring Hoboken cops as off-duty officers on weekends until Law Director Eugene O'Connell ruled the practice had to be suspended because it violated department regulations.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said he is writing a schedule fee to provide on-duty patrol for owners who pay for it.

Hoboken is becoming a favorite party town for young adults on weekends because of the vast bar and tavern selection.

But the thousands of youths who leave the city at 3 a.m. are disturbing Hoboken residents trying to sleep on Friday and Saturday nights.

"The number of complaints peaked during the summer and the amount has stayed consistent ever since," said Police Captain Carmen LaBruno, who is running the police department in absence of a chief.

"These are not typical complaints, these people are walking in and demanding meet-

ings," LaBruno said. The complaints include incidents of unruly patrons yelling and swearing, toppling trash cans and urinating in the streets.

LaBruno said he has had it with the complaints and has suggested to the City Council it raise the drinking age to 25, close bars at midnight, or prohibit the sale of bottled beer.

"It is a major problem" throughout the town," LaBruno said. "We have a quality of life issue," he said.

"The assault on police officers is almost four times the national and state average and most of the assaults are bar-related," LaBruno said.

Pasculli said that the city cannot legislate the drinking age, but LaBruno cautioned that

the city will shorten tavern hours if complaints continue. Bars close at 3 a.m. on weekends.

Meanwhile, about 40 bar owners met this week to form a group to lobby City Hall. Edward Harrigan of Harrigan's tavern said that some bar owners will meet today with LaBruno.

But Perry Belfiore, whose wife has an interest in Harrigan's, warned that the city should not tamper with an industry that supports the local economy. "If they have a problem with one club, close it," Belfiore said. "But don't throw the baby out with the bath water. This is the only industry left in the city. Screw around with this one and we are going to see tumbleweed rolling down the center of town."

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See BUILDING — Page 6

Building's owner badly burned

Continued from Page 1

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SOME HOBOKEN residents think Mayor Patrick Pasculli is a bit of a klutz. Please see FOUL Page 18

Hoboken court administrator cries foul

Hoboken's always lively

Lots of drinking and some fights mar weekends

By DAVID REILLY *Dispatch 12-10-90*
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — By 10 p.m. on a Friday, diners trickling out of restaurants crowd Washington Street along with bar hoppers partaking of the city's active night life.

Parking spots become non-existent, lines form outside the hottest bars and police officers keep a wary eye on the crowds.

"Welcome to Mardi Gras," an unidentified police officer says jokingly into his radio.

As young people look for love, liquor and excitement, the city takes on a party atmosphere.

Police face the challenge of allowing the fun to go on while making sure it doesn't get out of hand, said Capt. Carmen LaBruno, the city's acting police chief.

Cruising the city in an unmarked police car

Please see HOBOKEN Page 18



Capt. Carmen LaBruno chats with Police Officer Juan Colon Friday night.

HOBOKEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Friday night, LaBruno pointed out some of the problems police deal with.

■ 11:10 p.m. — A man carrying a beer bottle walks out of Billabong's, a popular bar at 13th and Garden streets. He ignores an officer's warning to take the beer inside. The drink costs him a \$50 summons.

■ 11:45 p.m. — Two barrels of recyclable bottles are overturned in an alley between Newark and First streets. Shards of glass litter the cobblestone street as workers from a bar sweep up the shattered remnants of hundreds of bottles.

Around midnight, bar patrons begin switching watering holes and some minor problems occur.

Fights and drunken rowdiness are the biggest problem on weekends. While annoying, LaBruno said these offenses merely harm residents' peace and usually not their homes or personal safety.

"We haven't had any rapes this year," LaBruno said.

And there have been only two murders this year in the city.

■ 12:15 a.m. — A fight breaks out at Fifth and Washington streets. A young man says he was jumped by a group of youths.

Police offer to search for the youths, but the man and his friend decide they don't want to sign a complaint.

Minutes later, a report of a man with a gun in his waistband crackles over the police radio. Despite a search, no one is found with a gun.

■ 1 a.m. — Two men walking along Washington Street are drunkenly into the night. "People don't want to hear this," LaBruno said.

■ 1:08 a.m. — A man is breaking into a car on Frank Sinatra Drive. After a chase, officers catch an out-of-breath man fitting the description of the thief.

■ 1:30 a.m. — A fight begins about 75 patrons wait on line outside Shooters, a bar at River and Newark streets.

A police officer manages to calm tempers before any punches are thrown.

Waterfront plans pushed by 3 factions

Hoboken coalition, mayor, council group to offer details

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Three factions are angling to foster waterfront development in Hoboken and may unveil their plans as early as next month.

The Coalition for a Better Waterfront is almost ready to present its plan to the public in late January.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli gave the coalition the task of developing an alternative plan after his proposed 3.2-million square foot project with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was rejected by voters.

The coalition was the grass-roots organization that mobilized shortly after Pasculli signed a 50-year partnership agreement with the Port Authority last Dec. 27. The CBW called for a public vote on the Pasculli/P.A. plan.

Since residents supported CBW's opposition to the Pasculli/P.A. plan in a special referendum in July, the group has been working on an alternative plan and hired a planner.

Soon after the defeat of his plan, Pasculli met with coalition members and gave them studies concerning traffic, planning and finances he had had prepared while developing his plan.

"We are planning to have something concrete by January or early February," said Steve Busch, a CBW member.

"It will be the people's plan. We are planning to have a workshop to get their comments," said Busch.

"We are looking for more open space with more public amenities. Anything that will be built has to be within the character of Hoboken," said Busch.

"We are not looking at the waterfront as a cash cow. That is the basic difference between us and Pasculli, who looks at the waterfront to solve budgetary woes. We are looking at the long range, from Newark to Sixteenth streets," Busch said.

After residents rejected the Pasculli plan, a City Council committee assembled to develop an alternative plan. The committee is made up of Councilmen Joseph Della Fave, Thomas Newman, who both were critics of the Pasculli plan, and David Roberts, who was the mayor's most enthusiastic cheerleader on the council for the Pasculli/P.A. plan.

The council members have agreed on a set of criteria, including that the plan contain a mass transit element, that a private corporation be established to manage the development and that the Port Authority take a less dominant role in the waterfront project.

Although state Assemblyman Bernard Kenny was a key figure in shaping the Pasculli plan, he as well as Roberts believe that the original plan has to be reworked to secure a public consensus.

Pasculli, Kenny and the council committee met with the Port Authority last week and have another session planned before the end of the year. The

See WATERFRONT — Page 8

Waterfront plans are pushed by three factions

Continued from Page 1

significant development in the meeting with the Port Authority was the role played by Della Fave, the only member of the council to oppose the Pasculli plan and openly support its defeat at the polls in July.

Pasculli opened the meeting reaffirming the original plan, according to one participant. From that point on, Della Fave virtually conducted the meeting by laying out several scenarios depicting the P.A. role.

While Della Fave and Newman were at the short end of a 7-2 City Council vote, they are now in the midst of the policy-making and mapping out waterfront development.

Some CBW members say their work and that of the council committee's can both serve the public.

"They are dealing with how development should proceed instead of what precisely the development should be," said CBW member Ron Hine.

But the members object to any involvement with the Port Authority or the idea that the waterfront will provide financial stability. CBW members say that the city should learn to live within its budgets rather than planning its finances on huge amounts of one-time payments from the Port Authority.

"We are hoping that our elected officials come around

to our way of thinking. To strike a deal with the Port Authority to get cash for a budget is not the way to go, it is not good for a plan," Hine said.

But CBW member Dan Tumpson and Busch are angry that the council committee even met with the Port Authority.

"It disturbs me that it is going on behind closed doors. They went into a closed-door session last week. I like to know what is their justification," said Busch.

The third faction is Pasculli. He still defends his original plan and City Hall insiders

say that the mayor is going to make another attempt at reworking his plan to get a majority vote from the City Council.

Pasculli steadfastly preaches that the city's economic stability is in waterfront development. He said that the future development must recoup taxes that were once paid by industry.

Pasculli has said he is impatient and wants a waterfront plan on the table by next month, but he has not said that he will be one to lay that plan on the table.

PA's role crucial

12-27-90

Talks map Hoboken's fate

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Local representatives are scheduled to meet this morning with Port Authority representatives to discuss what role the agency will play in developing the city's southern waterfront property.

The meeting will be the second in the last two weeks between the two sides.

While neither side has made any firm proposals and the talks do not constitute formal negotiations, Mayor Patrick Pasculli said the city's need to raise revenue as the new year approaches heightens the importance of coming up with a new waterfront development plan.

"We have to prepare for our next municipal budget," Pasculli said. "I didn't want to let a week go by without continuing the dialogue with the Port Authority. Waterfront development continues to be the most important potential source of revenue for this community."

Pasculli has been searching for an alternative plan for developing the waterfront ever since voters rejected an agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey by 12 votes in a special election in July.

That plan — calling for the city and the bistate agency to build 3.2 million square feet of commercial, retail and residential space on 31 acres of mostly abandoned piers — would have brought an estimated \$30 million to the city by 1993.

An attempt to overturn the results failed, sending the administration back to the drawing board with its waterfront plans.

While the Coalition for a Better Waterfront — the group of activists who waged a vigorous fight against the agreement, forcing the issue onto the ballot — is putting together its own waterfront design, the City Council convened a committee to study

the defeated proposal and offer revisions that might make it acceptable to a majority of city residents.

Councilman David Roberts, a member of that committee, said the Port Authority's prominence in a new development plan is an issue that needs to be resolved soon.

"One of the questions we're trying to answer is what role the Port Authority could take that we think would fly in Hoboken," Roberts said. "And we need to see if they would go with that. Everything is getting narrowed down

very rapidly."

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who actively campaigned against the original Port Authority agreement, has taken a key role in the recent discussions. Della Fave declined to discuss today's meeting.

For its part, the authority is taking a cautious attitude toward its future on the waterfront.

"We are still at a very exploratory stage of discussions," authority spokesman Allen Morrison said. "It's been agreed that those involved would not discuss the content of various proposals."

Frustrated administrator vows a fight

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A city official alleges that the City Council used some legislative sleight-of-hand to unfairly shut her out of a job she was entitled to.

Municipal Court Administrator Marian Roland vowed to fight the council's action, and said she won't give up her quest to become assistant city clerk.

"I am amazed by what they did," Roland said. "I really can't discuss exact-

ly what I'm going to do, but I do know I'll be contacting the state Department of Personnel about what I can tell you."

he court praised Roland's ire last week by establishing the new position of city clerk.

This came after Roland had placed at the top of a Civil Service list for the position of assistant clerk — ahead of Robert Drasheff, who held the post.

Roland's position on the list was enhanced by her veteran's status, which she inherited from her deceased husband.

But instead of appointing Roland to the job, the council created a new post for Drasheff.

Drasheff — who resigned as assistant clerk this month — is scheduled to take over as deputy city clerk next week. He is taking a \$10,000-a-year pay cut to make the switch.

The city will leave the position of assistant city clerk vacant, and that will leave Roland stuck where she is.

Sandy Cooney, a state Personnel Department spokesman, said the agency is unaware of improprieties in the selection

process.

"All we know is that we've sent out the list," Cooney said. "We don't know anything else about the situation. If (Roland) feels she has been slighted, she certainly has appeal rights."

Councilman Richard F. England Jr. said the decision to create the new post and leave the other position unfilled was based solely on economics.

"We had a pretty good opportunity to increase the workload in the office and decrease the cost," England said. "I think the city comes out ahead this way."

Roland offered to handle both her current job and the assistant clerk's duties for one salary, but that offer didn't sit well with council members.

"I don't think that makes much sense," England said. "That would indicate she's not spending much time on her current job."

Roland alleges that she has been treated unfairly because she is a woman. She said she also believes if she lets the council make this move without fighting, other municipal employees can expect to get steamrolled.