

Freeholders OK HCIA financing of Hoboken project

By Earlene C. McMichael
Journal staff writer

Hudson County freeholders cast aside previous reservations about a proposed \$13.7 million Hoboken low- and moderate-income housing development yesterday and decided one of the county's autonomous agencies may help finance \$8.65 million of the project. The Hudson County Improvement Authority last month voted to serve as a financing vehicle for Applied Development Associates, Inc. of Hoboken, which plans the Observer Park Housing Development, pending consent of the freeholders.

The county taxpayers will not have to repay the debt directly, according to

the HCIA's financial consultant, Dennis Enright, senior partner of Enright & Co. of New York City.

Enright said the HCIA will float a bond issue on behalf of Applied Development. The bond will not affect the county's nor HCIA's credit or bond-issuing capacity should the developer default, he said.

And bondholders can only seek repayment from the developer, Applied Development Associates, he said.

The firm is seeking to build a 115-unit apartment complex in Hoboken. Twenty percent of the units would be low-income.

The firm turned to the HCIA for financing because the government agency can secure bonds at low-interest

rates. The bond would have to be repaid within 35 years. The resolution passed by the freeholders did not indicate an interest rate.

The funding arrangement was to have been voted on at the freeholders' Jan. 25 meeting, but was pulled for further study. The freeholders resolved their concerns at a Feb. 5 meeting with representatives from Applied Development.

The agreement at that time did not clearly state that the funding for the development would not come from the \$100-million Hudson County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

The county developed the fund last year to provide below-market rental units

and homes. The fund's money came from a redirected HCIA bond issue.

Neighborhood activists in Hoboken initially opposed the project, saying it was too big. It has since been scaled down.

The balance of the development's costs will come from a \$3 million federal grant, developer equity and other funds.

Applied Development will charge an average of \$1,033 per month for the moderate-income units and \$310 per month for the low-income units.

The resolution defined low-income as less than 50 percent of the county's median income. The current median income was not specified.

The number of low-in-

come units is low, Enright said, because Applied Development Associates must cover its costs and so must devote 80 percent of the units to higher-income people.

Those applying for the moderate-income units will not have to submit financial statements, meaning anyone, regardless of income, could live there.

In other business, the freeholders agreed to enter one-year contracts with:

*The YWCA of Hudson County, retroactive to Jan. 1, to reserve two apartments at rehabilitated 270 Fairmount Ave., Jersey City, for the placement of homeless families at immediate notice. The county will pay up to \$67 for each day of shelter up to a total of \$48,910.

American Movie Channel, which split time on Channel 6 — would have their own channels, Fischer said.

"Once the rebuild is complete, people in the North Hudson area will have the newest cable system in the entire state," Fischer said.

The project is expected to cost Riverview \$6 million, but Fischer said he was not sure how much it would cost subscribers.

"There is a very real possibility rates will go up next year, but I don't think that will be tied to rebuilding specifically," Fischer said.

Subscriber Saul Ackerman of North Bergen, who spoke at a hearing recently denouncing the scrambling plan, said he is unim-

pressed with Riverview's plans to add more channels.

"More channels showing junk won't make any difference to me," Ackerman said. "I still think this company holds an unfair monopoly."

The company has about 35,000 customers in North Bergen, Weehawken, Union City, Hoboken and West New York.

The system improvements should be finished by early 1991, about the same time Riverview begins seeking franchise renewals in the five communities, Fischer said.

He said the timing is coincidental.

"Most cable companies propose to rebuild systems as part of their renewal agreement," Fischer said. "We believe we'll get the renewal anyway, so we don't want to hold up the improvements to play politics."

Pasculli said the system upgrade will be taken into account when Riverview's Hoboken franchise comes up for renewal next year, but so will the company's scrambling plan.

"We'll have to look at all of this when the negotiation process begins," Pasculli said. "As far as I'm concerned, they still haven't justified the scrambling."

Riverview executives have said they must scramble the broadcast signal to guard against cable program theft, which they estimate is costing the company \$2 million a year.

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Catholic schools merger expected

Continued from Page 1

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Eckert said the archdiocese has been paying close attention to enrollment at its five Hoboken schools for more than a year. He characterized the situation as simply "too many buildings, not enough kids."

"Something has to be done in Hoboken for the same reasons as up in Bergen County — enrollment and those kinds of things," Eckert said. "We're looking for input on a plan designed to help strengthen Catholic education in Hoboken."

The three other parochial schools in Hoboken are Our Lady of Grace, St. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph's.

According to members of the Hoboken parishes, the new school resulting from the merger would bear a neutral name and its students would wear new uniforms. Children from St. Francis and St. Lawrence would still attend church services in their home parishes.

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Meeting set tonight on sludge gasifier

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken City Council will have a special public meeting tonight on a proposed sludge gasifier planned for the Hoboken sewage treatment plant.

The meeting will precede a scheduled Feb. 22 state Department of Environmental Protection hearing in Hoboken on an air quality permit required for the sludge burner.

Tonight's meeting will be essentially a fact-finding session as Hoboken city officials have invited representatives of several engineering firms to report on sludge removal alternatives.

Gasification, in which sludge is floated over hot sand in an enclosed chamber, is considered an innovative technology compared with more conventional sludge removal methods. In the past, sludge, the by-product of the waste water treatment process, has been either dumped at sea or in a landfill, however, neither of those options is considered viable in the long term.

The gasification technology was first questioned by the Hoboken/Union City/Weehawken Sewage Authority, the agency now operating the

plant. The authority maintains that gasification is an untested technology and is too costly. However, the DEP has already given preliminary approval to an air quality permit needed for the gasifier and only the DEP can authorize the authority to explore other options.

Members of the St. Francis and St. Ann parishes in Hoboken said they were told at Mass last Sunday that their parish schools may be merged by next fall, with the students to attend St. Ann's School on Seventh

Street. Students from St. Lawrence parish in Weehawken would also be permitted to enroll, they said. But pastors from those parishes would neither confirm nor deny those reports.

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2 Catholic schools face fall merger

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The Archdiocese of Newark is considering merging two of its elementary schools in Hoboken because of declining enrollment, an archdiocesan spokesman confirmed yesterday.

Members of the St. Francis and St. Ann parishes in Hoboken said they were told at Mass last Sunday that their parish schools may be merged by next fall, with the students to attend St. Ann's School on Seventh

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Hoboken OKs school policing guidelines

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Requests to form a committee to discuss school desegregation and to accept an agreement outlining how police activities will be carried out on school grounds were among the measures approved last night by the Hoboken Board of Education.

The board voted unanimously to accept an agreement between the school district and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office that includes guidelines for conducting undercov-

er operations on school grounds, routine patrols and drug surveillance.

Similar agreements have been made between school districts and prosecutors in counties statewide as part of a program initiated by former Attorney General's Cary Edwards, said School Superintendent Walter J. Fine.

A request to form a committee to discuss school desegregation was unanimously approved. The committee, known

as the Educational Support Team, will study the ethnic breakdown in each school of students and staff to ensure that the system is in compliance with federal laws on affirmative action, said Mario Mercado, board president.

The study of affirmative action requirements has been an ongoing process in the school district, Mercado said, noting the establishment of the committee merely formalizes that analysis process. He said mem-

bers of the committee have not yet been named.

In other business, the board voted 7-1 to grant a request from two day care centers to remain open during a school break scheduled for Feb. 19-23. The Mile Square Day Care Center is based at the Joseph F. Brandt School, and Nuevos Ninos Day Care Center operates at the David Rue School.

Board member Felix Rivera opposed the measure.

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Parochial schools merging to survive

Continued from Page 1

graduate from St. Francis. We put a lot into this school."

But some parishioners welcomed the decision. James Richards, a St. Ann's parishioner with two children in the school, said that over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to generate financial support for the school through fund raising efforts.

"People don't want to give anymore. They're tired of it," said Richards. "My son is one of four boys in a class with 15 girls. He would welcome any more boys. The kids are happy with more enrollment."

The closing came after a year-long study of enrollment at the city's five Catholic schools, according to Joseph Eckert, an archdiocesan spokesman who characterized the problem as "too many buildings, not enough kids."

Pastors at both St. Ann's and St. Francis parishes discussed the plan at services last weekend. Many parishioners said they were aware of the study and expected a school to close.

"The formation of Pope John Paul II School in Hoboken was a result of a year's worth of study," said school superintendent James Liguori in a prepared statement.

Instead of simply closing a school and transferring students to St. Ann's, co-sponsorship means that responsibility for governing the new school will be spread among parishioners and parents of the three churches, Eckert said. For parishioners at St. Lawrence, which has no school, Pope John Paul II will offer an important alternative, said St. Lawrence Pastor William Heine.

St. Ann's School currently enrolls 140 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade programs. Tuition is \$1,100 a year for a single child with a reduced rate for parents enrolling more than one student.

The St. Ann's building can hold up to 250 students. However, no projections on enrollment or tuition have been made, Eckert said. The teaching staff will be made up of instructors from St. Ann's and St. Francis who will be asked to apply for positions at Pope John Paul II School.

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Gasification raises ire

Continued from Page 1

If we submit anything without HCUA approval, we will lose the grant. The HCUA says they can't endorse it because we'll lose the grant," said Wolff.

The gasifier proposed for Hoboken is a high-tech system in which sludge, the solid by-

product of the sewage treatment process, is floated over hot sand in an enclosed chamber. The gas generated is captured and used to power electrical turbines in the plant. Emissions are released through a smokestack equipped with scrubbers to remove metals and dioxins.

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State gets earful over incinerator

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atop the Palisades behind the area where the gasification incinerator would be built.

Seven representatives of the state Environmental Protection Department said over and over that the gasifier would have no significant impact on air quality.

A \$35 million contract for the incinerator has been awarded, and construction is to begin once the DEP issues an air quality permit.

The DEP says the permit will be granted March 15, unless someone comes forward with compelling reasons to refuse it.

"It's not enough to say you

don't want it, you have to give us technical reasons," Helen Pettit, head of the DEP's Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals, told the crowd last night.

Several local elected officials delivered opening comments, imploring DEP officials to give the Hoboken/Union City/Weehawken Sewerage Authority time to study alternative methods of sludge disposal.

"We have serious concerns," said Union City Mayor Robert Menendez. "We think it's foolhardy to experiment with this kind of unproven technology in such a densely populated area."

The Hudson County Utilities Authority last week voted not to support the tri-city authority's search for alternatives, including composting and stabilization.

Without the HCUA's backing, the tri-city authority will lose \$30 million in federal money if it continues to pursue those alternatives.

"We needed the support of the HCUA, and we didn't get it," tri-city authority Chairman Richard Wolff said last night. "Now it appears we can't get our alternatives reviewed by the state without incurring a major loss of funds."

The proposed gasifier — which would turn sludge to gas and then burn the gas — would be the first of its kind in the country to use only sludge as fuel.

Funding is also earmarked for adding two full-time security guards to work midnights to 8 a.m. and extending the hours of guards in the HHA's senior citizens buildings.

Monies are also allocated for a crisis intervention program, a tutorial program for fifth through eighth graders and a drug resistance program currently offered to some elementary school children.

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Jersey City, Hoboken housing agencies get money to fight drugs

MAXWELL

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is still studying which plant to shut and won't reach a decision until the summer, Sessions said. The move announced yesterday involves General Foods' research operation, not the coffee plant.

"The research operation is independent of the processing facility," said Sessions. Hoboken plant manager George Murphy said, "It was made very clear that one has nothing to do with the other."

In addition to the Hoboken research operations, a similar setup in Canada also will be moved to the General Foods technical research center in Tarrytown, N.Y., according to Sessions.

Sessions said the move would be made in phases. "It won't all happen at once," he said. "But it should be complete before schools start up in the fall."

Sessions said about 20 jobs will be eliminated because of duplication. But, he said, the company hopes to keep layoffs to a minimum.

"We hope to be able to achieve these reductions through voluntary retirement," he said.

The loss of the research jobs would not be a major blow to the city, said city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

"I don't believe it will have much of an effect," said Chius. "I guess there will be less people eating lunch in the city. There's always a slight spinoff effect when jobs leave town, but most of these jobs aren't held by city residents from what I understand."

Chius said the city will be much harder hit if General Foods shuts down the plant, which employs about 600 people in the processing facility and pays the city about \$500,000 a year in property taxes.

you lose some Maxwell House cutting 100

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Nearly 100 researchers at the Maxwell House plant here will be moved to New York state by the end of summer, and about 20 of them will eventually lose their jobs, officials said yesterday. But a spokesman for General Foods USA, Maxwell House's parent company, said the move is not an indication that the

plant will be shut down. "This is being done for consolidation purposes," said spokesman Cliff Sessions. "We're doing it to sharpen our focus and minimize duplication in our coffee research units."

General Foods announced last month that it will close either the plant here or one in Florida by next year. The company

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Marching orders

Hoboken chiefs must step down

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The chiefs of this city's Fire and Police departments will be forced to step down at the end of this month.

Police Chief George W. Crimmins Sr. and Fire Chief James Houn received word from the state Pension Board yesterday that they will have to retire March 1 because both have worked past the mandatory retirement age of 65.

"We have to go," said the 68-year-old Houn. "There's nothing that can be done now."

Crimmins, 66, declined comment.

More than 100 superior officers had filed a lawsuit fighting mandatory retirement. That lawsuit was thrown out earlier this month by a federal judge, opening



GEORGE W. CRIMMINS SR.
Declines comment on ouster

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RETIRE

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the door for the Pension Board's ruling.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said the city has been preparing for this and the wheels are in motion to replace the two top men.

Pasculli said a test for the top job in the Fire Department already has been given, with Deputy Chief Richard Tremietti getting the highest score.

Pasculli said he expects Public Safety Director Thomas Kennedy will appoint Tremietti head of the department Feb. 28.

In the Police Department, Pasculli said, a test has not yet been called for. It could be a year before one is given.

In the interim, Pasculli said, Kennedy will take responsibility for the daily operations of the police force.

"As a former patrolman, Tom has a wealth of experience with police matters," Pasculli said.

Capt. Anthony Romano has been performing many of the chief's duties, but he also recently turned 65 and will have to retire, Pasculli said.

Having Kennedy run the de-

partment makes more sense than naming one of the eight captains to serve temporarily in the top post, Pasculli said.

"I imagine that all the captains are going to sign up for the test and we don't want to give anyone a special advantage," Pasculli said. "We want to do this as smoothly as possible."

Houn said he had no regrets about stepping down.

"After 41 years, I feel I've been very fortunate to have been in this job as long as I have," he said. "I've had a good, long successful run."

But he said he thinks the issue of mandatory retirement still has to be cleared up, if not for him, then for others in top public safety positions who are approaching 65.

Houn and his co-plaintiffs had argued that, as top officers, they should not be held to the same requirements as those on the front lines.

"I think the issue still has to be resolved by the courts," Houn said. "It's a vital one for older people and those in public safety."

Maxwell House moving 100 employees

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

General Foods Corp. announced yesterday that it is transferring its 100-employee research unit out of Hoboken's Maxwell House coffee plant to a facility in upstate New York.

The decision was made independent of an ongoing management study, disclosed earlier this month, on whether eventually to close the Hobo-

ken plant or one in Jacksonville, Fla., according to a General Foods spokesman.

"This does not mean that the Hoboken plant will be closed," said Cliff Sessions, a General Foods spokesman at the company's headquarters in White Plains, N.Y. "Research is an independent function not directly related to the manufacturing in Hoboken."

General Foods executives said earlier this month that a

decline in coffee consumption has forced the firm to consider closing one of its two east coast plants. A decision is expected this summer, but officials said no plant will close this year.

Of the four coffee plants General Foods operates in the country, the Hoboken location was the only one with an on-site research unit. But that research facility and one that had been based in Canada will now be consolidated at General Food's technical research center in Tarrytown, N.Y., Sessions said.

The move is being made to "sharpen the focus" of the firm's research capabilities and to "eliminate the duplication of effort," Sessions said.

All but about 20 of the non-union research employees will be transferred to Tarrytown under the company's relocation policy. General Foods plans to trim the remaining 20 jobs through voluntary retirement, Sessions said. The transfers will begin immediately, he added.

The Hoboken plant, built in 1939, employs some 600 workers and is one of the best-recognized landmarks in Hudson County thanks to its giant neon coffee-cup sign beaming across the Hudson River. The plant is one of the last major manufacturers on the waterfront and has so far survived a major shift from industrial use

to commercial and residential development.

While the work force at the plant has dropped from a high of around 2,000 in the 1950s, General Foods has continued with substantial capital improvements to the plant. The plant manufactures the Sanka, Yuban, Brim and Masterblend brands.

Rumors that the plant might close have surfaced repeatedly since 1978. Earlier this month, it was Maxwell House President Raymond Viatt who told of the firm's plans to close a facility while on a tour of the plant.

Yesterday's announcement was delivered by John Ruff, director of technical research for Maxwell House, and Paul E. Jackson, group director for science, technology and development for Kraft-General Foods International. According to Sessions, the move was a result of a study by Kraft-General Foods researchers from around the world.

"There are research facilities in England and Europe and all over the world and this whole thing is done on a worldwide basis," said Sessions.

In years past, the Hoboken plant was the capital of all of Maxwell House's coffee research capabilities, which explains why an on-site research unit has survived in Hoboken for so long, Sessions said.

Hoboken seeks way around burner

HOBOKEN — The City Council last night gave its support to the search for alternatives to the hi-tech sludge incinerator proposed for the city's sewage treatment plant.

A resolution requesting the state Environmental Protection Department to consider those alternatives, as outlined in a report commissioned by the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority, was passed unanimously.

A public meeting on the proposed gasification incinerator, which is awaiting department approval, is scheduled for 6 tonight at Hoboken High School, Clinton and Eighth streets. Department officials will be present to answer questions about the facility.

— EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

Old flames live on in Hoboken

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

Few remember the days when the Hoboken Fire Department was an all-volunteer outfit made up of men sporting handlebar mustaches who had a craving for chewing tobacco.

Originally known as exempt firemen, a term recognizing a volunteer's tax-exempt status as a compensation for his efforts, turn-of-the-century firefighters were truly the stuff of legends.

Those legends were brought to life in 1983 when an 18th-century Hoboken firehouse was officially reopened as a firefighters' museum by city officials.

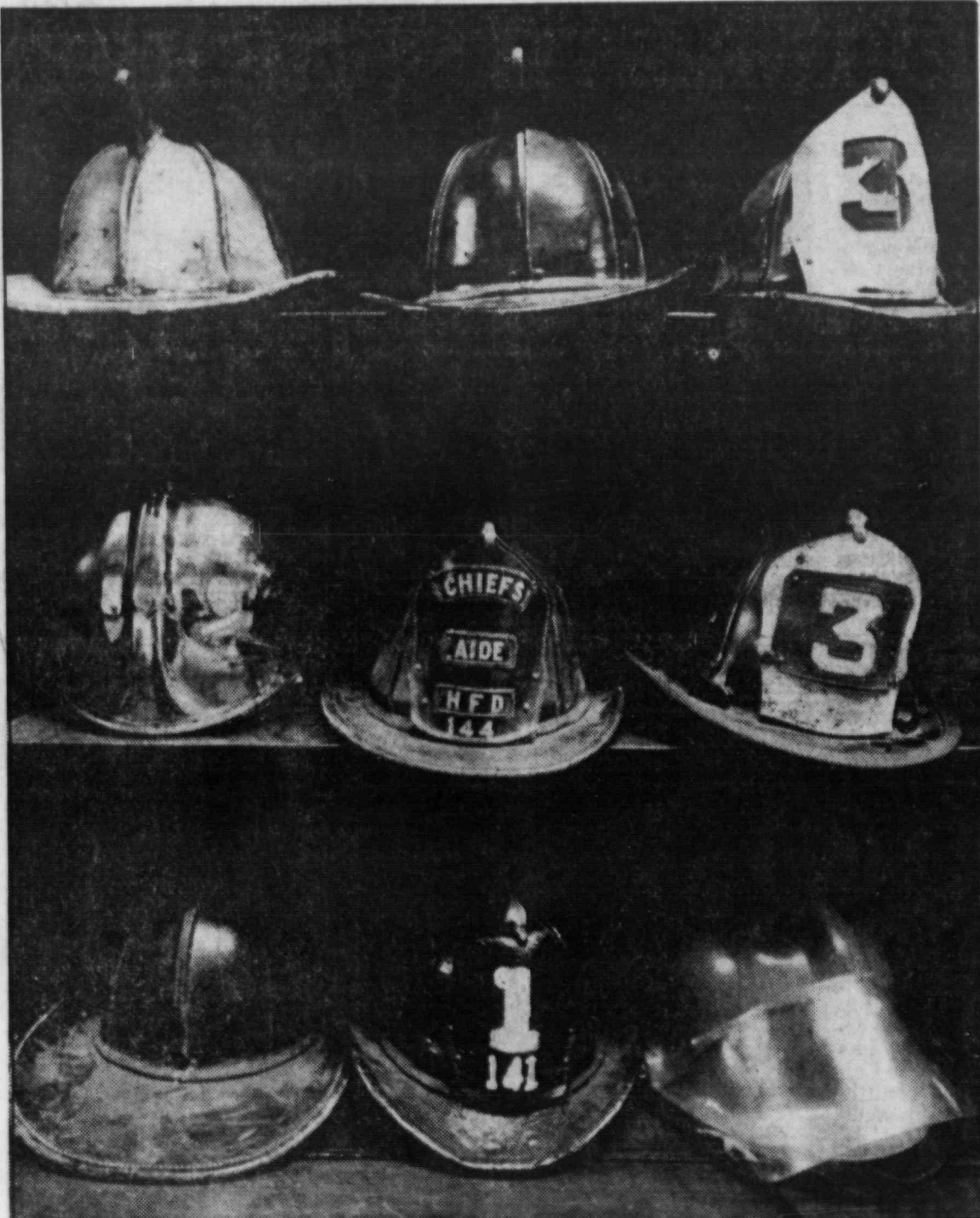
The Exempt Fireman's Hall at 213 Bloomfield St. is a fire buff's dream, packed with images of firefighting lore.

Unfortunately, the Exempt Fireman's Hall is not exempt from fire and safety codes.

The hall has been used as a meeting place for firefighters unions and associations. But concern over the lack of emergency lighting, a sprinkler system, and smoke detectors prompted fire officials to limit public access to the museum.

But now, the hall is up to safety standards and may be opened to the public as early as the summer.

Much of the credit for making the hall fire-safe goes to a Long Island businessman who recently donated a \$25,000 sprinkler system. Frank Boccia, a volunteer fireman who owns the Liberty Fire Sprinkler Corp., of Hackensack, donated



Firefighter helmets from bygone eras are some of the items on display in the Exempt Fireman's Hall in Hoboken.

ed the system out of his love for firefighting, according to deputy fire chief William Bergin.

"I showed him around and boom, that was it," Bergin said. "There was never any talk of money."

For his efforts, Boccia, who has served as a volunteer fireman for 18 years, was made an honorary member of the department.

But it took more than the generosity of a fire buff to bring the museum to life.

Scores of city firefighters both retired and on active duty have donated time, labor and memorabilia to the museum. The result is an impressive array of

See MUSEUM — Page 4

Museum in Hoboken recreates its fiery past

Continued from Page 1

equipment, photographs and documents that recreate the images of an era gone by.

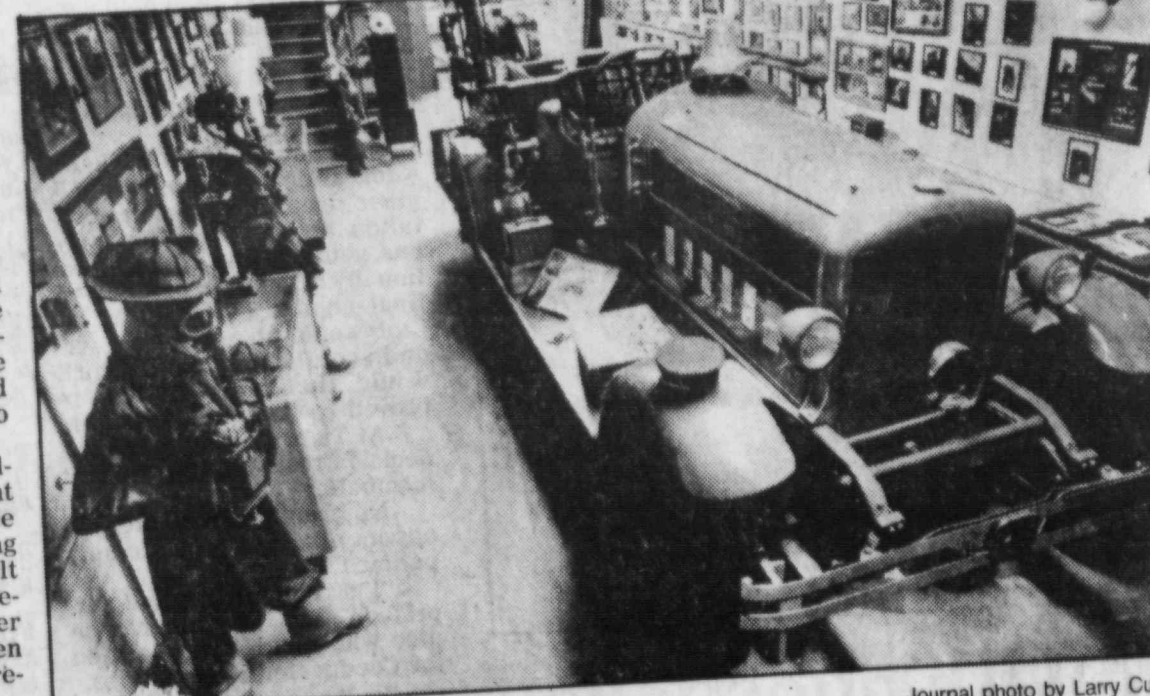
"It shows firefighters where their roots are," said Fire Capt. Richard Blohm. "It instills pride."

The centerpiece of the museum is a 1932 chemical hose wagon known as the Ahrens Fox. The museum essentially evolved around the engine, which was donated by a former city worker who needed a place to store it.

Ironically, it was the advent of motorized equipment that spelled the end of the hall's status as a working firehouse. The hall, built around 1860, housed a horse-drawn engine and volunteer department until 1891 when the firefighters began to receive pay for their work.

One of the first payroll ledgers for the month of July, 1891, is on display. It shows a total monthly salary of \$2,385.82 for the entire department.

The museum sports an old-fashioned scaling ladder once used to climb from window to window. There's an old life net, immortalized in



Journal photo by Larry Cutshall

A 1932 chemical hose wagon, known as the Ahrens Fox, serves as the centerpiece for firefighting memorabilia on display in the Exempt Fireman's Hall on Bloomfield Street in Hoboken.

scores of Hollywood productions, complete with a bull's eye for those forced to jump from burning buildings.

But perhaps most riveting are the photographs

chronicling most of the major fires in Hoboken over the last hundred years.

The hall still needs cosmetic renovations such as painting and new tiles for

the second floor. When the renovations are completed, officials hope to open the museum at least on weekends and maybe more often for school children.

NAILED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they do not believe he was capable of committing the murder.

Mark Johnson, 26, said his brother had "problems," but is not a killer.

"I can't believe they charged him with this," Mark Johnson said. "I have to get out of this place. It's crazy."

Alfred Johnson was an all-county halfback on the Hoboken High School football team in the early 1970s.

Mark Johnson said his brother got letters from "every college in the world" when he graduated, but he opted to join the Marines

instead.

He said his brother had "been in trouble" before.

"I didn't really talk too much to him," said Mark Johnson. "He hung out with some trouble-makers."

Ottilio's murder sparked outrage among residents, who said she was well-known for her caring attitude and her bravery in the face of increasing crime and drug use in the project.

Ottilio was the regular babysitter for many of the building's children, some of whom considered her their adopted grandmother, friends said.

Hoboken cops: Suspects slew for drug money

By SEBASTIAN D'ELIA

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Police yesterday said they cracked a 4-month-old case and charged three men with the murder and robbery of an elderly woman in a city housing project.

The three suspects were arrested and charged in connection with the bludgeoning death of 67-year-old Mildred Ottilio, police said.

The three men allegedly forced their way into Ottilio's sixth-floor apartment at 300 Marshall Drive on Oct. 17 and beat her. They then robbed Ottilio of an undisclosed amount of money so they could buy cocaine, police said.

Ottilio, known as "Grandma" to children in her building, was found by her daughter.

Police said one of the suspects, Alfred Johnson, 37, lived next door to Ottilio and ran errands for her. Also charged Friday night were Mark Willis, 24, of 540 Marshall Drive, and Errol Nunn, 24, no address given.

Bail was set at \$100,000 for Willis; \$75,000 for Johnson; and \$5,000 for Nunn.

All three men were charged with murder, robbery and conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine, detective Sgt. Paul DiMartino said.

Willis was also charged with felony murder because he is believed to be the one who beat Ottilio. Authorities said Willis has a history of arrests.

Last December, while in Hudson County Jail in Jersey City, Willis was charged with inciting the riot that left one inmate dead and six corrections officers injured.

Johnson and Willis were arrested on Friday night. Nunn was already in jail on an unrelated burglary charge.

Police said the arrests in the Ottilio case were made almost simultaneously. Officers arrested Willis outside his apartment at 8:10, and 10 minutes later arrested Johnson at home, DiMartino said.

"We wanted to get them at the same time so none of them could flee the area," he said.

Neighbors in the building where Johnson and Ottilio lived expressed both shock and relief at the news of the arrests. But Johnson's relatives said

Please see NAILED Page 4

Maxwell House moving 100 workers

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

General Foods Corp. announced yesterday that it is transferring its 100-employee research unit out of Hoboken's Maxwell House coffee plant to a facility in upstate New York.

The decision was made independent of an ongoing management study, disclosed earlier this month, on whether eventually to close the Hoboken plant or one in Jacksonville, Fla., according to a General Foods spokesman.

"This does not mean that the Hoboken plant will be closed," said Cliff Sessions, a

General Foods spokesman at the company's headquarters in White Plains, N.Y. "Research is an independent function not directly related to the manufacturing in Hoboken."

General Foods executives said earlier this month that a decline in coffee consumption has forced the firm to consider closing one of its two east coast plants. A decision is expected this summer, but officials said no plant will close this year.

Of the four coffee plants General Foods operates in the

country, the Hoboken location was the only one with an on-site research unit. But that research facility and one that had been based in Canada will now be consolidated at General Food's technical research center in Tarrytown, N.Y., Sessions said.

The move is being made to "sharpen the focus" of the firm's research capabilities and to "eliminate the duplication of effort," Sessions said.

All but about 20 of the non-union research employees will

be transferred to Tarrytown under the company's relocation policy. General Foods plans to trim the remaining 20 jobs through voluntary retirement, Sessions said. The transfers will begin immediately, he added.

The Hoboken plant, built in 1939, employs some 600 workers and is one of the best-recognized landmarks in Hudson County thanks to its giant neon coffee-cup sign beaming across the Hudson River. The plant is one of the last major

manufacturers on the waterfront and has so far survived a major shift from industrial use to commercial and residential development.

While the work force at the plant has dropped from a high of around 2,000 in the 1950s, General Foods has continued with substantial capital improvements to the plant. The plant manufactures the Sanka, Yuban, Brim and Masterblend brands.

Rumors that the plant might close have surfaced re-

peatedly since 1978. Earlier this month, it was Maxwell House President Raymond Viatt who told of the firm's plans to close a facility while on a tour of the plant.

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Hoboken sludge burning project OK seems likely

State officials seem ignorant of area that could be affected by pollution

By Emily M. Smith and James Efstathiou
Journal staff writers

Approval of an air-quality permit for a Hoboken sludge burning project is likely to be granted unless the state decides that its ignorance of the geography around the project would bring about "an adverse effect on the environment."

Proof of the project's harmful effect on air quality is the only factor standing in the way of permit approval, say officials of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Some 300 people gathered in the of Hoboken High School auditorium last night in a last ditch attempt to protect their already tainted air from a plan they say will bring additional pollution.

Improvements being made on the city's sewage treatment plant include a plan to recycle the sludge created by waste water treatment. That plan calls for burning the sludge in a gasification process, the by-product of which is gas-produced electricity. The remaining ash will then be carted out of state until a solid waste treatment facility is built in Hudson County.

Residents of Hoboken, Union City and Weehawken, the three municipalities serviced by the treatment plant in Hoboken, have objected to the gasifier because of the pollutants they claim will be emitted from three smokestacks.

During the question and answer session, the seven-member panel of DEP officials revealed that their studies of the environmental effects were done via computers and photographs of the area. No one had walked the grounds.

"Are you aware," asked Union City resident Tom Sullivan, "that one-eighth of a mile

north of the smokestacks there is an open reservoir four blocks long?"

That reservoir, which serves Weehawken, is in the direct path of wind currents that will carry any emissions right over the water, Sullivan said.

Members of the panel exchanged quizzical looks before Helen Pettit, chief of the DEP's Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals, said, "No."

"Your computer failed to

See GASIFICATION — Page 4

3 face arraignment in Hoboken slaying

By Kery Murakami
Journal staff writer

Three men will be arraigned today after their arrest Friday for the murder of a 71-year-old Hoboken woman found bludgeoned in her apartment last October.

The killing was the first of two beatings of elderly women inside their homes in Hoboken in a three-month span.

Hudson County Homicide commander Capt. Jerry Dargan said the men arrested in the death of Mildred Otilio are not suspects in the other murder.

Police said Otilio was found in a pool of blood in her Hoboken housing project apartment at 300 Marshall Dr. Oct. 17. Like the death of 67-year-old Maria Aceveda on January 4, there was no sign of forced entry.

Hoboken Police Sgt. Paul Dimartino said there were no eyewitnesses in the slaying. But based on a four-month investigation, he said police believe the men accosted Otilio outside the building, then forced her inside her apartment.

He said investigators believe the men were trying to rob her for money to buy drugs. Dargan said one of the sus-

pects — 37-year-old Alfred Johnson — lived across the hall from Otilio at the time but has since moved to 500 Marshall Dr. in the same housing complex.

Dargan said investigators believe Mark Willis, 24, of 540 Marshall Dr., actually struck Otilio over the head with a blunt object.

Willis was given an additional charge of felony murder. Like Johnson and 24-year-old Errol Nunn, Willis was also charged with murder, robbery and conspiracy to obtain drugs.

Willis was arrested at his home shortly after 8 p.m. by Hoboken vice detectives, Sgt. Dimartino said. Johnson was arrested at his home about 10 minutes later by Hoboken detectives and county homicide investigators.

Dimartino said Nunn was already in the Hudson County Jail Annex after being arrested for burglary last week.

Pasculli lays groundwork for Hoboken spending cuts

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli is laying the groundwork for deep cuts in municipal spending to offset a potential budget shortfall, but his critics have quickly condemned his moves as being too little too late.

Pasculli has asked his department directors to prepare contingency plans that would implement overall spending reductions of five and 10 percent.

The mayor, who pledged not to raise taxes during his election campaign, said there are a number of things that could strain the city's budget and force the spending cuts to avoid an increase.

The cuts would probably mean layoffs and could affect city services, said Pasculli, who characterized the contingency plans as a way to avoid crisis management of the budget. Even three new department directors hired recently at \$35,000 a year could feel the budget ax, he added.

"In the event that we do not receive the kind of revenue that I believe we should be receiving, I believe we'll have to re-evaluate that (the new directors)," Pasculli said.

But the tough talk on spending did not impress coun-

cilman Joseph Della Fave.

He said that if he were in control, notices to municipal employees would have been sent out before the year's end.

Della Fave, who last summer proposed slashing \$500,000 in salary line items from the budget, said the coming fiscal crunch could have been softened if hirings had been put off.

"Given our fiscal situation, you can't manage it politically," said Della Fave. "That is using the payroll to hire and promote people as political paybacks. You've got to be a lot more prudent in your judgment."

This year, the city will anticipate \$3 million in rent pay-

See PASCULLI — Page 6

2 chiefs ending lifetime service

Crimmins, Houn being forced out by mandatory retirement ruling

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The city of Hoboken will lose two of its most valued resources today when Police Chief George Crimmins and Fire Chief James Houn are officially retired.

But the exit of the chiefs who have led the departments for more than two decades — Crimmins became

chief in 1970, Houn took over in 1977 — will open the door for a new generation of leaders, Mayor Patrick Pasculli said.

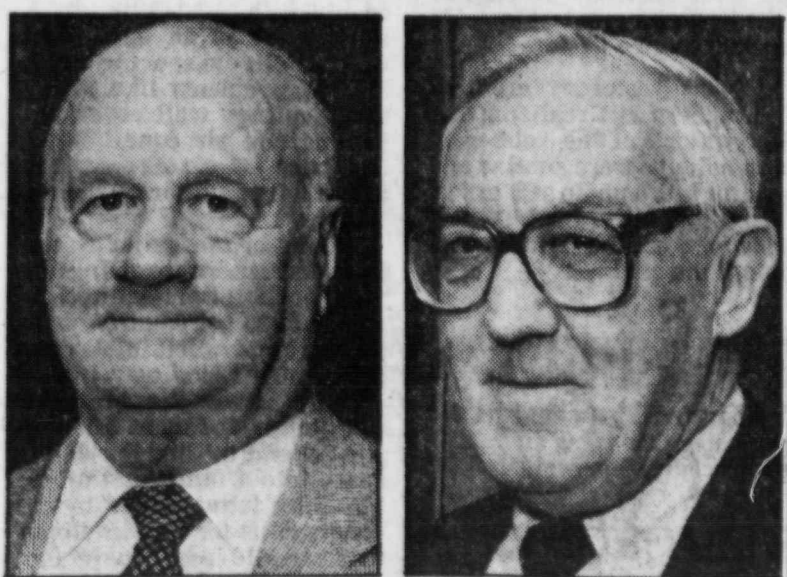
"The community certainly loses a wealth of experience and professionalism that both chiefs have shown over the course of 40 plus years each and that's something that you cannot replace overnight," said Pasculli. "But it also gives this municipality an opportunity for new leadership and new direction."

The chiefs fought a battle against the clock for two years as they tried to stay on beyond the state's mandatory retirement age of 65. The battle took an unexpected turn last September when U.S. District Court Judge Nicholas H. Pollan enjoined municipalities from executing a state pension board ruling setting an Oct. 1 retirement deadline.

Word of that decision came just as Houn and Crimmins were being honored in retirement ceremonies in City Hall. But last month, the same judge threw out the case in which the officers sought an exemption to the pension board's mandatory retirement rule on a technicality. The pension board set a March 1 deadline for the two chiefs, Hoboken police captain Anthony Romano, 10 firefighters and police officers in Jersey City, and more than 100 public safety employees in New Jersey to step down.

Following the decision, Crimmins' attorney said he would file age discrimination charges with the federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. However yesterday

See 2 CHIEFS — Page 4



George Crimmins
Police Chief

James Houn
Fire Chief

the job has been watching the development of fire prevention techniques, many of which Houn said have been implemented only in the last 10 years. The result has been fewer and less severe fires and a safer environment for firefighters.

Houn said he planned to keep busy tending to his summer home and raising tomatoes. "It won't take too much to keep me occupied," he said. However, he said his instincts might make him an observer to future fires.

"It's like the old fire horse," Houn joked. "When the bells went, he ran to his position."

Crimmins, like Houn a lifelong resident of Hoboken, was inspired to join the force by his father, Joseph Crimmins, who was a police officer for 17 years.

"He was a cop's cop," said Crimmins of his father.

Crimmins, a certified public school teacher, said he has had offers to enter the classroom, but has yet to reach a decision.

Three mayors still battling gasifier

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

HOBOKEN — After a meeting yesterday, the mayors of this city, Union City and Weehawken are still fighting for a chance to put a proposed sludge gasification incinerator on hold while looking at alternatives.

Representatives of the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority and the Hudson County Utilities Authority were also at the meeting and lent their support to the mayors.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said everyone at the meeting agreed a \$30 million federal grant for the project must be preserved.

At the same time, Pasculli said, the mayors are going to ask the state Department of Environmental Protection to delay issuing an air quality permit for the gasifier.

HCUA Executive Director George W. Crimmins Jr. said his agency has no objections to the mayors' request, as long as the grant is not jeopardized.

"The mayors are reacting to questions from their constituents," said Crimmins. "We feel the public has the right to have their questions answered."

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

Gasification plans were made with only photos of environs

Continued from Page 1

reveal that," Sullivan said.

Gasification is a high-tech system in which sludge is floated over hot sand in an enclosed chamber. The generated gas is captured and used to power electrical turbines in the plant. Emissions are released through a smokestack equipped with scrubbers to remove metals and dioxins.

A DEP health risk assessment found the chances of a person getting cancer from the emissions to be one in one million. Questions have been raised about the risk assessment, which is based on a flawless system running at peak efficiency.

Many of the three dozen people who spoke mentioned their concern over the frequent use by DEP officials of the words "experimental," "estimated," and "projected" when discussing the effects of the gasification system.

"We don't want our land, ourselves, our children to be experimental animals," one woman said.

"If this is so good for Hudson County, why has no other gasification system been completed in the United States in the last four years?" asked Richard Wolff, chairman of the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority.

The tri-city agency has asked the DEP to consider alternatives to the gasification system before it grants an air-quality permit. Deadline for the permit signing is March 15. Once the permit is signed, the plan is set in stone.

DEP officials reiterated last night that if the agency submits the alternatives for state study it risks \$60 million in grants provided for the project. Too many other communities are in need of those funds, half of which were allocated to Hudson County three years ago, officials said.

DEP officials have cringed at the thought of a new plan because of Hoboken's poor past record of improving its treatment plant. All state municipalities must upgrade their plants to the secondary level, which removes a much higher level of pollutants from waste water.

"Everyone else in the state has upgraded," said Pettit. "Most are coming back for additional improvements. The history in Hudson County has been constantly changing their plans. The question of good faith is very real."

A public hearing and several public meetings have been hosted by the DEP to allow the public to present evidence against the gasification plan. Officials have said that objections for esthetic reasons do not constitute proof that the environment will be damaged.

But as soon as the panel members admitted their lack of knowledge about the landscape, residents began suggesting that further study was needed.

"I'm afraid that DEP will come to mean Department of Environmental Pollution," said Graziella Hines, vice president of the Union City Residents Association.

"I'm glad you are convinced that there is no risk to the population," said Sanford Kempin, chief of hematology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

"The population is already at maximum risk for these disorders," he said, citing several pollution-caused cancers.

Another factor is the upcoming 1991 ban on sludge ocean dumping, noted an EPA official. Several municipalities currently dumping are in the process of developing alternate plans for sludge removal. Should Hoboken change its plan, its alternative will have to be reviewed in the context of proposals by other municipalities.

"If Hoboken goes through this alternative process who knows how long it's going to take," said John Mello, EPA branch chief for New Jersey municipal programs.

"Hoboken's going to have to look at their alternatives and wait for them. Right now, Hoboken is in the forefront and it may reverse if they drag their feet."

"They're holding guns to our heads," said Wolff. "We're left holding the bag and if the bag breaks, the DEP and the HCUA aren't left holding it, we are."

With or without the federal grant, the EPA wants a sludge removal system in place when the liquid processing portion of the plant is completed sometime in January, 1993. Failure to do so, officials said, would initiate enforcement action, including fines.

Pasculli gets ready for spending cuts

Continued from Page 1

ments from the Port Authority under the terms of a waterfront development agreement approved in December.

According to Councilman Steve Cappiello, revenues from the PA agreement should be considered as revenue from a

city-owned asset and should not be used to support operating expenses.

"I don't think you should sell assets just to maintain your payroll," said Cappiello. "It (P.A. revenue) is being used to support the payroll when in fact we're going to need a lot of

infrastructure."

Pasculli denied padding the payroll and said there is now a hiring freeze. Staff will be reduced through attrition until the budget picture becomes clearer, he said.

While the administration is hoping for an increase in state

aid, several events could prompt a shortfall, even with help from Trenton. Should the state move ahead with plans to close the Meadowlands landfill, for instance, the cost of solid waste disposal through-out the county could triple, Pasculli pointed out.

New Hoboken chief

Persistence clears the way for firefighter

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — After a 30-year climb, Richard Tremitedi will reach the top rung on the Fire Department ladder this afternoon when he is sworn in as chief.

His appointment to the top post fulfills a dream that the 51-year-old Tremitedi said he once thought might slip through his fingers.

"I found out all you need is a little patience and perseverance," Tremitedi said. "That's what gets you through professional, as well as personal, crises."

For the past three years, Tremitedi has waited to succeed James Houn, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 65 in 1986.

But Houn didn't retire. Instead, he joined Police Chief George W. Crimmins Sr. and about 100 other top public safety officials from around the state in

an intense legal battle to remain on the job.

That battle ended recently when the state Pension Board ruled Houn must retire as of tomorrow.

"I never took it personally, but at times I got aggravated and frustrated," Tremitedi said. "It just happened that I was caught in the middle."

Tremitedi, who earned the top score on the chief's test given in 1986, could only watch as Houn and the other chiefs fought the mandatory retirement.

He watched — and worried about getting burned. Knowing his test score was only valid until this month, and uncertain about when Houn's case would be settled, Tremitedi asked the state Personnel Board to keep him first in line for the top job.

"There was no guarantee I'd place first on a second test," Tremitedi said. "I could have lost everything I worked for."

The board denied Tremitedi's



Richard Tremitedi is scheduled to be sworn today as chief of the Hoboken Fire Department.

request and called for another test late last year.

Once again, Tremitedi was the high scorer.

"Richard Tremitedi has constantly shown he is the most qualified man for the job," said Mayor Patrick Pasculli. "He's put a lot of work into getting where he has."

Indeed, Tremitedi has done just about everything in the Fire Department.

He was 21 years old when he became a firefighter in 1960.

Five years later he was promoted to captain. He also tested first on the captain's exam. Since becoming a deputy chief in 1976, Tremitedi has been acting chief, fire inspector, oper-

ations officer and training officer. Public Safety Director Thomas Kennedy said the city will have a top-notch chief with Tremitedi in the post.

"I've known him since we were kids," Kennedy said. "And I think he's going to be an outstanding chief."

Speaking of the challenges facing him in his new post, Tremitedi said a Fire Department handles more than blazes these days.

"A Fire Department is more like a multi-faceted emergency organization," Tremitedi said. "We have to handle all kinds of disasters, not just fires."

Hoboken-P.A. waterfront pact up for court decision

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The future of the Hoboken-Port Authority waterfront lease agreement will be placed in the hands of the state appeals court when oral arguments in a case challenging the pact are heard April 4 in Trenton.

The case centers around the efforts of a citizens group to place a referendum before voters to decide if the ordinance authorizing the agreement should be repealed.

Members of the Save Hoboken from Overdevelopment organization, along

with other activists opposed to the plan, collected 1,696 signatures on a petition calling for the referendum in December, shortly after the City Council approved the lease.

But City Clerk James Farina refused to accept the petition on the advice of law director Eugene O'Connell who argued that the ordinance, centering around a redevelopment plan, was not subject to the petition-referendum process.

"The redevelopment process is a comprehensive process where the municipality goes through several layers of government," said

O'Connell. "Therefore, it's not subject to referendum because of the comprehensive nature of planning and redevelopment."

A Superior Court judge agreed and refused to order Hoboken to accept the referendum petition. Citizens Collective, which sponsored the petition drive, is asking the higher court to reverse that ruling.

"We're asking the appellate court to reverse the trial court and order the city clerk to accept the petitions and to have the matter determined by a popular referendum," said Ira Karasick, the group's attorney, who added

that the court has recognized a compelling public interest in the case by granting his request for an accelerated hearing on the appeal.

The two- or three-judge panel set to hear the appeal will be presided over by Judge Jeffrey Gaulkin. A similar panel headed by Gaulkin last spring reversed a lower court ruling blocking SHOD from submitting a referendum petition calling for the city's waterfront parcel to be dedicated for park space.

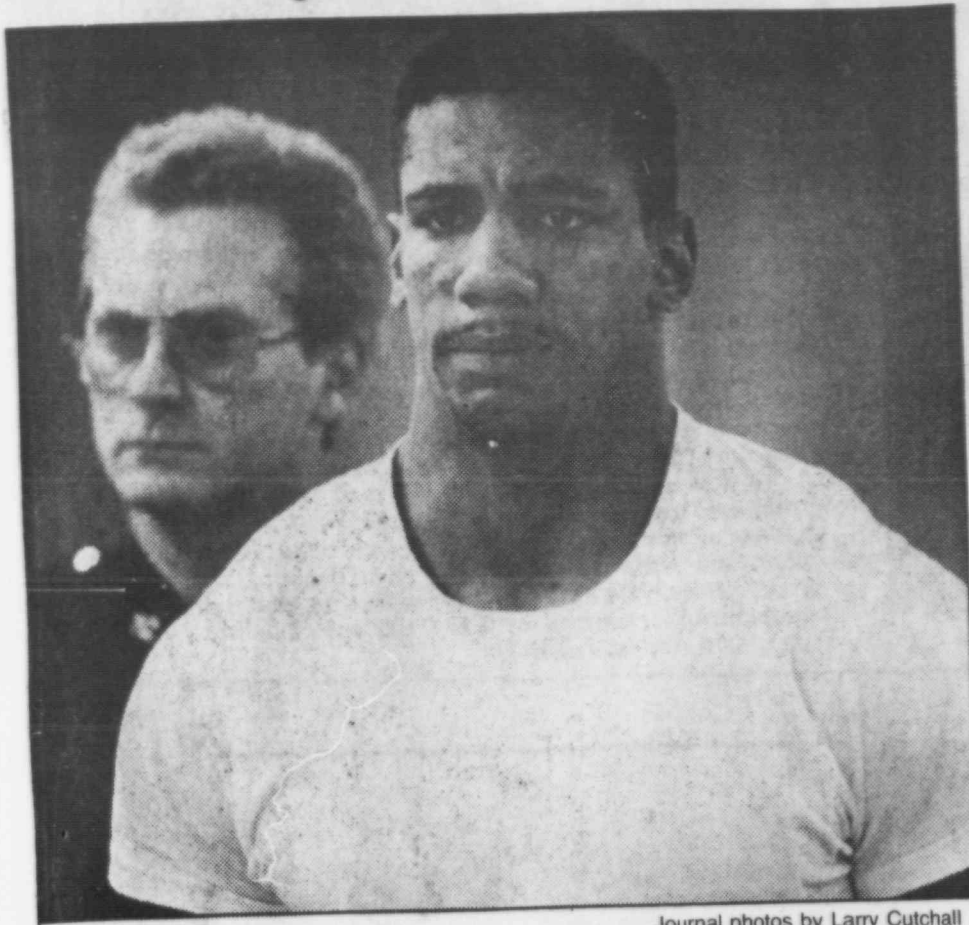
Following the reversal, the question was placed on the ballot and defeated by

voters in May's municipal election. Mayor Patrick Pasculli who won a full, four-year term in that election, continued negotiations with the PA and presented a lease to the City Council in December.

The agreement, which calls on the PA to act as middlemen in a 3.2 million square foot mixed-use development on Hoboken's southern waterfront, has also been challenged by Stevens Institute of Technology. The college has challenged the plan on grounds that municipal approvals leading up to the agreement were not publicly advertised.

Hoboken man arraigned in murder of elderly woman was accused in riot

By Patricia Scott
Journal staff writer 2-27-90



Mark Willis is arraigned yesterday as a suspect in the murder of a 67-year-old Hoboken woman.

A Hoboken man charged with leading a riot in Hudson County Jail three months ago that ended in the accidental death of an inmate was arraigned yesterday as the main suspect in a Hoboken murder that occurred in October of last year.

Bail for Mark Willis, 24, of Marshall Drive, was set by Superior Court Judge John J. Grossi Jr. at \$100,000 cash yesterday. Willis is charged with felony murder and murder for the brutal slaying last Oct. 17 of Mildred Ottilio, 67, an elderly city woman.

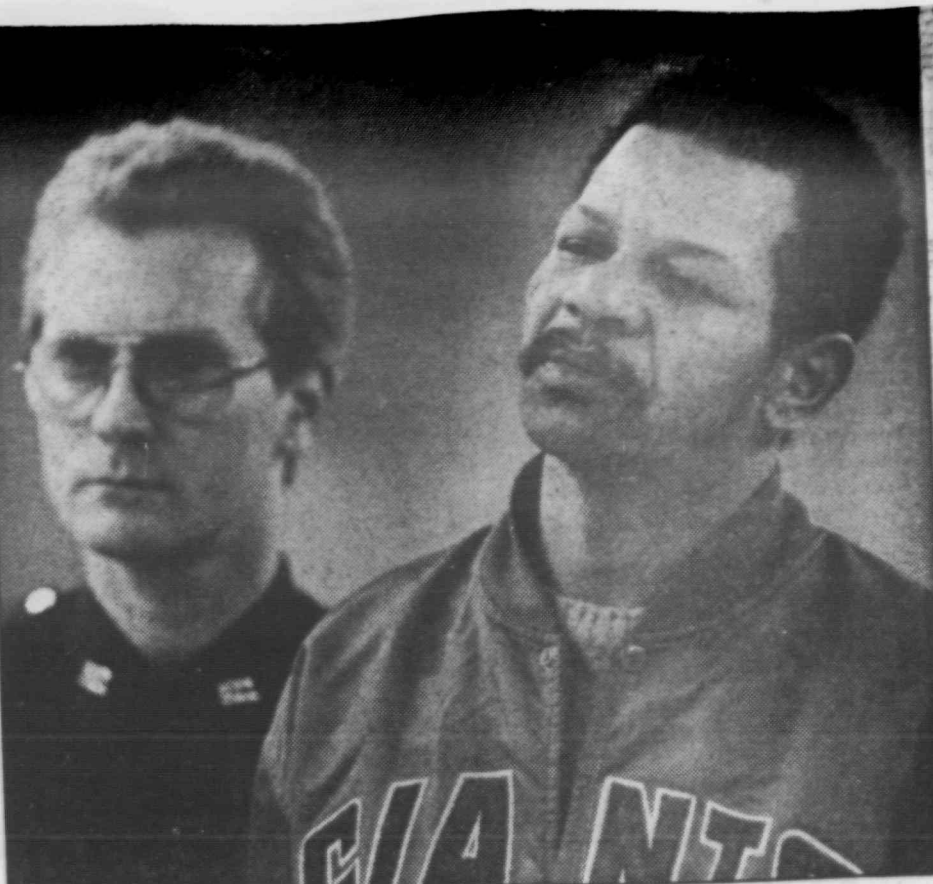
Arrested with Willis yesterday were Alfred Johnson, 37, and Errol Nunn, 24, both of Hoboken.

They are also charged with murder, robbery and conspiracy to possess and sell cocaine. Bail for Nunn and Johnson was set at \$75,000 each by Judge Grossi, cash only.

Willis was also charged with felony murder because Hoboken police believe he was the man who beat Ottilio to death.

On Dec. 8, while in custody at Hudson County Jail on an unrelated matter, Willis was charged with inciting a riot that left one inmate dead from an accidental shotgun wound to the head and six corrections officers wounded.

In that incident, inmate Kenneth Johnson was accidentally killed when an officer who thought he was firing



Alfred Johnson listens as Superior Court Judge John J. Grossi Jr. sets bail at \$75,000.

blanks fired live ammunition. Willis has since been released from jail but was rearrested late Friday night in Ottilio's death.

Ottilio, affectionately known as "Grandma" to neighbors near her 300 Marshall Drive home, was bludgeoned to death in her apartment.

Hoboken police said the three suspects are believed to have forced

their way into Ottilio's home, severely beat her, then took an unknown amount of money to purchase cocaine. Police said Johnson lived next door to the victim. Johnson was also arrested Friday night in Hoboken, police said.

Nunn was already in Hudson County Jail on an unrelated burglary charge, according to police.

ROBERTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

or anyone else is going to change that."

Roberts was indicted by a county grand jury on charges of voting bribery and soliciting fraudulent votes during a May 1987 bid for office. The 1989 indictment, handed up nearly two years after allegations of impropriety surfaced, charges Roberts with giving a group of Stevens Institute of Technology students money to buy a keg of beer. The students were then to cast votes under the names of other students.

But Judge Robert F. Cavanaugh of Superior Court in Jersey City tossed out that indictment in January. Cavanaugh ruled that an assistant county prosecutor failed to present the facts in an unbiased manner to the grand jury that heard the case.

DePascale then said he would

present the case to a new grand jury within two weeks, but he has yet to do so. He refused to comment on the delay. McAlevy, however, said the delay is politically motivated.

Sources have said Roberts was once raised as a possible candidate in the upcoming race for the county Board of Freeholders. Roberts could not be reached for comment yesterday.

"He can't leave the case in limbo," McAlevy said. "It's not fair to the Mr. Roberts, and it's not fair to the public."

DePascale promised that the case would go forward and he expressed little doubt that Roberts will once again be indicted.

"The trial will take place," DePascale said. "And there will be a finding of guilt or innocence not withstanding McAlevy's grandstanding."

For a brighter Hoboken

Merchants volunteer to pay tax

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch 2-28-90

HOBOKEN — Stung by competition with nearby malls, shopowners here are looking at better ways to promote the city as a good place to shop and do business.

One plan getting close scrutiny these days would create a "special improvement district" along Washington Street.

The district would be funded by a special levy on retailers, which could be used for everything from group advertising to putting new benches and trees along Washington Street.

"It's foolish to think we can look to the existing tax base to make improvements in the business district," said Danny Gans, chairman of Hoboken Advantage Inc. "The money's not there."

Hoboken Advantage, a non-profit business revitalization group, is trying to sell both retailers and the city administration on the idea of a special district.

"This would allow businesses to put out the word that Hoboken is a good place to be," said Gans, group chairman and West Bank Construction Corp. president.

Gans said the money raised by the levy could help extend the life of some programs

that might be in danger of losing their funding.

"All the money that Hoboken Advantage spends now, on Christmas lights downtown, for instance, we get from the Community Development Agency," said Gans. "That's federal money, and it's getting harder to come by."

Steve Kilnison, who owns Traders of Babylon Fine Jewelers on First Street, is one retailer in favor of the plan.

"I think it's a good way of unifying the district," Kilnison said. "I'd pay a little more to help improve and promote the area."

Please see **MERCHANTS** Page 12

Seeks state probe

Roberts claims persecution

By PETER F. DONOHUE

The Hudson Dispatch 3/6/90 4D

The attorney representing Hoboken Councilman David Roberts has called for a state investigation of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, saying the embattled politician is being persecuted for partisan reasons.

Dennis D.S. McAlevy of Union City, who has filed off a letter to the state Attorney General's Office requesting an inquiry, also

claims the councilman, implicated in a beer-for-votes election fraud scandal, cannot get a fair legal shake in Hudson County. Thus, he also is asking the state to take over the case from the County Prosecutor's Office.

"Prosecutor (Paul M.) DePascale is playing politics — he's a Republican and he's coming down hard on Dave Roberts because he's a Democrat," McAlevy said yesterday.

The Attorney General's Office

said it has not yet received the request and had little to say on the matter. But DePascale took strong exception to the criticism, calling it "grandstanding" by McAlevy.

"Politics plays no role in this," DePascale said. "The decision whether Mr. Roberts violated the law will be made by a jury of his peers ... and neither Mr. McAlevy



DAVID ROBERTS Voting fraud case 'in limbo'

MERCHANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The business district along Washington Street in Hoboken is shown in this photo taken at Fourth Street in what is proposed as part of a special district.

But Mayor Patrick Pasculi said he is still not convinced the special improvement district idea would work here.

"I think the concept is good," said Pasculi. "But property owners will have to be educated about the benefits of this before they'll agree to pay for it."

So far, said Gans, Hoboken Advantage has not decided how much the proposed levy will be. He said it would be assessed

based on the size of the store. The concept has worked well in other communities, according to Gans, including Englewood, which has had a special improvement district downtown since 1987.

"We had three times as many vacant stores downtown before the special improvement district was implemented," said Peter Beronio, Englewood Economic Development Corp. chairman.

"We also have many more people coming from outside the area to shop here, and that's a direct result of our actively promoting our business district."

Beronio said a special improvement district does not solve all the problems cities face.

"We're still struggling a bit here," he said. "But, at least the downtown people know we're in it for the long haul."

21 board candidates in 3 municipalities

Hoboken's Board of Education election April 24 promises to be a more animated affair than last year's contest with 11 candidates competing for four seats on the board.

In Union City, only four candidates, including three incumbents, are vying for the three available Board of Education seats, according to the filings submitted before yesterday's deadline. The elections for the three-year terms are also scheduled for April 24.

As yesterday's deadline for filing Hoboken candidacy petitions passed, one notable name was missing from the field, that of board President Mario Mercado. Although Mercado filed his petition last month, he has reconsidered his goals and decided to withdraw from the contest, leaving the board when his term expires.

A one-year term is up for grabs as a result of the resignation of trustee Gerard Costa in January. Vying to complete Costa's term are Ann Serbo, a program coordinator with the Hoboken Recreation Department; Michael Korman, a former

Community Development Agency employee, and Edmundo Garcia, a police lieutenant.

Competing for three full three-year terms are Frank Raia, a local developer; John Gordon, a computer software executive; Jerry Forman, a former city welfare director; Angel Alicia Jr., a county police officer; Joseph Santiago, a former city rent control officer; Carmine Pietropaolo, a former public works employee; Geraldine Pantoliano, an incumbent seeking re-election, and Perry Belfiore, who was appointed to fill Costa's unexpired term.

Three seats are up for grabs in Weehawken and all three incumbents have indicated their intentions to run. Joseph Rutigliano, Sylvia Clement (formerly Sylvia Burria) and Fred Lorenz are all seeking re-election.

In addition, John Calabrese, Howard Wolf and Habib Hassouna submitted petitions.

Union City incumbent trustees Frank Mona, Adelaide Leone and Carlos Perez, board president, filed their petitions for candidacy, as did Bartolome Ruiz.

Jersey City owes its neighbors tax money

Continued from Page 1

through on McCann's threat to sue Secaucus for properties that the city alleged were excluded from the city's tax rolls.

Jersey City's finance officer yesterday said she has yet to determine whether the settlement will be a detriment to the mayor's pledge to cut taxes in 1990.

Finance Director Jane Feigenbaum said any negative impact may be offset by another pending tax court case filed by the city against the state Division of Taxation that could bring more school aid in 1990.

"I don't think it will be significant in the grand scheme of things. We have the potential of getting increased school aid," she said. "I don't see it as a loss. I see it in a very positive light."

McCann, who predicted victory late Tuesday, and other city officials did not return requests for comment.

The Secaucus case against the county and Jersey City involves complex accounting formulas understood only by a handful of experts in municipal finance.

Jersey City Tax Assessor Peter Casamasino said he conducted a full reassessment of all of the city's 40,000 properties last year, a year after a citywide revaluation that Casamasino accepted but declared faulty.

Days before the county tax rates were struck for the county last summer, Jersey City announced it had increased the assessments of thousands of commercial and multi-family properties, broadening the tax

base and lowering the burden for small homeowners.

Property owners filed 5,000 appeals with the county after Casamasino's reassessment.

Any time a city changes a large number of assessments, it can affect tax rates throughout the county, explained Rosenblum, one of a handful of attorneys in New Jersey familiar with the state's taxation policies.

The reassessment in Jersey City changed what municipal finance experts call the city's sales ratio, a percentage study of actual to assessed values used in equalization tables that determine county taxes, state school aid and contributions to the Hackensack Meadowlands District Intermunicipal Council.

Before the reassessment, Jersey City's ratio was approximately 80 percent. Last summer, the county gave the city a 98.7 percent ratio based on misinformation, according to Rosenblum.

In yesterday's settlement accepted by Hopkins, Jersey

City agreed that its sales ratio is 90.5 percent.

Jersey City is still suing the state because the Division of Taxation has refused to assign a higher ratio to Jersey City and is still using the 80 percent figure.

The state maintains that Casamasino's in-house reassessment last summer was incomplete, making the city ineligible for consideration as a reassessed district.

The stakes for Jersey City in its case against the Division of Taxation are much higher. A victory for the city could bring more than \$10 million in additional state school aid in 1990, officials said.

Secaucus and North Bergen had petitioned Hopkins recently in a bid to join that suit on the side of the state, but in yesterday's settlement also agreed to drop that move.

The settlements struck yesterday must receive the approval of the Secaucus and Jersey City municipal councils, considered a formality, before they become official.

Asbestos in the air shuts high school

It's 4th closing in Hoboken this year

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

Another asbestos incident has forced school officials to close Hoboken High School today following air samples that tested positive for the cancer-causing material.

The situation caused the boys' basketball state tournament to be moved to Dickinson High School last night.

Hoboken won, 59-58, and is tentatively scheduled to host Paterson Eastside High School in the next round of the state tournament tomorrow night at 7 p.m. But whether the game will be played at Hoboken High School won't be determined until today.

It is the fourth day the high school has been closed due to an asbestos-related safety con-

cern this year, not counting the six weeks the building was closed over the summer following a major asbestos accident.

Prior to the Christmas vacation, the high school was closed twice when asbestos-laden ceiling tiles either fell or were damaged potentially releasing the dangerous fibers.

Like all school districts in the state, Hoboken was required to identify materials containing asbestos in all school buildings and has developed a plan to contain or remove it. The district authorized a spot removal in the high school over the winter break and is planning to address the entire building this summer.

But despite complying with federal and state guidelines designed to prevent and man-

See **ASBESTOS** — Page 6

Asbestos shuts down high school

Continued from Page 1

age asbestos incidents, the district has struggled with its asbestos problem, often being forced to react to situations.

On Wednesday, officials discovered a cracked asbestos-wrapped heating pipe in the ceiling of the high school cafeteria leaking steam. The cafeteria was closed and air samples were taken.

The test results received yesterday showed higher than acceptable levels of asbestos in the cafeteria, prompting officials to call off school for today.

Although only the cafeteria and first-floor area are affected, School Superintendent Walter Fine said it would be counter-productive to open the building and confine students to the upper floors without access to the cafeteria or gymnasium.

"We can open but to bring the kids without a lunch program or gym, we decided that wasn't fair," said Fine, who expects the building to reopen Monday following a weekend cleanup.

Two of the previous asbestos-related closing days were made up when students were called in on an in-service day teachers were required to work. The remaining two days are likely to be added to the end of the school year, Fine said.

Hoboken to receive \$300G in tax relief

By John A. Oswald
Journal staff writer

Hoboken taxpayers will get \$300,000 in tax relief thanks to a court settlement yesterday between Secaucus and Jersey City that will force Hudson's largest municipality to pay \$2.25 million in taxes it should have paid in 1989.

Attorneys representing Secaucus and Jersey City agreed to the settlement before Tax Court Judge John J. Hopkins in Newark.

Secaucus launched the suit against the county Board of Taxation last summer, charging that Jersey City's county tax share was figured with improper data supplied by the city.

That misfiguring forced taxpayers in every county municipality to pay taxes that

should have been picked up by Jersey City. Now, city taxpayers will have to make up the \$2.25 million they should have paid last year in the 1990 budget, said Secaucus attorney Ed Rosenblum.

Secaucus Mayor Paul Amico said the settlement vindicated his position that Jersey City did not pay its fair share and also shot down Mayor Gerald McCann's charge that the lawsuit was politically motivated.

"It is in no way political. It is strictly what I consider good government," he said. "We are always vigilant in terms of being treated fairly."

In the settlement, Jersey City's attorney Anthony Andora also agreed not to follow

See **JERSEY CITY** — Page 6

Appeal due on contract

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Faced with the prospect of cutting the number of police officers patrolling the streets, the city plans to file an appeal today of a state-arbitrated police contract.

The new contract gives the city's 83 police officers a work schedule of five days on, three days off. The old schedule had officers working five days on and three days off, followed by five days on and two days off.

City officials claim the revised work schedule — which is similar to those used in many North Hudson communities — will cost the city between 10,000 and 12,000 manhours of police protection.

"The contract simply means less cops on the street," said city Business Administrator Edwin Chius. "We can't afford to pay the overtime it would cost to cover those lost hours."

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said his administration has worked hard to increase the police presence in the city. The new schedule, which took effect Jan. 1, would be a setback, he said.

"At this point in time, we're not prepared to accept the reduced work schedule," said Pasculli.

But, the vice president of Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Local 2, Detective Brian Murphy, said the union is not going to give anything back to the city.

"The city has the right to make their appeals, but we won't let them through fair and final arbitration," said Murphy. "We're going to stick to it."

Although officers also won pay raises of 7 percent for 1989 and 1990 and 9 percent in 1991, Murphy said the new schedule "seems to be the major issue as far as the city is concerned."

In addition to the pay raises and revised work schedule, the union also won a \$200 increase in the clothing allowance for officers over the next two years.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said fighting an arbitrator's award is difficult. The battle must be waged on technical grounds.

"Basically our contention is going to be that the arbitrator took too long to decide the case," said O'Connell.

Asbestos peril shuts Hoboken High

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Classes were called off at Hoboken High School yesterday as the building was closed for the third time this school year because of continuing asbestos problems.

School officials blamed a leaky pipe in the school's first-floor cafeteria for the most recent closing.

"We could have kept the building open and restricted the students from using the first floor," said Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine. "But I'd rather take the extra precautions for the benefit of the kids."

School officials were told shortly after 3 p.m. yesterday that the school could be reopened. The high school will host a

A leaky pipe in the cafeteria is blamed for fourth closing

basketball tournament game tonight, and classes will resume next week.

"We'll be open for business on Monday," said Fine.

Yesterday's closing brings to four the number of days students have been kept out of school because of the asbestos problems.

Water dripping onto a table in the cafeteria caught the attention of school custodians, who found a leak in the elbow of a pipe in the ceiling about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, according to Anthony Curko, Board of Education secretary.

Curko said air-quality tests were performed immediately because the pipe is insulated with a material containing asbestos, a substance that has been linked to cancer.

When the air tests showed the presence of asbestos fibers, Curko said he contacted the board's asbestos consulting firm, Northeastern Analytical Corp., to clear the area.

The discovery of asbestos fibers in the air forced officials to move a tournament basketball game scheduled to be played Thursday night in the high school gymnasium to Dickinson High School in Jersey City.

The Red Wings of Hoboken High won the game, beating Lakeland 59-58. The Wings will play at home tonight against Paterson Kennedy, according to Principal Charles Tortorella.

The high school was closed twice last year for asbestos problems: on Nov. 28 for two days, and again on Dec. 13 when tiles containing asbestos fell from the ceiling on the third floor of the building.

Two of those days have already been made up, Fine said.

About 2,000 ceiling tiles were removed from trouble spots in the building over the Christmas break and there are plans to clean all the tiles out of the building over the summer, Curko said.

There are about 168,000 of the tiles in the school, and Curko said it will cost about \$1.8 million to remove them all.

High won the game, beating Lakeland 59-58. The Wings will play at home tonight against Paterson Kennedy, according to Principal Charles Tortorella.

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Hoboken High School was closed yesterday for the third time this year because of possible asbestos contamination, after a cafeteria pipe sprung a leak. Classes will resume Monday.

New Hoboken fire chief predicts smooth transition

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The politicians spoke, family and friends cheered and as the band began to play, Richard R. Tremitiedi was named the seventh fire chief in the department's 99-year history.

Tremitiedi, a 30-year veteran of the department, took the chief's oath yesterday from City Clerk James Farina, replacing James Houn who served as chief since 1977.

Houn, along with Police Chief George Crimmins, Capt. Anthony Romano and about 100 of their peers across the state, stepped down yesterday after a bitter three-year legal battle against the state's mandatory retirement rule.

While the case was in court, Tremitiedi, who was ranked the top candidate for the job by the state Department of Personnel in 1986, waited.

The 1986 ranking eventually expired but once again, when the exam was given last fall, Tremitiedi came out on top.

After being sworn in, Tremitiedi said that some department policies and procedures would be maintained, but that changes were in the works.

"I realize I must make the necessary modifications to meet the problems of today and the challenges of tomorrow," Tremitiedi said. "I am looking forward to the challenges of the job."

The transition of power within the department would be smooth, Tremitiedi predicted, thanks in part to the fact that he has at some time served in nearly every managerial job under Houn.

Tremitiedi has also served as acting chief and said he was counting on his deputy chiefs and the rank and file to make the transition a success.

"It's going to be a team effort," Tremitiedi said. "No man can do it alone."

Tremitiedi, 51, a lifelong Hoboken resident, joined the department in 1960. He has had extensive training in fire prevention and fire safety techniques and has served as deputy chief since 1976.

"I've known Richie since he came on the job," said Houn. "Richie has all the qualities to be a good chief. I know he's going to be a good chief."

J.J. 3/1/90

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Starting to 'enjoy geometry'

Harold J. Raveche, Stevens Institute of Technology president, explains the importance of computers in a talk to students yesterday at Hoboken High School.

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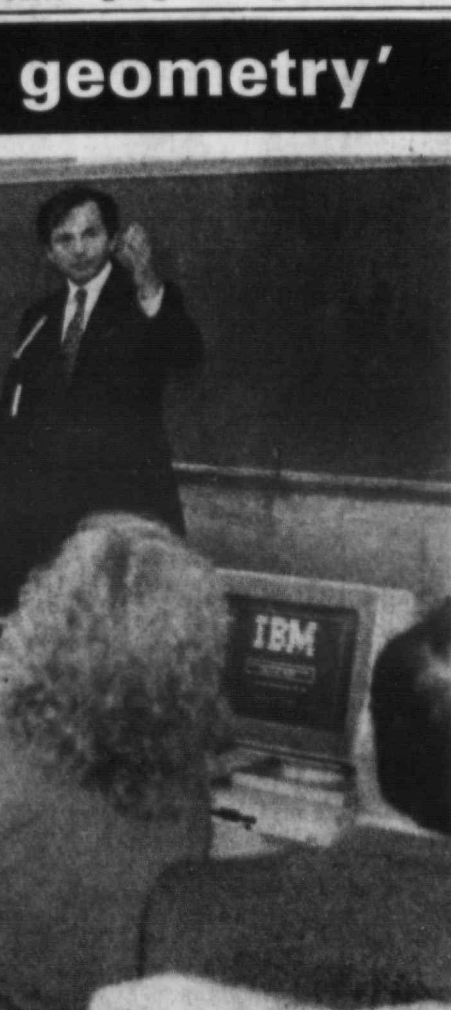
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Coalition hopes governor will stop gasification plant

Residents say project would affect the local air quality

By Augustin Torres
Journal staff writer

Members of a citizens group called the Waterfront Coalition say a meeting with Gov. Jim Florio is their best hope for stopping a planned Hoboken gasification plant.

At a meeting Monday evening in the recreation room of Troy Towers, 300 Mountain Road, Union City, members of the coalition — an umbrella coalition of neighborhood and environmental organizations in the county — met to discuss

strategy for preventing the gasifier from being built.

The project would lower the air quality in their communities, said coalition members. Particularly affected, they said, would be some 4,000 Union City residents who live along the edge of the Palisades, just above the proposed Hoboken site.

The group members said they also feared the project would affect the water supply in a reservoir at the Union City-Weehawken border, about a quarter-mile from the plant

site. "It seems to us that the back of Hoboken, near the Palisades, is becoming a dumping ground for the waterfront and the rest of Hoboken," said Graziella Heins, leader of the Union City Residents Association.

Groups in the coalition should seek assistance from the mayors of their own communities, including Union City, Jersey City and Hoboken, to arrange a meeting with Florio,

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COMPUTERS

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"This is not a question of generosity on our part," said Sam Matsa, a grant officer with IBM. "We are making a long-term commitment to help with education in this country."

Local educators point to the lab as an example of public-private partnership that will help American students close the "math gap."

"If we look at trying to improve pre-college education on the national or state levels, the problem appears overwhelming," said Stevens President Harold J. Raveche. "It inspires me when business and education leaders pull together like this."

The lab here is one of five in the state that Stevens has set up. It is electronically linked to facilities in the other four schools, allowing teachers here to compare notes with their far-flung colleagues on how to get the most out of the computers.

The other schools with new computer labs, courtesy of Stevens and IBM, are Bridgeton in Cumberland County, Maplewood-South Orange and Newark in Essex County and Tenafly in Bergen County.

"How do we know what works best for the students?" asked district mathematics supervisor Jerry Kelly. "That's where this system helps us, because our people can learn from the experi-

ences of other teachers." Kelly said Stevens professors have trained seven high school teachers on the system, which consists of computers for 15 students linked with a master machine for the teacher.

Another benefit of the system, according to Kelly, is that it allows teachers to spend less time at the chalkboard and more time working through exercises with their students.

"A lesson that might take a teacher three hours to introduce can be presented in 30 minutes with the computer," said Kelly. "That gives everybody more time to actually work on the problems."

Students have been working in the new lab for about a week, according to math teacher Ceil Butka.

"The students are really enthusiastic about this," said Butka. "They're even starting to enjoy geometry."

Butka said another benefit of the computer network is that it allows her to monitor what each student is doing, and which ones need special help.

"I'm able to find out which kids are having a hard time understanding what we're working on," said Butka. "That way, I can work with them without slowing down the students who have figured it out."

Coalition hopes for Gov.'s aid

Continued from Page 1

Heins said. "I think once Florio sees a videotape that has been prepared for the coalition and hears the cry that has been raised from this area, the governor who was elected on an environmental platform will take notice," she said.

"We now have only 10 days before the state (Department of Environmental Protection) will provide an air permit for the incinerator."

Mayor Robert Menendez said the gasification issue is important to his municipality and said he would assist the group.

Last month, members of the Tri-City Sewerage Authority, which represents Union City, Weehawken and Hoboken, tried to persuade the Hudson County Utilities Authority to

Teachers offered 35% hike

They have week to review terms of 3-year pact

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

Hoboken teachers will have a week to review the terms of a new three-year labor contract that includes a 35.7 percent pay raise before they vote on the pact at a ratification meeting set for Monday.

The 388-member Hoboken Teachers Association and the Board of Education came to terms on the contract last week after three months of tough negotiations. Teachers, clerks, attendance officers and drivers have been without a contract since July 1.

The negotiating process frustrated some board members who said privately that the majority were unwilling to fight for real givebacks from the teachers' union.

However, both sides recognized the entire framework for negotiations was upset from the beginning when ousted HTA President Vincent Germinario and former school board Trustee Richard England presented a pact that was eventually approved, then rescinded, by the school board.

The Germinario contract included nearly the same pay raise the board is now offering in return for givebacks teachers were unwilling to accept. The contract was rejected by the membership in June.

According to Trustee Claire DePalma, a member of the original negotiating team, teachers were unwilling to return benefits won through past negotiations. However, they were also unwilling to accept less money than Germinario offered, knowing that funding for

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Teachers offered 35% hike

Continued from Page 1

the increase was included in the current school budget. "I'm glad it's over," said DePalma, a teacher in Jersey City. "I wish that we could have started from square one."

In addition to the increase that will earn teachers \$4.6 million in raises in three years (not including an increase for non-certified staff), the HTA won on several key negotiating points.

- Teachers agreed to extend the work day by 15 minutes as opposed to the extra half-hour proposed by Germinario.

- There are no changes to the sick-leave policy which allows teachers to bank unused sick days until retirement. (Germinario proposed amending the policy to make it less beneficial to bank sick days).

- Non-certified staff will get 15 sick days a year, up from 10.

- There will be no cap on retirement benefits and no restrictions on the use of personal days. (Germinario proposed a \$65,000 cap on retirement benefits).

- There will be a \$200 incentive each semester for perfect attendance, excluding personal days and days absent for bereavement or to attend court.

"We got back the main things, the things that really got people upset," said HTA negotiator Louise Cutillo-Boscia, referring to controversial items in the Germinario contract.

"No, I didn't feel that I took advantage of them. If we had been negotiating the right way from the beginning, we would have never brought back that (Germinario) package."

Teachers did agree to give up unlimited temporary leave for personal court business and settle for one court day. They also agreed to a new procedure for evaluating staff performance.

Bending to board pressure and a potential budget shortfall, the HTA also agreed to defer this year's increase to the coming school year. In the second year of the contract, teachers agreed to defer longevity increases to the third year of the contract.

Delay asked on Hoboken sludge gasifier

By John A. Oswald
Journal staff writer

Two local state assemblymen met with the head of the state Department of Environmental Protection yesterday seeking a delay on plans requiring the construction of a sludge gasification plant in Hoboken.

Assemblymen Bernard Kenny and Robert Menendez met with DEP Head Judith Yaskin looking for both an extension of time and an extension of the \$30 million in federal funds targeted for a federally-mandated sludge treatment plant.

"The DEP should consider other alternatives to gasification before an ultimate decision is required on the project," said Kenny, who described Yaskin as receptive to the concerns the two raised.

"We are asking that we should be given in the neighborhood of three to six months to make a proper evaluation," Kenny said last night.

Yaskin will make the final decision on Monday, Kenny said, after she meets with the assemblymen again as well as Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Weehaw-

ken Mayor Stanley Iacono, and officials from the Hudson County Utilities Authority and the Tri-Cities Sewerage Authority, which serves Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City and would operate the proposed plant.

Officials want more time to fully study whether gasification, which entails the heating of sludge and the production of steam-like gases that can be used to power the plant, is their only alternative.

Environmentalists have called the process too dangerous for such a densely populated area as Hoboken.

The city, in partnership with Weehawken and Union City, must complete a sludge treatment to meet federal standards. A complete ban on ocean dumping takes effect next year.

"They now believe we are sincere when we say we need more time," Kenny said. "They are very much in favor of alternatives but they don't want to get into a situation where we lose the \$30 million."

Yaskin has also agreed to grant environmentalists and local officials access to previously withheld environmental data, he said.

Federal officers tour Hoboken projects

By Earlene C. McMichael
Journal staff writer

Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski yesterday led a delegation of government officials to Hoboken to showcase some of the \$2.5 million in projects financed by federal Community Development Block Grant money.

The brief tour included a low-income housing apartment building at 129 Park Ave. and the Multi-Service Center, 124 Grand St., where the Day Care

100 child care program, Hoboken Family Planning and the Comprehensive Program for the Elderly are housed.

Hoboken is the third municipality toured by Janiszewski in an effort to demonstrate to taxpayers that \$20 million in reprogrammed CDBG funds is being used.

Nineteen projects are scheduled to be funded, including ones for recreation; parks; home improvement; job training; historic preservation and retail revitalization.

The county was recently under scrutiny by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers the CDBG program. HUD has since resolved its concerns about Hudson County.

Joining Janiszewski were Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli, County Planning Director Kenneth Blane, Hoboken Community Development Agency Director Peggy Thomas and county freeholders Frank Pizuta and Nidia Davila-Colon.

Pasculli urges appointed ed board

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Only six months after city residents quashed the notion of an appointed school board, city officials are resurrecting it.

The Board of Education this week approved placing a referendum on the April 24 school ballot asking residents to vote again on an appointed board.

A similar question went down to defeat in November by a margin of 3,782-2,238.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli and his Board of Education allies argue that school elections are costly events that wind up focusing on political sniping instead of educational issues.

"School elections turn into more of a political arena for those who want to vent their frustrations," said Pasculli. "There



PATRICK PASCULLI
Buck stops here

are many qualified people who don't want to go through that kind of thing."

Pasculli and his supporters also say an appointed board would give the city administration more control over school spending and place responsibility for the system squarely in City Hall.

"An appointed board places full accountability in the office of the mayor," said Pasculli. "If the electorate feels the schools are not in good shape, they can express their opinions when they vote for the mayor."

But those who support an elected board, including Trustee Felix Rivera, maintain that Pasculli already controls the board and appointing trustees would only wipe out what little opposition there is.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's already an appointed board," said Rivera. "If the public can elect board members, there will be never be disagreement or discussion. I don't think that's a

good idea."

Appointed school boards are a relative rarity in the state, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association. Of 611 school boards in the state, only 58 are filled by appointment. Bayonne, Guttenberg and West New York have appointed school boards. The Jersey City Board of Education also was an appointed board until the state took over the district.

Rivera points to the November election results as an indication of the public's thinking on the subject.

But Pasculli said he believes the public did not vote for an appointed board because nobody worked to push the measure.

"There was no organization working for or against it in November," said Pasculli. "We are going to use this opportunity to articulate the issues."

Appointed board plan on ballot

Continued from Page 1
dum questions on the April ballot.

Hottendorf said the vote was inappropriate.

"I'm not going to get into a debate with you," said Mercado, who was losing patience. "You would lose," Hottendorf quipped.

"No, I am deferring to your age," Mercado said, then angrily added, "Please act your age instead of grandstanding."

Hottendorf is 81.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, elected in May to a four-year term, supports an appointed board because he said he would have more control over school spending.

But voters in November said they wanted the board to remain an elected body even though administration-backed candidates have been handily elected to board seats.

When voters rejected the measure on Nov. 7 by a vote of 3,782 to 2,194, City Hall insiders said the referendum would be reintroduced in the spring because of the expected low voter turnout.

Voters will go to the polls in April to elect three members to three-year terms and one member to a one-year term.

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reached Thursday. "I'm on a cloud right now," said Boscia. "I didn't think we could do as well as we did."

Board Vice President James J. Farina had a similar attitude. "I think it's a good deal for the board," said Farina. "And I think both sides basically got what they wanted."

This year's raises will be calculated retroactively to the beginning of the school year, but workers will not get the money until July.

By structuring the contract that way, the board is essentially able to pay this year's raises out of next year's budget.

Board members maintained throughout the talks that there was little money to offer the employees in this year's budget.

Farina said he will be glad when the pact is finally signed by both sides.

"I think the most important thing is to put the contract behind us and get this system moving again," said Farina.

Boscia said the contract is much better than the one that was agreed on in June. Approval of that pact was later rescinded by the board after it was learned that it had not been approved by a majority of union members.

The controversy surrounding that contract eventually led to the ouster of HTA President Vincent Germinario.

Under the nullified contract, for instance, teachers would have been required to work an additional half-hour a day. Under the new pact, the school day will be 15 minutes longer for teachers.

Under the nullified contract, school workers were limited in the amount of pay they could accumulate for unused sick days.

Under the new pact, there is no such cap. Workers will continue to be able to receive half a day's pay for up to 15 unused sick days per year. The money is paid out in a lump sum upon retirement.

"It's been a long, hard road," said Boscia. "But I think we've gotten the fairest and most equitable contract for all of our people."

Three-year deal

Teachers' pact pleases board, Hoboken union

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With the Board of Education and the union representing the city's school workers finally reaching a tentative agreement on a new contract, both sides were claiming victory yesterday.

Although the three-year pact has yet to be ratified by either the school board or the union members, those involved in the talks said they hammered out a deal everyone can live with.

Under terms of the contract, the board will increase salaries

by an average of 10 percent this year and in each of the two remaining years of the pact.

In addition, the board will give another \$150,000 to the union in the third year of the contract in order to balance out the salary guide.

Louise Boscia, vice president of the 390-member Hoboken Teachers Association, said yesterday she was happy the negotiations are over. She said the contract will be voted on by union members at a meeting Monday.

The tentative agreement was

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Burner comment period still open

HOBOKEN — The air-quality permit for the hi-tech sludge incinerator proposed for the city's sewage-treatment plant is still open to public comment.

Although the comment period on the permit was supposed to close yesterday, the state environmental protection commissioner, Judith Yaskin, is reviewing a request from Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Union City Mayor Robert Menendez and Weehawken Mayor Stanley D. Iacono to extend the period for 60 days.

"We've received their letter, and Commissioner Yaskin is reviewing the request," DEP spokesman John Hagerty said. "She will be responding in a timely fashion."

The mayors are hoping to buy more time so alternatives to the gasification incinerator can be investigated.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

Washington Bancorp takes over Hotel Victor project

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

A Hoboken savings bank has taken over the landmark Hotel Victor in Hoboken, marking the third time in four years that ownership of the building has changed.

Washington Bancorp Inc., the parent of Washington Savings Bank, bought out the controlling interest of the troubled project that was held by Hoboken developer Michael Sciarra and a Bergen County bank.

The deal, which occurred earlier this year, was said to be valued at \$1.65 million, according to real estate sources. Washington Bancorp reportedly bought out notes held by Sciarra and MetroBank, which held the mortgage.

Nether Sciarra nor executives from Washington Bancorp were available for comment.

Sciarra bought the historic Queen Ann-style building on Hudson Place for \$800,000 in November of 1988. The building underwent substantial re-

habilitation last year during its conversion from a vacant single-room-occupancy hotel into an office building.

Real estate sources said Sciarra, who was primarily a residential developer, suffered financial setbacks related to a soft regional housing market and was unable to complete the ambitious project.

According to the terms of the deal, Sciarra was also bought out of debt on several other real estate projects fi-

nanced by Washington Bancorp, sources said.

Washington Bancorp will continue to market the building to office tenants, sources said. The ground floor is already leased to a restaurant operator.

In 1986, the building was sold to developer Patrick Reynolds for \$1.5 million. Reynolds, who envisioned a luxury hotel in the building, bought the Victor from Kenneth Rivera, who operated the SRO

The building soon symbolized the city's declining real estate market when Reynolds' highly leveraged business collapsed, sending the building into foreclosure. In July of 1988, after Reynolds failed to obtain refinancing, the building was sold back to Rivera at a county sheriff's sale for \$750,000.

In an interview last year, Sciarra said the building was best suited for office tenants due to the small floor size and lack of bathroom facilities. The top four floors of the building

each have two bathrooms and are 1,700 square feet. The ground floor contains 1,400 square feet and the basement has 1,800 square feet.

He said he hoped to lease space to small professional firms who would not increase traffic flow in an already congested area. He expected rents to average \$22 per square foot. The Hotel Victor is located near the Hoboken PATH station, in a historic district which has seen the development or conversion of about 150,000 square feet of office space.

Cable war heats up as towns threaten legal action

Continued from Page 1
and there will never be competition as long as the carrier can set rates and policy," Kenny added.

In legal briefs filed yesterday in response to North Bergen's suit, Fischer documented the rationale that led up to the scrambling plan and the financial impact cable theft has had on his firm. He denied that Hoboken officials had ever requested an investigation to back up Riverview's financial losses due to theft.

"I think the city of Hoboken is grasping at straws," said Fischer. "And, in light of the fact

that only 40 percent of the people of Hoboken subscribe to our service and... that only 14 percent do not have converters, what your talking about here is a lawsuit being filed on behalf of a very small minority of Hoboken residents. I think it's a

waste of taxpayers' money." Meanwhile, Riverview Cablevision Associates General Manager Joseph Fischer yesterday warned North Hudson residents served by the firm to refuse to enter homes under the pretense of checking cable

into their homes without proper identification. Fischer said six area residents have called to complain that two men claiming to be Riverview employees have attempted to enter homes under the pretense of checking cable

converter boxes. The men did not carry Riverview identification, he added.

"All employees and outside contractors have an ID card," said Fischer. "We don't send technicians to inspect

We'll scramble you, towns tell cable firm

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

The cable wars between Riverview Cablevision Associates and several Hudson County communities escalated yesterday after Hoboken officials announced plans to sue regional cable television carrier, Riverview Cablevision Associates, over the firm's plan to scramble its broadcast signal April 2.

City officials in Hoboken announced yesterday they would petition the state Board of Public Utilities to block the scrambling plan and, if legally possible, would pursue the matter in federal court under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Earlier this month, the township of North Bergen retained an outside attorney and

filed suit against Riverview with the BPU. That decision came after three action-packed public hearings on the scrambling plan in Hoboken, West New York and North Bergen.

The angry response to the scrambling plans led Riverview to amend its original plan. The utility announced last week that it would not scramble broadcast channels and it offered to reduce fees.

Hoboken officials led by Mayor Patrick Pasculli called the revised plan put forth by Riverview a "token gesture" that was not acceptable. He charged that the firm has acted without regard to the public interest.

"The failure to document their financial hardship leads us to believe the principal motivation in scrambling their

lines April 2 is to increase profits," Pasculli said, referring to Riverview's claim that it loses over \$2 million a year due to cable theft. Riverview representatives have argued that scrambling is the only effective way to stop cable theft.

"By not amending their policy, we're left with no alternative than to put the situation in the hands of the court," Pasculli added.

A Riverview official questioned the timing of the legal actions and said they may be politically motivated.

"In light of the fact that there has been a series of public hearings and complaints, now all of a sudden they've come up with some new grounds to challenge us," said Joseph Fischer, Riverview general manager. "It appears to

me that the elected officials might have some other agenda outside of the cable issue."

State Assemblyman Bernard Kenny said the problem with Riverview was symptomatic of one throughout the state following the deregulation of the cable television industry in 1984. Deregulation, originally intended to give the fledgling industry room to grow, has become obsolete and is likely to be reconsidered by Congress, Kenny said.

The relationship between the cable industry and the BPU is too cozy," said Kenny. He said the BPU licenses cable franchises but has little control over how they operate.

"There's just not enough competition in the industry

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Teachers give OK to pact

Board hunting for funds to pay salary package

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Teachers Association overwhelmingly approved yesterday a three-year contract but how the Board of Education will finance the multi-million-dollar package is uncertain.

A Board of Education meeting originally scheduled for tonight has been cancelled and the school administration was busy yesterday reworking figures in the proposed \$32 million budget to cover some of the pay raises for reduced state compensation for reduced state funding, said Anthony Curko, board secretary.

Gov. Jim Florio announced last week that Hoboken can expect to receive \$1.7 million less in education money in the next fiscal year. Curko said the school administration is trying to determine the effect of that reality on the local school budget.

The board will meet tomorrow night "to iron out" some areas in the memorandum of agreement a majority of the board signed March 8, he said. He did not know whether the school board will actually vote on the contract.

The contract gives \$4.6 million in raises to instructors over the next three years and represents more than a 30 percent pay hike over the life of the contract.

Curko noted that teachers will only receive part of their raises before the end of the school year but that most of the pay raises for the first year of the contract will be given after July 1.

The new contract is retroactive from 1989 and expires in 1992.

Where the city will get the money to finance the rest of the contract still is not clear, he said.

School Trustee James Farina

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Teachers expected to ratify 3-year pact

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the three-year period of the contract.

Teachers have been without a contract since last July when the 1986 pact expired. That contract gave teachers a 25.5 percent raise over three years.

According to an HTA negotiator, the guide is structured to favor 222 veteran instructors with 15 years or more in the system. There are 344 teachers in the Hoboken school system.

"The more experienced you are, the more money you make," said Louise Cuttolo-Bosca, an HTA negotiator. "We have to live with this (salary) guide to see that the contract passes. Two hundred twenty two people are looking at those big dollars."

Bosca said the board insisted on the salary guide, which was drawn up in an initial contract proposed in June by deposed HTA president Vincent Germinario and former trustee Richard England. The board eventually rescinded approval of that pact. However many of its features, including the guide, were used as a starting point by negotiators from both sides.

Bosca argued that it was unfair to compare the teachers' raise to those received by police and firefighters who earn more on average than teachers. In addition, Bosca pointed out that \$150,000 above the Germinario contract was spread out in the guide for teachers below the top salary step. This money will be distributed in the form of raises in their year of the contract to teachers below the top step.

Finally, she said that younger teachers also benefit from language in the contract that provides for sick-leave and retirement benefits, an optical plan and attendance incentives.

Anthony Petrosino, a high school math teacher in his third year, agreed that the association won benefits even for new teachers who will not earn the big raises for years to come.

"It really isn't that bad," said Petrosino. "We still have the language which is some bargaining power for future negotiations. The pay is certainly comparable to increases people in the private sector are receiving."

But how fairly raises are handed out may become a secondary issue in light of the district's ongoing budget crisis. The administration has already stated that it cannot afford this year's scheduled teacher's raise and that a portion of it will be deferred to next year.

That coupled with the loss of \$3.5 million in state aid anticipated for next year has some trustees worried.

"The junior teachers ought to be concerned about their jobs because they're the ones that are going to be paying the price," said trustee Felix Rivera. "I think there was a lack of sincerity in negotiations. I think the teachers believed that the district could afford this 12.2 percent increase and I don't think we can."

Anthony Curko, district business manager, said the district was expecting \$9.2 million in state aid for the 1990-91 school year. But Gov. Florio has proposed sending only \$5.7 million in state education aid to Hoboken.

Curko said that as a result of the shortfall in projected state aid, Hoboken will either have to raise the local tax levy or cut spending.

According to Rivera, the closed network of the Hoboken school system contributed to a lackluster effort by the board majority to demand substantial give backs from teachers. That network, Rivera said, begins at the top with Mayor Patrick Pasculli, himself a public school teacher on leave of absence.

Pasculli took an interest in the negotiations and was visited by the HTA negotiators in City Hall on several occasions prior to the settlement. He also attended the final negotiating session when the accord was reached. Pasculli declined to be interviewed for this article.

In May, prior to his election to a full term of office, Pasculli was endorsed by the HTA in a precedent-setting move. The association had never before endorsed candidates in municipal elections. One of Pasculli's running mates was former school trustee England, who was in the midst of contract negotiations for the school board during his campaign for City Council.

England's wife is an elementary school teacher. Pasculli was supported in successive municipal elections by councilman Edwin Duroy, and ran on a ticket with councilman Richard Del Boccio in Nov. 1988. Both are public school principals.

"The negotiations were held in the mayor's office which is absolutely political," said Councilman Steve Cappiello. "I've been here every day and I've seen them come and go. It shows that this is the area of politics that he's (Pasculli) playing."

Since taking office, Pasculli has backed three individuals for school board appointments and last year supported a board ticket that swept three open seats. Last week, the board approved a measure to again give voters the choice to switch from an elected board to a board appointed by the mayor. A similar measure was defeated by a two-to-one margin in November.

Soviet piano students visit Hudson



Journal photo by Larry Cutchall
Olga Nesterova, 13 years old, of the Soviet Union, has studied piano since she was 8. She performed yesterday at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken.

Six youths, 10 to 16, perform at Stevens Institute

Almost two years ago, Hoboken sent a group of kids to the Soviet Union to play baseball. This weekend marked the Soviet kids' chance to repay the visit.

But instead of turning double plays, six Soviet kids took turns over the last two days performing works by Tchaikovsky and other great Russian composers.

The visitors, who arrived Friday after a 20-hour flight, are piano students from the Moscow Gnesinskaja Music School for Gifted Children. Their performances Saturday night and yesterday afternoon on the campus of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken marked the beginning of a two-week visit to Hudson County. Another recital is scheduled for Thursday in the Suburban Community Music Center in Summit.

The Soviet youngsters, ages 10 to 16, are staying in the Jersey City and Hoboken homes of families whose children attend the Hudson School, a private elementary school in Hoboken.

The trip was arranged with the help of Olga Kister of Jersey City, a Soviet immigrant whose two children attend the Hudson School. The Folk Show Theatre Russian Fantasia, in the Soviet Union, sponsored the students.

Kister said she hopes the Soviet students' interaction with Americans during the visit — scheduled to include tours of New York museums, Carnegie Hall, Wall Street and lunch at McDonald's — will give the youngsters a different impression of the U.S. than is available from Soviet media.

"If they could see country, any propaganda after that would be absolutely helpless," said Kister, a biologist who came to America eight months ago.

Being in the U.S. only a short time has already had an impact on the thinking of her 13-year-old, Ilya, Kister said.

In a school essay on the differences between Soviet and American society, Ilya observed that his American

teachers seem to treat students with more respect, Kister said.

So far, the Soviet students haven't had much chance to settle into their new surroundings, according to Phillip Dieckow, chairman of the music program at the Hudson School.

"It's been such a bedlam trying to find pianos for them (to practice on)," Dieckow said. "I think the only place they've been is scurrying from house to house, from piano to piano."

All that running around, on little sleep since Friday, seemed to have no effect on the students as far as their performing was concerned. Yesterday's recital, in a lecture hall in the Burchard Memorial Building at Stevens, went off with nary a flaw. Misha Kandinskii, 16, began the program with works from *Nutcracker Suite*.

Also performing were Anna Krivosova, 10; Olga Nesterova, 13; Kseniya Bashmet, 10; Misha Berlin, 10, and Vasilisa Belova, 16.

Hoboken seniors to be briefed on flim-flams

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A Hoboken police detective will brief senior citizens today on how to guard themselves against the latest confidence game being played in the Mile Square City.

Since January, flim flam artists posing as illegal aliens with winning lottery tickets have been approaching senior citizens, said Police Detective John Rutkowski.

Two confidence people are usually involved in the scheme. One approaches a senior citizen and inquires how to obtain legal help in getting the winning ticket cashed. The partner, who poses as an innocent passer-by, then intervenes and

confirms the ticket is actually a winning number, Rutkowski said.

One of the two then suggests that the senior citizen give the ticket holder money to hold as collateral while the senior citizen takes the ticket to get it cashed, he said.

The money is put into an envelope, which is usually sealed. The con artist then gives what appears to be the envelope back to the victim. But the envelope they are given contains bogus bills, he said.

Seniors have been approached at a rate of once a week since January, Rutkowski said.

Usually, reported incidences of the scheme are limited to about two during the year,

he said. Several seniors have been bilked out of about \$2,000, he said.

He will brief seniors today at 11:30 a.m. at the Multi-Service building at 124 Grand St.

Teachers give their approval to contract by huge majority

Continued from Page 1

na said the contract was a fair deal and insisted the city has the money.

"Yes, there is money in the budget," Farina said. He said that the contract will be approved by the Board of Education because five members had already signed a tentative agreement two weeks ago.

"To renege now and have five people go back on their word would cause chaos in the school system," Farina said.

But Mayor Patrick Pasculli, a former public school teacher, said while the teachers deserved the pay raises, the city needs help from the state to meet its education needs.

Pasculli will meet at the end of this week with members of the governor's cabinet to lobby

for more state aid. He said the city may also tap revenue from the waterfront development to help pay for the HTA contract.

But in the event the city doesn't get more state money and no waterfront development money is available, Pasculli said he would recommend that the school board cut administrators and capital improvement programs before teachers are eliminated.

The contract, which covers 344 teachers, 35 clerks, five attendance officers and four drivers, was approved by a vote of 273 to 22. HTA members have been working without a contract since last July.

Louise Cuttolo-Bosca and Kenneth Johnston, spokesmen for the HTA and members of

the negotiating team, said that they were extremely pleased by the turnout and the vote of support for the pact. They declined to discuss actual dollars and cents the contract gives to the membership.

They noted that while the money was substantial, teachers have agreed to work 15 minutes extra each day or an extra one hour and fifteen minutes a week.

"We did give significantly," Johnston said, adding that under the new three-year contract, teachers will be working an extra five percent each year based on 184 school days.

For the most part, teachers leaving the high school after voting yesterday said that they were pleased with the money and the contract package.

Teachers expected to OK 3-year contract

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer

Veteran Hoboken school teachers will make big salary gains while newer teachers may face layoffs as a result of a proposed teachers' contract and a reduction in state aid for city schools.

The Hoboken Teachers Association is expected to ratify a new three-year labor contract tonight that offers \$4.6 million in raises to instructors alone. Critics of the deal say the contract is fat and that the admin-

istration-backed school board was unwilling to fight for real givebacks from teachers.

The pact, which covers 344 teachers, 35 clerks, five attendance officers and four drivers, includes an overall 35.7 percent increase, more than double the cost of living increase. Other city workers like police and fire personnel and municipal employees have negotiated yearly raises of around seven percent.

The measure still needs final board approval. However, five Board of Education trust-

ees gave their approval to the terms by signing a memorandum of agreement on the pact March 8 when the board and the HTA came to terms.

That was exactly one week before Gov. James J. Florio proposed to reduce state aid for Hoboken schools by \$1.7 million from the prior year. The bad news from Trenton has underscored the worst fears of school trustees opposed to the contract.

"The board wants to do one thing, make everybody happy except the taxpayers," said

trustee Otto Hottendorf who opposes the contract. "The other people they don't want to make happy are those teachers living in Hoboken, the young ones that will be laid off."

According to the salary guide the board has offered, a teacher with 15 years in the system will earn a raise of \$22,672 over the life of the contract. A teacher with the same academic credentials and seven years in the system will earn a raise of less than \$5,000 over

See TEACHERS — Page 5

Elected officials bemoan reduced school aid proposal

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer
3/19/90

Elected officials in Hoboken predict dire financial times ahead after Gov. James J. Florio's announcement of a reduced school aid package for Hoboken last week.

Privately, many Board of Education members had hoped that the new Democratic leadership in Trenton would increase school funding.

Most were taken aback when word reached the city that Hoboken would in fact receive \$1.7 million less than in the prior year.

"I'm very disappointed in the governor's message as far as education is concerned," said board vice president James Farina. "I thought he was going to be the education governor, not the devastation of education governor as far as Hoboken was concerned. I'm

always counting on more than last year."

Farina said the board would have to assess the damage of the reduced aid package and that it was too early to predict how severely the cut would impact the schools.

"We're in deep trouble," said trustee Felix Rivera who initially won a seat on the board as part of a coalition committed to reduced school spending.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, a public school teacher on leave of absence, declined to be interviewed concerning his reaction to Florio's message. He released a terse statement through his secretary saying that he was reviewing the potential positive and negative impacts of the message and that it was too early to react.

"The first thing that popped into my mind was one, I was very concerned that any

increase in state taxes along with cuts in municipal aid could be devastating for people in Hoboken," said Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

"My other reaction was that I wished we had people in Hoboken that faced the fiscal realities the way he (Florio) is in trying to take some strong action in dealing with them. He's not ignoring the situation."

One board member who did predict the cut was 81-year-

old Otto Hottendorf, a longtime school board veteran.

Prior to Florio's announcement, Hottendorf scolded his peers on the board for agreeing to hefty raises for teachers while counting on increased state aid.

"They're living in an unreal reality," said Hottendorf. "Somehow they think the new governor is going to find the money for them but he actually is going to cut money."

Pasculli: Brace for tax rise Hoboken needs help from state to offset costs

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken residents should brace for a tax increase and reduction in city services if the state fails to pump more money into the city to offset costs for education and services.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who will meet today with the governor's staff to lobby for more state aid, said the city is in critical need of state funding, especially in light of the school budget, which could add more than \$3 to the tax rate.

"If we get no help whatsoever, we would have to resort to tax increase. But our responsibility is identify every possible dollar of revenue," Pasculli said.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said there may be layoffs on the municipal payroll to help keep spending down in light of the tentative \$32 million budget approved by the Board of Education.

"Unless we get healthy state aid," Chius said, "we may have to lay off. It is not out of the question. Because of the decline in school funding, there may have to be a sacrifice to city services to pay for schools."

While spending by the school board is up by 4 percent, the cost to finance the schools to taxpayers has increased by 20 percent, from \$18 million to \$23 million to be raised through local taxation.

That cost would add more than \$3 to the tax rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, Chius said.

But Pasculli said the schools may have to shoulder some of the budget reductions, such as consolidating adminis-

See PASCULLI — Page 4

Math the focus of Hoboken High's new computer lab

By James Efstathiou
Journal staff writer
3/12/90

Hoboken High School students are learning calculus, geometry and trigonometry in the school's new \$110,000 computer laboratory.

The new lab, for use in mathematics instruction, was dedicated last week. The high school already had a computer lab dedicated to computer science.

Students in the new program say it's easier and more enjoyable to learn math with the help of computers. Teachers said students are more likely to retain the basics when they are asked to work through calculations on their own using computers.

"So far they enjoy it," said Barbara Teller, one of seven high school math teachers in the program. "With computers they're more involved. They keep asking 'when are we going to go back in the computer room?'"

And school administrators in charge of the Computer Aided Instruction program are hoping that CAI can eventually be expanded to all high school students and some lower grades.

"In math, you always had a textbook," said Jerry Kiely, supervisor of mathematics for Hoboken public schools. "Just

the way the text book is used to explain certain concepts, we would like to bring computers into the presentation of those concepts."

The computer lab and math program were made possible thanks to IBM, which donated \$225,000 worth of personal computers to an eight-college consortium.

The colleges, including Hoboken's Stevens Institute of Technology, then re-route the computers into area schools. The goal, according to Bob Nelson, a Stevens spokesman, is to improve math and science instruction in high schools and make U.S. students more competitive with their peers in countries like Japan.

"The goal is to use computers in the classroom, not for computer programming," said Nelson. "We want them to become interested in mathematics. Computers is how it's being taught. The subject is mathematics."

In addition to the equipment, Stevens professors also offer guidance to high school instructors on how to teach math using computer programs. Last summer, over 30 high school teachers from the Hoboken, Newark, Bridgeton, Tenafly and South Orange-Maplewood school districts at-

tended a workshop at Stevens to help determine the types of software needed to teach math concepts.

Teachers in the program also attend monthly meetings to learn and improve on teaching strategies using computers. "It's going to take us time, but step by step we'll take it through to where we can really utilize this thing to its fullest," said Kiely.

Eventually, when both teacher and student become familiar with the system, an instructor will be able to monitor the work of an entire classroom from one terminal networking with each student.

On a computer, a student can plot 15 or 20 equations in the time it would take a teacher to diagram a single one on the blackboard, Kiely said. Since learning basic mathematical concepts involves repetition and rote learning, high-speed computers are well suited to the task.

"I enjoy it," said 17-year-old Orlando Lisboa who is learning the geometric properties of rectangles with the help of a computer. "We find the properties at the beginning. If we get the answers right in class, she'll tell us. It makes you feel a little better when you find your own answers."

Lisboa had never worked



A sign proclaims the role of the Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education of Stevens Institute of Technology in the new computer lab at Hoboken High School, while teachers examine the equipment following the formal opening of the lab.

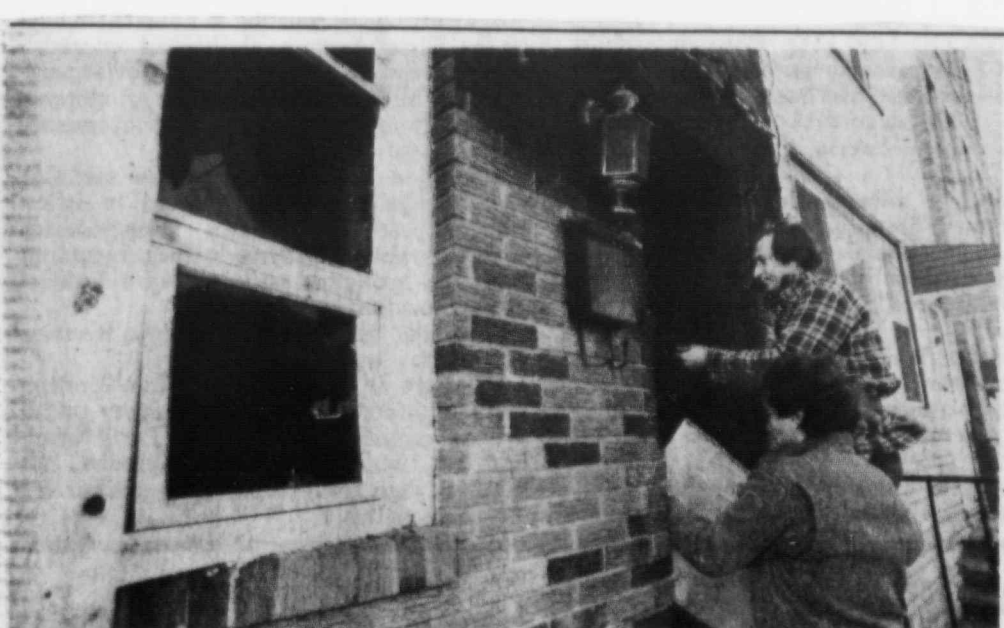
on computers before.

Micelle Straten, one of Lisboa's colleagues in Teller's geometry class, said learning the principles on computers is more like teaching yourself.

"I think using the computers is a lot better," said Straten. "You can understand it a lot better when you see it. It makes it a little bit easier."

While Kiely predicted com-

puters won't completely replace textbooks in high school math classes, he hopes they will increase interest in math and lead more students toward careers in science.



Workmen board up a Madison Street home in Hoboken yesterday after it was damaged by a two-alarm blaze that displaced a family. DON MCCOY THE HUDSON DISPATCH

Smoke alarms save Hoboken family of 8

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Smoke detectors probably saved the lives of a family of eight, which was left homeless yesterday morning after a fast-moving fire ravaged their Madison Street home, authorities said.

Ralph and Katherine Gaeta and their six children were able to flee their one-story house at 604 Madison St. just

before it became engulfed in flames.

"The moral of this story is that the smoke detectors warned them of the fire," said Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi. "That gave them just enough time to get out of the building."

No people were injured in the two-alarm fire, but the Gaetas' two dogs were killed.

Tremittedi said 20 firefighters were able to squelch the blaze — called into the department just after 8 a.m. —

within five minutes.

Mrs. Gaeta said she was combing her daughter's hair in the kitchen when she heard the smoke detector blaring.

Mrs. Gaeta said she and the children, still in their bedclothes, dashed outside to safety, while her husband tried to rescue the dogs.

"He went back inside three times and was screaming for them, but I guess

Please see FIRE Page 17

Maxwell House asks union for a break

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer
3/24/90

Maxwell House is asking for major labor concessions, such as the elimination of double time and a give-back of two holidays, to make the Hoboken plant economically competitive to stave off a closing threat.

The company wants to minimize overtime pay by going to a four-day on, four-day off schedule, thereby converting the three existing eight-hour work shifts to two 12-hour shifts, said Plant Manager Bert Quarfordt.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the second year of the three-year

Workers resist give-backs to coffee company

contract. But management wants to open negotiations to make the labor contract in Hoboken competitive with the workers' pact at the Maxwell House coffee plant in Jacksonville, Fla. Quarfordt said in an interview before the weekend.

The Jacksonville plant has only two 12-hour working shifts to cut down on overtime and double time and two fewer holidays, he said.

When management met recently with union leaders, "we did point out

differences between the two plants," Quarfordt said.

"This is very difficult and we shared concerns with the union," he said, adding that changes in the contract may be needed "to put forth a package that means our survival."

But so far union leadership has refused the concessions, a union spokesman said.

At issue is General Foods USA's decision to close one of its coffee plants, in Hoboken or Jacksonville,

because of finances and a dramatic decrease in coffee consumption.

General Foods, owned by Philip Morris Co., has asked both plants to submit operational reports by early May, Quarfordt said. He said the decision to close one of the plants is expected to be made in June. One will definitely close, he said.

"One of my jobs is to explain that this is for real... one of the two plants will be going down," Quarfordt said. He said the cost of the contract

with Hoboken workers is not "as favorable" as that in Jacksonville.

The leadership of Local 56 of the United Food Commercial Workers, which represents about 400 employees, has refused the concessions, said Richard Hansen, a union steward at the Hoboken plant.

"We haven't sat down and discussed anything formally," Hansen said. But the union leadership was approached about two weeks ago by Quarfordt and Personnel Director Dan Zanetich on a list of concessions.

The list — which has been circu-

See COFFEE — Page 3

Coffee company asks workers for a break

Continued from Page 1
3/26/90

last month that it would transfer the 100-employee research unit out of Hoboken's plant to Tarrytown, N.Y. this month.

Of the four coffee plants, General Foods operates in the country, the Hoboken facility was the only one with an on-site research unit.

The move is now in process.

The plant has 600 workers and about 400 of them belong to the union.

"Hopefully we will talk soon. We want to continue the dialogue. People on the floors are aware of it (concession talks)."

"We don't want to damage the plant, we still want a good package of benefits," Quarfordt said.

"We want to deal with the union, and we want to see some changes made," he said.

While Quarfordt empha-

sized the seriousness of the possible plant closing, union leadership is optimistic.

"Over the past 12 years, this situation has come up several times. There was a time that a lock was going to go on the door."

"But with everybody working together, we were able to prevent it," recalled Stephen Hornik, vice president of Local 56.

But, he said, the strain of not knowing what lies ahead is being felt by workers and their dependents.

"It is very serious," Hornik said.

"Wives are worried, children are worried. I am concerned for my members and

their families but we have been at this point before. Is it serious? It's as serious as it can get," he said.

Yet Hornik looked to the famous neon sign of the cup of coffee, with its last drop dripping, as an omen of the plant's survival.

The sign, which lights up the Hoboken waterfront, has long been a landmark in the metropolitan area.

"It's one of the most famous landmarks in the county. Wall Street looks at that, Philip Morris and Kraft look at that," Hornik said.

"If that sign goes dark, it will have to have an adverse psychological affect on that corporation," he said.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they just panicked," said Gaeta. "The smoke was real heavy."

For the time being, Mrs. Gaeta said, the family is staying with her sister-in-law. The North Hudson chapter of the American Red Cross has offered to help the family with food and clothing, she said.

"Everything was destroyed," said Mrs. Gaeta. "But it could have been worse. We could have been sleeping when the fire broke out."

Investigators said the fire was sparked by one of the Gaetas' young sons, who was playing with a butane lighter in his bed, Tremittedi said.

"It's a common cause of fires," said Tremittedi. "Juvenile fire-setters usually aren't malicious, just curious about lighters and matches. That was the case this time."

Mrs. Gaeta said she thought an electrical problem and not child's play ignited the smoky blaze.

"I don't think it was the kids," she said. "We're pretty strict with them."

However it started, Mrs. Gaeta said she's glad her family was unharmed.

"Thank God we all got out," she said. "We're strong and now we'll start over."

Pasculli: Brace for tax jump

Continued from Page 1
trative positions and eliminating consultants.

"There may have to be a closing of another school. Right now we are plant heavy. If we get no help whatsoever, we would resort to tax increases," Pasculli said.

For every dollar property owners pay in taxes, 16 cents goes to finance the city budget, 52 cents goes to pay for school and 32 cents for county costs, Chius said.

While Pasculli and Chius grapple with the budget, Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Steve Cappiello are demanding that the administration provide the council with a spending plan.

Della Fave said taxpayers will get more relief the sooner the administration makes fiscal management decisions.

"We need to know the expenses for this year and what the administration plans to spend and how much money does it look like we will have. Based on that, we should make immediate decisions on things we can cut out right now. The more we put off that decision, the more we will pay for it," Della Fave said.

But Della Fave, who wanted to cut \$500,000 in salaries from the city budget last year, is critical that the city takes no action and hopes for the best from the state.

"No one wants to raise taxes or lay off people. But the sooner you deal with it, the sooner you have the reality of it. If you don't deal with it until June, you have spent money for half a year. Then for every dollar you have to cut, you really need to cut two," Della Fave said.

The city operates on a calendar year and is now running on a temporary budget, he said.

Pasculli and Chius maintain that they cannot give the council a budget until they know what kind of state aid the city will get.

"We are creatures of the state and will continue to be so," said Chius.

Even Cappiello, who said during his 12 years as mayor the budget was ready by this time, sided with Della Fave, his political foe, stating that the administration should give the council a spending plan.

"Right now, they are working in a vacuum. I want to know what is the budget going to look like, lay out the appropriations, an emergency plan so we know what actions will have to be taken."

Warned of smoke

Officials push smoke alarms

Detectors helped Hoboken family flee burning home

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Local fire officials said yesterday that a family's ability to escape unharmed from a blaze in their home here dramatizes the importance of smoke detectors.

Although state law does not require landlords to install smoke detectors in many one- and two-family buildings, intensive fire education efforts have led to a healthy awareness of how effective the alarms can be, officials said.

"They've become a way of life, and everybody really should have at least one in their home," said Bruce D. Walter, Hudson County fire marshal and Union City public safety commissioner. "That's the message we try to bring across."

City Fire Chief Richard Tremietedi said a chirping smoke detector saved the lives of the eight members of the Gaeta family when a fire destroyed their home at 604 Madison St. on Wednesday.

Tremietedi said fire deaths have been at half nationwide

— from close to 13,000 annually to about 6,500 — in the last 10 years since smoke detectors have become more prevalent.

"You've got to remember, most people are not burned at all in a fire," said Tremietedi. "Usually, they are overcome by smoke."

Tremietedi pointed to the recent blaze at the Happy Land social club in The Bronx as an example. That fire killed 87 people, most of them dying of smoke inhalation.

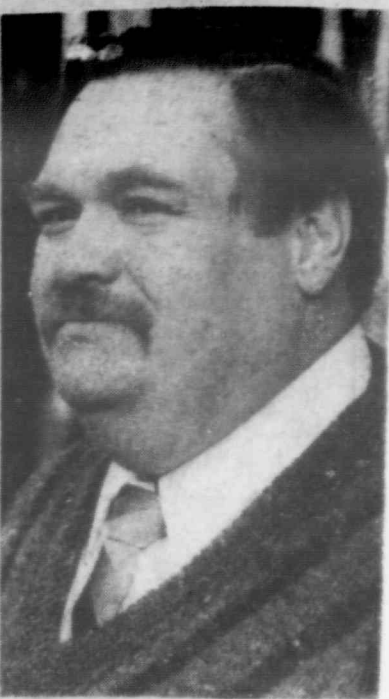
Walter agreed, saying smoke detectors save even more lives than sprinkler systems.

"Early detection of smoke is what you need," said Walter. "Sprinklers can help provide exit routes, but they're mostly good for saving property."

Tremietedi said just having the devices is not enough. "We could cut down the number of fire deaths even further if people maintained their battery-operated detectors," said Tremietedi. "I know how annoying they can be when they start chirping, but you should never take the battery out."



RICHARD TREMIETEDI
Most people 'overcome by smoke'



BRUCE D. WALTER
'They've become way of life'

Cable TV viewers in a scramble for descrambling kits

North Hudson mayors still wage fight for clear signal

By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

Dozens of their constituents flocked to the Riverview Cable's Union City offices to pick up descrambling converters yesterday, as North Hudson mayors prepared to fire another legal blast against the company's plans to scramble its signal.

Joseph Fischer, general manager of the Hoboken-based company, said that only 4,400 of about 37,000 customers did not have converters as of yesterday afternoon.

For the past week, subscribers have been picking up the boxes at the rate of 70 to 80 a day, said Nancy Cuni, billing manager for Riverview Cable.

"There has been a line out the door on and off," she said. "We have been very busy."

Riverview has said it will scramble its signal to prevent cable theft as part of a larger system upgrade.

The scrambled cable channels will be available only to subscribers with the converters.

Cuni said that only one of about 80 customers yesterday asked that service be disconnected.

Other subscribers, who face losing their MTV, CNN and other cable channels, have decided they would rather be hooked up than cut off.

"Without cable, I couldn't watch TV," said North Bergen resident Barry Berger as he stood outside the company's Union City service office, two shiny converter boxes in his hands.

Berger said he lives on a hill in North Bergen and that even with a powerful roof antenna, regular television reception is poor.

He said that he is angry that he must pay extra to rent a hand-held remote control from Riverview Cable, but is not angry enough to protest by forgoing service.

Subscribers can pick up converters at Riverview Cable's Park Avenue office in Union City, or they can call to have them installed, Fischer said.

At the current rate, nearly every subscriber should have a converter a few weeks after scrambling begins, he said.

Fischer blamed the last-minute rush for descramblers on public officials who, he said, have given people the false idea that the company's plans for scrambling can be stopped.

"There are some people who think that somehow their local officials are going to stop us from scrambling, even though they have no grounds to do that," he said.

North Bergen's petition to

There are some people who think that somehow their local officials are going to stop us from scrambling, even though they have no grounds to do that.

— A cable official

stop the plan is on the agenda for a state Board of Public Utilities meeting today.

That is just one of several legal steps North Hudson officials have taken against Riverview Cable.

At a meeting of the North Hudson Mayors Council yesterday, West New York Mayor Anthony M. DeFino recommended that several communities take joint legal action against Riverview Cable.

"There is little we can do, but we must explore every possibility," DeFino told officials of Hoboken, Secaucus, North Bergen and Weehawken.

Hoboken complains it has an embarrassment of riches

Continued from Page 1

said city officials may be opening a can of worms if they cry poverty too loudly.

"If that be the case," Hottendorf said, residents should go into the tax assessors to have their assessments reduced."

Or, residents could ask for another revaluation, he said, a suggestion that irked Chius, who blames the bloated values

on Hudson County realtors who invited the Manhattan market.

But Hottendorf, whose father is a school board trustee, attributes the city's financial ills to overspending by the Board of Education, not to a loss in state aid.

Yet Councilman Steve Cappiello, who served as mayor for 12 years and keeps his eye on the real estate market, agrees with the premise that Hoboken

properties are overvalued. Thus the city is losing out on state aid and paying too much in county taxes, he said.

Cappiello noted that it made no sense to revalue the city because taxpayers would still pay the same amount in taxes despite the assessments attached to their properties as long as the ratio for assessing properties was fair.

Pasculli said the reason

why Hoboken needs to prove its poorness to the state is because while real estate properties have skyrocketed, the city is a blue collar town with a large number of students coming from subsidized homes.

Thus, paying for education and the government is a burden placed largely on the shoulders of property owners with limited incomes.

To make matters worse, the school budget proposed for 1990-91 would add \$3 to the tax rate of \$17.52. Although the new budget is up only four percent from the existing \$30 mil-

lion budget, the amount to be raised through local taxation is scheduled to be \$5 million due to an increase in spending and a reduction in state aid.

About \$1 million more is budgeted for a 30 percent pay raise for members of the Hoboken Teachers Association.

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Hoboken protests it has embarrassment of riches

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken will try to prove to the state Division of Taxation that Shakespeare was right: All that glitters is not gold.

City officials are gathering facts to substantiate their claim that Hoboken may be rich on paper, but in reality is a poor urban community desperate for more state education aid.

"We are a community that is paper rich because of our assessments. But they are not true assessments because many sales are far under," said Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

For example, houses valued at \$300,000 to \$350,000 are selling at less than \$220,000 and some houses have been on the market for two years, he said.

State education aid is allocated to communities based on student enrollment and the community's wealth.

Therefore, Hoboken officials are building a case to show that Hoboken is overvalued.

One reason for the bloated assessments, Pasculli said, is that Hoboken — which hadn't had properties assessed at full market values since the early 1970s — began its revaluation just before the October, 1987 stock market crash.

"By far, that was the worst timing in the history of the city. Values started dropping immediately two weeks later," said

Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who is building a case that Hoboken properties are overvalued and says he has "the data to prove it."

When doing out education money, the state uses a formula known as the equalized assessment — the true value of a property or what the property would sell for, and the number of students, Chius explained.

"Presently the state says that Hoboken's assessed value is 111 percent of the equalized assessed value. I believe that Hoboken is really 120 to 130

percent of the equalized assessed value," Chius said.

In other words, the state's formula would set the true value at \$270,000 of a house in Hoboken assessed at \$300,000, while Hoboken officials claim that the "same house is really worth only between \$240,000 and \$250,000," Chius said.

"I have the sales to prove my case," Chius said.

Meanwhile Joseph Hottendorf, spokesman for the Hudson County Board of Realtors,

See HOBOKEN — Page 6

War on Riverview widens



Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli displays a report on cable television at a City Hall press conference yesterday. The city is expected to contest a scrambling plan.

Hoboken plans lawsuit to halt cable scrambling

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Mayor Patrick Pasculli announced yesterday that the city will sue Riverview Cablevision in an effort to block the company's controversial scrambling plan.

That would make Hoboken the second North Hudson municipality to take legal action against Riverview. Earlier this month, North Bergen asked

the state Board of Public Utilities for a temporary restraining order to halt the scrambling plan.

"It has become apparent Riverview will not amend its position on scrambling," Pasculli said. "Thus far the company has made only token gestures that are unacceptable to the city."

Pasculli said city Law Director Eugene O'Connell will determine whether the suit should be filed in

Please see CABLE Page 26

Hoboken sails on new voyage

In observance of Hudson County's sesquicentennial, I submit the following to commemorate Hoboken's revival.

The winds of change have slowly unravelled the renaissance sail on the good ship "Hoboken."

Now full-blown and billowing in a turbulent gale, it has torn "Hoboken" loose from her old and rusted moorings. Boarded by loyal "Old Salts" and a new crew of aggressive sailors, "Hoboken" is navigating the Hudson's swift currents of competitive seas toward the 21st Century. She has tossed and rolled in transitional storms before, but today's waters are a more difficult challenge to navigate.

Speed, dexterity and resiliency are of utmost importance. Undertaking this new, hazardous and adventuresome journey demonstrates her determination to endure.

Not content to merely remain afloat, her crew has set their sights on making her a winner. If each exerts his maximum effort — if all lifelines are kept in good repair, "Hoboken" will continue to speed on her course upstream.

Destiny has charted her a new horizon. When she drops anchor again "Hoboken" will have become the County Flagship; docking safely and securely in the harbor of the future.

JENNIE CARULLI
Hoboken

Hudson political reports

The Hudson Dispatch

The scramble is on to line up support for the June 5 Democratic primary, and one of the races — for Hudson County Board of Freeholders seats — has sent rumblings across city lines.

In Jersey City, West Side Councilman William O'Dea

has sent rumblings across city lines. In Jersey City, West Side Councilman William O'Dea

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POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



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Violated nuclear regulations

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Associated Press

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"Billy Braker has been very cooperative with us," McCann said. "I want him on our slate."

Officials push smoke alarms

Detectors helped Hoboken family flee burning home

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Local fire officials said yesterday that a family's ability to escape unharmed from a blaze in their home here dramatizes the importance of smoke detectors.

Although state law does not require landlords to install smoke detectors in many one- and two-family buildings, intensive fire education efforts have led to a healthy awareness of how effective the alarms can be, officials said.

"They've become a way of life, and everybody really should have at least one in their home," said Bruce D. Walter, Hudson County fire marshal and Union City public safety commissioner. "That's the message we try to bring across."

City Fire Chief Richard Tremietti said a chirping smoke detector saved the lives of the eight members of the Gaeta family when a fire destroyed their home at 604 Madison St. on Wednesday.

Tremietti said fire deaths have been at a half nationwide

— from close to 13,000 annually to about 6,500 — in the last 10 years since smoke detectors have become more prevalent.

"You've got to remember, most people are not burned at all in a fire," said Tremietti. "Usually, they are overcome by smoke."

Tremietti pointed to the recent blaze at the Happy Land social club in The Bronx as an example. That fire killed 87 people, most of them dying of smoke inhalation.

Walter agreed, saying smoke detectors save even more lives than sprinkler systems.

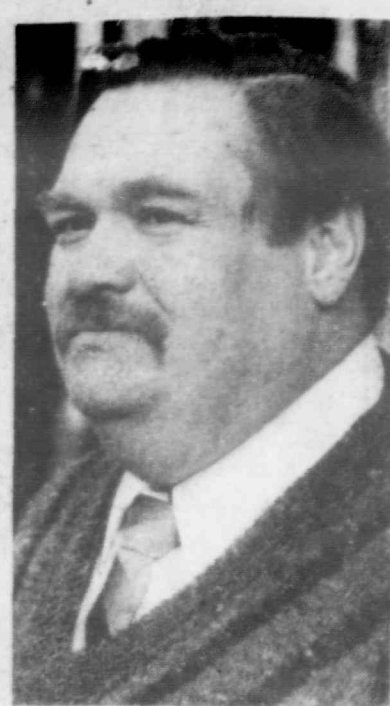
"Early detection of smoke is what you need," said Walter. "Sprinklers can help provide exit routes, but they're mostly good for saving property."

Tremietti said just having the devices is not enough.

"We could cut down the number of fire deaths even further if people maintained their battery-operated detectors," said Tremietti. "I know how annoying they can be when they start chirping, but you should never take the battery out."



RICHARD TREMIETTI
Most people 'overcome by smoke'



BRUCE D. WALTER
'They've become way of life'

Cable TV viewers in a scramble for descrambling kits

North Hudson mayors still wage fight for clear signal

By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

Dozens of their constituents flocked to the Riverview Cable's Union City offices to pick up descrambling converters yesterday, as North Hudson mayors prepared to fire another legal blast against the company's plans to scramble its signal.

Joseph Fischer, general manager of the Hoboken-based company, said that only 4,400 of about 37,000 customers did not have converters as of yesterday afternoon.

For the past week, subscribers have been picking up the boxes at the rate of 70 to 80 a day, said Nancy Cuni, billing manager for Riverview Cable.

"There has been a line out the door on and off," she said. "We have been very busy."

Riverview has said it will scramble its signal to prevent cable theft as part of a larger system upgrade.

The scrambled cable channels will be available only to subscribers with the converters.

Cuni said that only one of about 80 customers yesterday asked that service be disconnected.

Other subscribers, who face losing their MTV, CNN and other cable channels, have decided they would rather be hooked up than cut off.

"Without cable, I couldn't watch TV," said North Bergen resident Barry Berger as he stood outside the company's Union City service office, two shiny converter boxes in his hands.

Berger said he lives on a hill in North Bergen and that even with a powerful roof antenna, regular television reception is poor.

He said that he is angry that he must pay extra to rent a hand-held remote control from Riverview Cable, but is not angry enough to protest by forgoing service.

Subscribers can pick up converters at Riverview Cable's Park Avenue office in Union City, or they can call to have them installed, Fischer said.

At the current rate, nearly every subscriber should have a converter a few weeks after scrambling begins, he said.

Fischer blamed the last-minute rush for descramblers on public officials who, he said, have given people the false idea that the company's plans for scrambling can be stopped.

"There are some people who think that somehow their local officials are going to stop us from scrambling, even though they have no grounds to do that," he said.

North Bergen's petition to

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— A cable official

stop the plan is on the agenda for a state Board of Public Utilities meeting today.

That is just one of several legal steps North Hudson officials have taken against Riverview Cable.

At a meeting of the North Hudson Mayors Council yesterday, West New York Mayor Anthony M. DeFino recommended that several communities take joint legal action against Riverview Cable.

"There is little we can do, but we must explore every possibility," DeFino told officials of Hoboken, Secaucus, North Bergen and Weehawken.

Hoboken complains it has an embarrassment of riches

Continued from Page 1

said city officials may be opening a can of worms if they cry poverty too loudly.

"If that be the case," Hottendorf said, residents should "go into the tax assessors to have their assessments reduced."

Or, residents could ask for another reevaluation, he said, a suggestion that irked Chius, who blames the bloated values

on Hudson County realtors who invited the Manhattan market.

But Hottendorf, whose father is a school board trustee, attributes the city's financial ills to overspending by the Board of Education, not to a loss in state aid.

Yet Councilman Steve Cappiello, who served as mayor for 12 years and keeps his eye on the real estate market, agrees with the premise that Hoboken

properties are overvalued. Thus the city is losing out on state aid and paying too much in county taxes, he said.

Cappiello noted that it made no sense to revalue the city because taxpayers would still pay the same amount in taxes despite the assessments attached to their properties as long as the ratio for assessing properties was fair.

Pasculli said the reason

why Hoboken needs to prove its poorness to the state is because while real estate properties have skyrocketed, the city is a blue collar town with a large number of students coming from subsidized homes.

Thus, paying for education and the government is a burden placed largely on the shoulders of property owners with limited incomes.

To make matters worse, the school budget proposed for 1991 would add \$3 to the tax rate of \$17.52. Although the new budget is up only four percent from the existing \$30 mil-

lion budget, the amount to be raised through local taxation is scheduled to be \$5 million due to an increase in spending and a reduction in state aid.

About \$1 million more is budgeted for a 30 percent pay raise for members of the Hoboken Teachers Association.

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Hoboken protests it has embarrassment of riches

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken will try to prove to the state Division of Taxation that Shakespeare is not gold.

City officials are gathering facts to substantiate their claim that Hoboken may be rich on paper, but in reality is a poor urban community desperate for more state education aid.

"We are a community that is paper rich because of our assessments. But they are not true assessments because many sales are far under," said Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

For example, houses valued at \$300,000 to \$350,000 are selling at less than \$220,000 and some houses have been on the market for two years, he said.

State education aid is allocated to communities based on student enrollment and the community's wealth.

Therefore, Hoboken officials are building a case to show that Hoboken is overvalued.

One reason for the bloated assessments, Pasculli said, is that Hoboken — which hadn't had properties assessed at full market values since the early 1970s — began its revaluation just before the October, 1987 stock market crash.

"By far, that was the worst timing in the history of the city. Values started dropping immediately two weeks later," said

Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who is building a case that Hoboken properties are overvalued and says he has "the data to prove it."

When doling out education money, the state uses a formula known as the equalized assessment — the true value of a property or what the property would sell for, and the number of students, Chius explained.

"Presently the state says that Hoboken's assessed value is 111 percent of the equalized assessed value. I believe that Hoboken is really 120 to 130

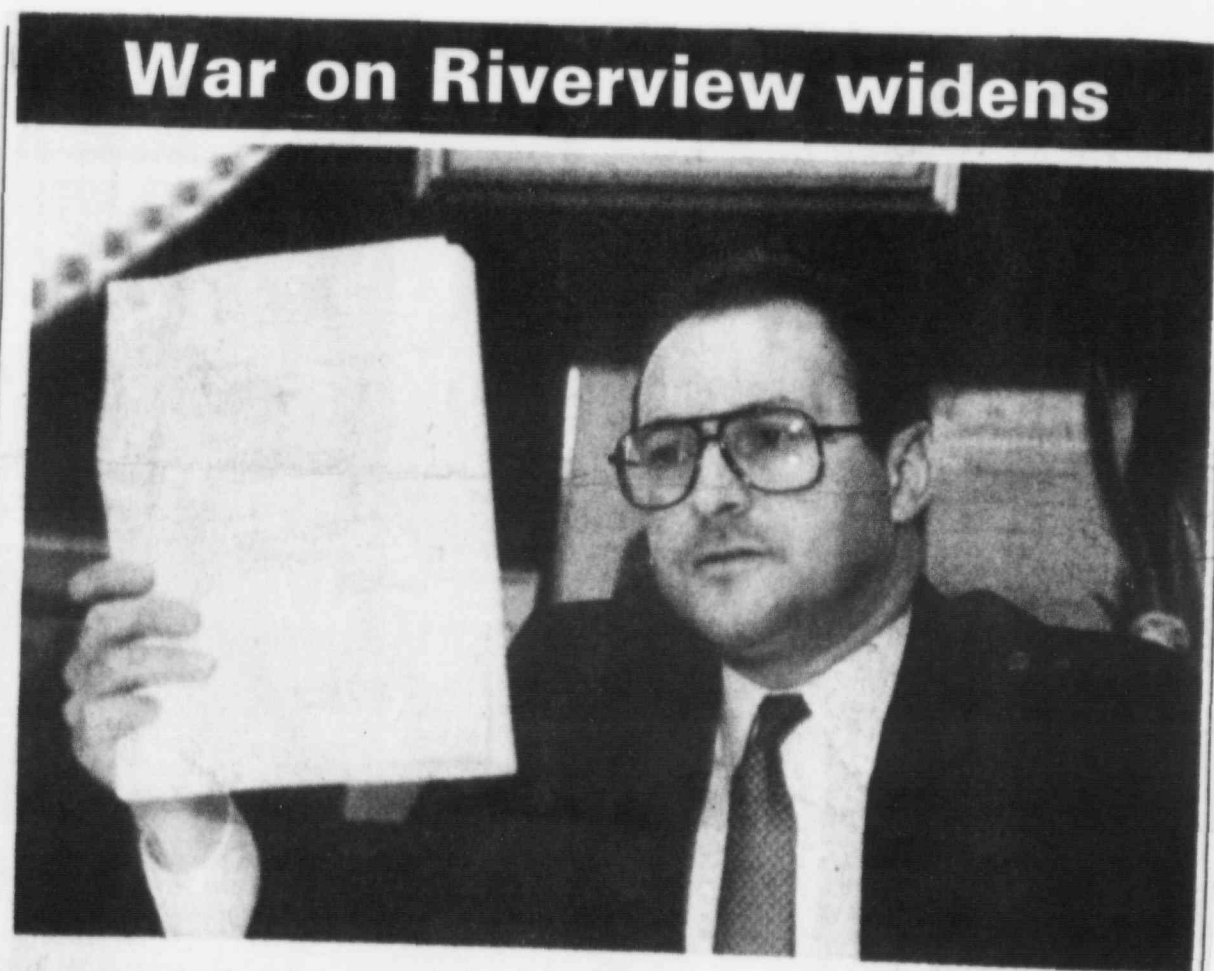
percent of the equalized assessed value," Chius said.

In other words, the state's formula would set the true value at \$270,000 of a house in Hoboken assessed at \$300,000, while Hoboken officials claim that the "same house is really worth only between \$240,000 and \$250,000," Chius said.

"I have the sales to prove my case," Chius said.

Meanwhile Joseph Hottendorf, spokesman for the Hudson County Board of Realtors,

See HOBOKEN — Page 6



Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli displays a report on cable television at a City Hall press conference yesterday. The city is expected to contest a scrambling plan.

Hoboken plans lawsuit to halt cable scrambling

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Mayor Patrick Pasculli announced yesterday that the city will sue Riverview Cablevision in an effort to block the company's controversial scrambling plan.

That would make Hoboken the second North Hudson municipality to take legal action against Riverview. Earlier this month, North Bergen asked

the state Board of Public Utilities for a temporary restraining order to halt the scrambling plan.

"It has become apparent Riverview will not amend its position on scrambling," Pasculli said. "Thus far the company has made only token gestures that are unacceptable to the city."

Pasculli said city Law Director Eugene O'Connell will determine whether the suit should be filed in

Please see CABLE Page 26

Hoboken sails on new voyage

In observance of Hudson County's sesquicentennial, I submit the following to commemorate Hoboken's revival.

The winds of change have slowly unravelled the renaissance sail on the good ship "Hoboken."

Now full-blown and billowing in a turbulent gale, it has torn "Hoboken" loose from her old and rusted moorings. Boarded by loyal "Old Salts" and a new crew of aggressive sailors, "Hoboken" is navigating the Hudson's swift currents of competitive seas toward the 21st Century. She has tossed and rolled in transitional storms before, but today's waters are a more difficult challenge to navigate.

Speed, dexterity and resiliency are of utmost importance. Undertaking this most hazardous and adventuresome journey demonstrates her determination to endure.

Not content to merely remain afloat, her crew has set their sights on making her a winner. If each exerts his maximum effort — if all lifelines are kept in good repair, "Hoboken" will continue to speed on her course upstream.

Destiny has charted her a new horizon. When she drops anchor again "Hoboken" will have become the County Flagship; docking safely and securely in the harbor of the future.

JENNIE CARULLI
Hoboken

Notebook

Hudson political reports

The Hudson Dispatch

The scramble is on to line up support for the June 5 Democratic primary, and one of the races — for Hudson County Board of Freeholders seats — has sent rumblings across city lines.

In Jersey City, West Side Councilman William O'Dea is having trouble marshaling his forces behind Louis M. Manzo, the former city health inspector, who is running for freeholder in the district now represented by Marilyn Roman.

O'Dea can't convince his ward leaders to run for committee seats on Manzo's slate. Some of them want to run on the ticket backed by Mayor Gerald McCann.

O'Dea, a staunch opponent of McCann, concedes that some of his troops may jump ship. But, he said, he is confident that most of them will back Manzo.

Lining up the ward leaders is not the only problem facing Manzo's fledgling campaign. Many Manzo supporters want to know why the candidate's campaign literature hasn't been printed yet. O'Dea, who is footing the bill for the literature, promised that posters and pamphlets bearing Manzo's name will be printed this week.

IN HOBOKEN, the jockeying for the freeholder race has spilled into the Board of Education. Several of the violations occurred in California.

According to Cook, agency staffers maintain United States Testing never had permission for radiographic operations at the Hoboken plant. However, the company successfully argued

POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PASCULLI said Councilman Steve Cappiello — bitter because the administration spurned him to back Assistant City Clerk Robert Drasheff for freeholder — is behind the Raia campaign, but said he will support Raia in the April 24 school board election.

Cappiello, meanwhile, said he is "still talking with people" about a possible run against Drasheff for the freeholder seat now held by Francis Pizuta of Weehawken, but he hasn't made up his mind.

Pizuta — who would like to run again — has been left twisting in the wind by the Democratic Party. Pizuta does not

label Pasculli's statement "absurd," and said he is running because he is concerned about rising school budgets and dropping enrollment.

Cappiello also denied he is behind the Raia campaign, but said he will support Raia in the April 24 school board election.

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DePascale cleared

State rebuffs Roberts fight in fraud case

By PETER F. DONOHUE and EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

The state Attorney General's Office has determined the Hudson County prosecutor properly handled the recent election fraud case against a Hoboken councilman and will not intervene.

Dennis D.S. McAlevy of Union City, attorney for Councilman David Roberts, had requested a state investigation, alleging the County Prosecutor's Office was biased against his client.

McAlevy said Prosecutor Paul M. DePascale, a Republican, was

bent on bringing down Roberts because he is a Democrat.

But Christopher Florentz, an Attorney General's Office spokesman, said Friday the case has been "handled in the appropriate fashion."

"If it were felt the request was warranted, we would proceed," Florentz said. "But that's not the call. The decision has been made not to make a further review."

Roberts was indicted last year on charges of voting bribery and soliciting fraudulent votes in the May 1987 election.

Roberts allegedly gave a group of Stevens Institute of Technology students money to buy a

keg of beer in exchange for votes cast under the names of other students.

In January, Judge Robert F.

Please see **ROBERTS** Page 5

DAVID ROBERTS
Said prosecutor was biased

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Please see **ROBERTS** Page 5

ROBERTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Cavanaugh of Superior Court in Jersey City tossed out the indictment, ruling an assistant prosecutor improperly injected his opinions into grand jury proceedings.

The Attorney General's Office, in rejecting McAlevy's request, said Cavanaugh's ruling was not based on the "substantive issues" of the case, but rather on the presentation to the grand jury panels, according to Florentz.

Roberts, reached at home yesterday, declined comment. McAlevy could not be reached.

DePascale said he expected the Attorney General's Office to side with him.

"I'm not surprised they decided we acted properly, because we did," he said. "The allegations were unfounded."

DePascale has pledged to present the case to another grand jury to seek a new indictment, but he has yet to do so.

FIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on an issue that has already been decided by the public.

But Ira Karasick, the local attorney representing the petitioners, said yesterday he still thinks his clients have a strong case.

"Frankly, the law is on our side," Karasick said. "The city is arguing on grounds of economic practicality. I don't think democracy should be sold so cheaply."

The city and the bistate agency signed a 50-year lease for property on the city's southern waterfront Dec. 31. The authority will seek developers to build more than 3.5 million square feet of office, apartment and retail space.

The city has received an initial payment of \$7 million and is guaranteed another \$3 million later this year. The authority will pay the city \$20 million in the next five years if both sides carry out certain responsibilities.

If the petitioners are successful,

the city will have to suspend implementation of the ordinance authorizing the lease and put the deal before the voters.

Stevens filed its suit in December after its proposal to build a 1-million-square-foot Technology Pavilion on its waterfront property was shot down by the city's Planning Board.

Attorneys for Stevens argue that the city downgraded the institution's property when it upgraded the authority site, making it virtually impossible for the college to build anything on its land.

Pasculli, who had been working behind the scenes to reach a compromise with Stevens, called off all talks with the college until the suit is withdrawn.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said he has been in touch regularly with the Stevens attorneys and is confident the suit will be resolved before it gets to court.

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Suits by citizens, Stevens

Waterfront deal faces more fights

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Although work is under way at the 32-acre waterfront site that the city leased to the Port Authority, the controversial development deal must still clear two more legal hurdles before ground can be broken.

Attorneys for the city are scheduled to go to court twice this month to defend the agreement signed last year.

In the first case, set to be heard Wednesday in the Appellate Division of state Superior Court in Trenton, the city will try to stave off

efforts by a citizens group to put the lease agreement on the ballot in a referendum.

On April 12, the city is scheduled to appear in Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City in response to a lawsuit filed by Stevens Institute of Technology. The suit challenges zoning changes that made the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey deal possible.

Michael Krieger, the authority's manager of Hoboken waterfront development, said yesterday that demolition work at the site is proceeding on schedule and should be completed by early fall if the courts do not block the plans.

Wednesday's hearing will be the third

attempt by the Committee of Petitioners to force the city to accept its referendum signatures. City Clerk James J. Farina refused to accept the ballot petition when it first was presented Dec. 27.

Superior Court Judge Severiano Lisboa — citing the possibility of financial harm to the city if the authority deal were blocked — ruled against the petitioners in December, and again in January.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli has branded the petitioners "modern-day anarchists," saying they are trying to bring the city to its knees.

Please see **FIGHTS** Page 7

Rue School may be site for Calabro

Team of teachers, parents proposes the relocation

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A group of Hoboken parents and teachers will pitch the idea of moving Salvatore Calabro School into the near-empty David Rue School, which the Board of Education closed two years ago to save money.

Calabro School Principal Richard Del Boccio, a city councilman, yesterday confirmed that the school's site management team will meet with School Superintendent Walter Fine next week on the possibility of moving Calabro.

The team, of which Del Boccio is a member, is made up of teachers and parents.

The plan, which has been evolving since last October, is meant to resolve the space shortage at Calabro, a school recognized for its academic excellence.

The school was built 13 years ago for 300 students but Del Boccio said that 350 students are squeezed into the facility which has no gymnasium, stage, space for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, and no rooms for music, art or computers.

Rue School, which had

been renovated shortly before its closing and now rents only a portion of its first floor to a daycare center, has those features plus an elevator, he said. The site management team wants to keep the Calabro name, he said.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli refused to elaborate on the team's plan. He noted that it would need approval of the state commissioner of education.

"A process will have to take place," Pasculli said, "according to state law and after a discussion of the Board of Education before a public forum." Pasculli refused to discuss rumors that another school will be closed, possibly the Joseph F. Brandt School, to avert a \$3 hike of the existing tax rate of \$17.52.

The proposed \$32 million budget for 1990-91 — because of spending increases and state funding cutbacks — would increase the amount to be raised through local taxation from \$18 million to \$23 million. A teachers' contract retroactive to July will cost \$4.6 million over three years.

See **CALABRO** — Page 4

Calabro move to Rue School is proposed

Continued from Page 1

The mayor said that he had no jurisdiction over the school system, although he and the City Council will most likely inherit the school board's problems of bigger expenses and cutbacks in state aid when residents vote on the budget April 24.

"Are you going to write a story based on innuendo?" Pasculli asked when pressed about the possibility of closing a school, in particular, moving Brandt into the Wallace School. "What about the rumor that we should be building schools?" he asked.

The mayor has been saying recently that the school system is plant-heavy and that schools have empty rooms because the facilities were built for 1,000 students but house only 350.

He again conceded yesterday that "hard decisions will have to be made" if the state doesn't provide more funding for education.

The city "cannot ignore" the decline in student enrollment, he said. "Ideally, I'd like to keep all the schools running as they are, improving programs," Pasculli said. "But we have to work within financial constraints. We must consider reducing our operational costs. We will make those hard decisions."

Meanwhile, Anthony

Curko, school business administrator, said he had heard rumors about closing Brandt. "I have heard the stories about consolidation" among board members "but no one has officially approached us."

Board members have talked to him informally and individually about closing a school, he said.

School Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, who as a board member oversees Calabro School, said she does not want to close Calabro because the building's "ambiance lends it-

self to learning." If the school moves, she wants to discuss opening a kindergarten through third grade school to compete with private schools in the city, she said.

Pantoliano also heard the rumor about consolidating Brandt with Wallace.

Brandt School Principal Frank Spano commented that he hadn't "heard anything official. I've only heard rumor. I don't foresee the school closing; we are too successful a school." He said the school wouldn't be closed "without a

great deal of thought."

School Trustee Perry Belfiore, who sponsored the original resolution to close the Rue School several years ago, said he would oppose the school closing now because the city doesn't save that much money.

He would not vote to close Brandt, he said. "I went to Brandt. No school is built like it. It was used as an air raid center — that's how thick walls are," Belfiore said.

"Closing a school gets to be an emotional thing," he said, adding, "like closing a church."

Council rethinking its plan to auction Todd Shipyards

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A plan to auction off the Hoboken-owned Todd Shipyards, 33 acres of land mostly under water, has been taken off tonight's City Council agenda as quickly as it was put on.

The land about the 90 acres of waterfront property owned by Anthony Dell' Aquila who has sought the land since the mid-'80s and unsuccessfully lobbied the Vezzetti administration to sell it.

But it was recommended several years ago that auctioning the land be delayed until the city had established a planning guideline for the northern waterfront.

A resolution to sell the land at public auction April 27 was scheduled for tonight's meeting.

But City Councilman Thomas Newman is so critical of the measure he has convinced the council to postpone the resolution's consideration until April

18 when members can hear from the city's planning consultants.

"Something doesn't look right here. There has got to be something more to this than meets the eye," said Newman. He suspects the city is using a "quick fix" to generate as much revenue as possible because of budget shortfalls.

Councilman Steve Cappiello said the land is of no value to anyone except Dell' Aquila, who is plagued with financial problems and is in danger of losing the waterfront empire he pieced together over the last decade.

The resolution to auction the land originated with Law Director Eugene O'Connell and Mayor Patrick Pasculli, according to the City Clerk's Office. Neither O'Connell nor Pasculli could be reached for comment.

O'Connell last year requested an updated assessment of the land, the value of which is supposed to be \$1 million.

Dell' Aquila did not return a telephone call made to his office.

The city owns four tracts of land known as Todd Shipyards at 16th and Park Avenue. About one acre is above water and 32 acres under water.

Newman said the city should hang on to the land because the parcel could be used as leverage to coerce either Dell' Aquila or another developer at the site to cooperate with the city in its development.

There is enough land above water to use as a corridor for mass transportation, he said, noting the city shouldn't sell the land only to have to buy it back in the future.

"My argument is, why sell the Todd Shipyards now? The market is bad. Clearly, we will not get the best price," Newman said.

"But even more important, it is a key piece of property."

See **SHIPYARD** — Page 4

Federal judge excoriates BPU on Riverview cable scrambling

By Patricia Scott
Journal staff writer

North Hudson's Riverview Cablevision found a sympathetic ear in U.S. District Court in Newark yesterday, where a federal judge — while not ruling on the ongoing "channel scrambling" controversy — said he believes the company has every right to scramble signals.

Judge Alfred J. Lechner Jr. likened those who illegally tap into cable channels to "looters and common thieves" and ordered that the state Board of Public Utilities hold an emergency hearing "as soon as conceivably possible" to review its decision last week that halted Riverview's scrambling plans.

In a related action last night, the state Supreme Court told attorneys that it will not hear the case. That decision sends the scrambling battle back to Lechner for another hearing, and ruling, later this week.

The BPU Thursday stopped Riverview's plans to scramble when it issued a temporary restraining order that blocked the firm from beginning scrambling last Monday.

Lechner, after hearing lengthy arguments yesterday by Deputy State Attorney General Susan Vercheak and Riverview's attorney Jeffrey Riener, said he believes the BPU acted improperly in issuing the restraining order.

Lechner said the board's behavior was "arbitrary, capricious and basically playing to the crowds" and called the restraining order itself an "extraordinary, unwarranted and unsubstantiated act."

"I have extremely serious problems with the BPU's conduct here," said Lechner, adding that he believes those opposed to scrambling are defending the illegal use of cable lines.

"The BPU has known for four months that Riverview

planned to scramble and they did nothing until last week.... I don't see that the BPU had any legal basis, or any right, to issue that (restraining) order."

When questioned at length, Vercheak conceded to Lechner that at no time between last November and last week did the BPU ever actually tell Riverview it wouldn't be allowed to scramble.

"This cable firm has the right to maintain reasonable rates for its legally paying subscribers," said the judge.

"And to do that, they simply cannot have large numbers of the public — as many as 10,000 people — illegally tapping into those lines. The message you're sending the public is 'Don't pay, go out and steal.'"

Attorneys representing West New York, Hoboken, North Bergen and Weehawken — the four municipalities whose cable subscribers would

See **BPU** — Page 4

BPU criticized by federal judge

Continued from Page 1

be affected by scrambling — maintained their vocal opposition to the scrambling plan, contending that it would cause irreparable harm to subscribers who don't want to have their signals scrambled or have to get converter boxes.

"I do not see any harm at all to subscribers, let alone irreparable harm," Judge Lechner responded.

"Cable TV is not a right. People can choose to purchase it or not purchase it, but there is no constitutional right to cable. TV is not the lifeblood running through our veins."

Riverview Cablevision first told subscribers about scrambling plans four months ago and has repeatedly offered free cable converters and free installation to all paying subscribers.

"Riverview must be given the right to protect itself from common thievery," said Lechner. "People who are get-

ting cable without paying for it are no different than those breaking windows and looting during a civil disobedience act."

The judge noted that the BPU issued its restraining order without taking one affidavit or eliciting testimony from a single person who is against the scrambling.

"This, to me, does not resemble a fair hearing in any way and that's my primary concern," the judge said.

"It just does not seem fair. I don't believe the BPU looked at the whole situation fairly or totally."

He ordered Vercheak to set

up another BPU hearing "as immediately as possible" before he again considers the case.

"I find myself in the middle of a very unsavory situation," said Lechner.

"I would prefer that the BPU hold another hearing and correct the error of what they did, or find a legal basis for their restraining order."

Riener said he will consult with Lechner today to schedule another hearing before week's end.

Riener said he will ask the judge to lift the stay ordered by the BPU, so that scrambling can begin.

Fallen asbestos tiles close school

HOBOKEN — Hoboken High School students went home early yesterday because of continuing asbestos problems in the building.

Principal Charles Tortorella said that before the school opened, custodians discovered that two asbestos-laden tiles had fallen from a third-floor ceiling.

Tortorella said that although he was not required to so by law, he ordered the third floor sealed off. Classes were held on the first two floors.

Students were sent home at 12:30 p.m., Tortorella said. No make-up day will be needed because classes were shortened, but not abandoned. Yesterday's early closing was the fourth due to falling tiles this school year.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

Shipyard auction is put on hold

Continued from Page 1

essential to a rational development of the Dell' Aquila site. You cannot do the northern site without having control over the Todd Shipyards," Newman said.

"The Todd Shipyards is the

missing piece in the northern waterfront land puzzle. The one that holds that piece is holding an ace and can be a tremendous nuisance," he said. "This is something the city should hang on to and use as a bargaining chip."

Tax increase may force school closing

Continued from Page 1
leaves a portion of the building's first floor to a daycare center.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that he has recommended to the mayor closing the Joseph F. Brandt School at Eighth and Garden streets and selling it to the Parking Authority to use as a parking garage.

Gail Tuzman, president of the Brandt PTO, agrees that a school should be closed because of declining enrollment but added that the city should have been making those plans years ago.

"It will be interesting to see what process they go through to see if this will be a public discussion or behind closed doors," she said.

Tuzman, who also serves on the school site management council, said that she is sure Pasculli dreads shutting down a school, but realizes he cannot add \$3 to the tax rate.

She said the recent contract, which will cost \$4.6 mil-

lion in teacher raises for three years, added to the strain of the need to close a school.

Tuzman added that the Brandt school has been a leader in initiating innovative programs that other schools have adopted.

Tax increase may force school closing

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Faced with a possible \$3 increase in the city's tax rate to pay for the costs of running the school system, Hoboken officials may be moving toward closing at least one school building.

As a mayoral candidate, Mayor Patrick Pasculli, a public school teacher on an extended leave of absence, campaigned against dramatic cuts to the school budget.

But recently, the mayor said the school system is plant-heavy, and that if the state does not help out the city, the city may need to consolidate ad-

Pasculli says Hoboken's system is plant-heavy

ministrative jobs and eliminate consultants.

When asked about a school closing, Pasculli said that that action "has been apparent for a number of years."

"Our school buildings were constructed for 1,000 students or more and they have 350 students. It is good management principles to think about consolidation. That was always apparent," the mayor said.

The proposed \$32 million school budget for 1990-91 would increase the local levy from \$18 million to \$23 mil-

lion because of increases in spending and cutbacks in state education aid.

That \$5 million increase would add more than \$3 to the existing rate of \$17.52.

James Farina, vice president of the Board of Education and a political ally to the mayor, steadfastly refuses to consider the likelihood of a school closing.

But Geraldine Pantoliano, who voted for the proposed budget and for hefty raises for the teachers, also sounded like someone who thought

that a school closing was inevitable.

"We are building-heavy. One of the worst things about being on the Board of Education is to let a teacher go. We are 50 percent lower in enrollment in the last 10 years," said Pantoliano, a supporter of Pasculli.

Closing a school "wouldn't surprise me. We have schools with a capacity of 1,000 and with enrollments of 400. We may have to close a school," she said.

"If we consolidate, and took two schools and put them in one large

building, we could keep the teachers and the class size down," she said.

Pasculli has also said that he does not want to lay off teachers but said he would first eliminate administrators.

The mayor noted that no school would close unless approved by the Board of Education and the state and that he did not have a particular school in mind.

But the community was baffled when the school board voted two years ago to close the David E. Rue School, after the building had just been refurbished.

Today, the Board of Education

See TAX — Page 4

Elysian goes on auction block in May

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

J.J. 4-6-90
Ailing Hoboken S&L may be sold or closed

Judgment day is fast approaching for Elysian Federal Savings Bank, once a fast-growing Hoboken thrift that was seized by federal regulators last February.

Elysian's fate, along with that of about a hundred other failed S&Ls, will be sealed at an auction in Atlanta on May 31.

"For the time being, it will be business as usual," said Lloyd Harris, an employee of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., who was appointed to run Elysian in January.

But business as usual is a far cry from the type of business that took place in the boom years of the 1980s. Today, business means no mortgage

Red ink flows

Elysian Savings still losing money

Page 4

loans — the bread and butter of the S&L industry — and no commercial, consumer or construction loans.

Business today simply means accepting deposits and making withdrawals, said Harris, a former bank president whose primary mission at Elysian is "downsizing" the institution.

"I'm here to primarily keep the institution under proper control, to minimize risk and

See ELYSIAN — Page 4

Contact parent company

Pols seek to keep Maxwell House in Hoboken

By DAVID REILLY
The Hudson Dispatch

New Jersey's congressional delegates yesterday joined the battle to keep the Maxwell House coffee plant in Hoboken.

In a letter to General Foods USA, Maxwell House's parent company, the state congressional representatives and senators argued for keeping the 51-year-old plant open.

"It only seems to make sense for Maxwell House to take advantage of the inherent benefits offered by the current Hoboken facility," said the letter sent to

Ray G. Viault, General Foods vice president. "We do not want a good employer, with a considerable history in our state, to leave our state when it has all the right reasons to stay."

Those reasons include Hoboken's location, the area's skilled workers and an incentive package being assembled by federal, state and local agencies, the letter said.

But General Foods must weigh these reasons against similar arguments being made by officials in Jacksonville, Fla. The company announced in February that it will close either its Hoboken or

Jacksonville plant because of decreasing demand for coffee.

The announcement shocked state and Hudson County officials, who fear losing the Hoboken plant's 600 jobs, and possibly about 3,200 other area positions that depend on the facility.

Losing the plant also would hurt Hoboken's tax base. Maxwell House pays about \$500,000 a year in property taxes, nearly one-eighth of Hoboken's tax revenue, city officials said.

General Foods has not yet received the congressional letter and has not made any decisions regarding the plants, said

Cliff Sessions, a company spokesman.

George Murphy, plant manager of the Hoboken facility, cheered the congressional letter.

"We're trying to get anybody we can to talk for us," he said.

But even more important than the letter will be the incentive package the state formally presents to General Foods in May, said Rep. Frank J. Guarini, D-Jersey City.

Guarini said he hopes a combination of low-interest loans, job-training grants and trade aids will tip the scales in New

Jersey's favor.

Additionally, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has agreed to place Maxwell House in a Free Trade Zone, Guarini said. This would mean that products the company makes in Hoboken would not be taxed before being shipped overseas, he said.

"This will give Maxwell House a better opportunity in competing with overseas firms," Guarini said. "They will also give Maxwell House the opportunity to expand and employ more people here."

Hoboken reduces water rate for Maxwell House

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

J.J. 4-5-90
The Hoboken City Council last night reduced Maxwell House's water rate by \$1.50 per 1,000 cubic feet of metered water as an incentive to keeping the coffee company in the city.

By a unanimous vote, the council also began steps to amend zoning laws to create a 100-foot buffer around the plant that sits above the Hudson River at 11th street.

The council amended the ordi-

nance setting water rates. The normal rate is \$18.50 per 1,000 cubic feet of metered water per quarter. But Maxwell House was paying a rate of \$15.50 because it buys more than one million cubic feet per quarter.

The council lowered that rate to \$14. Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that Maxwell House is the only industry that will benefit from the new rate.

Maxwell House paid the city \$685,000 in water bills last year, Chius said, noting that the rates are estab-

lished by Jersey City. If Maxwell House closes, "half of that money would have to be absorbed by city consumers to maintain the lines," Chius said.

Ironically, last summer Council President E. Norman Wilson and Councilman Richard Del Boccio sponsored a resolution to increase Maxwell House water rates. Councilman Steve Cappiello fought against the rate hike, arguing that the industry had to compete with three other plants in the county.

Concerning the zone change, Mayor Patrick Pasculli told council members

that the zoning amendment offers commitment to the owners of Maxwell House that the city sees it existing on the Hoboken waterfront.

The zone change offers a "strong signal" to Philip Morris that Maxwell House is in Hoboken's long-term plans," Pasculli said, referring to speculation that Maxwell House's days are numbered because of plans to build residential units and commercial developments along the Hudson River.

See WATER — Page 16

Elysian goes on auction block May 1

Continued from Page 1

insure a reasonable level of customer service, to essentially maintain the fundamental value of the institution for an eventual resolution," he said.

Under the ideal scenario, that resolution will be the sale of the thrift to another bank or group of investors. Under the worst scenario, Elysian will be liquidated and become a bad memory of the thrift deregulation era.

Elysian, like a host of other thrifts, prospered, at least on paper, when the S&L industry was deregulated in 1982. Deregulation removed barriers that limited S&Ls to fixed rate mortgages and passbook accounts and opened the door to other services like commercial lending, adjustable mortgages and development partnerships.

But many thrifts across the country fell into the hands of unscrupulous or unqualified operators who invested federally insured deposits in speculative investments like real estate or junk bonds, regulators say.

Many of those thrifts prospered during the economic upswing of the 1980s, but began to falter under swelling debt, bad investments and a softening real estate market.

"Some of these thrifts nationwide featured an unsavory cast of characters," Harris said.

The FBI and the U.S. Justice Department have been conducting an ongoing probe of Elysian's former long-time chief executive, Ernest Badaracco Jr. and his chief assistant. Neither Harris nor officials of the FBI or the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark would comment on the probe.

Sources cooperating with the probe say it centers on Badaracco's dual roles as bank president and head of a failed electrical contracting firm. At least four developers have sued Elysian and Badaracco, charging that he threatened to



Lloyd Harris, who was appointed by federal banking regulators to run Elysian Federal Savings Bank in Hoboken, stands in the lobby of the thrift's main office on Washington Street.

pull out of real estate projects if the electrical firm were not hired as a contractor.

Harris also will not comment on the lawsuits which were filed in federal court in Newark nearly two years ago.

During Badaracco's tenure, Elysian's assets grew nearly tenfold, from about \$30 million in the mid-1970s to \$286 million in 1986. Described by colleagues and associates as brash and tough-talking, Badaracco and Elysian were credited for playing a major role in Hoboken's real estate renaissance. "Ernie was the bank and the bank stood for development in Hoboken," said a one-time associate.

Among the sour real estate investments were 77 River St. — a nine-story condominium development that took five years to complete and is still

empty, — and an equity share in Port Liberty — the mammoth, nearly bankrupt residential community on Jersey City's southern waterfront.

One of the few reminders of the old Elysian is a laminated color photo of the pre-takeover board of directors that Harris keeps under his desk and shows visitors.

Reminders of the thrift's seizure are everywhere: Every item of furniture, drapery and office equipment is marked with a small white tag indicating it is property of the Resolution Trust Corp., the agency overseeing the \$160 billion S&L bailout.

Reminders are also present on the balance sheet. The thrift has reported big losses in each of the last 10 quarters as bad debt was written off and new accounting principles em-

ployed. Assets have shrunk from \$286 million in 1986 to \$117 million today.

Elysian has spent nearly \$2 million over the last two years in legal fees and about \$2.5 million in professional services, mainly for Rochester Consulting Associates, who were hired in 1987 to manage the bank, according to quarterly reports on Elysian by the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Elysian's resolution carries four scenarios: The institution and its branches could be sold as a group; the real estate deposits' liabilities could be sold; or the institution could be dissolved.

Harris, who will move onto another assignment once Elysian is sold or liquidated, estimates that a bid of \$4 million to \$5 million could buy the thrift.

Water rate reduced for Maxwell House

Continued from Page 1

Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave said that the buffer will redefine and clarify the area's zoning by separating the industry from residential areas.

The planning board will consider the amendment April 12.

At issue is General Foods USA's decision to close one of its coffee plants, in Hoboken or Jacksonville, Fla., because of finances and recent trends showing a decrease in coffee consumption.

General Foods, owned by Philip Morris, has asked both plants to submit operational reports by early May, ac-

cording to Bert Quarfordt, plant manager in Hoboken. He said the decision to close one of the plants will be made in June.

Since General Foods' announcement, state, local and Port Authority officials have formed a network with Maxwell House in Hoboken to find ways to make the plant, built 50 years ago, competitive with the Jacksonville plant, which has lower taxes and a less costly payroll.

The New Jersey congressional delegation has written General Foods lobbying the company to keep open the Hoboken plant based on the argument that the Port of New York

and New Jersey is one of two ports in the country approved as an exchange port by the Commodity Exchange for the storage of exchange coffee.

The delegation also points to the region's workforce, the region's location in terms of distribution to the domestic market and for exports, and because the Hoboken plant has the capability of roasting all types of coffee.

Recently, management at the Hoboken plant asked major concession in the labor contract, such as eliminating double time and two holidays.

The company wants to minimize overtime by changing from three eight-hour work

shifts to two 12-hour shifts and creating a schedule of four days on, four days off.

Local 56 of the United Food Commercial Workers, which represents about 400 employees, has rejected the concessions and is refusing to reopen the three-year contract. Workers have just begun the second year of the work pact.

General Foods in February announced it would transfer its 100-employee research unit out of Hoboken to Tarrytown, N.Y. Of the four plants in the country, Hoboken was the only facility with an on-site research team. The plant has about 600 workers, 400 of them union members.

Failed Hoboken thrift still has flow of red ink

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

J.J. 4-6-90
Red ink continues to flow from Elysian Federal Savings Bank, the failed Hoboken thrift

seized last year by federal regulators, according to its latest quarterly report. Nine new officers have been named to run the thrift, according to Lloyd Harris, an

employee of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. who was named Elysian's managing agent in January.

For the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1989, Elysian posted a loss of \$1.7 million, compared to a loss of \$2.8 million for the same quarter in 1988, according to reports by the federal Office of Thrift Supervision, which regulates savings and loans.

Assets stood at \$117 million during the latest quarter, down from \$198 million on Dec. 31, 1988.

Elysian has been under the conservatorship of the Resolution Trust Corp., which oversees the \$160 billion S&L bailout, since February 1989.

The latest quarterly loss for Elysian was the smallest since the quarter ending Sept. 31, 1988, when the thrift lost \$136,000. Elysian was one of the

first 200 thrifts seized by federal regulators in February, 1989, when it failed to meet new capital requirements.

Meanwhile, Harris announced the following staff appointments, effective April 1: Kathleen Rotondo, executive vice president and corporate secretary; Gene Kneip, senior vice president and officer in charge of operations; Christopher Walsh, senior vice president and officer in charge of loans; Myron Burock, controller; Frank Rinaldo, vice president and auditor; J. Kevin Murray, vice president and manager of EDP; Carmine Perullo, vice president and branch administrator; Angel Aquirre, assistant vice president and officer in charge of personnel; Tracey Barber, assistant secretary; and Dennis Tierney, assistant controller.

Port Authority lease eyed by court

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Oral arguments were presented today in the Appellate Division of state Superior Court by attorneys for the city and a group of citizens seeking to block the Port Authority's lease to develop waterfront property here.

The citizens' group, known as the Committee of Petitioners, wants to have the deal placed before the voters as a referendum question.

The petitioners are appealing

the ruling of a Hudson County Superior Court judge who said the city could suffer serious financial losses if its lease with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was put before the public.

The city has argued that the ordinance authorizing the lease is not subject to referendum and that there has been enough public comment on the issue already. Ira Karasick, the local attorney who represents the petitioners, said the court could issue its decision within a week.



Workmen remodel the outside of Elysian Federal Savings Bank at 401 Washington St. in Hoboken yesterday.

Mayor orders work halted

Hoboken to local bank: Your new facade stinks

By MICHAEL FINNEGAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The beleaguered Elysian Federal Savings Bank sunk deeper into trouble yesterday — over its decor, not its finances.

City officials put a sudden halt to the bank's renovation plans in an attempt to save Washington Street from what they called an architectural "abomination."

Workers had been restoring Elysian's four-story facade at Washington and Fourth streets. The upper floors were being transformed from red brick to gray stucco, and the ground floor from wood paneling to pebbles embedded in concrete.

The West Coast look met with sharp opposition from Elysian's East Coast neighbors.

"We are outraged," said Terry Castellano, a Hoboken Historic District

commissioner. "Brick buildings, wood on store fronts, and they're giving us this California pebble look."

Among the most indignant about Elysian's change of look was Councilman David Roberts.

"They ripped out a beautiful facade and they're putting up this California stucco with these pebbles," he said with disgust. "It's unbelievable."

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BANK

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"This pebble stuff is just totally out of character," said John DePalma, a Hoboken Historical Museum trustee. "It seems like the bottom line to this whole thing was money. There was little regard to historic preservation."

As it happens, though, Elysian is just across the street from the city's historic district, so renovation of its facade does not require intensive public or government scrutiny.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who ordered the "stop work" decree, vowed to review city ordinances to see whether Hoboken can force Elysian to build a facade more compatible with the neighborhood.

Kathleen Rotondo, an Elysian executive vice president, said she did not mean to offend anyone's aesthetic sensibilities.

But having been taken over by the federal government last year, Elysian has little money to spend on the renovations, she said.

To correct deterioration of the facade without changing its character would have cost at least \$40,000, Rotondo said. The bank could not spend that much, and is spending "much below" that amount on the stucco and pebbles, she said.

"We had a severe crack along the whole front of the building between the third and fourth floors which we had to address immediately," she said. "This was the most economical way to address it."

The decision was made by a committee of senior managers, she said.

"We just cannot spend any more than what our budget calls for," she said. "We were trying to preserve the equity of the bank itself."

Asked about Roberts' complaints, she said, "That's his opinion."

Parents fight for a school

Want overcrowded Calabro classes moved to unused Rue

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Mary Trinellita, a native Hobokenite who attended local schools and now works part-time at Maxwell House coffee, wants something for her first-grade son at Calabro School — an education for the twenty-first century.

Her dream is shared by Jackie Pini, who has two children at Calabro. Her daughter, Tammy, is in the third grade and her son, Robert, is a first grader.

"My hopes and dreams are that my children go to college," Pini said.

The Salvatore Calabro School, located on Park Avenue at Fifth Street, is known citywide for its academic excellence. The school's enrollment is at capacity with 350 students. Children gain admittance through a lottery system.

The school is unique because it has open classrooms. Instead of walls, bookcases and closets divide learning areas.

When Marie Cassesa moved to Hoboken a few years ago, her son drew a slot for Calabro but not her daughter. Because she had heard bad reports about the rest of the public school system, Cassesa said, she placed her daughter in Catholic schools for three years while waiting for admittance to Calabro.

Cassesa notes, however, that she now believes the public is misguided about Hoboken schools, which she said are maligned for baseless reasons. In retrospect, she said, she would place her children in district schools and her son now attends the high school.

Despite its academic reputation, Calabro doesn't have a library, a gymnasium, a stage, a room for art or music or a room for a gifted and talented program.

"The computer room is a small space in the basement. We are going into the twenty-first century. We should have a big computer room," Pini said.

Cassesa, whose sixth-grade daughter loves music, said that the school is so cramped for space, that chorus practice is held in the hallway.

The school's cheerleaders practice in nearby Demarest School — or in the park when the weather is nice. And last year, when students produced a play they had written, parents sat on the floor to see the show in a multi-purpose room because the school has no stage.

The open classroom concept appears to create a learning atmosphere at the younger grades, parents said. But for sixth, seventh or eighth graders, the open classrooms are a distraction, especially when students are trying to learn math and can hear the lesson of a nearby classroom, they said.

Calabro Principal Richard Del Boccio, who has been at the school 12 years this month, said when the facility was built 15 years ago it was intended for the early grades and designed for 300 students.

The shortfalls of the school were discussed by the school's Parent, Teacher and Student Organization and its site school management team, a committee of parents, teachers, the principal and an administrator.

Last fall the idea was born among team members to move Calabro School into the David E. Rue School at Garden and Third streets. They want to increase the school's student population to open up enrollment.

The Board of Education voted to close the Rue School two years ago, a move that baffled the community because

See **PARENTS** — Page 3

Parents fight to save a school

Continued from Page 1

the school had just been extensively renovated. It now leases only a portion of its first floor to a daycare. Last year, the City Council and Mayor Patrick Pasculli discussed using the facility as a police precinct.

Yesterday parents, teachers and the principal met with School Superintendent Walter Fine to discuss moving the school. They cited the space shortage as the primary reason. Fine, according to the parents, seemed supportive of the idea but concerned about the expense during a budget crisis.

Trinellita, Calabro PTO president, doesn't want to hear that finances will prevent the move. She said it was irresponsible for the school board re-

cently to sign a three-year contract — which will cost nearly \$5 million and gives teachers more than a 30 percent raise — when the district is broke.

What she wants for her child is an education that will prepare him for college and let him thrive in the job market, she said.

To her, that means a more intense focus on math and sciences. Trinellita said Rue School has excellent lab facilities and wants teachers who specialized in those subjects to teach courses at the new Calabro.

"I don't know why Americans are so afraid to teach their children the sciences," Trinellita said. "Look at the Soviets."

2 trustees vote no

Hoboken passes \$32M budget

School spending plan calls for 20 percent tax hike

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — After a brief hearing that was sparsely attended, the Board of Education last night approved a \$32 million budget for the 1990-91 school year.

If approved by the voters, the proposed spending plan would add more than \$3 to the local tax rate, an increase of close to 20 percent. The current rate is \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The budget passed by a vote of 6-2. Otto Hottendorf and Claire DePalma dissented.

Felix Rivera was absent.

DePalma said she voted against the budget because the board could save money by closing one of its buildings, but no plan to do so has been drafted.

"I believe it's the board's responsibility to close on those buildings," DePalma said. "Enrollment has gone down, and I don't

think we need all of these buildings."

Mayor Patrick Pasculli has said closing a school — most of which now house less than half the number of pupils they were built to handle — is one cost-saving measure the board could consider.

Only four speakers addressed the board before the vote. Two of them — Joseph Santiago and Jonathan Gordon — are candidates for school board seats in the April 24 election.

Both Santiago and Gordon questioned the impact of the new teachers contract on the budget, with Gordon proposing that negotiations be reopened in light of cutbacks in state aid.

Pasculli blames the cut in state funding for the budget bind that would boost the amount to be raised by local taxation by \$5 million, from \$18 million this year to \$23 million next year.

The board received \$7.5 million in state aid this year, but can only count on \$6.6 million

for the 1990-91 school year. The board originally anticipated more than \$10 million in state aid for next year.

Many of Pasculli's opponents — and at least one of his staunchest allies on the City Council — contend that the teachers contract is bloating the budget.

The three-year contract — ratified by the board after the state released its recommended aid figures — gives school employees salary increases of more than 30 percent over the life of the pact.

The 1990-91 school budget contains \$5 million for salaries, covering most of this year's new money in addition to all of next year's raises.

Councilman David Roberts, who has vowed repeatedly not to raise taxes, said yesterday he agrees that the cutback in state funds has hurt the city, but the recent contract adds insult to injury.

Please see **BUDGET** Page 24

School budget expected to up tax rate

J.J. 4-9-90

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken residents will soon be faced with a grim choice: maintain the current tax rate or watch the school system go down the drain, city officials said.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius is projecting a significant tax increase because he sees no way the school budget can be cut without ruining education.

The proposed \$32 million school budget — because of a hefty teachers' contract and cutbacks in state funding — increases the amount to be raised through local taxation from \$18 mil-

lion to \$23 million. That amount would add \$3 to the existing rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

To cut a dollar off that expected hike, the school budget would have to be cut by \$1.7 million, Chius said.

In dollars and cents, the \$3 increase means homeowners in houses valued at \$150,000 will pay \$450 more in taxes, while owners of houses assessed at \$300,000 will be paying nearly \$1,000 more in taxes.

Residents can tell the Board of Education what they think about the

proposed budget at a public hearing at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Wallace School.

Five million dollars in the budget is "new money" needed to be raised to fund the Hoboken Teachers Association contract recently approved by school trustees. The contract gives 344 teachers more than 30 percent in raises retroactive to July 1989. The existing school budget will absorb \$600,000 of the raises for this year.

But another \$2.7 million to cover the rest of the first year of the contract

plus the second year will be funded in the proposed budget. Chius does not believe the school budget can be reduced significantly enough to affect the tax rate without destroying the educational system.

"I don't believe that we can make massive cuts in the school board budget in a reasonable way. It is impossible to cut sufficient money to offset a tax increase," Chius said.

School officials anticipated the existing level of state aid, \$3.9 million, would increase to \$6 million. Instead,

Hoboken can expect only \$2.6 million from the state.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli is appealing to the state for aid. He said Hoboken is the only community with a school system in Level III — the next step before a state takeover — to have its funding reduced.

Pasculli, a public school teacher on a leave of absence, is stuck between a rock and a hard place. He is either going to have to reduce school spending or raise taxes — or both.

"Any taxpayer would not be happy with a tax increase. But we have to make a conscious decision whether or

See **HOBOKEN** — Page 5

Esthetics add to S&L economic difficulties

J.J. 4-6-90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A stop work order was slapped on Elysian Federal Savings Bank in Hoboken yesterday after city officials objected to the new facade being put on the four-story building.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli requested the stop order because he objected to the pebble stucco that construction workers were applying to the structure at 401-403 Washington St.

"I have asked for a stop work (order) until I can review the work permits," Pasculli said.

"I don't believe that the exterior of the building is at all sensitive to this community or does anything to preserve its architecture," Pasculli said.

Carmine Perullo, bank vice president, said that the bank officials wanted to spruce up the building to sell it.

He said that he had to work within a budget.

Perullo said he found it interesting that the very person who okayed the construction work — building inspector Alfred Arrezo — ordered the work stopped yesterday.

"This guy must be just a clerk," Perullo said.

Perullo and Kathleen Rotondo, executive vice president, said they couldn't understand why no one objected to the work until it was nearly completed.

City Councilman David Roberts and John DePalma, a member of the Hoboken Historical Museum, agreed that the incident shows the city should have all exterior work approved by the Historical Commission to prevent the same scenario happening again.

Roberts and DePalma were to meet with Perullo. However, after the bank received the stop work order last night, Perullo said he would refer the matter to the bank's attorneys.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"I think the straw that broke the camel's back was this lucrative contract," Roberts said. "I am certainly not opposed to educating inner-city schoolchildren, but at what cost?"

Roberts said he believes the board and the teachers union should renegotiate the contract based on what he called the "economic crisis" the city is facing.

"I would hope they would go back to the bargaining table even though they're not obligated to," Roberts said. "These are not the times to be giving out such lucrative contracts. Are the

teachers prepared to push the city to the brink of bankruptcy?"

Kenneth Johnson, a member of the Hoboken Teachers Association executive committee, said the contract is not the problem.

"This system is progressing because of the efforts of the teachers, the administrators, the board and the parents," Johnson said. "The state cut in funding is a disaster, and any reduction in staff would be a disaster."

If the public does not approve the budget April 24, Pasculli has said the district may have to cut its administrative staff, but he has rejected the notion of teacher layoffs.

Hoboken school budget likely to up tax rate

Continued from Page 1

not to fund education or withdraw resources that the school superintendent believes is necessary to continue the improvements and establish the school district at Level I," Pasculli said.

The mayor also said that if school funding doesn't improve, there may have to be a school closing and elimination of administrators.

"We have to find a compromise between an acceptable tax rate and providing resources to improve the system. Obviously, a \$5 million reduc-

tion would literally dismantle the system," Pasculli said.

City Council members Thomas Newman, Joseph Della Fave and Steve Cappiello said that they are bothered by what they described as a lucrative contract for teachers approved during a budget crisis.

But Pasculli described the contract as "fair" and said it "recognizes the professionals" in the system.

"I think it was very foolish of them to negotiate that contract without knowing the (funding) situation."

"Now if we cut anything

significant out of the school budget, it is going to be layoffs, the mayor said.

"We are up against a big tax hike or layoffs," Newman said.

Traditionally, voters reject the budget — the vote this year is April 24.

The City Council has reduced the school budget in the last several years, but the state has historically restored the money at the local school board's request.

While City Councilman Richard Del Boccio, a public school teacher, noted that the board had consented to a

\$400,000 cut last year, he acknowledged that that amount had only slightly affected the tax rate.

Newman and Della Fave believe that Pasculli is the key this year to reducing school spending because of his influence over the Board of Education.

Newman also suggests that residents vote in the April 24 election for school candidates not supported by Pasculli.

"The mayor is the key person because he can exert the influence he has with the majority of the board. He has a strong influence and could per-

sue them to cut their spending if he wished to. I don't believe that will happen," Della Fave said.

When asked if he were prepared to cut spending, James Farina, vice president of the Board of Education and a personal friend of Pasculli and his political ally, replied "Cut? Where? Where? Where? You tell me."

"Our job is to educate. Sometimes you have to swallow a bitter political pill," Farina said.

"A lot of children have no one to represent them," he added.

Hoboken officials seeking \$5M payback from Parking Authority

J.J. 4/11/90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

While Hoboken taxpayers carried the costs of building two large parking garages nearly two decades ago, city officials believe that the Parking Authority should now start sharing its profits.

Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said that the city shelled out about \$5 million during the 1970s to cover the interest on the bonds to build the garages at Hudson Street.

Now that the city is in a budget crisis, Goldsack is recommending that Mayor Patrick Pasculli go after that money.

Although Pasculli has

asked the Law Department to research whether the city can recover any of the money, the mayor is doubtful.

If the memory of Business Administrator Edwin Chius is correct, the Parking Authority is not only not obligated but is prohibited from giving the city the money.

"I think it's about \$3 million. The Parking Authority is not obligated and may not be permitted legally to give us (money) if they wanted to," Chius said.

"They are not obligated. We checked that out in 1984 with Cappiello," said Chius. Third Ward Councilman Steve Cappiello served 12 years as

mayor, ending in 1985.

Pasculli, however, wants to ask the Parking Authority to begin paying for an in-lieu-of-tax payment for the two garages which are located close to the waterfront near the PATH station.

"Now that the Parking Authority is presently very solvent there is a possibility they can be a revenue contributor to the city," Pasculli said.

"I will discuss with the executive director and the Parking Authority chairman the possibility of a regular stream of revenue to the community that we can comfortably anticipate each year," the mayor said.

Fischer, controversial Riverview Cable exec, is leaving

By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

Joseph Fischer, the general manager of Riverview Cablevision and one of the prime combatants in North Hudson's on-going cable scrambling wars, is leaving his post, the Hoboken-based company announced yesterday.

Fischer, who masterminded the company's massive \$8 million system-upgrade and its signal scrambling plan, will become the chief executive officer of Belmar's Monmouth Cablevision, an affiliated company, said Robert Smith, a company spokesman.

Smith said the move was planned long before the scrambling plan became the target of widespread anger in the five North Hudson communities serviced by Riverview.

"The decision was made for Joe to make the move before there was a controversy," Smith said. "The delay has been in finding a suitable replacement."

Despite the uproar of recent months, Fischer said he had "genuinely enjoyed working in Hudson County" for the past three and-a-half years. "It is a shame that my final

relationship with these officials has been somewhat adversarial," he said of the scrambling fight.

Riverview's new general manager is Gregory Arnold, who has been the executive director of marketing for a Paramus cable company.

The scrambling plan was scheduled to begin on April 2, but was halted by the state Board of Public Utilities, which said it wanted to hold hearings on the complex issue. The first hearing is scheduled for next week.

Fischer will participate in the hearings until the contro-

versy is resolved one way or another, Smith said.

"I still think the whole issue got magnified far beyond the number of people impacted," Fischer said in retrospect. "And I guess I will have to explain that one more time to the board."

Riverview contends it must scramble the signal to prevent rampant cable theft, but North Hudson residents are furious because the plan will render their expensive cable-ready televisions useless. The issue has been the focus of several raucous hearings in the affected municipalities.

Riverview officials said they are confident the board will eventually allow them to start scrambling.

West New York Mayor Anthony M. DeFino, one of Fischer's harshest critics, said he did not believe the change would have any effect on the town's on-going fight with Riverview.

"It's not going to mean an end to our problems," he said. DeFino has described Fischer as "arrogant" towards his Hudson County customers.

In what DeFino termed a "belated effort at P.R.," Fischer and Arnold made the

rounds of North Hudson town and city halls yesterday, giving the out-going general manager a chance to introduce his replacement.

Smith said Monmouth and Riverview have several joint shareholders. He said Monmouth is a larger system than Riverview and is also in the midst of an upgrade.

Riverview serves West New York, Hoboken, North Bergen, Union City and Weehawken. North Bergen filed the original suit with the BPU to halt scrambling, and has since been joined by Hoboken, West New York and Weehawken.

School budget to up taxes

Continued from Page 1

fensive about the budget and blamed any tax increase on state cuts in school aid.

In a surprise move, Trustee Claire DePalma, whom Mayor Patrick Pasculli endorsed as a candidate last year, voted against the budget and sided with the opposition, Otto Hottendorf. Felix Rivera was absent. Pasculli is a public school teacher.

Hottendorf recommends closing a school and has been a harsh critic of school spending and the budget, particularly the teachers' contract.

Asked why she voted against the budget, DePalma said the district has "too many buildings and the duplication of services in grammar schools."

DePalma, who supported hefty raises for teachers, said at least one of the six elementary schools should be closed. The board should create two early childhood education schools and three middle schools, she said.

"When you have 14 or 15 (students) in a classroom, it is a signal that something has to be done," DePalma said.

Calabro School teachers

and parents want the board to move Calabro into David E. Rue School, which the board closed two years ago.

Rue is much larger than Calabro and could absorb more students, said DePalma. While there are six schools open, excluding Rue, DePalma said only five should be.

Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, seeking re-election on the mayor's ticket, said the board is "looking at closing a building and consolidating schools."

Ironically, Trustee Perry Belfiore, who two years ago offered the resolution that closed Rue, said he cannot support another closing because closing Rue has not saved or made money.

A trustee who asked not to be identified told The Jersey Journal that Brandt School is being discussed as the one to close. "It's a done deal," the trustee said.

Residents will vote on the school budget April 24. If rejected, it will go to the City Council for cuts. Third Ward Councilman Steve Cappiello, who attended the hearing, agreed with the idea of closing a school.

Maxwell House getting \$70G job-training grant

TRENTON — Sen. Christopher J. Jackman of West New York yesterday announced that the Maxwell House Coffee Co. was receiving a \$70,000 state grant for a job-training program designed to keep its Hoboken plant open.

"This grant is important for the entire region because it could mean the difference between keeping the plant open or having it shut down," Jackman said.

He explained the grant from the State Department

of Labor's Office of Customized Training will fund a program for 30 workers to be trained in high technology procedures.

Maxwell House officials have made it clear that they plan to shut down either its plant in Hoboken or another facility in Jacksonville, Fla.

The company said it will decide on which plant to keep open depending on which facility can devise the most effective cost-saving procedures.

Closings loom large at school budget talks

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Increased tax rate casts a shadow

The prospect of school closings was in the offing at a public hearing last night as Hoboken school trustees discussed the budget and the problems that will increase the cost of education for local taxpayers.

The proposed \$32 million budget, which adds \$5 million to be raised through property taxes, was dispassionately discussed. Increased spending

and state aid cutbacks would account for the \$5 million.

That would increase from \$18 million to \$23 million the amount to be raised through local property taxes, increasing the existing rate of \$17.52 by \$3 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, said Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Two homeowners, who said they had never attended Board

of Education meetings, booed those speaking in favor of the budget.

They didn't address the hearing and didn't want to give their names, but said their incomes were not increasing at the rate taxes were going up.

They applauded Jonathan Gordon, a school board candidate, for recommending the board reopen negotiations with

teachers and reduce raises from 12 to five percent.

Margaret O'Brien, a parent, spoke against the contract giving 344 teachers more than 30 percent raises. The pact will cost about \$5 million.

The half-dozen speakers who addressed the 1990-91 budget had vested interests either as school board candidates or representatives of the teachers' union.

School trustees were de-

See SCHOOL — Page 3

Hoboken school budget spells 20% tax hike

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — City residents are expected to turn out in force at 7 tonight for a hearing at Wallace School on a proposed \$32 million school budget for next year that would raise the local tax rate by close to 20 percent.

While next year's school budget would rise by only about \$2 million, the amount to be raised by local taxation to fund the spending plan would climb by more than \$5 million.

The current property tax rate here is \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value. More than \$3 would have to be added to the rate to cover next year's proposed school budget.

The hefty tax increase is necessary to offset a dramatic cutback in state funding. This year, the Board of Education received \$3.9 million in state aid, but can count on only \$2.6 million from the state next year.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he is concerned about the possibility of a tax boost, but is equally committed to seeing the school system get the money it needs to keep making progress.

"Certainly, no one wants a tax increase," Pasculli said. "But I am not going to abandon the schoolchildren of this city because it's politically fashionable to bash the school budget."

Pasculli said the state is to blame for the looming tax increase.

"The real issue is the state's deep

"Certainly, no one wants a tax increase. But I am not going to abandon the schoolchildren of this city because it's politically fashionable to bash the school budget."

MAYOR PATRICK PASCULLI

funding cuts," he said.

But others believe that the recently negotiated three-year teachers contract — which gives school employees 10 percent salary raises in each year of the pact — has pushed the budget higher than necessary.

Next year's budget contains \$5 million to cover most of this year's new money plus all of next year's salary increases.

Jonathan Gordon, who is running for the school board in the April 24 election, said yesterday he thinks the panel should renegotiate the contract now that the state funding picture is clear.

"I think it's an irresponsible contract that's going to mean a big tax increase," Gordon said. "The board rushed into a new contract that gives raises that are

twice the inflation rate without waiting to see what the funding would be."

Pasculli said if the voters don't approve the budget on April 24, the board may have to consider eliminating some jobs.

"I will not support reduction in instructional staff," Pasculli said. "But there may be administrative jobs that could be consolidated."

Pasculli also raised the possibility of closing a school to save on operating costs.

"We have buildings that were built to house 1,000 students that are only holding 350," Pasculli said. "We wouldn't be managing properly if we didn't look at making savings there."

Hoboken show: 'Perils of Pedestrians'

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

How does a pedestrian cross Hudson Place at the PATH in Hoboken? With a New York attitude.

Observe the young man wearing a beret and carrying a paperback book. He has no trouble getting across the hectic intersection at the height of the 5 o'clock rush hour.

"It's easy (to cross) if you ignore the cars. I just walk and if they don't stop — hey it's their problem," he explained.

That attitude is the secret to Hobokenite James Keegan's easy crossing.

Little traffic control at city's transportation hub

"I don't care, if they hit me, they hit me. I got insurance," said Keegan as he hopped onto a Big Apple bus headed toward Manhattan yesterday.

A man in a trench coat and carrying a striped umbrella said, "It's easy, you just have to step out there."

There is also the safety in numbers factor. Just about every eight minutes, a PATH train unloads hundreds of commuters who become a sea of people scurrying across the southern threshold of the Mile Square City.

The man with the cane has no trouble keeping step with the young fellows wearing Walkmans or with businessmen carrying attache cases and women with large canvas bags. They cross quickly and diligently, holding buses, taxis and cars at bay.

"It is difficult at that corner," said a young woman pointing to the intersection of Hudson Place and River Street. "You gotta act like it's New York," she said.

It is at the PATH terminal, across the street from Schaefer's, at the hub

of the transportation center — where trains, cars and buses all come together — which city officials envision as the entrance to its half-billion-dollar waterfront development.

Attempting to deal with the traffic issue now, before development, Mayor Patrick Pasculli asked the Police Department to study the traffic pattern at the busy square and make changes if needed.

Police Lt. John Aiello, commander of traffic and transportation, studied the issue with the city's traffic

engineer and private traffic consultants. They recommended to the state Department of Transportation that the thoroughfare, which ends at the restored railroad terminal, be made a one-way street to ease the congestion.

The non-functional street light that hung over Hudson Place and River Street was removed, Aiello said. He said the city has a request before the state DOT to install a blinking traffic light — yellow — with a button for pedestrians to stop traffic upon demand.

With the state's approval, the two way traffic was changed to a one-way

See PEDESTRIANS — Page 6

Pedestrians in peril in Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

pattern last fall. The city is awaiting state approval to install the pedestrian traffic light.

"We, city planners and Department of Transportation, believe it is far more safe to cross one-way traffic than two-way traffic," Pasculli said.

"This manages both vehicular and pedestrian movement to a greater degree of safety," he said.

But to Aiello's surprise, the mayor received a very critical letter from a pedestrian, Kaki Kozielek, a Park Avenue resident. She questioned the city's concern at all for pedestrians because now there is no traffic signal whatsoever at the PATH and nearby intersections, specifically at Newark and Hudson streets.

"Are you waiting for a good time to put up working traffic

lights, or do you think pedestrians are hearty and can fend for themselves," Kozielek wrote to the mayor.

She related a scene during the morning rush hour in which she was nearly hit by a jeep which did not slow down at the cross walk.

"Of course, this driver technically had no reason to slow down as there is no traffic control device at the corner of Newark and Hudson, just as there are no traffic control devices at most intersections in the City of Hoboken," she wrote.

"Since Hoboken drivers do not think it is their responsibility to act with caution while behind the wheels of a 2,000 pound moving vehicle, then obviously it is time for drastic babysitting measures," she wrote.

Aiello was at the least

dumbfounded. "I felt offended," the lieutenant said yesterday. "I thought I was doing the right thing," Pasculli is confident about the changes.

However, the mayor noted that he has extended the hours of the traffic cops during rush hours in response to the complaint.

Kozielek, 27, yesterday said that the one-way traffic has actually made it more dangerous for foot traffic because cars now can whip quickly through the square. Before, gridlock and congestion were sure-shot promises that pedestrians had a fighting chance.

"The mentality in the morning is cars versus pedestrians. It is like might makes right," she said. "It seems worse now than before."

"I always hope I have a crowd I can latch on to," said Kozielek.

Seven candidates seek seats on Hoboken's school board

Continued from Page 1

spondent for El Diario. Now retired, he runs a volunteer food program with the Newark archdiocese and has six children who attended the Hoboken public schools.

Jonathan Gordon, 36, of 1015 Washington St., is a computer software executive in Manhattan and the president of the Canterbury Courts Association, a condo owners association.

He served in the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine corps as an engineering officer. He is not married and has never held elected office.

Geraldine Pantoliano, 46, of 617 Park Ave., is the only elected incumbent in the race. A mother of three children who attend Hoboken public schools, she is running on the slogan "Progress in education."

She worked for the Headstart program for 10 years before being hired by the city in January in the rent control office. On the Board of Education, she is chairman of the school programs committee, a member of the building, grounds and fields committee and also serves on the education, planning and evaluation

committee.

Carmine Pietropaolo, 44, of 526 Jefferson St., went through the Hoboken public school system. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, having been on active duty in Vietnam from 1976 to 1978.

Pietropaolo, who is not married, has never been elected to public office. He has coached for youth baseball leagues and is the former manager of West Side Wine and Liquors.

Joseph Santiago, 33, of 915 Clinton St. is running as an independent for a three-year term. Married with two pre-school children.

See SEVEN — Page 4

Time runs out for burner foes

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With the public comment period ending today, opponents of a proposed hi-tech sludge incinerator say they hope they've given the state enough information to block the project.

If they haven't, they hope the state will give them more time to do so.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has marked today as the last day it will accept technical information about why it shouldn't issue an air-quality permit for the gasification incinerator, which is slated to be built here.

The Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority — the local agency in charge of upgrading the city's sewage treatment plant — sent the DEP an engineer's report detailing problems with the gasifier's design that could cause damage to the local environment.

But Abraham Antun, a tri-city commissioner, is not convinced the report will not be enough to halt construction of the plant.

The DEP maintains that once the air-quality permit is granted, work on the facility must begin.

"The report showed there are some deficiencies in the design that, if not corrected, will prevent the plant from meeting air-quality standards," Antun said. "But I'm not overly optimistic that the DEP is going to react to that."

Without a further delay from the DEP, the tri-city authority may have to use legal and political maneuvers to keep the plant from being built, Antun said.

He said the authority is still considering using an alternate method of sludge disposal at the plant, with or without the \$30 million in federal funds that have been earmarked for the project.

The DEP and federal Environmental Protection Agency have both warned the tri-city authority that the federal grant will be

yanked if the gasifier is not built once the air-quality permit is issued.

"The choice may be the gasifier or the grant," Antun said. "I'm hoping it doesn't come to that."

Meanwhile, local environmentalists have been busy gathering information they claim proves the gasifier would pollute the air.

Unfortunately, they claim they have not been able to get crucial documents, and are asking the DEP for more time to prepare their case.

Susan O'Kane, a member of the Hoboken Environment Committee, said yesterday she requested an environmental impact statement about the burner's potential effect on air quality in Hudson County. So far, no one has been able to provide this information.

"We just feel the air here is bad enough as it is," O'Kane said. "It's unbelievable if there has been no environmental impact statement about what the emissions from that plant would add to the air. We think it is going to have a very significant impact."

Frank Raia withdraws his candidacy from school race

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Frank Raia, a former Hoboken councilman, has withdrawn as a candidate for the Board of Education.

Raia, a commissioner on the Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewerage Authority, withdrew his candidacy last night, reported Anthony Curko, secretary of the Board of Education.

Raia, who could not be reached for comment, was seeking a three-year term in a field of eight candidates. He was running as an independent.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who Raia supported during the

mayoral election last May, put together a school board ticket which excluded the former councilman.

Raia was appointed to the City Council two years ago when Pasculli, then council president, was appointed mayor following the sudden death of the late Mayor Thomas Vezetti.

Pasculli is running School Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, seeking her second three-year term; Perry Belfiore, appointed in January; and Angel Aliecia, Jr., a Hudson County police lieutenant. For the one-year seat, Pasculli is endorsing Ed Garcia, a police lieutenant with the Hoboken Police Department.

Earlier this week, two independents, Michael Korman and Jonathan Gordon joined forces to run as a team. Korman, a former Community Development Agency employee, and Gordon, a computer expert with a background in finance, favor cutting the budget.

Gordon is seeking a three-year term and Korman is running for the one-year seat.

Annie Cerbo, a Fourth Ward resident, who works for the city's recreation department, is running as an independent for a one-year term. The other candidates for three-year terms are Jerry Forman, former director of welfare; Jose Santiago; and Carmine Pietropaolo.

Hoboken cops net 13 in cocaine ring

By ROBYN PFORR
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Police arrested 10 men and three juveniles, including a 13-year-old boy, involved in a cocaine dealing ring run by two Hudson County brothers, authorities said yesterday.

Police said the alleged ringleaders, Johnny "Red" Aviles and Johnnie "Monnie" Aviles, used at least 13 runners — stationed on street corners and in the hallways of the city's housing projects — to set up the drug deals.

Drug pushers prefer juvenile drug-runners, known as "bottle babies," because they receive light sentences if convicted, said Sgt. Sonny DiVincent, who headed the five-week undercover

investigation that busted the alleged ring.

"We just got the tip of the iceberg," DiVincent said. "There are so many kids down there dealing drugs. They get about \$200 a day, \$3 for every vial they sell. Down in the projects, they call the runners 24-7, 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Police arrested the Aviles brothers last Friday night, minutes before police raided the brothers' two apartments, located on the 500 block of Marshall Drive here and the 200 block of 75th Street in North Bergen.

Police confiscated 35 vials of cocaine in the North Bergen apartment and hundreds of plastic vials used for cocaine packaging at the Hoboken apartment.

Arrested on 12 drug charges, including two counts of employing a juvenile in a narcotics scheme, Johnny Aviles, 21, faces a minimum of 30 years in jail. He is being held in the county jail in Jersey City on \$20,000 cash bail.

Johnnie Aviles, also 21, was arrested on four drug charges, two counts each of selling drugs to an undercover agent and selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school. He is being held on \$4,000 cash bail.

Along with the Aviles brothers, police arrested 11 alleged drug-runners — eight men and three juveniles — in the past four days.

Police have warrants for the arrest of two more runners: a 25-year-old resident of the 500 block of Marshall Drive and a

17-year-old Jersey City boy, police said.

Arrested for the sale of cocaine to an undercover agent and the sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school were Richard Lopez, 18, of the 600 block of Sixth Street; Raymond Latimer, 27, 500 block of Marshall Drive; George Morales, 23, 700 block of Clinton Street; Darryl Oliver, 18, 300 block of Marshall Drive; Ronald Ladson, 25, 300 block of Jackson Street; and Edwin Santos, 26, of the first block of Willow Avenue.

Lopez is being held on \$1,000 cash bond; Latimer, Morales, Oliver, Ladson and Santos are being held on \$2,000 cash bond.

Jorge Velez, 22, of the 300 block of Jackson Street, was arrested on four

drug charges. He is being held on \$4,000 bond.

Police said they found six vials of cocaine on Joseph Crandell, 23, of the 500 block of Jackson Street, who was arrested on Sunday on five charges: sale of cocaine, sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of cocaine, possession with intent to distribute and possession with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school.

A 17-year-old boy, of the 200 block of Madison Street, is being detained in the county Youth House in Secaucus on two drug charges, police said. Officers found \$500 cash in small bills on him, police said.

Two other juveniles were arrested and released in the custody of their parents.

Builders sought for riverfront

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Despite general skepticism toward a lagging real estate market, Hoboken and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are aggressively wooing developers to build on the city's waterfront.

Requests for proposals were placed this week in New Jersey newspapers, including The Jersey Journal, in The New York Times and in such international newspapers as the Financial Times, the Herald Tribune, and The Wall Street Journal's Asian edition.

"We have placed ads in newspapers as a promotional tool to keep no stone unturned to make sure the project is widely promoted and advertised," said Michael Kreiger, assigned by the P.A. as manager of waterfront development.

Still, some, including a city official, question whether a market will exist for a project as large as the one the city and P.A. plan at the city's southern end.

"People are nervous things are turning sour and doing this quality project, we are able to illustrate that this whole area is still a place to invest," Kreiger said.

If developers respond to the request for proposals by Aug. 9, the city gets an automatic \$5 million from the P.A., said Mayor Patrick Pasculi. That money as well as another \$3 million already guaranteed from the P.A. will be used to offset municipal spending, he said.

Last month, the city and the bistate agency contacted about 600 firms asking them to express their interest in building on the city's waterfront. The two entities want to build 3.5 million square feet of offices, businesses, residential units and a marina.

The advertisement this week calls for proposals to build 500 market-rate apartments, cooperatives or condominiums on two parcels of land at Third and Fourth streets at River Street.

Of the 600 firms already contacted by the city, about 100 are interested in developing those two parcels, Kreiger said.

While he is pleased with the interest, both he and Peggy Thomas, chairman of the Hoboken Waterfront Development Corporation, appointed by the mayor, are realistic about the flat market.

"Developers recognize that they are participating in a competitive process to have a role in a portion of a major development with the reality that the actual sale of the units or leasing is not in today's market but

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

Hoboken gives up

Bank wins fight for new look

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The city has abandoned efforts to keep the Elysian Federal Savings Bank from switching to a new look that neighbors and officials find offensive.

Workers hired to restore the building's four-story facade were back on the job yesterday, after the city's Building Department vacated a stop-work order issued last week.

"We checked the building for any structural damage that might prevent them from continuing the job," said Chief Building Inspector Al Arezzo. "It's strictly cosmetic work, and they're within their rights to do it."

Numerous officials, as well as retailers along Washington Street, complained angrily about the changing face of the building.

The upper floors of the thrift — located at 401 Washington St. — are being transformed from red brick to gray stucco, and the ground floor from wood paneling

to pebbles embedded in sand. Elysian executives declined to comment on the facelift yesterday. Mary Edwards, an attorney for the thrift, said only that work was progressing as planned.

Elysian is under control of federal regulators, who seized the failing thrift in February 1989. It is scheduled to be auctioned off along with about 100 other savings and loan institutions in Atlanta on May 31.

Those who reacted angrily to the thrift's new facade last week appeared resigned to the change yesterday.

"Legally they're fine," said Terry Castellano, a Hoboken Historic District commissioner. "I guess they just want to spruce up and get out, but they're leaving this community with an eyesore."

Castellano said Elysian doesn't have to meet any historic district standards since it sits just north of the district, which runs from Observer Highway to Fourth Street and from Washington Street east to the Hudson River.

"They said they would have worked with us if they knew what our concerns were," Castellano said. "But by the time we told them, it was too late."

Councilman David Roberts, another person put off by the bank's new look, said something productive may have come out of the whole brouhaha.

Roberts said he will ask the City Council to informally expand the boundaries of the historic district from Fourth to 14th streets and west from Washington Street to Willow Avenue.

A subcommittee of the historic commission would then be set up to review all plans for exterior work on buildings in the zone and to make non-binding recommendations to property owners.

"This is the third time this has happened to me — where someone has said they would have cooperated if they'd been asked," Roberts said. "If we set up this subcommittee, we could at least give property owners the benefit of hearing the city's position on changes before they are made."

Last city-owned piece

Hoboken approves sale of waterfront property

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — In a move of officials hope will spur development and bring in some much-needed revenue, the City Council last night voted to sell the last piece of city-owned waterfront property.

By a 7-2 margin, the council approved a resolution to put the former Todd Shipyard site — a mostly underwater parcel at the northern end of the city — on the auction block May 11.

Saying the city will not get the best return for the property in a slumping real estate market, Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman dissented.

"We all want to move development on the northern

waterfront," Newman said. "But this is not the time to put the Todd Shipyard on the market."

Before the council took its vote, Mayor Patrick Pasculi said that the city is selling the property to ease a looming budget crunch is irrelevant.

"At this point in time, that piece of property is serving no benefit to the community whatsoever," Pasculi said. "It's time to move on it, budget crisis or no budget crisis."

Pasculi said the roughly 30-acre parcel — only about one acre of which is upland — is the key to development along the northern waterfront, since it lies adjacent to the vast holdings of developer Anthony Dell'Aquila.

By selling its property, which forms a natural cove, the

city may force Dell'Aquila to either develop or sell his tract, Pasculi said.

Dell'Aquila, faced with an array of financial and legal problems, has been stymied in his efforts to do anything with his property. In addition, he owes the city close to \$500,000 in property taxes.

Della Fave agreed the Todd Shipyard site is a key piece of the waterfront puzzle and said that is why he does not support selling it.

"This one piece of property is not holding up the development process," Della Fave said.

Joel Freiser, the former Zoning Board of Adjustment chairman, told the council that selling the property would not be in the city's best interest.

But Councilmen Richard Eng-



PATRICK PASCULI
Parcel doesn't serve community

land, David Roberts and E. Norman Wilson all said the city's planning consultants said auctioning the property was not a mistake.

The three councilmen also said they did not favor using revenue from the sale for short-term solutions to this year's impending budget problems, but would rather see the money go to long-term capital improvement projects.

Last month, the city and the bistate agency contacted about 600 firms asking them to express their interest in building on the city's waterfront. The two entities want to build 3.5 million square feet of offices, businesses, residential units and a marina.

The advertisement this week calls for proposals to build 500 market-rate apartments, cooperatives or condominiums on two parcels of land at Third and Fourth streets at River Street.

Of the 600 firms already contacted by the city, about 100 are interested in developing those two parcels, Kreiger said.

While he is pleased with the interest, both he and Peggy Thomas, chairman of the Hoboken Waterfront Development Corporation, appointed by the mayor, are realistic about the flat market.

"Developers recognize that they are participating in a competitive process to have a role in a portion of a major development with the reality that the actual sale of the units or leasing is not in today's market but

Attorneys for the communities will present testimony from experts at the next hearing, scheduled for April 24. Later that week, Riverview will present its side of the controversy.

Weiner said he hopes to wrap up the hearings and make a decision by the end of April, the same timetable set by the board when it originally halted scrambling.

Scramble ban may hike rates

By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

Riverview Cablevision customers will be socked with a \$3 monthly rate increase if the Hoboken-based company is prevented from scrambling its signal, a company executive said yesterday.

As hearings on Riverview's scrambling plan began in Newark, Joseph Fischer, Riverview's former general manager, explained what action the company will take if the state Board of Public Utilities prohibits scrambling.

"It is not what we desire to do, but it is a reality," Fischer said of the company's contingency plan for an across-the-board \$3 rate increase for all of its 37,000 viewers.

"We don't think raising rates is the way to go — we would rather go after thieves," Fischer added.

He said scrambling would save Riverview money by eliminating cable theft, but if the BPU rules against it, then the company will cover the losses by raising rates for everyone.

"Eighty-five percent of the

people will now be penalized" for the actions of cable thieves, he said. The disclosure was not part of yesterday's BPU session, which focused on the effect scrambling would have on viewers in the five North Hudson communities serviced by Riverview.

An injunction by the BPU that stopped Riverview from scrambling last month was challenged in state and federal courts. A federal judge ruled last month that he would reserve taking action until after

See SCRAMBLING — Page 4

Scrambling ban may increase subscriber fees

Continued from Page 1

the BPU hearings are completed.

The company had requested a waiver of regulations forcing it to give customers a 30-day notice of any rate increase. That request was flatly rejected by BPU President Scott A. Weiner.

Fischer said the company did not want to inflame its already tense relationship with viewers by announcing a rate increase now. However, because a 30-day notice is necessary, the company may soon inform viewers that the BPU's decision could spark the increase, he said.

Basic cable service from Riverview now costs \$17.95, al-

though many customers pay more to have additional "premium" channels. If Riverview does scramble, viewers who want a hand-held remote control will be forced to rent one from the company for \$1.95.

At yesterday's hearing in the BPU's Newark offices, several North Hudson residents explained how the many small inconveniences of scrambling could add up to a major hassle.

"When I hook up the box, I won't be able to use my remote control," said Frederick J. Theemling Jr., of Weehawken. He said the original convenience of cable television may soon be outweighed by the rising costs of service.

"It is getting to the point where I might as well use the regular T.V. and drop cable," he said.

Other witnesses described how scrambling may force them to use two remote controls simultaneously, and how it may make some expensive cable-ready televisions obsolete.

"My wife has a little difficulty because it is so confusing," said Anthony Kazakeris, of North Bergen. "She just gave up on it."

"The BPU ruled last month that it has jurisdiction over the matter and halted the scrambling plan — which was scheduled to begin on April 1 — until further hearings could be held. The original petition with

the board was filed by North Bergen, which has since been joined by West New York, Hoboken and Weehawken. Union City is the only North Hudson municipality served by Riverview which has not taken legal action against the company.

Attorneys for the communities will present testimony from experts at the next hearing, scheduled for April 24. Later that week, Riverview will present its side of the controversy.

Weiner said he hopes to wrap up the hearings and make a decision by the end of April, the same timetable set by the board when it originally halted scrambling.

Voters to decide on asbestos

Continued from Page 1

Mayor Patrick Pasculi backs changing the Board of Education from an elected body to one appointed by the mayor.

Voters rejected this referendum question by a 2-1 margin during last November's gubernatorial election.

The Board of Education, politically aligned with the mayor, is reintroducing the question because they claim the public was not given a good reason to support the measure.

The public question was widely supported in the Fourth Ward, where public housing is concentrated.

Pasculi, a public school teacher on an extended leave of absence, wants an appointed school board to allow him more control over the budget and spending.

The proposed budget, supported by school trustee members aligned with the mayor, will add \$3 to the existing tax rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The Board of Education is also asking for a \$556,945 bond to improve or install elevators at the Hoboken High School, and the Kealey, Calabro, Rue, Wallace and Brandt schools.

Pasculi is backing a slate of candidates including Police Sgt. Ed Garcia for a one-year term; incumbent Geraldine Pantoliano, seeking a second term; Peter "Perry" Belfiore, whom Pasculi appointed as trustee in January; and Hudson County Police Lt. Angel Alicea Jr.

Councilmen Joseph Della

Fave, who opposed Pasculi in last May's mayoral election, and Thomas Newman have endorsed Michael Korman, a former employee of the Office of Community Development, and Jonathan Gordon, who has a background in finance and computers.

Also seeking election are Anne Cerbo, Carmine Pietro, Jerry Porman and Joseph Santiago.

Voters to decide on removal of school asbestos

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education is asking for \$1.1 million to remove asbestos from the six grammar schools and the high school after the material was found in fallen ceiling tiles.

The money for the bond request will be decided by voters in next Tuesday's Board of Education election.

Asbestos, a known carcinogen, has been found in six grammar schools including David E. Rue, Joseph F. Brandt, Daniel S. Kealey, A.J. Demarest, Wallace, and Thomas J. Connors; and in the JFK Field House.

The material, used for insulation three decades ago, has been found in the schools around pipe wrappings, in boiler rooms and in the tiles of ceilings, explained school trustee Claire DePalma.

"Most of it is not hazardous,

unless it starts to peel and break away. Then it has to be taken away," DePalma said.

The Hoboken High School was closed several times last year after the roof leaked, causing tiles containing asbestos to fall from the ceilings. DePalma said the incident was a serious threat to the students and school personnel.

The Board of Education is seeking to bring all the buildings up to state code levels, she said.

Polls will open at 2 p.m. and close at 9 p.m. Residents will be electing one candidate to a one-year term and three candidates to three-year terms.

In addition to voting on the proposed \$32 million budget, which will increase the amount to be raised through local taxation by \$5 million, residents will be asked if they want an elected or appointed board of Education.

See VOTERS — Page 7

Ten candidates seek four trusteeships on Board of Education

Hoboken's electorate will decide the issue a week from tomorrow

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Ten candidates are vying for four seats on the Hoboken Board of Education in the April 24 election.

The field includes a four-candidate slate supported by Mayor Patrick Pasculi and a team of two independents.

Former City Councilman Frank Raia, a member of the Hoboken-Weehawken-Union City Sewage Authority, dropped out of the school board race last week.

The mayor is backing a slate that includes trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, seeking re-election to a second three-year term; trustee Perry Belfiore, appointed in January and running now for a three-year seat; Angel Alicea, Jr., and Ed Garcia.

Independent candidate Mi-

chael Korman, a former employee of the Office of Community Development, is running for a one-year seat as a team with Jonathan Gordon, who is seeking a three-year term.

Here are brief descriptions of the candidates seeking one-year terms.

• Anne Cerbo, 40, of 423 Jackson St., is a former member of the Rent Levelling and Stabilization Board who's employed by the city as the recreation sports coordinator. Married and a parent of two boys in the Hoboken public schools, Cerbo sits on the school district's advisory commission and is the chairman of the Parent, Teacher and Student Organization at the Kealey School. She has never held elected office.

• Garcia, 37, of 461 Second St., is a lieutenant in the Hoboken Police Department and the coordinator of DARE, a drug prevention program. Garcia is married and said his son at-

tends Our Lady of Grace because he and his wife are devout Roman Catholics.

Garcia is a volunteer coach for the Hoboken Little League and the Our Lady of Grace CYO.

• Korman, 27, of 1111 Wash-

ington St., attended Hoboken public schools and graduated from Hoboken High School. He is a former employee of the Office of Community Development laid off last fall because of funding cutbacks.

A member of the Hoboken Environment Committee, Korman attends Jersey City State College, where he is studying for a bachelor's degree in public administration. He is not married and has never held public office.

See SCHOOL — Page 4

Hoboken and the Port Authority beat the bushes for developers

Continued from Page 1

a couple years off," Kreiger said. "We are preparing for the next big demand."

But Business Administrator Edwin Chius and Hoboken realtor Mark Singleton are unsure whether the demand for 1,600 luxury waterfront apartments will ever come to Hoboken.

Chius noted that between 1975 and 1985 women joined the workforce and households began operating on two paychecks. "We can't have that market again," Chius said.

The new market for the waterfront units will be for the wealthy, Singleton said.

"If people think they are going to sell overnight, that is misleading. But I think they will eventually sell. It is hard to forecast because all these places (Jersey City and Weehawken) are trying to tap into a new market," Singleton said.

"That market would be the wealthy. Extremely wealthy people are willing to live in Manhattan but I am not sure they want to live in New Jersey," he said.

Response to the requests for proposals "will be the proof to see what the market will do," Thomas said. However, even in a bad market, both Thomas and Kreiger are confident that Ho-

boken's project will be successful because of its location and the Port Authority's financial backing.

"I am aware of the skepticism but I am confident because I think the site has enough attributes to sell in this market because of the preliminary market," Thomas said.

Chius and Singleton agree with the site's uniqueness.

Joseph Hottendorf, spokesman for the Hudson County Board of Realtors, and Eileen Cappock, who has a realty office in Hoboken, agree that Hoboken's waterfront development should thrive despite the flat market and the saturation of waterfront developments in Jersey City and Weehawken, where projects are still looking for buyers or tenants.

They point to Hoboken's fantastic view and its proximity to mass transit, specifically the train station and the PATH.

Still, Hottendorf is concerned that the P.A. "operates in a business sort of way, so (a developer) will be able to come in with the right price."

Critics of the P.A., such as Councilman Thomas Newman, believe the agency is slow-moving and costly, thus the price for development will be driven up by the authority's very involvement.

The size of the project being built by Hoboken "increases the risk. If the whole thing were on a smaller scale, more attractive and in character with the rest of the city, it would minimize the risk," Hine said.

"This represents the tired formula that has been tried up and down the waterfront, an office tower, marina and luxury housing. In Hoboken, we had the opportunity to do something unique and in character with the existing city and they really missed the boat," he said.

School board election will be conducted on April 24

Continued from Page 1

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tends Our Lady of Grace because he and his wife are devout Roman Catholics.

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See HOBOKEN — Page 4

Thievery big hit on cable

J.J. 4-19-90
By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

Freddie is a cable thief. For a few bucks, he will scale a utility pole and connect your television to the local cable system. It's a quick operation, and it provides hours of viewing enjoyment.

Freddie operates in one of the North Hudson communities served by Riverview Cablevision, the Hoboken-based com-

See ROBBERY — Page 6

Robbery is a big hit with cable TV viewers

Continued from Page 1

pany which says it must scramble its signal to stop rampant thievery. The plan was halted last month by the state Board of Public Utilities, which is holding hearings on the matter.

"I've made \$2,000 to \$2,500 in a year doing it," Freddie said yesterday in a telephone interview. "It takes me 15 minutes." Cable thievery is illegal — convicted offenders face a \$1,000 fine and up to six months in jail. But Freddie said the job is too simple to resist.

"Most of the time it's just a connection in the hallway of an apartment building. The company has a box with a lock on it, although the lock is usually ripped off already because everybody is stealing," he said.

For one or two-family houses, Freddie said an illegal hook-up usually means a trip up a utility pole. That's the hardest part.

"There is a little junction box on the top of the pole," Freddie said. "There are anywhere from five to 15 connections — at least half of them are empty. You just take any one you want and you screw your end on."

After that, Freddie said, he runs a line to the television set someone wants to

connect. "And that's it — you got cable," he said.

But Freddie said scrambling will not eliminate the extra cash he earns plugging people in. For a \$250 each, he said he can get converters that will unscramble the signal.

"It is only going to bring me more business," he said.

Robert Smith, Riverview spokesman, doubted that scrambling could be so easily circumvented.

"I don't know where they are going to get our code," he said of the secret computer number a converter must read to unscramble a transmission. He said it would be nearly impossible for Freddie or others to get hold of that number.

But Smith said that for the time being, at least, Freddie is a dramatic example of the type of cable thief with whom Riverview must contend. He estimated that 9,500 people are illegally receiving the signal.

"He is ripping us off now, and he will be ripping people off later," Smith said.

Not all cable thieves are as brash as Freddie. A Union City woman said her family pays for cable for one television and then illegally — but easily — connects it to two other sets in the house. "It is such a common thing," she said.

And a North Bergen man said residents have gone to the trouble of linking their cable systems via unused underground gas lines to avoid paying a monthly fee. "Nobody can see anything," he said of the trick.

The same man, who asked that his name not be used, said even Riverview technicians get in on the act. Smith confirmed the allegation. He said that for \$100, some technicians have hooked people up without telling the company.

With cable theft occurring in urban centers around the country, Smith said companies have put thieves into four different major categories. They are:

• The "Innocent" Thief: Someone who moves into a house or apartment, finds a cable hook-up in place, and uses it without paying. Also, adults whose children pirate the signal with their knowledge.

• The Regular Thief: Someone like Freddie who deliberately steals the signal for his or others' use.

• Dishonest Employees: Workers who pocket a little extra cash to connect people illegally.

• Disgruntled Former Employees: Former technicians who still know the company's secrets and make some quick cash plugging people in.

Non-citizens may be hired for Hudson census

Continued from Page 1

ing, Devine said. Meanwhile, Quintana said his office received special permission from Washington three weeks ago to hire non-citizens as canvassers.

Quintana said he explained the diverse ethnic makeup of his region, which

includes large Spanish-speaking segments in Union City and West New York and Portuguese-speaking communities in West Hudson as well as Asian and Asian Indian immigrants.

Without hiring non-citizens as canvassers, many households — especially those of re-

cent immigrants — might go uncounted because of cultural and language barriers, Quintana said.

Both district offices in Hudson County are expected to remain open until the fall. The bureau has established a toll-free phone number for information, 1-800-999-1990.

SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

software company, is single.

"In this election the big issues are the budget and the teachers' contract," Gordon said. "Certainly the state cutbacks in aid don't make it any easier, but the teachers' contract only makes the situation worse."

Gordon — who opposes the budget — suggested the contract be renegotiated, with the board offering employees a tax-deferred savings plan in exchange for givebacks on the raises.

Gordon also opposes the appointed board.

■ Joseph Santiago, 33, is an independent candidate seeking a three-year seat. Santiago, coordinator for hospital services at Meadowview Hospital in Secaucus, is married with two children.

Santiago said he is against the teacher's contract, which he believes has pushed the budget too high.

Santiago, who holds a state license to perform asbestos abatement, said cleaning the dangerous substance out of the city's schools would be one of his top priorities as a board member.

Santiago wants to see the board remain elected.

■ Jerry Forman and Carmine

Pietropaolo, both independents, are also seeking three-year board terms.

Casting their hats into the ring as candidates for the one-year term are:

■ Michael Korman, 27, a former city Community Development Agency employee who has teamed with Gordon. Korman, earning his bachelor's degree at Jersey City State College, is single.

Korman, like many of the candidates, was born and raised in the city.

"Since I'm a product of the system, I want to do what I can to help improve it," Korman said. "Overall, I think there needs to be a renewal of confidence in our schools."

Korman said he opposes the budget, which he links to both state aid cutbacks and the teachers' contract.

Korman is opposed to an appointed board.

■ Anne Cerbo, 40, is running as an independent. Cerbo, who works in the city's Recreation Department, is married and has two sons who attend public school.

"As a mother, I know what the problems are with the schools," Cerbo said. "And I know how they can be helped."

Cerbo said the board should fund after-school athletic programs for the city's grammar school students.

Cerbo termed the teachers' contract "ridiculous" and said she thinks the budget is much higher than necessary.

"I know I can't pay any more taxes," she said. "If they keep going up, we're going to have to move out of town."

Cerbo is opposed to an appointed board.

■ Edmilino Garcia Jr., 37, is backed by Pasculli. Garcia, a city police lieutenant who has been with the force for 18 years, is married and has a son.

Garcia, who coordinates the Police Department's Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program in the city's schools, said he will make drug education a priority if he wins a board seat.

Census Bureau can't count on cooperation in Hudson

J.J. 4/19/90
By Dominick Calichio
Journal staff writer

Hudson County residents are returning their 1990 U.S. Census Bureau questionnaires at rates comparable to the national average, which is lagging behind projections, the bureau's area manager for North Jersey said yesterday.

Households in North Hudson and Hoboken have mailed back 56 percent of the census forms sent to them last month, while Jersey City and Bayonne households have returned 52 percent, George Hill said.

On Wednesday, Census Bureau Director Barbara Everitt Bryant told Congress that 55 percent of the forms had

been returned nationwide, with census officials predicting an ultimate return rate "solidly in the mid-60's." Census officials originally projected a return rate of 70 percent.

The deadline for returning the forms was April 1, but officials say they will accept late forms indefinitely.

James J. Devine, manager of the Census Bureau district office in Jersey City, said a bureau tabulation office in Baltimore has reported some sections of Jersey City's Bergen-Lafayette ward have returned only 25 percent of their forms. But Devine stressed that returns are tabulated daily and figures could change rapidly.

"For all we know, there's a large pile (of unprocessed forms) from that

area waiting to be keyed into the computer," Devine said. "People shouldn't panic. We're dealing with a large number of questionnaires. . . . Any claims that we're not getting them back are unfounded."

The census is conducted every 10 years to determine the population and demographic makeup of the nation. Officials urge all residents to participate because the final tally affects how federal grant money will be distributed and how congressional district boundaries will be drawn.

On April 26, district offices in Jersey City and Union City plan to launch the second phase of the count by sending "enumerators" door-to-door to track down households not yet accounted for.

Devine said his staff just yesterday finished training 35 enumerator crew leaders and is expecting to hire and train 515 canvassers before April 26.

Roger Quintana, manager of the Union City office, said his staff hopes to hire 500 canvassers for the next phase. Both Devine and Quintana said their offices are still accepting applications for the temporary jobs, which pay \$7.50 an hour and offer bonuses.

Both said the bureau hopes to receive as many of the forms by mail as possible. Households counted by mail cost taxpayers 25 cents each, while households counted door-to-door cost \$25 to \$300 each in salaries and process-

See NON-CITIZENS — Page 4

Pasculli faces test in school board election

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Less than a year into his first term, Mayor Patrick Pasculli's political prowess will be put to the test in Tuesday's school election.

In addition to backing four candidates for Board of Education seats, Pasculli has thrown his support behind a \$32 million 1990-91 school budget that would boost local taxes by nearly 20 percent.

He also is endorsing a referendum that would change the board from an elected body to an appointed one. Voters rejected a similar proposal in November.

The budget and the board referendum have taken some of the spotlight away from the 10 candidates who are vying for

four board seats.

But those issues — as well as the recently negotiated teachers contract and the possibility of closing a school to cut the district's costs — have helped

■ Fourth in a series on school board elections.

make this one of the more interesting board races in recent history.

Also on the ballot are bond issues that would finance asbestos removal and elevator repairs in the city's school buildings.

In the board race, eight candidates are battling for three three-year seats, while three others are seeking to fill a one-year unexpired term left vacant by the resignation of Gerard Costa.

Incumbent Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano is one of those backed by Pasculli for a three-year board seat. Pantoliano, 46, is married, has three children and works in the city's Rent Control Office.

Pantoliano supports the budget, but is not optimistic voters will approve it. She also supports the teachers' contract, which gives employees more than 30 percent in salary increases over the life of the three-year pact.

Pantoliano said she supports an appointed school board because it would give the body continuity.

■ Perry Belfiore, 38, is another Pasculli-backed candidate seeking a three-year term. Belfiore is married, has three children and is a self-employed

contractor. He has been filling the seat left vacant by Costa's resignation.

Belfiore — who once before was appointed to fill an unexpired term — said he wants to finish the job he started at that time.

"I'm the guy who closed down Rue school," Belfiore said. "I'd still like to see something happen with that building."

Belfiore said he thinks the budget is too high, but does not support slashing funds from the spending plan. He said he would like to implement an incentive program to induce older teachers in the system to retire.

Belfiore is the only member of the Pasculli ticket who opposes the move to an appointed board.

■ Angel Alicia Jr., 29, is the third

candidate supported by Pasculli for a three-year term. Alicia, a Hudson County police lieutenant, is single. He also is a city Housing Authority commissioner.

Alicia said he does not know enough about the budget or the teachers' contract to make specific comments.

"I would like to stress, however, that our children will pay for any budget cuts," Alicia said. "But I will not allow any unnecessary spending."

Alicia said he supports an appointed board.

■ Jonathan Gordon, 36, is running for a three-year seat.

Gordon, who holds an executive position with a New York City computer

Please see SCHOOLS Page 6

School board election three-pronged

J.J. 4-19-90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

When residents go to vote for candidates in the April 24 election for the Board of Education, they will also be voicing their opinions on having an appointed school board and on a proposed \$32 million budget.

The school budget increases the amount to be raised through local taxation by \$5 million, from \$18 to \$23 million because of cutbacks in state aid and increased spending. That increase would add \$3 to the existing tax rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

One reason for increased spending is a recently approved three-year contract with the Hoboken Teachers' Association. The contract, which gives more than a 30 percent increase over three years, will cost about \$5 million in new money to finance.

If voters reject the school budget, the Board of Education will need to consider cutting back on expenses, possibly by closing a school as proposed by several school trustees.

The following is a synopsis of how each candidate stands on the budget, the teachers contract, school closing and whether to have the Board of Education elected or appointed by the mayor.

Voters only five months ago decided during the November election to keep the Board of Education an elected body. Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who is backing a slate of candidates, said he supports an appointed board so that he can have more control over school spending.

Two school trustees, Otto Hotendorf and Felix Rivera, are critical that their colleagues voted to reintroduce the referendum on the April ballot. Although they contend that a year must pass before the question can appear again on a voting ballot, Robert Murray, school board counsel, ruled that it was legal to reintroduce the question at this time.

Running for the one available seat for a one-year term are Ann Cerbo, Michael Korman and Ed Garcia, who is running on Pasculli's ticket. Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman have endorsed Korman.

Cerbo, an elected Democratic

Four seats, \$32M budget, and switch to appointed members will be decided

committeewoman from the Fourth Ward, District Three, is against the proposed budget, she opposes the HTA contract, she supports a school closing and an elected Board of Education.

"I believe Americans have the right to exercise their right to vote. We did that a short five months ago. The people have spoken," Cerbo said.

"I am against the contract. I have nothing against the teachers. My problem is that if I am making \$1,000, how can I spend \$1,500? The raise is a bit high," she said.

Garcia supports the proposed budget, the teachers' contract and opposes closing a school. He said that appointed board gives the mayor or accountability.

Garcia said that the city is "only a handful of students away" from leaving Level III and being certified. Thus, this is not the time to reduce spending for education.

"I am not going to tolerate waste but I am not going to jeopardize the future of school children," he said.

Korman is opposed to the HTA contract, but he said the system must pay teachers salaries "that attract and retain the best teachers for our students." He said that he supports a budget that provides education but is affordable to taxpayers.

"If the budget is voted down, 55 percent of it is made up of salaries. I don't see how we can reduce spending without having layoffs. It is a very unfortunate situation," Korman said.

If enrollment continues to drop, Korman said the chances for school closing become greater. He is for an elected board.

Seven candidates are competing for three terms of three years duration. They include Angel Alicia Jr., Perry Belfiore, appointed in January, and incumbent Geraldine Pantoliano, seeking re-election to her second term. The three are supported by Pasculli.

Also running as independents are Jerry Forman, Carmine Pietropaolo, Jonathan Gordon, who is supported by Della Fave and Newman, and Joseph Santiago.

Alicia supports the budget, the teachers' contract and an appointed board. He said the appointed board would give the mayor accountability and save the taxpayers the \$60,000 needed each year to run an election. He opposes closing a school.

"These teachers are college educated and they are teaching children to grow up to be self-sufficient. I believe they should be paid as professionals," Alicia said.

"I am for an appointed board because it provides the mayor with accountability. I think that the administration should be accountable for our education system. Also, the city spends \$60,000 a year on school elections. That money could go for hiring teachers," Alicia said.

Belfiore, who served on the board in 1988 during the Vezzetti administration and was again appointed in January, voted for the budget and the teachers' contract because he said the money is needed to get the district out of Level III and teachers deserve a decent pay.

Although he offered the resolution to close the David E. Rue School two years ago, Belfiore said he will not support another school closing until the Board of Education decides what to do with the Rue School. The school is empty except for a portion of its first floor, which is rented to a daycare.

"I am for an elected board, I haven't changed my mind this year. Patty (Pasculli) knows my opinion and he respects my opinion," Belfiore said. "Elections are supposed to provide answers."

Forman opposes the teachers contract because it is too costly during the city's ongoing tax crisis. He opposes the budget and supports an elected school board.

He thinks the city should try to keep younger generations in Hoboken and he believes that more vocational education should be provided.

"I am always thinking on a vocational school program since all children would not be able to become doctors and lawyers. They will have the opportunity to have a trade," Forman said.

Hoboken, WNY clues

J.J. 4-21-90

In Jersey City, every election at every level of government is viewed for clues about who will be the next mayor. But this year's Democratic primary for county Board of Freeholders should give hints about the futures of two other mayors in Hudson County.

That situation is quite obvious in the Sixth District, where one of the freeholder candidates is former Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello. Now a councilman, Cappiello is running against Deputy City Clerk James Drasheff, the candidate supported by Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

PETER WEISS

POLITICAL WHIRL



If Cappiello, who is also a former freeholder, wins the primary or even wins only in the Hoboken portion of the Sixth District, it may well mark the beginning of a three-year assault by him and his allies on Pasculli's seat.

If Cappiello gets beaten decisively in the Hoboken part of the district, it would mean Pasculli's forces have successfully rebuffed potential threats from all sides. Last year they defeated the so-called reform elements in the municipal election.

Meanwhile, one of the keys to Cappiello's chances may be next month's Union City election.

If Mayor Robert Menendez's slate isn't re-elected on the first ballot and is engaged in a runoff campaign, Cappiello should benefit by the diminished effort Menendez can devote to helping Drasheff. In the highly unlikely event Menendez loses outright in May, the incoming administration would likely support Cappiello.

In West New York, the name on the ballot is incumbent Freeholder Alexander Locatelli, but it might as well be Mayor Anthony DeFino, because that's who the opposition is going to target.

Locatelli's opponent, Ileana Iglesias, hopes for — and needs — support from various factions opposed to Mayor Anthony DeFino. The West New York municipal election is next year and no one's sure if DeFino will run again. What happens in the Democratic primary may help him decide.

Court lets Hoboken to vote on P.A. deal

Continued from Page 1

nally ruled against the group, saying there was no need for a public vote since the mayor and City Council approved the development deal, but the three-member appellate panel overturned that decision.

SHOD founders Steve Busch and Daniel Tumpson, who spearheaded the legal challenge against the city, declined comment, as did their attorney, Ira Karasik. Parties in the lawsuit are restricted from commenting on the decision until it is released to the public at 9 a.m. today, but sources confirmed the details of the ruling for The Jersey Journal.

The decision creates financial problems for the Pasculli administration. The mayor was banking on using \$3 million from the P.A. to offset a budget shortfall.

City Business Administrator Edwin Chius has said during earlier interviews that the city will need both that \$3 million from the P.A. and another \$5 million to finance budget shortfalls. The city would get the \$5 million from the bistate agency if it signs a deal to develop a waterfront parcel with a developer and if the state Department of Environmental Protection lifts the existing sewer ban.

Even with that \$8 million, Chius expects that municipal spending will increase by another \$1 million from collective bargaining contracts. The school budget, if approved tomorrow, will add \$3 to the existing tax rate of \$17.52 because the Board of Education's budget increases the amount to be raised through local taxation by \$5 million.

Pasculli, contacted at his home, refused comment on the court decision. The mayor said he hasn't "been served any papers officially yet."

"I will talk to you tomorrow," he said. "I've got to go to a Little League game."

Some critics say the authority favors New York over New Jersey and has anti-pirating language that prohibits New York companies from moving their headquarters to New Jersey developments.

A front-page story in yesterday's Star-Ledger revealed that the P.A. has leased space in the World Trade Center to

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. at bargain rates to stop the New York brokerage firm from moving to Jersey City.

Court lets Hoboken vote on P.A.

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

J.J. 4-23-90

A state appeals court has ruled Hoboken residents have the right to vote on whether the city should develop its waterfront with the Port Authority.

The decision, which will be formally handed down by the Appellate Division of Hudson County Superior Court this morning, means a special election will be scheduled to allow voters to approve or reject an agreement to develop 17 acres of city-owned land in partnership with the P.A.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli reached an agreement with the bistate agency last December to develop the prime waterfront site, but the court's decision means the agreement is suspended until the public vote.

The push for a public referendum was made by Save Hoboken from Over-Development, a community group opposed to developing with the P.A.

Hudson Superior Court Judge Severiano Lisboa origi-

See COURT — Page 6

Todd Shipyards to go on auction block

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

After a heated argument between Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, the City Council voted last night to accept the administration's request to sell the Todd Shipyards.

Pasculli argued that the land is serving no purpose and should be sold to the highest bidder. Todd Shipyards, 33 acres of city-owned land mostly under water, abuts 90 acres of waterfront land owned by Anthony Dell' Aquila, who tenaciously pursued the last administration to sell it to him.

Pasculli gets his way after heated argument

But Della Fave said that since the land abuts a massive waterfront development, it can be used as a bargaining chip in gaining leverage to shape development at the northern end of the city.

Both Della Fave and Councilman Thomas Newman said the land should be used for a public service, specifically as a corridor for mass transportation. They objected to selling the land, valued at more than \$1 million, to get out of a budget crisis.

Pasculli said previous administrations wanted to sell the land but were incapable of executing the measure.

"At this point in time, that piece of property serves no use to the city. I don't believe the economy is down and it is not the time to sell. I believe it is time to test the market," he said.

"By allowing it to sit fallow does not encourage development. For these reasons I believe we should begin the process that the last two

administrations failed," Pasculli said, adding "budget crisis or no budget crisis, the past two administrations failed to sell. I don't think it is fair to characterize that because of a budget crisis the land is going to be sold."

The mayor produced an ordinance submitted by the City Council during the administration of the late Mayor Thomas Vezetti which read that the property serves no public use and should be sold.

confidential report submitted by Vezetti's Community Development Agency's director stating the land was worth millions of dollars if developed to capacity with 2,000 residential units.

Della Fave was incensed and said Pasculli "was lying to the public" by misrepresenting the facts. He said the report was intended to show the property's monetary potential so the city wouldn't give it away.

Former Tax Assessor Woodrow Monte in July, 1986 recommended to the council a starting bid of \$300,000.

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Ed board election tomorrow

Residents will pick candidates, decide on budget

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Polls open tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Hoboken for the Board of Education election, in which residents will choose four candidates.

Voters will also decide on a \$32 million budget and whether to return the school board to mayoral appointments.

Although voters by a two-to-one margin rejected the referendum last November to change the elected Board of Education into mayoral appointments, school board trustees aligned with Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who supports the measure, voted to reintroduce the public question on tomorrow's ballot.

Supporters of the measure are hoping for a light voter turnout because they believe that the fewer voters who go to the polls, the better their chances to have the referendum approved. Historically, school board elections have poor voter turnout.

The public question was on

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Hoboken Teachers Assn. backs slate being pushed by Pasculli

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Teachers' Association is endorsing the four-candidate slate in the school board race being promoted by Mayor Patrick Pasculli, a public school teacher on a leave of absence.

The association distributed fliers to HTA members detailing the payment schedule for their raises. The HTA recently signed a three-year pact with the Board of Education in which 344 teachers will receive more than a 30 percent salary hike.

The contract, which will cost about \$5 million, is retroactive to July 1, 1989. Teachers started getting their raises this week. However, the portion of the raise from last July until mid-April will be deferred until after June 30, according to Anthony Curko, school business manager.

That amount, about \$1 million, will be absorbed in the 1990-91 school budget as well as the second year of the raise, which will cost another \$1.7 million, he said.

Residents will vote on the proposed \$32 million budget next Tuesday.

The amount to be raised through local taxation will increase from \$18 million to \$23 million because of increased spending and cutbacks in state aid. That amount represents a \$3 tax hike on the existing rate of \$17.52.

In the same flier the HTA explained the new raise formula, the association reminded the membership of an election rally at the Elks Club and urged them to vote April 24 for the school board election.

The flier directs members to vote for Angel Allica, Geraldine Pantoliano, Peter Belfiore and Eddie Garcia. It also directs members to vote "yes" on the budget, for an appointed school board, for school repairs and for the cost to remove asbestos.

"If you wish to contribute your time on Election Day, contact your (school) building rep.," the flier reads.

The Jersey Journal could not reach HTA leadership for a comment.

Pasculli, who will benefit from the raises if he decides to return to teaching, said he was honored that the HTA supported his candidates, who the mayor said, support "providing

the superintendent with the resources he needs to continue the (education) improvements that have been made.

The HTA, which normally stays out of mayoral elections, endorsed Pasculli last year. Pasculli, who said he was drawing a salary in the mid-\$40,000s as a school teacher with 20 years in the system, will have his salary increase to nearly \$58,000 over the life of the three-year pact, according to the salary guide for the new contract.

Pasculli said the candidates he supports recognizes teachers "as professionals" instead of demeaning them.

"When candidates use the school budget for political expediency, the choice becomes clear and they choose candidates who are comfortable with and do not threaten their livelihood," Pasculli said.

He said that the last contract, negotiated by the reform members of the school board, gave the same money package

with no givebacks. This contract requires teachers to work an additional 15 minutes each day, Pasculli said.

The other candidates running for office are Anne Cerbo and Michael Korman, seeking one-year terms. Also, Jonathan Gordon, Jerry Forman, Joseph Santiago and Carmine Pietropaolo who are vying for three-year terms. Three seats are available.

Cerbo, who worked for Pasculli's mayoral campaign but is running as an independent, said that the endorsement didn't surprise her.

"That is the ticket that gave them their raise," Cerbo said.

"With a sweetheart contract for a 35 percent increase, I would endorse those people. It only reinforces my statement that they (the HTA) are only out for themselves and their own interest," Cerbo said. "They are completely disregarding taxpayers and renters whose pockets the money comes from."

Hoboken will auction off Todd Shipyards property

Continued from Page 1

In December, 1986, Vezetti's CDA director, Michael Coleman, recommended bidding start at \$1.5 million.

The waterfront guidelines

developed by Vezetti's administration placed a 2,000 residential unit on the entire waterfront, Della Fave said. According to a report prepared after Vezetti's death by his

administrative assistant, the late mayor wanted to delay selling the land until waterfront guidelines had been completed along with a traffic plan.

While the council approved auctioning the land by a 7-2 vote, Della Fave and Newman said the city should hold onto the land as a trump card to shape future development or a mass transit system.

"I don't see this piece of property as a turnkey for development but as a turnkey for public interest when a development comes there," Della Fave said.

Newman said the public will resent the city selling a valuable piece of land "as a

quick fix to a tax problem" in an attempt "to raise more than \$1 million to pay a lot of salaries."

Absent from last night's council meeting was Dell' Aquila, whose 90 acres of waterfront land is in jeopardy. Mabon & Nugent, the investment company which holds the mortgage to Dell' Aquila's Bethlehem Steel property, which encompasses two-thirds of his waterfront empire, has secured an auction date of May 10 for that land.

Dell' Aquila owes more than \$1.5 million in taxes and about \$500,000 on his Bethlehem Steel property, according to city records.

Hoboken waterfront deal

Judges support foes of project

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A state appeals court ruled yesterday that residents have a right to vote on — and possibly reject — the city's \$30 million deal with the Port Authority to develop part of the Hudson River waterfront.

The ruling was a blow to the city administration, which already signed a lease with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and has accepted a \$7 million payment from the bistate agency.

City officials said that any snag with the agreement could wreak financial havoc on the city, which is facing the possibility of a tax increase this year.

But members of the Waterfront Petitioners' coalition were thrilled with yesterday's decision.

"I think (the ruling) is a clear vindication of the peoples' right to determine what kind of com-



Opponents of a Hoboken waterfront development deal look at the project site along River Road yesterday. From left are lawyer Ira Karasick, Steve Busch, Dan Tumpson, Allison Valentine, Patrick Smith and Ron Hine.

munity they live in," said Ira Karasick, the local attorney representing the petitioners. "The city's position in this case has been completely outrageous."

In a unanimous decision, Judges Geoffrey Gaulkin, William A. Dreier and William M. D'Annunzio of the Appellate Division of state Superior Court said city officials were wrong when they refused to accept peti-

tions from the group.

The decision reversed two prior rulings by Judge Severiano Lisboa of Hudson County Superior Court in Jersey City.

"On its face, the ordinance is one which fairly invites involvement of the public at large," the judges wrote. "for it authorizes a project whose location, size and nature will long and significantly affect the style and quality of life

in the community."

The City Council approved an ordinance in December authorizing the authority deal.

Soon after, residents began circulating petitions calling for the agreement to be placed on a special election ballot.

State law allows voters to challenge any municipal ordi-

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HOBOKEN

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recount and an investigation into the absentee ballots.

Board secretary Anthony Curko said he would ask the Hudson County Board of Elections to impound the voting machines this morning.

With the administration-backed slate sweeping the election, Pasculli will continue to enjoy a consistent 7-2 majority on the board.

But the voters reiterated their desire to elect board members, denying the mayor the unilateral power to choose who will run the city's schools.

This is the second time in six months that city residents have voted against making the board an appointed body. In November, a similar question was defeated, 3,782-2,238.

With the voters rejecting the budget — and the tax increase that would help finance it — the City Council will be forced to work with the school board to decide where cuts can be made.

"I wish I could tell you why people voted it down," said Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine. "We'll obviously have to cut it, and it means headaches and probably layoffs."

Pasculli and a majority of council members have said repeatedly that they are opposed to raising taxes, but there may be no choice in light of the state aid cutbacks.

The mayor and his council allies — including school Principals Richard Del Boccio and Edwin Duroy — have said slashing the budget will have a damaging effect on the city's schoolchildren.

One thing on which almost all of the candidates agreed was the bond issue that will finance asbestos removal in the city's school buildings. But the bond issue — like the budget — was defeated.

Hoboken High School has had to close several times this school year because of continuing problems with falling asbestos-tainted ceiling tiles.

Threaten bias suit

Asian Indians irate after slur from landlord

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A tenants group composed mostly of Asian Indians yesterday threatened to file a racial discrimination suit against a local landlord who called them "dot heads" in a letter to the group's leader.

Vasudev Trivedi, president of the Park Avenue Tenants Union, said he was outraged by landlord Murray M. Connell's reference to members of the group.

"Dot head" is a pejorative term which refers to the dot — or bindi — worn on the forehead by some Indian women.

"This letter was written to offend the Indian community as a whole," Trivedi said. "It is offensive and racially motivated. He has been making these kinds of comments privately, but when he says it openly, he has to pay a higher price."

Trivedi said Connell's letter came in response to the tenants group's requests that conditions be improved in eight buildings on the 800 block of Park Avenue.

Trivedi said the 60-family group — most of whom are Asian Indians — wants new locks installed in the front doors of the buildings.

The group also wants the doors to open to the inside, rather than the outside, as they do now. Trivedi said this would prevent people standing on the front stoops from being hit by swinging doors.

In his letter, Connell said he would switch the doors, but offered some additional safety instructions to Trivedi.

"The possibility of a door sticking somebody exists whether the door opens in or out, which is the reason why here in America we

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Pasculli-backed slate victorious in all races

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The results from yesterday's school election were a mixed bag for Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

In an election marked by light voter turnout, Pasculli's four-person slate of Board of Education candidates swept to victory, although it was not easy for two of them.

But voters rejected the school budget and a switch from an elected to an appointed board, two issues which Pasculli had endorsed.

The top vote-getters for three-year seats on the nine-member Board of Education were: incumbent Geraldine Pantoliano; Perry Belfiore, who was

appointed to the board earlier this year; and first-time candidate Angel Allica Jr.

Edelmiro Garcia Jr. was elected to a one-year seat on the board.

Garcia and Allica nearly lost to Jonathan Gordon and Michael Korman, both of whom were endorsed by Pasculli's political rival, Councilman Joseph Della Fave. Gordon and Korman ran together.

Allica outdistanced Gordon by only five votes at the polls — 1,523-1,518 — and 42 votes including the absentee ballots.

Korman actually outpolled Garcia, but lost when the absentee votes were added. The final tally was 1,390-1,370 in Garcia's favor.

Korman and Gordon said they may ask for a

Please see HOBOKEN Page 18

Engineering firm buys Hotel Victor

By Bill Campbell
Journal staff writer

After four years and five different owners, the Hotel Victor has a new owner who may keep it for awhile.

The landmark building at Hudson Place in Hoboken — that came to symbolize the city's real-estate renaissance and then retrenchment — has been sold to a Rochester, N.Y., engineering firm that is opening a regional office in Hudson County.

Bergmann Associates, an engineering and architectural firm, has purchased the building from Washington Bancorp of Hoboken, the

parent of Washington Savings Bank, for \$1.65 million, according to Theodore Doll, the bank's president.

"It's had a long and checkered history, but it looks like the final chapter," said Doll.

Bergmann will occupy two 1,700-square-foot floors in the five-story Queen Anne-style building, converted from a vacant single occupancy hotel to an office building last year. The firm will lease out the remaining 3,400 square feet to other office tenants.

A restaurant occupies the 1,400-square-foot first floor.

The building has been mired in controversy since 1986 when its longtime owner, Kenneth Rivara, sold it for \$1.5 million to developer Patrick Reynolds at the height of the city's real estate boom.

Reynolds, a high-flying condominium developer, planned a multi-million dollar renovation of the building, which he wanted to turn into a luxury hotel. However, the building sat empty for

two years as Reynolds' real-estate empire crumbled under heavy debt.

The 92-year-old building was bought back by the estate of Rivara, who died in 1987, at a foreclosure sale in 1988. Reflecting the soft real estate market, the property was later sold to another developer, Michael Sciarra, for \$800,000 last year.

Sciarra, who is also an attorney, and a Bergen County savings bank began a costly office renovation of the building. Late last year, Washington Bancorp bought

out the controlling interest in the project.

Real estate sources said Washington Bancorp bought out notes in the project held by Sciarra to consolidate other debt he had with the Hoboken bank and because he had run out of money to complete the project.

Doll said the transaction with Bergmann was handled directly between the bank and the engineering concern. He said the firm, which specializes in bridge and tunnel engineering, chose the building because of its proximity to transportation and Manhattan.

SLUR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

put glass in the doors to observe the other side prior to opening," Connell wrote in his letter. "I would appreciate your advising all the dot heads of this procedure."

Connell did not return phone calls to his office yesterday.

Trivedi said the letter is only the latest and most offensive form of harassment used by Connell, who owns buildings at 805 through 821 Park Ave.

The Park Avenue Tenants Union has been battling Connell since he bought the buildings in 1984. The tenants say Connell is trying to force them out so he can convert the buildings to condominiums.

The offending letter also provoked the wrath of the Rev. Paul Hagedorn, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

"It's really outrageous, such blatant racism," Hagedorn said.

Sunday Outing

Where Stoops Offer a Great Skyline

By STEPHANIE STROM

HOBOKEN, N.J. — In this waterfront city across the Hudson from lower Manhattan, residents convene on stoops to while away weekend afternoons. Often people join the conversations from above, hanging over the rails of the many furbelowed wrought-iron fire escapes precariously fastened to house fronts.

"We don't usually discuss issues of world importance on the stoop, but we do get to know each other a little better," said Anthony Lisa, who with his brother Angelo owns Lisa's, a cluttered Italian deli at Ninth and Park Streets where wheels of Romano and Parmesan cheeses are stacked on the counter under salamis, dried meats and twists of mozzarella suspended from hooks.

Some 42,000 people live in Hoboken, and Lisa's is one of several places where established Hoboken mingles with the city's newest arrivals. The first immigrants came from the Netherlands about 1640. (There is a

In Hoboken, the newcomers are from Wall Street.

town named Hoboken near Antwerp, Belgium, but New Jersey's Hoboken derives its name, if not its spelling, from an Indian word for tobacco pipe.) German and Irish immigrants followed, stamping the city with the churches and bits of green open space that are strewn throughout. Just as they were established, Hispanic settlers began arriving, and they in turn surrendered the title of newcomers to the young professionals of today.

Like the flower children who in the 1970's migrated to this industrial port from Greenwich Village, young Wall Street strivers have found that they prefer the renovated tenements and brownstones that line Hoboken's

streets to the looming towers in Battery Park City and the Upper East Side. Theresa Rupp moved to Hoboken more than two years ago because it was cheaper than Manhattan. "Now rents are only slightly less than in New York," she said, "but I've fallen in love with the quaint parks, beautiful old churches and my runs along the river."

Hudson Street, where Ms. Rupp runs, offers spectacular glimpses of the Chelsea section of Manhattan as well as hints of Hoboken's past. Starting at the Erie Lackawanna Railway station, capped in copper at the turn of the century, the street winds past abandoned shipyards and piers that used to supply jobs to many residents. Heading north, it curves around the Stevens Institute of Technology, built on the rock formation that once supported the castle of Col. John Stevens, who bought the site after the Revolutionary War.

Then comes the Maxwell House Coffee factory, the source of the pungent smell that envelops the eastern part of the city. Hoboken might lose one of its most famous landmarks, the four-story coffee cup dripping into the Hudson River, if the company closes the plant as announced.

Landmarks of a more modern sensibility include Black Water Books on Washington Street, Hoboken's main street. The shop has a selection of new-age and contemporary literature as good as in any SoHo or Chelsea bookstore. And Pier Platters Records at 56 Newark Street sells everything from the most experimental post-punk noise to Willie Nelson ballads for urban cowboys.

A Taste for Mexican

Lately these urban cowboys have apparently had cravings for tacos and jalapeños, because the latest cuisine to grab Hoboken is Mexican. Baja, at 104 14th Street near Washington Street, and East L.A., at 508 Washington Street (201-798-0052), is open for breakfast and lunch from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. and for dinner from 5 P.M. to midnight seven days a week. Baja (201-653-0610) is open Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 P.M. to 10, and Friday through Sunday from noon to 11:30 P.M.

For more refined dining, residents recommend the Brass Rail, which serves French food in a brasserie downstairs and a more formal dining room on the second floor. The Brass Rail, at 135 Washington Street (201-659-7074), is open seven days a week from 11:30 A.M. to 3 A.M.

Talbot's, at 61 Sixth Street, also serves a continental cuisine but its outstanding feature is its wine list, which includes wines from Australia. It opens for dinner at 5 P.M. Tuesday through Sunday (201-795-4515).

Maxwell's, at 1039 Washington



Exuberant music lovers fill Maxwell's, a club that helped the early careers of several rock stars.



The view from Stevens Institute of Technology campus along the Hudson River.

Street (201-565-9632), established Hoboken as a magnet for alternative bands and musicians like R.E.M. and Joe Jackson, who still occasionally play its back room. Now the bands have names like Sound Garden and Helios Creed and the Babylon Dance Band, but music lovers travel from afar to hear a set at the restaurant and bar where Bruce Springsteen filmed the video for "Glory Days."

The club retains some of the grit and earthiness — "a bowl-and-beer

joint," its present owner says — that must have attracted the men who worked the docks and factories along the Hudson. "We like to think of Maxwell's as a kind of sacred place," said Stephen Fallon, one of four owners who bought the club in 1978. Bands usually perform Thursday through Sunday in the back room.

Getting There

From Manhattan, Hoboken can be

reached by PATH train or New Jersey Transit bus. There are six PATH stations in Manhattan, including ones on the Avenue of the Americas at 33d and 9th Streets, and at the World Trade Center. The fare is 75 cents. New Jersey Transit No. 126 bus leaves the Port Authority Bus Terminal every 40 minutes or so for Hoboken, where it heads south down Washington Street. Bus tickets are \$1.25. Or take the Lincoln Tunnel; the first exit is Hoboken.

Judges shake up Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

he will see if the city has other options. The Port Authority did not respond to requests for comments.

Daniel Tumpson, a co-founder of Save Hoboken from

Over-Development, said that the Port Authority has a poor track record with the city, noting that the authority refused to hand over millions of dollars owed to the city in insurance settlement from a 1982 fire.

The groups object that developers are not required to build affordable housing units.

Attorney Ira Karasick, who represents the community groups, called the partnership between the city and the authority a bad deal and said the appeals court's decision saves the city from financial ruin.

Ron Hine, who represents Residents for a Sane Downtown Development, said that the nearly 1,700 people who signed the petition did so for various reasons. Some object to a partnership with the bistate agency while others object to the height and density of the project, he said.

Steve Busch, co-founder of SHOD, said the plan does not comply with state regulations concerning open space in relation to development. This plan provides 13 percent in open space as compared to the Battery State Park plan which consists of 30 percent in open space, he said.

The new high-rise development would cut Hoboken from the Hudson and add to the city's pollution and traffic problems, said Busch.

Judges shake up P.A. deal

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The state appeals court ruling which gave Hoboken residents the right to vote on whether their city should develop its waterfront property with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, does not end the fight. Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he will fight the ruling.

Pasculli said he plans to investigate the legal avenues the city has to challenge the ruling, which was handed down by Superior Court's Appellate Division sitting in Hudson County. The ruling favors a coalition of community-based groups critical of the city's partnership with the bistate agency.

The three-member appeals panel asked in its ruling that the city accept a referendum petition signed by nearly 1,700 people calling for a public vote on the city's contract with the Port Authority to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development on 17 acres of city-owned land at the southern end of the city.

The city refused to accept the petition last December based on a legal ruling from the Law Department that the public cannot legislate zoning and development. That opinion was supported by Superior Court Judge Severiano Lisboa.

But in its eight-page decision reversing the lower court's ruling, the appeals court said that the public should have the opportunity to vote on the agreement between the city and the Port Authority because the development will significantly change Hoboken as it now exists.

City Clerk James Farina said he would follow the court's directions and accept the petition. But Pasculli said

Stevens to cancel lawsuit

J.S. 4-26-90
By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Stevens Institute of Technology is expected to announce today it is withdrawing its lawsuit against the Hoboken-Port Authority waterfront development agreement.

Stevens filed suit last December against the city and Planning Board charging that the agreement with the bistate agency violated the Sunshine Law because it did not satisfy a requirement for public comment.

The suit alleges that the redevelopment plan for the southern waterfront, a blight declaration for the parcel and the lease agreement with the Port Authority are all defective because inadequate notice was given to the public of meetings of both the City Council and Planning Board where the measures were approved.

The city and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey signed an agreement forming a partnership to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development at the southern end of the city.

About that time, Stevens was planning to build a 600,000-square-foot office building on its waterfront land, which the Planning Board in November rejected because of its height.

Stevens still wants to build an office complex with Hartz Mountains Industries.

Harold Raveche, president of Stevens, and Mayor Patrick Pasculli are expected to make the announcement today at 2:30 from the mayor's office in City Hall.

War on drugs gets wheels

Mobile unit patrols projects to cut drug transactions

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

This is the first in a series of articles examining the steps residents, police and city officials are taking to control the spread of drug traffic in Hoboken's public housing.

Sunday marked the first anniversary of "ORCA," a huge white mobile police station that has been patrolling the area of the public housing projects in Hoboken's Fourth Ward.

In the compact Fourth Ward, 4,500 people are squeezed into nearly 800 public housing apartments. According to police, the area has the highest concentration of crime, most of it drug-related.

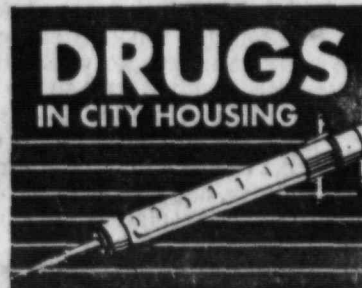
And it is at this location that the mobile police van, called ORCA — Operation Remove Cocaine Attacks — is parked every night from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m.

The mammoth mobile precinct squats on the corner of Third and Jackson streets. Most Fourth Ward residents interviewed recently by The Jersey Journal said the 18,000-pound structure has cut down on blatant drug trafficking.

Police Sgt. Fred Ferrante, commander of the mobile unit, said that he and the two patrolmen assigned to the unit process 300 calls a month and have made more than 400 arrests in the last year.

ORCA came about last April a few weeks before the May 1989 municipal election. Mayor Patrick Pasculli was in the middle of a closely contested mayoral race for a four-year term. He had been serving a temporary term and during that time successfully lobbied the City Council to buy the van to deter crime.

One person responsible for getting police presence in that



section of the city is Barbara Russo, a Manhattanite who moved to Hoboken three years ago.

As president of the 223 Monroe Condominium Association, Russo represented 36 condo owners living in a neat row of six brick townhouses — all having colonial green doors with big, shiny brass knobs.

Their houses are one vacant lot away from what Russo once described to the City Council as a drug supermarket where cars line up to buy drugs.

She attended several City Council meetings, and gave graphic details about drug trafficking and the use of children as the go-betweens for dealers and customers.

A year later, Russo said that the mobile unit has significantly improved the neighborhood.

"It is not a panacea, but it certainly has alleviated some of the problem," Russo said.

"Now we have our neighborhood back," Russo said. People from outside the neighborhood are returning as customers to stores and shops, said Richie Gonzales, manager of Lorenzo Pizzeria.

Ferrante said that the unit is located in the heart of the Fourth Ward and is visible to public housing tenants, senior citizens, businesses and condo owners.

A block from the gleaming townhouses of Russo and other

See MOBILE — Page 6

Mobile unit

Continued from Page 1

ers, a cluster of women in the Hoboken Housing Authority projects sit in a grim, institutional courtyard.

"It (drug trafficking) is still in the hallways but it is quieter here," said Linda, a 23-year-old woman who would not give her name because of fear of retaliation from either drug dealers or the police.

Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno said plans are under way to put a precinct inside the housing project at 310 Jackson St. After that has been established, the mobile unit will go on tour this summer to other troubled spots in the city, he said.

The police have yet to infiltrate the maze of public housing hallways infested with drug dealing, the women said. That is why they bring their children to the courtyard.

Tomorrow: The Hoboken police narcotic squad's attempts to infiltrate the drug business in projects.

Stevens scraps lawsuit

Gains green light for hi-tech complex

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch 4/27/90

HOBOKEN — Stevens Institute of Technology is dropping its lawsuit against the city under an informal agreement that will allow the college to move ahead with plans to build a 1-million-square-foot technology complex here, Stevens and city officials said yesterday.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Stevens President Harold J. Raveche said they will work together, along with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to find an appropriate site — or sites — for the college's Technology Pavilion.

Both denied that any deals had been cut prior to Stevens dropping its suit.

"It is conceivable that some kind of land swap might come out of this," Raveche said. "But we're not sure where that would be right now."

Raveche said the technology pavilion — which is being designed by the architectural firm of Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut &



Mayor Patrick Pasculli, left, and President Harold Raveche of Stevens Institute discuss the college's decision to drop a lawsuit.

Whitelaw — might be housed in several smaller buildings instead of one large structure. The Manhattan-based firm also designed

the city's project with the authority.

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FIREMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

disco. But he said this was common for all clubs that employed bouncers.

Montenez, who is recovering from multiple bruises on his face and left eye and a gash on the back of his head that required stitches, was placed off-duty Monday.

Bergin said Montenez went to the club with a friend, after attending a charity basketball game. Montenez, wearing jeans and sneakers, was approached by the bouncer in the bathroom, shortly after he entered the club, Bergin said.

The bouncer then continued harassing Montenez at the bar as Montenez drank a beer, and then dragged him out back to the cellar stairwell, Bergin said.

"Montenez identified himself as a firefighter," Bergin said. "With that, the bouncer kicked him in the mouth."

Firemen plan protest after friend beaten

By ROBYN PFORR

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Members of two local firefighter unions announced plans yesterday to picket the disco Down Under because one of the club's bouncers allegedly assaulted an off-duty firefighter.

"This assault was out of the ordinary. It was vicious," said Deputy Chief Bill Bergin, president of International Association of Fire Officers Local 1076.

"Something like this is never going to happen again, if we have anything to do with it — not to a firefighter and not to civilian," he said.

Firefighters plan to peacefully picket the club and distribute fliers Saturday at 8 p.m.

The planned protest arises from an incident last Saturday involving William Montenez, a 30-year-old firefighter and father of three.

Union officials say Montenez was severely beaten by a bouncer

without provocation in the back cellar stairwell of the disco, located on the first block of Washington Street.

Bergin and Andrew Markey, president of International Association of Firefighters Local 1078, say the bouncer punched and kicked Montenez until he was unconscious, even after Montenez identified himself as a firefighter.

Montenez charged the bouncer, Timothy Doherty, with assault. Doherty, a 27-year-old resident of Hasbrouck Heights, filed an assault counter-complaint against Montenez.

The club's owner, John O'Connor, could not be reached for comment.

Bergin and Markey said the alleged assault was only one of about 12 to 15 similar incidents involving Down Under bouncers.

Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno confirmed that there have been many assault complaints and counter-complaints involving the

Please see FIREMEN Page 12

Pasculli's ed board slate in close win

Opposition pinning hopes on recount

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The slate of Board of Education candidates backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli was narrowly elected last night, but opposition candidates will ask for a recount because the election was decided by absentee ballots.

Elected to three-year terms on the mayor's ticket were incumbent School Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, receiving 1,998 votes including 74 absentee ballots; incumbent Perry Belfiore, who got 1,711 votes including 71 absentee ballots; and Angel Alicea Jr., who received 1,584, including 61 absentee ballots.

Jonathan Gordon, a political newcomer supported by Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman, lost to Alicea by only five votes on the machines and by only 22 votes after the absentee votes were

counted. Gordon received 1,542 votes, including 24 absentee votes.

Elected to a one-year term was Eddie Garcia, supported by Pasculli, who received 1,328 votes on the machines and 62 absentee ballots.

Michael Korman, supported by Newman and Della Fave, received more votes on the machines with 1,349 votes, but lost to Garcia by 20 votes. Korman received 21 absentee votes.

Running as an independent, Anne Cerbo received 557 votes, including 10 absentee votes.

Korman said he will petition for a recount because he lost because of the paper absentee ballots. Gordon said he also wanted a recount because he lost by only five votes on the machines.

Anthony Curko, school board secretary, said he will ask Harvey Birne, superintendent of elections, to impound

the machines because of a discrepancy in the voting materials forwarded by the county to the school district.

The "statement of result" — the voting tallies the county sends to the school district to record the vote off the machines included the name of Frank Raia, who dropped out of the race and whose name wasn't on the ballot.

In two wards and in two districts, the results for Gordon were inadvertently placed under Raia's name, Curko said, adding that he believed any mistakes had been caught but that he wanted to confirm that data.

Unsuccessful independents running for three-year terms were Jerry Forman, who received 934 votes, including 22 absentee ballots; Joseph Santiago, who received 800 votes, including 14 absentee ballots;

See ABSENTEE — Page 8

'Wireless network' hampers Hoboken war against drugs

Dealers in projects know where and when cops arrive

Second in a series examining steps residents, police and city officials are taking to control drug trafficking in Hoboken's public housing.

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A group of women, enjoying a recent spring day in the asphalt courtyard between two 10-story towers in Hoboken's public housing projects, were asked about the seriousness of the drug problem in the community.

"I wouldn't have children down here," answered Linda, 23, who did not want to give her real name. "It's rough trying to raise children here."

Her friend, Darlene, who declined giving her name for fear of retaliation from either

the police or drug pushers, gestured to the rear of the projects and said: "I wouldn't hang out with my son there. You see the trading?"

The courtyard is off limits to the police or drug pushers, gestured to the rear of the projects and said: "I wouldn't hang out with my son there. You see the trading?"

The police have to "focus inside the buildings," Darlene said, "go back and hang in the hallways. That is where the babies are made and that is where the pushers are."

Suddenly, a woman from the seventh floor of 210 Jackson St., opened her window and began screaming in Spanish.

Her children explained to a reporter that their mother was saying what a problem drugs are. The children, both high school students, were

asked how their mother knew what was being discussed seven stories below on the street.

The question drew a general shrug, then an explanation, from the children and from the women in the courtyard. An outsider's business is quickly learned within the closed community of the housing projects.

"They have a security system that rivals any bank," said Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno.

That wireless, non-electronic communication network creates difficulties for plainclothes officers trying to combat drugs, said Police Capt. John Ferrante, commander of the vice squad.

"It's difficult but not impossible" to infiltrate the drug network, which exists as a sub-

See DRUG DEALERS — Page 8

Drug dealers keeping their eyes and ears on the police

Continued from Page 1

culture within the public housing community, Ferrante said.

When veteran vice squad officers Sgt. Sonny DeVincent or Frank Chirichella enter the housing projects, "narco, narco" spreads like a gasoline fire.

The drug dealers have lookouts on the roofs, in the hallways and on street corners.

They use beepers and can even hook into the frequency of the police radios, DiVincent explained.

Sometimes up to five or six people are involved in one drug transaction, he said.

And the drug kingpins are using minors, known as bottle babies because of the small vials of crack they transport, to run drugs through the halls and alleyways of the projects.

The use of juveniles cost their drug bosses no expense in bail money because they are usually quickly released from custody by the courts, police said.

The narcotics squad recently made a sweep during which 13 people, involved in what police believe was the same drug network, were arrested.

DeVincent credits a cooperative effort between Hoboken police and the North Bergen narcotics squad for the success in nabbing two drug kingpins, who had an apartment in North Bergen, and 11

others, mostly public housing tenants.

The Hoboken narcotic squad and the North Bergen police had the network under surveillance for several months until police cracked the drug operation.

Then North Bergen narcotic officers notified Hoboken police when the two ring leaders were headed toward Hoboken.

The kingpins were caught in uptown Hoboken.

Police thwarted the communications network of the projects by concealing information about their arrests.

They then raided the suspects' apartments for drugs, and arrested the rest of the ring.

The Hoboken Housing Authority has joined forces with the narcotics squad in attempts to curb drugs, specifically crack or cocaine.

But Dominick Gallo, executive director, did not want to divulge details of that effort for fear of tipping off the drug network.

Capt. Ferrante was equally tight-lipped about the joint effort with the Housing

Authority.

"We have to keep changing — our techniques, our personnel. No matter how hard they try (to be invisible), they are in a business and to do business, they have to be visible," he said.

What is even more frustrating is that the harder narcotic officers work, the more work there is.

"We pick up 15 and in two weeks there will be 15 more again to take their places," Chirichella said.

Ferrante views drug dealers as weeds within public housing.

He said police want to cut down drug trafficking so that the pushers "are not choking the rest of your garden."

"You can never eliminate all the weeds but you want to get rid of enough to allow the rest of your garden to exist and hopefully save the children," he said.

Tomorrow: Police attempts to hook into the community network, coupled with new tenant eviction amendments, may help rid public housing projects of pushers.

First suffragette in 1647

In 1647, Margaret Brent, a niece of Lord Baltimore, shocked the Maryland Assembly by demanding a place and vote in that governing body. She was ejected.

Stevens set to drop suit against city

HOBOKEN — Stevens Institute of Technology officials are expected to announce that the college is dropping its lawsuit against the city, at a news conference scheduled for 2:30 p.m. today in Mayor Patrick Pasculli's office.

City and college officials refused to offer details of a possible agreement between the two sides, but sources said Stevens has decided to drop the suit.

Stevens went to court after the city made waterfront zoning changes designed to make the development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey possible.

Stevens, which owns property adjacent to the site the city is leasing to the authority, contended that the zoning changes made it impossible for the college to build a large-scale technology pavilion.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

Absentee ballots cited for recount

Continued from Page 1

and Carmine Pietropaolo, who received 695 votes, including six absentee ballots.

Pasculli, contacted late last night, said he was "very happy with the results. I am very encouraged with having the whole ticket win."

"It was not an easy election with the obstacles such as drastic reductions in state aid. But it took courage for those candidates to run on a pro-public education platform," Pasculli said.

Voter turnout was very poor.

Of the city's 21,000 registered voters, only about 4,123 people went to the polls yesterday. Another 108 absentee ballots were cast.

Voters overwhelmingly defeated all the public questions, including one requested by Pasculli to change the nine-member elected board into mayoral appointments.

Della Fave, the mayor's political rival, said he viewed that result as the public's unwillingness "to give power they have away to the mayor."

"They don't feel trustworthy to give the power to appoint to Mayor Pasculli," he said.

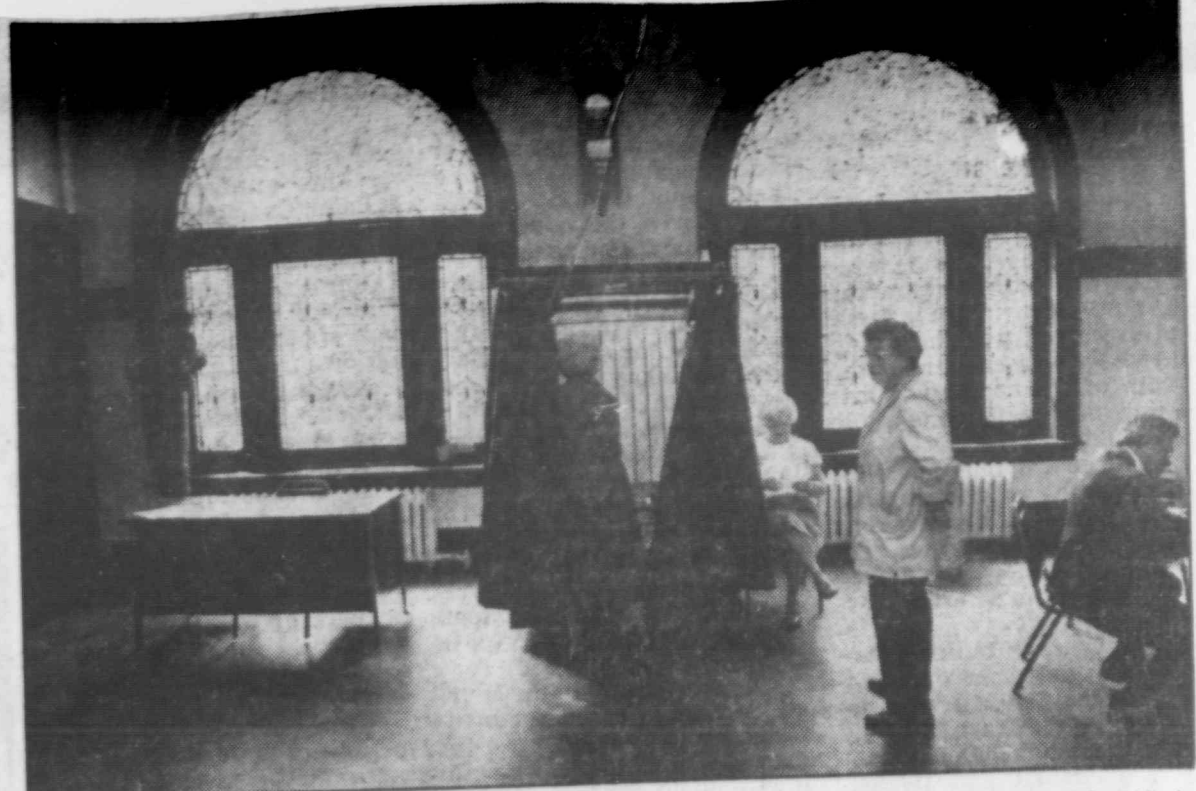
School Trustee Otto Hotendorf, who protested the public question's appearance on the ballot after being rejected last November by a 2-1 margin, said the administration wanted to interfere with the democratic process.

He said voters rejected the budget because they oppose "giving raises to teachers that equal 40 percent not 30 percent. They cannot afford to pay them that kind of money for a part-time job."

Voters turned down a \$1.1 million bonding request to remove asbestos from six grammar schools, the JFK Field House and Hoboken High School and rejected another \$376,148 in capital outlay items.

Voters rejected the proposed \$32 million school budget, which increases the amount to be raised through local taxation by \$5 million, an increase of \$3 on the existing tax rate of \$17.52.

The budget includes funding for the first two years of a



Journal photo by Scott Lituchy

A Hoboken woman prepares to cast her ballot in yesterday's Board of Education election as another waits her turn at the Elks Lodge on Washington Street.

three-year teachers contract that will cost about \$5 million.

"I think voters sent mixed signals," said Trustee Claire DePalma, who ran on the mayor's ticket last spring.

"They voted for the candi-

dates but voted against their philosophy," DePalma said.

School Superintendent Walter Fine said rejection of the budget means "headaches, layoffs and problems."

Fine would not venture an

estimate of how many Board of Education jobs will be eliminated.

Voters also rejected a bond issue of \$554,945 that would have paid for installation of elevators in grammar schools.

Cable fight joined by Union City

By Wendell Jamieson
Journal staff writer

As Riverview Cablevision began presenting its side of the scrambling debate to the state Board of Public Utilities yesterday, Union City announced it was joining the battle against the company.

Union City's entrance into the cable scrambling fracas was announced just prior to the third BPU hearing on the Hoboken-based company's plan to scramble its signal.

The four other Hudson communities served by Riverview — Hoboken, West New York, North Bergen and Weehawken — have been working together on the suit, which was filed with the BPU in early March.

"This morning the city of Union City formally joined with a number of neighboring communities in the state case being heard before the BPU, as well as the federal case that is also pending," announced Union City Public Safety Commissioner Bruce D. Walter.

Mayor Robert Menendez said officials had been watching the debate closely, and had decided that it was the time to join in.

"By no means has the City of Union City been neglecting or ignoring the issue of cable scrambling," Menendez said.

"I have maintained all along that I thought the mandatory scrambling proposal was unfair to cable customers who have made investments in their personal television systems."

Riverview has contended it must scramble its signal to prevent cable theft.

Some subscribers, who will need to obtain descrambling converters if the plan goes into effect, have claimed they will be unfairly punished for the crimes of others.

The BPU halted the plan in late March, saying further hearings were necessary.

Menendez said he discussed the issue with Joseph Fischer, Riverview's general manager, when the controversy first erupted.

"Having exhausted the first stage of lobbying efforts, Commissioner Bruce Walter and the City of Union City have both decided to move onto a second stage of lobbying — through the courts," Menendez said. The North Hudson communities have also filed a complaint with a federal judge, who is waiting for the BPU's decision.

Riverview attorney Jeffrey Reiner took back a request filed Wednesday asking the BPU to temporarily halt North Bergen plans to force the company to give up land in the township.

Reiner said North Bergen attorney Herbert Klitzner told him there were no plans to evict Riverview on the May 1 deadline. The board still must consider Reiner's request to force the township to renew the company's lease on the land off Tonelle Avenue.

EPA bars Hoboken testing firm from new contracts, cites data

Laboratories of United States Testing Co. in Hoboken and Richland, Wash., were suspended yesterday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from receiving future federal contracts and assistance awards.

The EPA accuses the private laboratories, which perform tests under contract for the agency's Superfund program, submitted unreliable and falsified data to EPA.

The notice of suspension alleges that United States Testing in its performance "conspired, directed and condoned a scheme in both the Hoboken facility and Richland facility to defraud the United States gov-

ernment." The notice alleges that this scheme resulted in "false, inaccurate and unreliable test results and data."

Ken Bridwell, United States Testing's lawyer, in a telephone interview, said the company was surprised by the suspension and did not have a clear picture of the problems.

"What we have is sketchy in terms of what they say was done wrong," Bridwell said.

The EPA has told the company the investigation is looking into events during 1987 and 1988, and that no present employees of the company are targets, Bridwell said.

The company became aware of the investigation last

spring, and EPA had put out a similar suspension notice at that time, Bridwell said. Last May that suspension was lifted for the Hoboken lab, but not at Richland, he said.

The company has up to 70 employees at Richland and 30 at Hoboken, he said.

United States Testing studies air, water and soil samples from Superfund and prospective Superfund sites under EPA contracts. The work is a large piece of the company's business, though Bridwell couldn't say exactly how much.

"Our goal is to get back in the good graces of the EPA," he said, adding the company was meeting with EPA today.

Recount expected in Hoboken schools election

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The voting machines and paper absentee ballots in Hoboken's Board of Education election were impounded yesterday because two candidates plan to ask for a recount.

Louis C. Accocella, Hudson County superintendent of schools, said that

the machines and paper ballots were impounded by county election officials yesterday.

School board candidate Michael Korman and his running mate, Jonathan Gordon, both political newcomers and running for one-year and three-year terms respectively, narrowly lost to candidates supported by Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

Korman and Gordon, who were endorsed by Councilman Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman, were getting papers together to formally request state Education Commissioner Saul Cooperman for a recount.

Accocella said that he will schedule a recount, most likely within the next two weeks, after getting the go-ahead from Cooperman.

Close-knit public housing community makes it hard for police to fight drugs

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

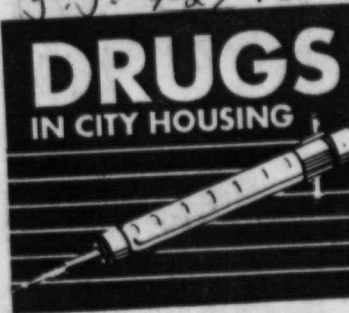
When police recently nabbed two persons suspected of running a drug network in the Hoboken housing projects, a narcotic squad officer stressed the location of the arrests.

Police Sgt. Sonny DeVincent, a narcotics officer, was asked why it was significant that the arrests were made uptown at Thirteenth and Willow streets instead of in the projects where the suspects were believed to have kept their supplies.

"Because we didn't want a riot. Then we couldn't get into the projects quickly and quietly," DeVincent said.

DeVincent explained that when the drug network is disturbed, members of that subculture feed rumors into the word-of-mouth communication network for the public housing community. The rumors generally say innocent tenants were arrested and badly beaten by police.

The rumors and the anger they incite create a diversion,



Last in a series on the war against drugs in Hoboken's public housing projects.

allowing other drug ring members time to clear out, he said.

Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno said that word-of-mouth network rivals the effectiveness of sophisticated electronic equipment.

Public housing tenants feel disenfranchised from the mainstream community, LaBruno said. They look at each other and know each other's business, which means they have an efficient communication network tapped into the 800 apartments, he explained.

LaBruno has been working with community leaders, such

as members of the NAACP, as well as as public housing tenants to set up an intelligence network to fight the rumor-mongers of the drug subculture.

"If a drug pusher has been arrested and his cronies spread the rumor that he has been badly beaten and physically abused, we have a mechanism in place where representatives of the community can contact police personnel to verify the evidence or facts surrounding the arrests," LaBruno said.

That may mean that the mother or sister of the person arrested can visit their son or brother at the mobile precinct or at police headquarters to examine their condition and get the facts of the arrest, LaBruno said.

Police Capt. John Ferrante, commander of the vice squad, agrees with LaBruno and says most of the 4,500 residents living in the projects want to live productive lives, own a home and keep a job.

"Good people are trapped and they want to get rid of the undesirables," Ferrante said.

The housing projects are located in the Fourth Ward where nearly 4,500 residents live in about 800 housing units. Police say this area has the highest concentration of crime, most of it drug-related.

Police are frustrated that with all the arrests, drug dealing is still big business in the projects.

Dominick Gallo, executive director of the Hoboken Housing Authority, is hoping that new amendments in the tenant eviction law can give him the tool he needs to get rid of drug pushers and users.

"I think that once people can be evicted upon a drug arrest, that arm of the law will help us fight," Gallo said.

The new amendment does not allow eviction upon drug arrest. Rather, it allows eviction if a landlord can prove in civil court that a tenant is a drug user or drug pusher.

Having the eviction processed by a civil court instead of a criminal court means the charges do not require proof beyond reasonable doubt, but

See EVICTION — Page 8

Eviction a key weapon in drug war

Continued from Page 1

simply proof by a preponderance of the evidence, explained Ira Karasick, chairman of the Campaign for Housing Justice.

Karasick, an attorney, said tenant organizations zealously support eliminating drug pushers from public housing.

"No tenant advocate wants to see people use apartments as drug stores, drug dens or crackhouses," Karasick said.

But Karasick, who has a background in civil liberties law, said the new amendment "creates a constitutional entanglement against people's right of self-incrimination."

By testifying at a civil proceeding, tenants may be incriminating themselves for criminal charges, he said.

State Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, D-Hoboken, said he understands Karasick's concerns about the new amend-

ments, but he still supports the new language because any drug pusher or drug user can avoid eviction by entering a drug rehabilitation program.

Kenny said society has changed in the last three decades and individual rights are taking a second seat to the rights of the community.

"I think now we want to give a higher level of protection to the residential setting so that there is a drug-free at-

mosphere where children can be raised," Kenny said.

Three high school girls outside Third and Jackson streets, talking after school one day, had a clear idea of the drug problem in the projects.

"So many people around here do it, it just gains on you," said Alice Steed, 12.

She said she has always lived in the projects, but, "I want to do something with my life."

Hoboken waterfront

Petitions hit \$30M lease deal

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Four months after being turned away, a citizens' group was back in City Hall yesterday to call for a public vote on the city's waterfront development deal with the Port Authority.

City residents will get a chance to approve or reject the \$30 million lease agreement in a special election, which may take place before the end of June.

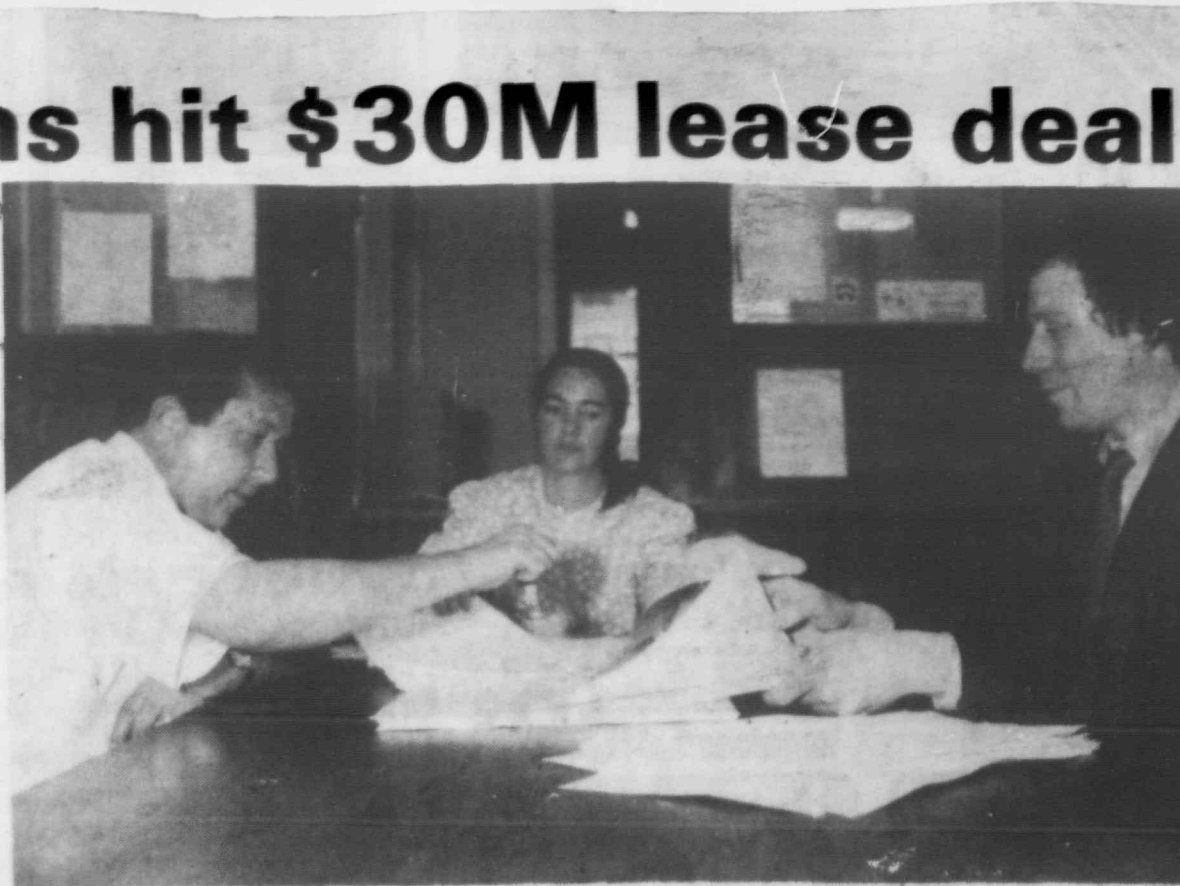
"We're going to try to get out there and let people know that this is a bad deal," said Dan Tumpson, a member of the Waterfront Petitioners' coalition. "It's not a permanent solution to the city's problems."

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he would like the vote to take place as soon as possible, but he branded the petitioners "obstructionists."

On Dec. 27, City Clerk James J. Farina refused to accept the 1,700 signatures collected by the petitioners.

City officials have contended the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey agreement is not subject to referendum.

But the Appellate Division of state Superior Court later ruled that the public has the right to vote on such a large-scale project.



Hoboken City Clerk James J. Farina, left, stamps a petition handed him by Dan Tumpson, a leading figure in a group opposing a mammoth development project on the city's waterfront. With him is Allison Valentine, another opponent of the project.

And so, yesterday, Farina offered no arguments when the group presented its petitions.

"I'm going to forward (the petitions) to the county Board of Elections Monday for certification," Farina said. "Hopefully, they can

be presented to the City Council for Wednesday's meeting."

Under terms of the 50-year lease agreement, the city already has gotten a \$7 million payment from the Port Authority and is scheduled to receive another \$3

million later this year.

The Port Authority is responsible for finding developers to build 3.2 million square feet of office, residential and retail space on 32 acres of property along the city's southern Hudson River waterfront.

Fires shut posh Hudson eatery

Officials fear roof collapse

By SEBASTIAN D'ELIA
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Gerrino Ristorante, a posh riverfront eatery, will be closed indefinitely after two smoky fires badly damaged parts of two-story building during the weekend.

The dining rooms on the first and second floors sustained moderate smoke and water damage during the first fire, on Saturday afternoon.

The second blaze, which started early yesterday, damaged the River Street building's roof and could cause the restaurant's ornate second-floor ceiling to collapse, Fire Department officials said.

The restaurant had also sustained damage to its basement in a blaze earlier this year, fire officials said.

Saturday's three-alarm fire started at 4:25 p.m., before the restaurant opened. The blaze was caused by a grease buildup in the kitchen's ventilation system, Deputy Fire Chief Pasquale Sarnella said.

There were some kitchen workers who were evacuated, he said. The fire spread through the duct up through the second floor and roof, damaging the rear of the building, he said.

More than 20 firefighters directed by Deputy Chief Charles Ebersol thought they had extinguished the fire after about 1½ hours, Sarnella said.



Hoboken firefighters battle a blaze at Gerrino Ristorante on River Street early yesterday.

JIM LOWNEY THE HUDSON DISPATCH

But at 12:27 a.m., some smoldering rubble on the roof caused the second fire. That fire was put out within a half-hour, Sarnella said.

The restaurant, which is known for its ornate Romanesque interior and alfresco rooftop patio dining, was frequented by many of the city's politicians and wealthier residents.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli, who also ate at the restaurant, arrived at the scene on Saturday to survey the damage.

"It's one of Hoboken's finest restaurants," Pasculli said. "I hope they are back in business soon."

Pasculli said the Razzo family, which owned the building and the restaurant, are to obtain damage estimates today. Restaurateur Gerrino Razzo, could not be reached for comment.

Officials said the restaurant, the former site of a bar, has been open for more than 10 years.

Pasculli said a team of city inspectors would also prepare a checklist of repairs to be done on the building before it can reopen. Steve Kilnisan, a free-lance

food critic who lives in Hoboken, said the restaurant served good, although expensive Northern Italian cuisine. Dinner for two cost more than \$60, he said, and many entrees, including traditional favorites such as veal marsala and pasta puttanesca, cost more than \$20 each.

Councilman David Roberts, who owns East L.A., a Mexican restaurant on Washington Street, called the fire a "tragedy."

"It was one of our flagship restaurants," Roberts said. "I just hope they are able to repair it soon."

Firefighters demonstrate for closing of club

Continued from Page 1

asked that they not be identified, charged that police have ignored problems at the club. Down Under is located directly across Newark Street from police headquarters and is a popular watering hole for some police officers, the firefighters said.

Hoboken Police Capt. Carmen LaBruno confirmed that there have been "three or four" complaints filed against Down Under and said the detective bureau is investigating.

A reporter who entered the bar during the protest was greeted by five large, muscular men employed by the Gallione Private Detective Agency. One of the men said the club's owner, John O'Connor, had no comment.

Whenever one of the men stuck his head outside the door of the basement club, he was greeted by protesters with shouts of "Goon!" and "Go take some steroids!"

Although there were several angry exchanges, there was no violence during the protest, which lasted from 7:30 p.m. until the bar closed around 2 a.m. yesterday. Eleven uniformed police officers and three undercover officers kept order at the scene. Hoboken's mobile police precinct was parked on Washington Street, even though police headquarters is only yards away.

Most of the protesters were from Hoboken, though fire departments in New York, Jersey City, Union City, Weehawken, West New York and Bloomfield were also represented.

"I don't really know what this is all about, but when one of our brothers has a problem, we show support," said a New York firefighter.

The protesters carried signs saying, "Don't patronize Down Under, you may wind up in a coffin," "First stop Down Under, second stop St. Mary (Hospital)," and "Down Under offers free tooth extractions on Saturday night."

When someone approached the bar, the protesters shouted, "Don't go, don't go." They handed out fliers explaining their position and showing graphic photos of Montanez's injuries.

Many people turned around and did not enter the club. A woman who did enter said there were only half a dozen customers inside, although the crowd usually numbers in the hundreds on weekends.

The crowd of onlookers watching the demonstration numbered in the hundreds at some points during the evening. Some observers joined in the protesters' shouts and many cars honked their horns in support.

Around 10 p.m. a false alarm was called and several Hoboken firetrucks rushed to the scene. They stayed for about 15 minutes, and the on-duty firefighters showed obvious support for their off-duty comrades on the picket line.

Some of the people who were convinced not to patronize the club expressed surprise at the demonstration. "I had no idea that this sort of thing happened here. I thought it was a nice place," said a Jersey City woman. Others were angry at the protesters. "People get beat up everywhere," said Dana Groomes of Hoboken.

Groomes said she frequents the club and was present the night Montanez entered. Montanez instigated the fight, she said.

"I support Down Under, and I think the bouncers did what they had to do," she said. "Why is this guy special just because he's a fireman? If I had the power, I would protest their protest."

Montanez, a six-year veteran of the Fire Department, suffered bruises around both eyes and required six stitches at St. Mary Hospital to close a cut on the back of his head. He has been on sick leave since the incident, and firefighters said he may lose sight in one eye.

Andrew Markey, president of the Hoboken Firefighters' Association, said Montanez entered the club to have a beer and watch a hockey game on TV after attending a Burn Center benefit basketball game.

Montanez somehow became involved in a dispute with a bouncer — the details are unclear — and a fight ensued. When Montanez said he

was a Hoboken firefighter, he was kicked in the face by a bouncer who said, "I'll show you what I think of firemen," according to Markey.

"We don't want to allow this to happen to a brother fireman or to anyone else," Markey said. "We think there should be a complete investigation of these charges and this place should be closed down."

Hoboken sends out pink slips

J.J. 4-28-90
600 school employees getting layoff notices

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Some 600 Hoboken school employees, including the superintendent of schools, have received notices that their jobs may be eliminated because of budget reductions and declining enrollment.

Anthony Curko, business administrator, said yesterday that he had prepared the notices for every school employee, including himself and Superintendent Walter Fine.

By yesterday, all employees had been notified, he said. The Board of Education will consider layoffs Monday night.

The "reduction in force" notices meet the legal requirements for laying off personnel, said James Farina, board vice president.

He would not venture a guess on the number of employees who actually will be axed.

"The City Council has until May 14 to have their reduction finalized. They approve that. Then it goes back to the school board, which makes the determination whether to appeal or accept the council's reductions," Farina explained.

"I don't want to see a massacre of the school system with this thing," he added.

The board will grapple with the number of layoffs needed to reduce spending, which is necessary because of budget shortfalls and declining enrollment, said schools trustee Claire DePalma.

"Every employee has received a notice. We will be meeting Monday to make the decisions, but I don't feel just teachers should go," DePalma said.

Monday is the deadline to notify school employees their jobs may be eliminated, Curko noted.

Voters rejected the proposed 1990-91 budget at the polls on Tuesday. The proposed spending plan increased by \$5 million the amount to be

Stevens still needs OKs for its own plans

Continued from Page 1

would have placed a 35-foot height limitation on campus land.

"That instigated the law suit," O'Connell said. "That ordinance has been tabled and sent back to city planners for review," he added.

Stevens attorney James Dugan said that the college will still need to have its new development plan, now in preliminary stages, approved by local planning and zoning boards. The college has hired Stan Eckstut, who designed Hoboken's waterfront, as a designer.

Dugan said that the college filed suit "alleging that the Sunshine Laws were violated to get substantive benefits and we are on the verge of getting them."

Stevens and the city may swap land for their developments, Raveche said. He was not specific about details.

The city and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey signed an agreement forming a partnership to build a 3.2 million-square-foot development at the southern end of the city.

About the time, Stevens with Hartz Mountains Industries was planning to build a 600,000-square-foot office building on its waterfront land, a plan that the Planning Board

last November rejected because of its height.

Raveche, who came to Stevens two years ago, said he did not like the Hartz plan, which he said is no longer under consideration.

Instead, the college wants to build a one-million-square-foot "technology pavilion" on

several possible locations in the city.

The college is looking to build under its existing field between Seventh and Eighth streets a parking facility for 1,100 cars, Raveche said.

The college also wants to extend its waterfront park — which is part of the city's plan

with the Port Authority — along the campus to about Eighth Street. He said the public will have access to the land.

The technology pavilion Raveche envisions will be a magnet for technology-oriented jobs, entrepreneurs and industrial research and development activity.

Hoboken will fight referendum

J.J. 4-30-90
City will appeal order for vote on P.A. plan

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken plans to file an appeal this morning with the N.J. Supreme Court contesting an appellate court's order that allows a public vote on a plan to develop the southern waterfront with the Port Authority.

"I am not going to have a small group of extremists who literally want to bring local government to a halt dictate the destiny of this community," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said last week.

Attorney Ira Karasick, who represented a coalition of residents opposed to the P.A. contract, said that the city "doesn't have any chance" in getting the Supreme Court to overturn the recent ruling of the state appeals court.

The Appellate Division of the Hudson County Superior Court ordered the city last Monday to accept a petition circulated by various community-based groups asking for a public vote on the contract between the city and bistrate agency.

The petitions were presented to the city clerk before the end of the work week by several people who sued the city for failing to accept the

petition last December, days after the City Council allowed Pasculli to sign a contract with the Port Authority.

Daniel Tumpson, one of the petition organizers, said that he was "glad that we finally got the city to take the petitions. We look forward to the people of Hoboken looking at this project with the Port Authority and voting it down."

The city plans to build a 3.2 million square foot development of offices, residential units and commercial space on the waterfront with the Port Authority.

Since the Pasculli administration has been negotiating with the Port Authority, it accepted \$7 million from the Authority last December when the city signed an agreement to develop the land with the bistrate agency. That money was used to offset budget shortfalls.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius, in an affidavit to the Supreme Court requesting a speedy hearing, said the city will face financial ruin if the contract is voided by residents.

"They will be paying almost 50 percent more of what they are paying now in taxes," Chius said. The tax rate is

Stevens won't contest P.A. on waterfront

J.J. 4-27-90
College dropping lawsuit against development plan

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Stevens Institute of Technology announced yesterday it was dropping its lawsuit contesting Hoboken's agreement to develop the southern waterfront with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

In turn, Mayor Patrick Pasculli, at a joint press conference with Harold Raveche, Stevens president, said that the city will reconsider a 35-foot height limitation the Planning Board had recommended for the waterfront campus.

"We are here to announce a new spirit of friendship and cooperation between the City of Hoboken and Stevens Institute," Pasculli said, adding that "Hoboken will be working closely with Stevens to make their vision for a development plan a reality."

The new spirit of cooperation includes the two parties' examining building a technology center for Stevens on several locations in the city, including at the college and on land targeted for development by the city and Port Authority.

Stevens will designate a

portion of its waterfront land for public parks and recreation. The city and college will explore ways to create additional offstreet parking at the college for both the Stevens population and residential use.

Stevens filed suit last December against the city and Planning Board, charging that the development agreement between the city and the Port Authority violated the Sunshine Open Meetings Law because it did not satisfy a requirement for public comment.

The suit alleges that the redevelopment plan for the southern waterfront, a blight declaration for the parcel and the lease agreement with the Port Authority were all defective because inadequate notice was given to the public of meetings of both the City Council and Planning Board where the measures were approved.

Yesterday, Law Director Eugene O'Connell said that he believed Stevens filed suit against the city not because it objected to the city agreement with the bistrate agency but rather because of the plan that

See STEVENS — Page 8

Officials fear an increase in taxes

Continued from Page 1

\$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The city would be obligated to give back the \$7 million it accepted last December as well as \$3 million it expects to receive from the authority this year, Chius said. Moreover, the \$7 million shortfall in the next budget would put an additional \$5 hike on the tax rate, he said.

"What is at stake is financial stability both short term and long term," Pasculli said.

Tumpson disagrees. He

said that the Hoboken P.A. deal gave Hoboken a nice chunk of money for last year and may give more this year. But for the rest of the 50-year agreement, Hoboken will see very little money with the majority of the project's profits going to the Port Authority.

Tumpson said the \$7 million shortfall in the operating budget that was funded with P.A. money will eventually need to be placed on the local tax levy, unless the city plans to reduce spending.

proved contract with the Hoboken Teachers Association.

The three-year pact, retroactive to July 1989, will cost a total of about \$5 million and represents about a 30 percent increase in salaries.

Smaller raises would have resulted in fewer layoffs, DePalma said.

"That makes a lot of sense," Farina said.

"The less you pay, the more money you're going to have," Farina said.

"It's common sense. But that is water under the bridge now. We are going to have to live with that situation."

Louise Cuttillo-Boscia, HTA spokesman, disagreed that the contract will cost jobs.

"The candidates running for the school board made the

teachers' contract an issue. If this had been settled six months ago, like it should have been, this would be a dead issue," Cuttillo-Boscia said.

"All that about a fat teachers' contract — used by the candidates — that caused budget shortfall and layoffs is not because of my contract but because of (a loss) in state aid," she said.

600 in Hoboken schools get layoff notices

Continued from Page 1

through local taxes because of reductions in state aid and increases in spending.

That amount represented a \$3 hike on the existing tax increase of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Included in the budget was \$2.6 million to fund the remainder of the first year and the second year of a newly ap-

proved contract with the Hoboken Teachers Association. The three-year pact, retroactive to July 1989, will cost a total of about \$5 million and represents about a 30 percent increase in salaries.

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"The candidates running for the school board made the

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Firemen Protest Bar Beating

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PROTEST

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fliers that urged potential patrons to spend Saturday night elsewhere.

"There are many fantastic and safe clubs and restaurants in our town," the firefighters' handout read. "We ask you to support us in this very serious matter and find yourself a friendly place to spend your evening."

Most people who approached the club's entrance turned away after glancing at that flier and another that bore pictures of Montanez displaying his injuries.

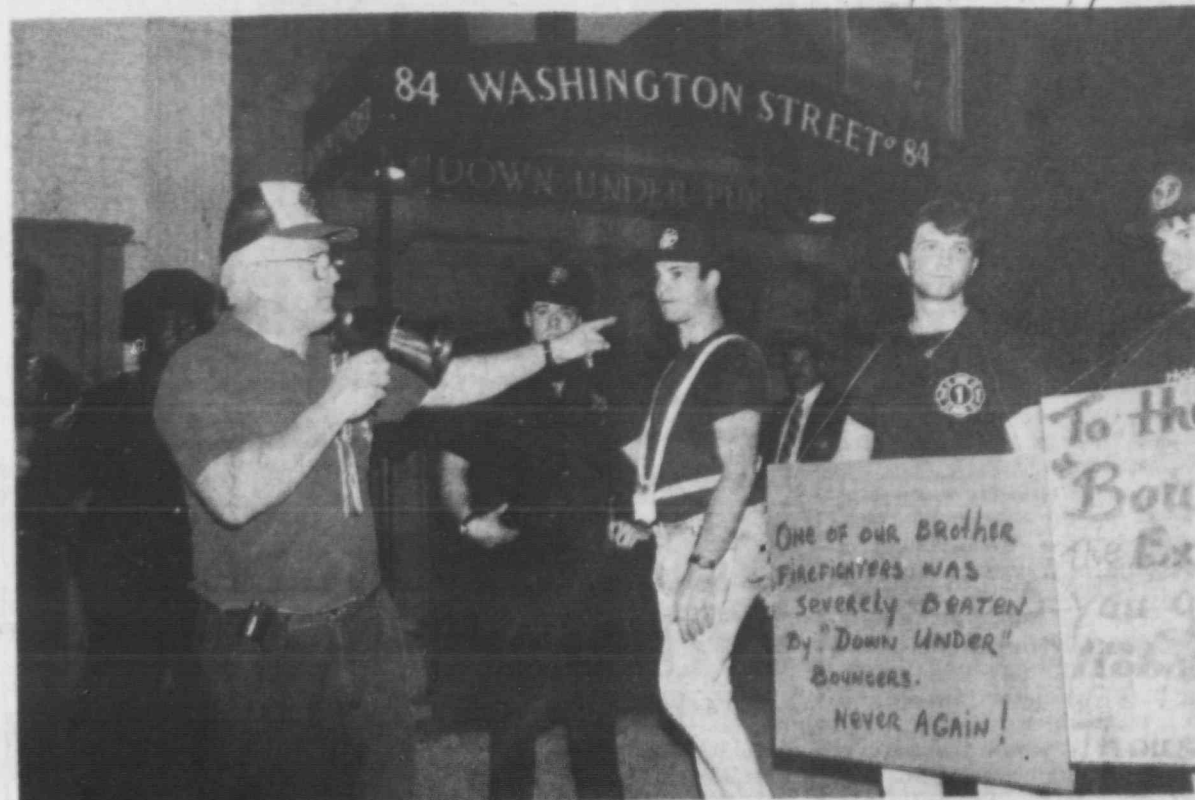
Down Under owner John O'Connor has refused to comment on the incident. O'Connor

also refused to speak about the demonstration or its effect on business.

But a police officer who wandered in and out of the club during the rally said less than 10 customers were inside at any one time.

Markey said he believes the picketing was a success.

"It was an excellent turnout," Markey said, adding that firefighters from Weehawken, Union City, North Bergen and West New York showed up to walk the line. "From what we can gather, only about 15 people went inside all night."



Hoboken Deputy Chief Bill Bergin gives instructions to fellow firefighters picketing the Down Under Pub on Washington Street.

JIM LOWNEY THE HUDSON DISPATCH

150 picket outside Hoboken nightspot

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — More than 150 firefighters picketed outside the Down Under disco to protest the alleged beating of an off-duty firefighter by one of the club's bouncers.

Calling the Washington Street nightspot a "bucket of blood," members of the city's two firefighter unions said they want to see Down Under go under.

"We would like to see the place closed down," said Andrew Markey, president of International Association of Firefighters Local 1078. "We have reason to believe similar incidents have taken place there."

The Saturday night protest was planned after a bouncer, Timothy Doherty of Hasbrouck Heights, allegedly assaulted William

Montanez, an off-duty city firefighter, in the disco nine days ago.

Union officers maintain Montanez, 30, was severely beaten and kicked by Doherty, 27, without provocation in the club's back cellar stairwell. The two men have filed assault charges against one another. Montanez suffered multiple bruises on his face and left eye and had a gash on the back of his head that required stitches. He has been placed off duty.

"The place is a goon outfit," said Deputy Chief Bill Bergin, president of International Association of Fire Officers 1076. "This was a vicious beating."

The large crowd of firefighters lined the first block of Washington Street outside the club from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m., distributing

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Maxwell House union workers refuse to reopen their contract

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The shipping and receiving union at the Maxwell House coffee plant in Hoboken has voted down a proposal to reopen its three-year contract with management, the plant manager said yesterday.

The International Longshoremen's Association Local 1478 on Sunday rejected a proposal to reopen the contract for major labor concessions, including elimination of two paid holidays and double-time pay as well as reductions in overtime pay, Bert Quarfordt said.

But an ILA union member manning the office telephone yesterday said that "the door is still open" and that the union is still "talking" to management.

The labor concessions are part of management's efforts to cut costs for running the waterfront plant, which has been operating in Hoboken for a half century.

Quarfordt is attempting to make Hoboken more competitive than the Maxwell House coffee plant in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Jacksonville plant has two 12-hour shifts to cut down on overtime and double time and two fewer paid holidays,

according to Quarfordt. But the Maxwell House workers in Jacksonville, members of a United Food Commercial Workers local, voted last month not to reopen their three-year contract.

Workers there, like those in Hoboken, are beginning the second year of their labor pact. At issue is General Foods USA's decision to close one of its coffee plants, either in Hoboken or Jacksonville, because of finances and a decrease in coffee consumption.

General Foods, which is owned by Philip Morris, had asked both plants to submit operational reports by early May.

A decision to close a plant will be made next month. Quarfordt said yesterday that he expects Ray Vialti, vice president of General Foods and president of Maxwell House, will tour the Hoboken plant later this month, the same week he will visit the Jacksonville facility.

The ILA represents only a portion of the Maxwell House workers, most of whom belong to Local 56 of the United Food Commercial Workers, which represents about 400 of the 600 employees.

Although management has approached Local 56 about

making concessions about vacation pay, elimination of two paid holidays and double time, reductions in overtime and a four-day on, four-day off schedule, the membership has not taken an official vote, Quarfordt said.

The plan to install two 12-hour working shifts on a four-day on, four-day off schedule instead of the existing three eight-hour shifts, has been taken off the bargaining table, he said.

When General Foods made its announcement, government officials in both Hoboken and Jacksonville formed ad hoc committees to draft incentive packages to keep the plants in their cities.

For example, the Hoboken City Council lowered water rates for Maxwell House.

Other areas of concern include transportation costs, utility costs and labor costs.

Herman Volk, head of the Governor's Waterfront Office, said the local, state and federal officials as well as representatives of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are still working on the incentives package.

He said it will be presented to Maxwell House "as soon as Bert says he needs it."

A fire captain faces drug test

Hoboken veteran arrested at Woodbridge restaurant

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Fire Captain Fred T. Meyer is expected to take a physical examination today following his recent arrest on a charge of possession of cocaine.

Meyer, who has been a Hoboken firefighter for about 20 years, was arrested April 19 near the Moby Dick restaurant in Woodbridge by a Woodbridge police detective, Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremietti said yesterday.

The Hoboken Fire Department as well as Public Safety Director Thomas Kennedy were contacted about the arrest, he said.

Meyer has been on sick leave since April 6, the fire chief said.

"He was arrested in Woodbridge and charged with possession of two clear bottles

containing one gram of cocaine," Tremietti said.

Meyer, who lives in Carteret, has not been indicted, he said.

The fire captain has an unpublished telephone number and could not be reached by The Jersey Journal.

Meyer has not been suspended, Tremietti said.

However, the Police Department is conducting an in-house investigation into the arrest, he said. "I have ordered our department surgeon to conduct a medical exam."

"I am waiting for the investigation of our Police Department and to see whether there is an indictment," Tremietti said.

If convicted, Meyer could be fired, he said. Meyer asked for a sick leave but not because of any trouble with substance

See VETERAN — Page 6

Inter-agency strife in Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

declined comment and referred questions to his attorney, who could not be reached. A resident of Hasbrouck Heights, O'Connor opened the bar last year in partnership with Giants offensive lineman John Elliott and defensive lineman Erik Howard. He recently bought out the football players.

Arrey said he has received information about a dozen beatings by bouncers at the club, and he called the Montanez incident part of a pattern of violence. Hoboken police confirmed three other complaints against Down Under bouncers.

"This is not the first time this has happened," Arrey said. More than 200 firefighters picketed the club Saturday night and convinced many patrons to boycott it. Eleven uniformed police officers and three undercover officers kept order at the demonstration.

Sgt. Joseph Petrillo, president of the Hoboken police union, charged that the police were cursed by firefighters and black officers were insulted with racial epithets.

"We were there to do our job, to preserve law and order," Petrillo said. "They handled us like they thought we were thugs ourselves. We deserve more respect than that."

"They have the right to demonstrate just like anyone else, but we're not going to take abuse like that any longer, and we wouldn't have taken it if they weren't firefighters. In future demonstrations, we are not going to take that abuse."

A reporter who was at the demonstration for three hours

did not witness any clashes between police and firefighters. But John Rutkowski, president of the police officers union, said there "were several verbal incidents, things that were said to officers standing by the picket lines. It was nothing of a physical nature that you'd be able to see."

Both police unions demanded an apology from the firefighters.

But the leaders of the Hoboken firefighter unions, which had organized the demonstration, said that the protesters did not attack police officers.

"We had anticipated this reaction," said Deputy Fire Chief William Bergin. "This always happens when there's a situation that involves the police officers and the Fire Department."

Police officers may have interpreted the demonstration as an insult to the department, he said.

"The Hoboken Police Department in our estimation is a class outfit, but in any outfit if there's any garbage it's got to be cleared up," Bergin said.

Asked if there was a feud with the Police Department, firefighters' union President Andrew Markey said, "It seems that's what it's developing into."

"I think (the Police Department) is basically losing sight of the problem at hand here," Markey said. "There's an establishment that might be operating in a detrimental way to the community, and they're the people who have to take the necessary steps."

Other firefighters who spoke on the condition that

they not be identified said police officers are "too chummy" with the people who work at Down Under. Located directly across Newark Street from police headquarters, the bar is a popular watering hole for some officers.

Off-duty Hoboken officers are frequently employed by the club to work at the door. Public Safety Director Tom Kennedy confirmed that an off-duty officer was working at the door the night of the Montanez incident, but he said the officer had no knowledge of what was happening inside the club.

"He ran downstairs to break it up," Kennedy said. "He was upstairs and outside. When he went downstairs, he did what the normal procedure dictates. The firefighter was putting up a struggle."

Arrey said he will request an investigation by the Hudson County prosecutor because an off-duty Hoboken police officer and an off-duty officer from outside the county may have been involved in the incident. He said he is trying to determine the identities of both men.

"I don't like some of the implications being made (by firefighters). Hoboken detectives are investigating and I'm sure all of the facts will come out in court."

Kennedy, who oversees the Police and Fire departments, is not concerned about bad blood between them.

"I'm sure cool heads will prevail," he said. "Our departments will work in unity as professionals. I will see to it as the public safety director. The public has nothing to worry about it."

Cops and firefighters clash over club brawl

By Jim DeKogatis
Journal staff writer

A protest at a Hoboken night club Saturday opened a vein of bad blood between the city's Police and Fire departments.

The presidents of the Hoboken police officers and police superiors unions charged yesterday that firefighters cursed police and hurled racial epithets during a demonstration in front of Down Under, a dance club at Newark and Washington streets.

Meanwhile, firefighters and the presidents of the firefighter unions are charging that police may have ignored incidents at the club because police officers frequent the bar

and are friendly with its owner. Off-duty firefighter William Montanez, 34, was brutally beaten by up to three bouncers in an alley behind the club two weeks ago, according to his attorney, Patrick Arrey of Secaucus.

Montanez and Timothy Doherty, a 27-year-old bouncer from Hasbrouck Heights have filed assault charges against each other. Montanez required seven stitches to close a cut on the back of his head and he may have suffered retinal damage in one eye, according to a hospital spokeswoman and Arrey. It could not be determined if the bouncer suffered injury.

Club owner John O'Connor

See INTER-AGENCY — Page 6

Hoboken urges quick court action on waterfront plan

By Joseph Albright
Journal correspondent

TRENTON — Hoboken yesterday asked the State Supreme Court to grant certification to hear its appeal from a lower-court ruling requiring the "Waterfront at Hoboken" plan to be submitted to the voters later this spring.

Hoboken also asked that the state's highest tribunal hear the case on an accelerated basis, a spokesman said yesterday.

The city is not asking the Supreme Court to grant a stay on the referendum ordered by the Appellate Division of State Superior Court on April 23, the spokesman added.

However, the appellants are asking the court to reach a decision by the end of May, the official said. The spokesman noted that Hoboken has 10 days

to file the notice of petition and the citizens group has five days to respond.

The court will not make any ruling until the necessary papers have been filed, the spokesman noted.

The Hoboken waterfront plan, spanning some 65 acres

involving a \$125 million commitment by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is being challenged by residents who collected 1,690 signatures seeking to repeal the ordinance authorizing the agreement.

The Appellate Division

ruled that the Hoboken clerk must place the development plan before the voters in a referendum. It could be held this spring.

Opponents, who lost a referendum a year ago to convert pier areas into a park, have expressed concern over the en-

vironmental impact, traffic congestion and the economic viability of the plan approved by Hoboken and the P.A. last December.

Its main elements include some 1,600 residential units, 1.4 million square feet of offices, stores and a hotel.

The three-judge appeals panel conceded last week that the project is a complex matter demanding "careful study and thorough investigation," but observed, "We find no evidence that the Legislature intended to bar referenda for such reasons."

Veteran fire captain facing drug charge

Continued from Page 1

abuse, he said. As a firefighter, Meyer "is very courageous. He has excellent skills as a firefighter," the fire chief said.

Neither the Fire nor Police departments have random drug testing nor do the departments screen for drugs among new employees, Tremietti said.

Drug tests are not employed because, among other reasons, the courts have found that the state law violates constitutional rights, he said.

However, both unions during recent contract negotiations with the city discussed a uniform drug-testing policy.

City must pay P.A. \$7M if pier deal is KO'd

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli signed a "side agreement" with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey agreeing to repay the bistate agency \$7 million within 15 working days or place a lien against the city's waterfront land if their partnership falls through.

The "side agreement" was disclosed last night to the City Council by Daniel Tumpson, an anti-P.A. advocate, who obtained the information from court papers the city filed this week with the state Supreme Court.

Council members later in-

terviewed did not know of the side agreement.

The city is asking the Supreme Court for a speedy hearing on a recent ruling by the Appellate Court ordering a referendum on whether the city should develop its waterfront with the P.A.

Law Director Eugene O'Connell said that he knew of the secret agreement last December but failed to inform the council.

O'Connell said that after a group of residents, spearheaded by Tumpson, began a petition drive calling for the public vote, the P.A. asked for the side agreement that would return within 15 business days the \$7 million the authority gave the

city upon signing an agreement last December.

He said to protect the city, he added language that would allow a lien against the city-owned property to get more time to repay the authority.

In an affidavit, Edwin Chius, city business administrator, stated that "at the time of the execution of the agreement with the Port Authority, a side agreement was executed pursuant to which the city agreed to repay the \$7 million to the Port Authority within 15 business days from the date of the invalidation or repeal of the agreement."

He also stated in addition to repaying the \$7 million the tax rate would increase by \$8

per \$1,000 of assessed valuation if the deal falls through.

Tumpson and a coalition of community groups circulated a petition last December, days after the council allowed the mayor to sign a partnership agreement with the P.A.

They claim that the agreement is a bad deal for the city with the P.A. getting the lion's share of profits.

The city refused to accept the petition based on a legal ruling from the Law Department that the public cannot legislate zoning and development. That opinion was supported by Hudson County Superior Court Judge Severiano

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Calabro School moving to larger quarters

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

A plan initiated by parents and teachers to move the academically successful Calabro School into the closed David E. Rue School building was approved last night by the Hoboken Board of Education.

A controversy over whether to end the lottery system at the school and open it to general enrollment still has to be settled by school trustees.

The board unanimously approved a request to move the Salvatore Calabro School, located on Park Avenue at Fifth Street, to the Rue School, located at Third and Garden streets.

To reduce school spending, the Board of Education three years ago voted to close the

Rue School, which had had spent nearly \$5 million in renovations a year before its closing.

Since that time, the school has generated little revenue for the city and presently it rents only a portion of its first floor to a day care center.

Despite its academic reputation, Calabro doesn't have a library, gymnasium, a stage, a room for art or music or space for the gifted and talented program.

Calabro School principal Richard Del Boccio said the facility was built 15 years ago, and was intended for early grades and designed for 300 students. He said now 350 students are squeezed into the building.

Because the facility was

small, a lottery system for enrollment was created as an impartial means of placing students.

Last fall the school site management team, a committee of teachers, parents, the principal and an administrator, discussed the idea of moving Calabro into Rue to gain more space and open up student enrollment.

Parents of the school site management team had expected the lottery system would end because the Rue school building was large enough to accommodate enough students for open enrollment.

But apparently the school's Parent, Teacher, Student Organization is against open enrollment and wants to continue the lottery.

Marie Cassesa, a member of the school site management team, said that when the fall PTSO was presented last week the plan to move Calabro the issue of the lottery surfaced.

"Parents were vehement, they want the lottery to remain," Cassesa said last night. Calabro School parent Michele Russo urged the board last night not to change the lottery system.

"I don't think we would help the rest of the system to disrupt anything at this point when we're finally getting ahead. It seems unfair," Russo said.

Parents are also concerned that if the lottery is opened up, Calabro students would be transferred to their neighborhood schools, Cassesa said.

Hoboken cops, firefighters agree to end their feuding

By Jim DeKogatis
Journal staff writer

Hoboken police and firefighters met to bury the hatchet yesterday, easing tensions between the departments that erupted after a protest last week.

The heads of the police and fire unions traded harsh words in the wake of Saturday's protest in front of Down Under, a popular Hoboken dance club, and the traditional rivalry turned into a flow-blown feud.

The firefighters charged that a veteran Hoboken fireman was beaten by bouncers at the club two weeks ago. More than 200 firemen picketed the club and urged patrons to boycott it.

The club is a popular watering hole for some Hoboken police officers, and off-duty officers often work at the door. Firefighters suggested police were "too chummy" with the

bar's owner and may have ignored other incidents at the club.

An off-duty officer was working the night firefighter William Montanez was beaten. City officials said he was not involved in the incident, but an attorney representing Montanez said the officer may have played a role.

The demonstration angered police. Police union officials charged that firefighters insulted officers with foul language and racial epithets.

Officials from the unions met with Public Safety Director Tom Kennedy yesterday and "resolved any inhouse problems we may have had," according to Andrew Markey, president of the firefighters' union.

"There were a lot of misunderstandings and a lot of rhetoric going back and forth, and that's been cleared up," Markey said.

Down Under owner John O'Connor made a brief appearance at the meeting and promised firefighters that he'd be "watchdogging the employees," Markey added. O'Connor has refused to comment on the incident or the protest.

Police union president John Rakowski called it "a very productive meeting. Everything was ironed out and the bad blood is gone," he said.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli was pleased the feuding departments met. "It's not healthy. When feelings become strained, it doesn't help the community," he said.

Hoboken detectives are still investigating and have urged anyone who witnessed the incident in the bar on April 21 to contact them at 420-2106.

Montanez, 34, and Timothy Doherty, a 27-year-old bouncer from Hasbrouck Heights, have filed assault charges against each other. Montanez required

seven stitches to close a cut on the back of his head and he may have suffered retinal damage in one eye, according to his attorney. It could not be determined if the bouncer suffered injury.

Montanez' attorney, Patrick Arrey of Secaucus, said he has received information about a dozen beatings by bouncers at the club, and he called the Montanez incident part of a pattern of violence. Hoboken police confirmed three other complaints against Down Under bouncers.

Arrey said he will request an investigation by the Hudson County prosecutor because an off-duty Hoboken police officer and an off-duty officer from outside the county may have been involved. Prosecutor Paul DePascale said a meeting is scheduled between Arrey and a member of his staff, but his office is not yet involved.

"All I know is what I've

seen in the paper. As far as we know, Hoboken police did investigate, and no formal criticism has been forwarded yet,"

DePascale said. "If a substantial allegation of a lax investigation is made, we may very well take look at it."

State orders recount of close vote in Hoboken school board election

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Dr. Saul Cooperman, state commissioner of education, has approved a recount of last week's Hoboken Board of Education election in which two political newcomers came within striking distance of a four-member slate backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

The recount is scheduled for Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in Kearny, where the Hudson County Board of Elections stores the voting machines.

Cooperman approved the request for the recount by Jonathan R. Gordon, who ran for a three-year seat, and Michael Korman, candidate for a one-year term.

Elected to three-year terms on the mayor's ticket were incumbent Geraldine Pantoliano, receiving 1,998 votes including 74 absentee ballots; incumbent Perry Belfiore, who got 1,711 votes including 71 absentee ballots; and Angel Alcala, Jr., who received 1,584, including 61 absentee ballots.

Gordon, supported by Councilmen Joseph Della Fave and Thomas

Newman, lost to Alcala by only five votes on the machines and only by 42 votes including the absentee votes. Gordon received 1,542 votes.

Elected to a one-year term was Eddie Garcia, supported by Pasculli, who received 1,328 votes on the machines and 62 absentee ballots.

Korman, supported by Newman and Della Fave, received 21 more votes on the machines with 1,349 votes but lost to Garcia by 20 votes.

The voting machines as well as the paper absentee ballots have been impounded.

Water main bursts in Hoboken

Three streets, cellars flooded

By DAVID REILLY

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Emergency crews worked yesterday to repair a burst water main that submerged three city streets, flooded residents' basements and left almost 200 families without water for hours.

The flooding began about 1 a.m. Saturday when a water main ruptured at Tenth Street and Willow Avenue.

A 25-foot area of the street collapsed as the water gushed to the surface, quickly flooding Willow Avenue and Ninth and Tenth streets.

"I've seen large water main breaks, but I've never seen this much damage," said Public Works Director Roy Haack. "We lost a good portion of the street."

The problem worsened when the collapsing concrete cracked a gas main, which was over the broken water line, Haack said.

The breaks left about 200 residents on nearby streets without water for most of Saturday and many without gas, Haack said.

Both gas and water were restored by Saturday night, he said. The water main rupture was due to old age.

"It's about 80 to 90 years old," Haack said.



Workers repair a broken water main at Tenth Street and Willow Avenue in Hoboken yesterday.

Correcting the soggy problem will probably cost the city about \$25,000 to \$30,000, he said.

Besides repairing the pipe and the street, workers also had to drain and clean mud from several flooded basement apartments on Willow Avenue.

The closure of the streets and the floods also hurt several local businesses.

Uwe Toedter said his Gold Coast Cafe, on the corner where the water main broke, had few customers during the weekend.

"I usually have 50 or 60 people

on a Sunday afternoon," Toedter said yesterday. "Today, I've had one or two people. I'm open, but I have no business."

Haack said Willow Avenue should be open this morning, but Tenth Street will probably remain closed for a week.

Demolition starts smelly sewage tank fire

By Kery Murakami
Journal staff writer

Hoboken firefighters battled smoke and other bad smells yesterday when a tank of sewage caught fire.

Flames were brought under control shortly before 3 p.m. — about 20 minutes after it began. The tank was not in operation and the rest of the 16th Street plant was not damaged.

Workers preparing to dismantle the old tank accidentally set its rubber lining on fire with acetylene torches, fire officials said. The flames spread to the sewage in the 700,000-gallon concrete tank.

"Anything burns if it's hot enough,"

Deputy Fire Chief Charlie Ebersole said. Heavy black smoke traveled close to the ground, then ran up the Palisades, where it was visible as far away as Jersey City.

One worker was given first aid for smoke inhalation when he tried to put out the fire with a small water hose, Ebersole said.

The digesting tank was nearly filled with sewage but it was not in operation, said Richard Wolff, chairman of the Tri-City Sewerage Authority, which runs the plant.

The sewage has been in the digesting tank since last May, when the state Department of Environmental Protection found

the tank to be substandard and ordered it closed.

The sewage is slated to be removed and the tank demolished later this year as part of a three-year renovation of the plant, Wolff said.

The workers yesterday were cutting viewing holes in the tank's metal top before beginning the dismantling work, said Dan LaMorte, a supervisor Taylor-Woodruff contracting company of New York.

Nineteen firefighters dragged hoses up the plant's rickety metal stairs to put out the flames.

"It was actually a pretty easy fire to put out," Ebersole said. "We had our masks on."

Pasculli-P.A. deal called illegal

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken City Council members believe the private agreement that Mayor Patrick Pasculli signed with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is illegal.

The agreement pledges the city to pay the bistate agency \$7 million in 15 working days or place a lien against the city's waterfront land if the P.A.-Hoboken development deal falls through.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave said that the mayor has "mortgaged the waterfront without telling the public."

"This is another part of a pattern of secret meetings and discussions with no regard to the public or the public process. And neither party seems to think about the public interest," Della Fave said.

"Is this binding? It isn't legal. He had no authority to do that under the Faulkner Act."

He had no right to enter into that agreement without council approval. Just as bad, he never informed the council or the public that he put taxpayers in a \$7 million risk," Della Fave said.

Councilman Steve Cappiello, a former mayor who negotiated with the P.A., said the council was "stunned" by the news of the private agreement and that the measure eroded public trust in the administration.

"The entire council was stunned that he made a deal like that. We didn't know about it until it was brought to the council attention by the SHOD (Save Hoboken from Over-Development) people," Cappiello said.

City Council President E.

Norman Wilson yesterday requested a copy of the agreement Pasculli signed in December shortly after the council had authorized him to enter into a 50-year development partnership with the authority.

Wilson said the council "should have been apprised" of the agreement.

"I don't think it is binding. I think he needed City Council authorization," said Wilson, an attorney.

Pasculli said he believed Law Director Eugene O'Connell had notified the City Council. O'Connell said he failed to do so.

"This is not a big deal. It is a fundamental part of the agreement," Pasculli said. "No one is going to give \$7 million away for nothing. I can't believe anyone would believe we

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Pasculli wants reported slur of Asian Indians probed

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli has asked for an investigation into a letter sent by a landlord to an Indian community leader which referred to Indians as "dot heads."

The landlord, Murray Connell, denied in published reports that he sent an offensive letter to his tenant, Vasudev Trivedi. Connell could not be reached for comment by The Jersey Journal.

Pasculli wants to know who is responsible for the letter if Connell did not send it and has asked Connell in a written letter for his support.

"The Indian community has been an asset to the city of Hoboken as residents, business people and particularly their children who have been excellent students," the mayor wrote.

"Our city has always welcomed immigrants and will continue to do so. And it is my obligation to see that racial slurs do not become commonplace. I have instructed the police division to conduct an investigation into this matter and I expect your full cooperation," Pasculli stated.

"There is no room in our community for such un-American remarks," the mayor wrote. Trivedi, president of 805-

821 Park Avenue Tenant Association, welcomed the mayor's support.

"This is very supportive and it is going to help not just the Indian tenants living in this block, but the Indian community living in Hoboken at large," Trivedi said.

Trivedi said he believed the signature on the letter he supposedly received from Connell and the stationery were authentic.

Mono Sen, an Indian leader in Jersey City, has promised support to help organize "and to do whatever has to be done so that no one can make such ugly remarks against any community," he said.

Connell, who owns 90 apartments in the 800 block of Park Avenue, has not returned telephone calls to The Jersey Journal since Trivedi made public the letter two weeks ago.

Connell's letter addresses the issues of vandalism, security and the conditions of the front doors.

"The possibility of a door striking somebody exists whether the door opens in or out which is the reason why, here in America, we put glass in the doors to observe the other side prior to opening."

"I would appreciate your advising all the dot heads of this procedure," the letter reads.

Connell bought the 90 apartments in 1984 and began proceedings to convert the units into condominiums, Trivedi said. But negotiations

have broken down, and Trivedi says he suspects that Connell is trying to coerce tenants to vacate their apartments.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

halation, Ebersole said. The tank's cover contained the fire within the 100-foot-diameter surface of the sewage.

Although the fire was minor and quickly extinguished, it added fuel to residents' complaints about the gasifier planned for the treatment plant. Residents have said smoke from the gasifier — a hi-tech incinerator — would choke them and endanger their health.

Wolff said the smoke's path up the Palisades substantiated their claims.

Blaze raises a stink

Sewage plant fire skunks up the air

By ROBYN PFORR
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Thick black, smelly smoke billowed from a 700,000-gallon tank of 2-year-old sewage yesterday after a construction worker's blowtorch ignited a pile of straw and hay in the tank.

The smoke — reeking of burned sewage and rubber — crawled across the flat land from the sewage plant, located at 16th and Grand streets, and climbed the Palisades, enveloping the Weehawken neighborhoods.

Nineteen firefighters took 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze, which began at 2:30 p.m., said Deputy Chief Charles Ebersole.

Richard Wolff, chairman of the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority, which oversees the plant, said the fire began when construction workers cut through the tank's metal dome top.

The workers, employed by LAD Construction, a subcontractor for Taylor & Woodrow Construction Co., were trying to tear down the 25-year-old rusting tank to make way for a new secondary treatment sewage plant, one designed to comply with new state Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

Wolff said sparks from a worker's torch set fire to straw and hay floating atop the sewage, as well as to the tank's rubber seal.

One construction worker, who tried to control the flames before firefighters arrived, was treated at St. Mary Hospital here for minor smoke in-

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Pasculli deal called illegal

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could receive \$7 million gratis in the event that the agreement could not be carried out."

But Wilson said the document the council authorized the mayor to sign contained language to repay the P.A. if the deal fell through, but the repayment would be over a longer period and more cumbersome for the P.A. to recover.

Councilman Richard England, a mayoral running mate, said he was surprised by the information but noted the mayor, in his campaign, forged a voter consensus to develop the waterfront with the P.A.

"If voters decide to go the other way and not allow the Port Authority to be financial partners, the city still has to pay \$7 million plus because of all the development costs involved," England said.

Pasculli said the P.A. has already invested \$11 million.

After Pasculli signed the 50-year agreement with the P.A., a group of residents circulated a petition calling for a public vote on the pact because they believed it was a bad financial deal for the city.

O'Connell said that after the petition was submitted, the P.A. asked for a side agreement that would return within 15 business days the \$7 million the authority gave the city. He added language that would allow a lien against city property to get more time to repay the P.A., he said.

The citizen groups have eight days to certify about 113 signatures to force a referendum on the contract with the P.A. to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development at the city's southern end.

Hour of decision near for Maxwell House

600 jobs are on the line in Hoboken if parent company closes that plant

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

An old pier has gotten a new coat of beige paint at Maxwell House, a coffee plant that has operated on the Hudson River waterfront in Hoboken for a half century.

The paint job serves two purposes, said Plant Manager Bert Quarfordt.

Management wants to spruce up the grounds for a visit in about two weeks from Ray Viault, company president and vice president of General Foods USA, which is owned by Philip Morris Co.

During the same week, Viault will tour the Maxwell House plant in Jacksonville, Fla. to decide which plant will close.

The pier is also being painted as part of a bigger plan — now in the works with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey — to get coffee beans at a cheaper cost to the Hoboken plant via the Hudson River.

"I don't want to be too specific," Quarfordt said. "I don't want them to know what they have to do to outbid. We are considering using the pier to store coffee."

The competition between the two cities is fierce. The

Hoboken plant employs about 600 people, but up to 4,000 regional jobs would be affected by its closing.

Hoboken plant workers are sporting buttons saying, "Hoboken Will Win." Jacksonville's slogan is "Keep Max in Jax."

When General Foods announced three months ago that it would close a plant because of declining coffee consumption, both riverfront cities formed committees to develop economic incentive packages to offer the parent company.

The incentive packages will be presented to Viault during his visit.

In Hoboken, Mayor Patrick Pasculli assembled representatives of the P.A., the state Department of Commerce, the governor's office, county officials, and the local utility company.

Among its advantages, the Jacksonville plant has lower labor costs, lower utility and water bills, and cheaper transportation because the coffee beans are trucked a short distance to the plant from the Jacksonville port.

Parts of the Hoboken incentive committee have been disclosed.

The Hoboken City Council

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Hoboken plant fighting for life

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recently lowered water rates for Maxwell House by \$1.50 and approved zoning that places a buffer around the 20-acre site as a symbolic gesture that the industry is in Hoboken's long-term waterfront plan.

Without giving specifics, Pasculli noted that Public Service Electric and Gas Co. is part of the task force. The Hoboken plant is conducting air quality tests to see if the state Department of Environmental Protection will allow it to burn its furnaces at a lower temperature to save on utility bills, Quarfordt said.

State lawmakers have announced that they can provide Hoboken with job training money.

New York is offering lower shipping costs into New York Harbor, according to Gov. Mario Cuomo's office.

And then there is that newly-painted pier.

"We are trying to use the water to get the green coffee and use the water as an advantage to our benefit," Quarfordt

said. After coffee is received in New York Harbor it is trucked through Brooklyn, across the Verrazano Bridge into Hoboken, which takes time and money.

Part of the incentive package includes an offer from the P.A. to improve warehouses to store beans as well as get the green coffee beans to Hoboken by boat, said U.S. Rep. Frank Guarini, D-N.J.

"I am hopeful that the plan will be accepted. It bodes well for the region," Guarini said. "Local and state offices from both sides of the Hudson and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are working together to save up to 4,000 jobs that could be lost if Maxwell House closes."

Pasculli said the plan "would give us for the first time in 20 years the opportunity to open up waterfront commerce which would result in additional jobs for this community."

The two plants are very similar. The Jacksonville plant, built in 1924, and Hobo-

ken plant, built in 1939, can each process about 1.3 million pounds of coffee a day.

Although the Jacksonville plant is not directly on the water, their land value is about the same and both plants are near closed waterfront shipping yards that had great potential for commercial and residential development.

A Hoboken real estate expert recently noted that the greatest asset for the plant may also be its kiss of death — it has New York as its backyard.

Directly across from the plant is the Empire State Building and a panoramic view of the Big Apple.

But Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the land's value will skyrocket when waterfront development begins at the southern end of the city and when the adjoining 90-acre northern parcel eventually has development plans. "They may as well hang on to it for another 10 or 15 years," Chius said. "And then, who knows what the technology will be to process coffee."

Grounds for 'give-backs' split coffee workers

By Jo-Ann Moriarty
Journal staff writer

The mood was ugly inside the Elks Lodge, as workers voted to send a hard message to a management poised to possibly take their jobs.

The message? No concessions. When the leaders of Local 56 of United Commercial Food Workers entered the hall, they were booed.

And during the two-hour meeting, the 300 men and women squeezed into the lodge make it known that they did not want to cave into the demands of a big and

wealthy company such as General Foods USA.

The plant workers chanted "reject, reject." They cursed, the company and swore they would not give up their benefits.

"I have never seen anything like this," said a Maxwell House worker who used to work at Colgate. "Colgate had nothing like this. This is wild. These people are very emotional," he said.

The huge hall was filled with cigarette smoke. When temperatures began rising, doors to the hall were opened and then the doors to the streets.

Outside, passersby found the relative

quiet of the neighborhood punctuated by the sounds of fierce arguing from within.

In the end, only 30 votes decided against opening up the contract for labor concessions. General Foods, which is owned by Philip Morris and has been merged with Kraft, owns Maxwell House. The decision is to close either the plant in Hoboken or one in Jacksonville, Fla.

A Hoboken worker noted that the most vocal group of men against the concessions were the mechanics and skilled laborers. When the nay votes were called for, their

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Coffee workers split over 'give-back' vote

Continued from Page 1

powerful, calloused hands were among the first raised high.

Carlo Poli, a mechanic, who has worked at the plant for 17 years, held a small group of men at bay as he argued against the concessions.

"You young people can get another job if this place shuts down," Poli said. And then added, "And, I'll survive."

Poli said that he was laid off five years ago with 125 people. He was the second person called back and then was laid off again the following week.

His point was that management does want it needs to do. "This is a snow job," he said.

But others who went through layoffs had apparently

learned a different lesson from the experience.

John Sharkey, a shop steward who came to Maxwell House four years ago when the General Motors plant shut down in Clarke, had a different point of view.

"I had a job one day and then the next day, I was unemployed," said Sharkey, who worked at the plant for 21 years. He said now he would rather "take the job and take less pay."

A worker wearing a Harley Davidson T-shirt and two gold earrings in his right ear said he has worked at the plant for 12 years.

"It's been a living, a damn good job," he said. "I don't want to see the plant close."