

## Hudson County: Then and Now

# Ferry service aided Hoboken's growth

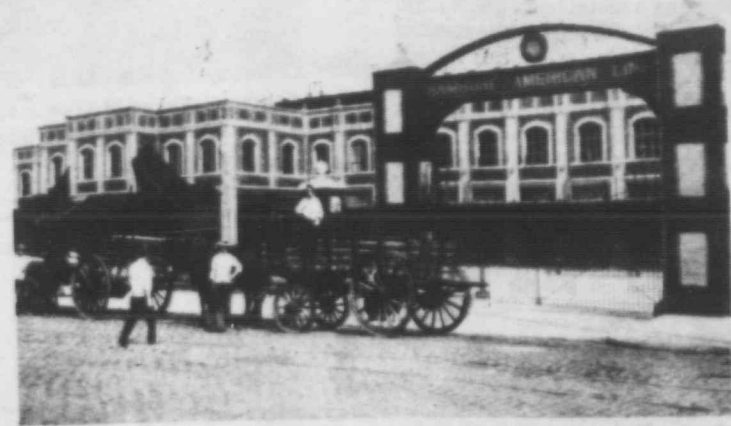
DISPATCH 8/10/90

From the moment that Col. John Stevens bought Hoboken Island in 1784 for \$90,000, he hoped and worked for the development of his real estate holdings. To Stevens' way of thinking, Hoboken, with its commanding position on the Hudson River, just across from Manhattan, was well-suited to residential and commercial development.

Stevens took over the management of the Hoboken ferry and greatly improved its service. He first introduced team boats — ferries propelled by teams of mules turning a treadmill connected to a paddlewheel — and then steam ferries.

The reliability of these means of propulsion enabled Stevens to publish and maintain a convenient schedule for his ferry. The reliability of the ferry service, in turn, encouraged members of the professional and merchant classes of New York to move their residences to Hoboken, while maintaining their businesses across the Hudson.

Reliable transportation to Hoboken from New York also encouraged development of



The Hamburg American piers, left, were the backbone of Hoboken's thriving economy in 1910. Today, right, they await demolition.



Elysian Fields, a landscaped riverfront resort in Hoboken that was popular among New Yorkers for weekend and vacation "getaways" in an era before Central Park, Coney Island or the Shore resorts.

Stevens died on March 6, 1838, at age 89. The development of Elysian Fields and of a small, but rather exclusive residential community not withstanding, Stevens' hope for commercial development in Hoboken was unfulfilled at his death. Ownership of Stevens' real estate holdings passed to the Hoboken Land and Improvement Co., which was controlled by Stevens' heirs.

The company continued to pursue residential and commercial development of Hoboken. In particular, the company was eager to lure a portion of the expanding, lucrative international shipping trade of the Port of New York. For years, ocean-going freight and passenger facilities had been mostly limited to the East River docks in Manhattan. By the middle of the 19th century, however, such facilities were expanding to Brooklyn and Manhattan's Hudson River shore.

In the late 1850s, two rival German lines, the North German Lloyd sailing to Southampton, England, and Bremen, Germany, and the Hamburg-American Steamship Co. with services to Southampton and Hamburg, Germany, moved to Hoboken.

The two German lines helped encourage a large number of Germans to settle in Hoboken, Jersey City's Heights section and North Hudson.

The Netherlands-American Steam Navigation Co., forerunner of the Holland American Line, followed the German lines into Hoboken.

The shipping lines converted the Hoboken waterfront into a

Hoboken Pier Fire began in some cotton bales stored on one of the North German Lloyd piers. The fire quickly spread to oceanliners docked at the pier. Aboard the ships were passengers waiting to embark on trips and visitors there to wish the travelers bon voyage. Between 200 and 400 people died.

Many of Hoboken's waterfront facilities were badly damaged



beehive of activity. Facilities such as ship repair yards, coal piers and machine works grew up. Hotels and restaurants opened to served ocean-going travelers. The waterfront became the backbone of Hoboken's economy.

photograph, circa 1910, shows the Hamburg American Piers, as rebuilt after the fire.

With the United States' entry into World War I, the piers and ships of the two German steamship lines in Hoboken were seized by the government. Ted Conrad's father bought the champagne that had been loaded onto one of the German ships in preparation for its voyage just prior to the seizure. Conrad recalls that "it was an awful lot of champagne, and we thought it would last forever, but when word got around about Papa's purchase, we found that we had an awful lot of friends who came calling and had to be entertained with the champagne; the whole supply was drunk in less than a year."

During the war, American men and material left for the European battlefields from Hoboken. An appalling number of bodies returned to the Hoboken Piers in coffins.

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## THEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The decline in ocean-going passenger travel, and the rise of Port Newark, however, ultimately idled the old Hoboken piers.

In the mid-1980s, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey proposed to replace the abandoned piers with a waterfront development. The plan has been the subject of much con-

trover, and was recently defeated in a referendum.

The fate of the piers, scheduled for demolition prior to the referendum, is now in question. Our modern photograph shows the Hamburg American pier as it appears today, awaiting demolition.

Hoboken will stage its annual River City Fair from 10 a.m. to dusk tomorrow and Sunday on River Road, just to the north of the old German piers.

## Hoboken school janitor-movers in line for additional overtime

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

JJ 8-8-90

When the asbestos cleanup in Hoboken High School is completed this month, school janitors will be paid overtime to return the massive amount of furniture they moved in July, said school board President James Farina in an interview yesterday.

Farina and district business administrator Anthony Curko yesterday defended spending \$48,960 in overtime salary for 24 janitors last month for the moving despite estimates made by other firms, including the asbestos removal company, that say the job could have been done for less.

"Even if we spent a couple thousand dollars more than we should have, I still maintain that using our own janitors was the best decision for the Hoboken schools and its students," Farina said.

Both Farina and Curko said that there was no time for a public bidding process because

they only had the summer vacation in which to move more than 5,000 items and replace the asbestos tiles that are present in much of the three-story school.

"We didn't have time to put moving of furniture to bid. We didn't have time to dilly dally," Farina said.

Last week, Farina said that if the asbestos removal company, TGR Corp. of Paterson, had been paid to move the furniture, it would have cost \$300,000. Yesterday, Farina corrected himself saying that the bill would have come to \$300,000 more had TGR worked with the furniture in the room. TGR is being paid \$631,000 for removing 108,000 square feet of tiles, Curko said.

The regulation compliance manager of TGR, John Fagel, last week said that his company increases its bid by four to six percent if it has to move furniture. Under those specifications, TGR would have charged Hoboken between \$25,000 and \$38,000 for the moving. Another

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## \$48,960 spent on school janitors' overtime

The following are the names of the janitors who worked overtime for the Hoboken Board of Education between July 11 and July 22, preparing the Hoboken High School for asbestos removal.

The total overtime expenditure was \$48,960.28.

• Eddie Colon worked July 13 through July 22 and received 74 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,807.90.

• Jim Balleta worked July 11 through July 22 and received 98 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,817.24.

• Rafael Nieves worked July 11 through July 22 and received 98 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,989.24.

• Robert Frasca worked July 12 through July 22 and received 98 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,977.

• Joe Vitale worked July 12 through July 22, receiving 98 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$2,171.50.

• Frank Raccuia worked July 12 through July 22 and received 74 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,807.90.

• David Rivera worked July 11 through July 22 and received 67 hours of time and a half and 17 hours of double time, earning \$1,408.55.

• Giovanni Romano worked July 16 through July 22 and received 57 hours of time and a half and 17 hours of double time and earned \$1,460.29.

• Angel Cascetta worked July 14 through July 22 and received 64 hours of time and a half and 34 hours of double time, earning \$1,517.32.

• Felipe Peguero worked

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## School janitors to get more overtime

Continued from Page 1

firm, Allied Van Lines, estimated last week that it would have charged \$35,000.

Curko and Farina yesterday called in an Allied representative to inspect the job site and provide an estimate. According to Farina, the Allied worker told him that his company would charge \$48,000 for the moving.

Hoboken will pay for the moving with federal funds earmarked for asbestos removal or from local funds left in the bud-

get for asbestos removal, Curko said.

Curko said that he would try to reduce overtime spending to move the furniture back. "We'll bring in a lot of other guys from other schools during the day to try to have minimum overtime," he said.

The 11-day move of the furniture started on July 11, the same day Mayor Patrick Pasculli told municipal department heads to eliminate overtime spending except in emergencies.

Pasculli said that he had not spoken with Curko or Farina about the overtime. "I only know from what I've read in the paper," he said. "I haven't heard Mr. Curko give his side of the story."

Work on installing new tiles for some rooms might be able to begin as soon as Saturday, Farina said.

"We're going to see if we can put some tiles in while asbestos is being removed on other floors. We'll know better later this week," he said.

## Chief warns against police budget cuts

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

JJ 8/4/90

Acting Hoboken Police Chief Carmen LaBruno yesterday afternoon warned the city council that his department can withstand no more budget cuts.

"I caution you that any further cuts in the police service will hurt the community," he said at a city council meeting where many off-duty police officers were in attendance.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli last month promised not to include police or firefighters in the layoffs that will occur in most municipal departments. But because of retirements and promotions, LaBruno said, the number of patrolmen has decreased from 92 in 1988 to 79 this year. In addition, 15 promotions were rescinded.

"I challenge you to show me an agency that does more than us," he said as he called for increased hiring. "Can you really afford to cut additional service in

light of what is going on in the city today?"

LaBruno said his force is growing smaller and by Feb. 1, 1991, three of his six captains will have retired. LaBruno also said that he needs new equipment and patrol cars.

Police Sergeant Thomas Meehan gave an angry speech against council members who were critical of a development plan for the city's waterfront that was shelved last month. He singled out Councilmen Thomas Newman, Joseph Della Fave and Steve Cappiello, calling them "the three musketeers."

"You're anarchists," he said. "You're bringing this city down. You're the reason why taxes are going up."

The city is in bad financial shape because it based its 1990 budget on the \$3 to \$8 million it was expecting from the Port Authority to help develop the city's southern waterfront. The 3.2 million square foot commercial and residential project was defeated by 12 votes in a July

10 city-wide referendum.

Since then, 100 municipal workers have been slated to be fired and 27 promotions in the police and fire department have been rescinded. To eliminate an \$8 million budget deficit, the city's tax rate could increase almost \$10 to \$27.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Mayor Pasculli tried to refocus the council's and the audience's direction on plans for a new waterfront development.

"We must get a waterfront development on track," he said to applause from the police. "Let's get the city moving again. Let's work on getting a waterfront development on track—not on cutting services."

Council members promised they would try to find ways to give the police more funds.

After the meeting, Pasculli said he agreed with LaBruno's pessimistic assessment of the police force, citing low morale and scarce money.

## Hoboken school board rejects new tiles bid

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

JJ 8/10/90

The Hoboken Board of Education last night rejected a \$985,000 bid from a Jersey City firm to install new ceiling tiles in Hoboken High School.

The tile installation is scheduled to occur after 108,000 square feet of asbestos tiles is removed from the three-story building. Janitors were paid \$47,779.82 in overtime to move school furniture to prepare the work site for asbestos removal. Several companies, including the asbestos removal company, later said they could have done the job for cheaper.

School Board President James Farina has said that janitors also will be paid

overtime to return the furniture after the new tiles are in place.

The board unanimously rejected the bid of Louis Gargiulo Co. to install the tiles.

"The bid is way out of line," said Anthony Curko, school board secretary and district business administrator. "We were expecting a bid of about \$400,000."

Because Louis Gargiulo Co. was the only firm to bid, the board is reopening bids for the project today. Curko said the rebidding will not hold up the project. The asbestos removal done by TGR Corp. of Paterson is costing \$631,000.

In executive session the board discussed Schools Superintendent Walter Fine's resignation request. Fine, a Hobo-

ken school system employee for 38 years, is asking for a lump payment for all vacation and sick time owed him — an amount that could total up to \$100,000. Fine also wants to be considered on leave for this academic year before formally retiring in June 1991. The board did not discuss the matter publicly but will do so at its next meeting on Aug. 21.

In other business, the board rejected a \$26,880 bid by Professional Management Service Co. of Bridgewater for window cleaning. Curko said later that a bid of about \$16,000 would be more reasonable.

The board also approved a \$202,050 bid by K-Laine Co. of West Milford for replacement of the school boiler at the Daniel S. Kealey School.

## Hoboken landlord is fined, given 14-day jail sentence

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

8/1/90

The landlord of a Hoboken apartment building yesterday was fined \$1,700 in Hoboken Municipal Court and sentenced to 14 days in the Hudson County jail for violations concerning his five-story tenement.

Daniel Makhoul of Saddle Brook, owner of the 16-unit building at 600 Monroe St., has 20 days to appeal the decision before having to serve the jail sentence. Hoboken officials, meanwhile,

are searching for better housing for the tenants of the 11 occupied apartments, all of whom have refused lodging from the American Red Cross.

"Hopefully, this will all be settled soon," said Assistant City Attorney Corinne Mullen, who argued the case against Makhoul.

Makhoul was found guilty of allowing raw sewage to flow into the building's basement and onto the sidewalk, failing to supply hot water to residents, failing to rent vacant apart-

ments, and maintaining a nuisance.

The city will have Makhoul back in court next Thursday to determine whether he should have to pay to upgrade the building to meet state and city standards.

The building has received overwhelmingly negative reviews by state and city inspectors in the last two years.

Makhoul, who also owns a restaurant in Englewood, has been landlord at 600 Monroe since Dec. 21, 1989.



Hoboken Police Officers Bob Castellano and Tom Kennedy Jr. bring landlord Daniel Makhoul into police headquarters yesterday.

H.D. 8/16/90  
Police nab man who skipped court

HOBOKEN — Police yesterday arrested Daniel Makhoul at his Saddle Brook home after he failed to appear in court Tuesday on charges related to a building he owns.

Makhoul — who is charged with warehousing apartments at 600 Monroe St. and discharging raw sewage from the building — is scheduled to appear in court this morning.

His wife posted a \$500 bail yesterday afternoon to get Makhoul out of jail.

When Makhoul was picked up yesterday, it marked the second time in a week that he has been jailed here.

Last Thursday, Makhoul turned himself in to police after two warrants were issued for his arrest. When he failed to appear in court Tuesday, he forfeited the \$200 bail his wife had posted last week.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

## Waterfront coalition plans meeting

HOBOKEN — The Coalition for a Better Waterfront is scheduled to hold an informational meeting tonight on the future of the city's southern waterfront.

The coalition, which led the vote against the city's development agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on July 10, is putting together its own proposal for the 32 acres on the waterfront.

Coalition leaders are scheduled to let the public know the status of the ongoing challenge to the election results, as well as the city administration's plans for the waterfront.

The coalition will also be soliciting ideas for the waterfront's future at tonight's meeting, which is scheduled to start at 7:30 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Eighth and Hudson streets.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.



# New PA chief: Hoboken its own boss

## Waterfront deal with agency up to electorate, Brezenoff declares

By Deborah Yaffe  
Journal staff writer

The Port Authority's new executive director says Hoboken must decide for itself whether to renegotiate its waterfront development deal with the agency.

"The Port Authority has made it clear that it accepts the decision of the electorate in Hoboken," said Stanley Brezenoff, a former New York City deputy mayor who was appointed to the Port Authority post on Thursday.

"I guess it's really up to Hoboken's elected leaders and citizenry to grapple with that question."

The development plan, which would have brought luxury apartments and office space to 3.2 million square feet of Hoboken's waterfront, was narrowly voted down in a city-wide referendum last month.

Brezenoff, 52, joins the Port Authority at a time of increased fear that the New York-North Jersey region has slipped into recession. The

authority, reportedly facing a budget shortfall, has laid off hundreds of employees in the past year.

The authority runs three airports, the PATH trains, and major bridges, tunnels and shipping ports in the metropolitan area. While the authority is an independent, self-governing agency, it operates under the supervision of both states and plays an important role in encouraging economic development.

At a news conference yesterday at the World Trade Center, Brezenoff acknowledged that the authority faces tough economic times and heightened competition from other ports, both American and foreign.

But he said he remains optimistic: "This region still has a great deal going for it, and the Port Authority is one of those things."

Brezenoff said he has no plans to reorganize the Port Authority or to change its direction. He said his first priority will be continuing the authority's capital improvement projects.

His predecessor, Stephen Berger, who resigned the \$170,000-a-year job in June, asked last winter for increased bridge and tunnel tolls to fund those projects. After strong criticism from the governors of both states, the agency abandoned that proposal.

Brezenoff said higher tolls are still an option the agency must consider, although they are not certain to occur.

"Things like a toll increase are going to have to be a part of that decision-making process down the line," he said, but he added that the authority's budgeting is still at an early stage.

He also offered hope that the Port Authority will continue to support the money-losing PATH system that connects Newark and Jersey City to downtown and midtown Manhattan.

"Obviously, no one likes to lose money, but I don't know of any mass transit that pays for itself," Brezenoff said.

"I certainly don't have a philosophical, budgetary or any other kind of problem with subsidizing mass transit. It needs to be subsidized."

Brezenoff spent five years as a New York City deputy mayor under Mayor Edward I. Koch, including four years as first deputy mayor. Brezenoff's responsibilities included overseeing the city's transportation services.

Prior to his appointment to the Port Authority, he was a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, which oversees the city's subway system.

Brezenoff said yesterday that he had resigned from the MTA board. Before joining Koch's administration, Brezenoff was president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, which governs New York City's 15 hospitals.

Despite his New York background, Brezenoff promised to keep New Jersey's interests at heart. "I'm a bi-state person," he said.

## RESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

partment, which oversees civil service seniority lists.

The city's residency ordinance dates back to 1965, but has never strictly been enforced. Similar ordinances in other New Jersey communities are now under legal attack on the grounds that they are discriminatory.

City Law Director Eugene O'Connell said he doesn't know whether the ordinance would hold up in court. O'Connell said the ordinance is based on state statute, but there strong arguments for and against the local law.

As far as Fisher is concerned, the city's financial situation — and the layoffs it will cause — are the most potent argument supporting the ordinance.

"My position is if you're going to lay off workers, you've got to look at the people who are working here in violation of the ordinance first," Fisher said. "I think it's fair to give people six months to move here, but after that you've got to start enforcing. It's not right that people who live out of town and work here go unaffected by this kind of crisis."

## Three sue patrolman over arrest incident

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

A Hoboken policeman is facing two civil lawsuits from local residents who claim they were beaten, racially harassed and improperly arrested by the patrolman.

The suits stem from two separate incidents in 1987 and 1988 involving Kevin Houghton, a member of the Hoboken force since 1984, and three members of minorities from Hoboken and Jersey City.

In the first case, Roman Roches of Hoboken and Jorge Ruiz of Jersey City allege that Houghton beat them with his nightstick after warning them not to drink in public. In the second case, Carlos Torres of Hoboken says that Houghton beat him with a nightstick because his car was double-parked.

After both incidents, Houghton claimed in municipal court that the men assaulted him. Roches and Ruiz were found guilty in Kearny Municipal Court but Torres was found innocent. The case was heard in Kearny as a neutral venue.

The attorney for the three men, Ignacio Saavedra, demanded that Houghton be suspended while the cases are pending.

"This officer is an outright racist who has no business being on the police force of Hoboken," he said.

Houghton's attorney, Michael Dermody, said that the officer was only doing his job. "None of this is racially motivated," he said. "My client was enforcing the law."

The 1987 case started in the early morning of Aug. 9 when

Ruiz and Roches were drinking alcoholic beverages on the corner of Jackson Street and Seventh Street. Both sides agree that Houghton told the men from his patrol car that they should disperse. When he returned later, the men were still there.

In a sworn deposition, Roches said that Houghton grabbed him by the shirt and pushed him into the patrol car. Ruiz tried to intervene, telling Houghton that they would leave but Houghton hit both men with his night stick and

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

## Hoboken cops get state award

The Hoboken Police Department will receive the New Jersey Safety Council's Award of Commendation for enforcing the state's drinking and driving laws in 1989, acting Chief Carmen LaBruno said yesterday.

The police last year set up 13 different checkpoints across the city, resulting in 67 drunk driving arrests, LaBruno said. Eighty-two other police departments from across the state competed for the award, LaBruno said.

The acting chief also thanked Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli for helping the force receive \$35,000 in grants, some of which went toward DWI enforcement.

## Hoboken cop sued over arrests

Continued from Page 1

tor into his car, Roches said.

Roches said he tried to give Ruiz a handkerchief to help staunch the flow of blood from his head but Houghton, yelling racial slurs at him, stopped the car. He hit Roches out of the car and hit him on the head and knee with the nightstick before putting him back in the car, Roches said. Ruiz was beaten so badly that his ear lobe was detached, Saavedra charges.

At police headquarters, Houghton pulled Roches' pants down, threatened him again with the nightstick, and called him a racist epithet, Roches said. Houghton then kicked Roches in the chest and hit him with the nightstick, Roches alleges. Both men required medical attention at St. Mary Hospital and Roches missed a week of work, according to the deposition.

Dermody said that Houghton initially did hit both men outside the patrol car but only in self-defense. "No one is denying that he hit them outside the car but the fact is that one of them tried to attack him," he said.

Dermody emphasized that in Kearny Municipal Court both men were found guilty of assaulting Houghton.

Saavedra said that municipal courts rarely rule against police officers in cases such as this.

"A municipal court judge likes the police and has a lot of sympathy for them. It's hard to argue a case against police there," he said.

Roches' and Ruiz's case is scheduled to be heard in U.S. District Court in Newark in October but a judge still has to decide on Dermody's motion for summary judgment, which, if granted, could get the case dismissed.

The second case against Houghton began on June 19, 1988 when Carlos Torres of Hoboken double-parked his car and left a friend parked in front of him. Torres found his friend involved in an argument with Houghton about the parking, Torres said. When he asked Houghton what was going on, he said Houghton treated him like a child and told him to go to sleep. When Torres told Houghton not to treat him that way, he said that Houghton "brutally beat" him about the head and legs so badly that he later needed stitches for his leg.

Torres also charges that Houghton tried to cover up the injury by saying it was done in self-defense. Houghton took

Torres to Municipal Court on charges of assaulting a police officer but on Sept. 19, 1989, Torres was judged not guilty.

Torres is also suing the City of Hoboken and former Police Chief George Crimmins, saying Houghton's alleged violence is a "systematic pattern of conduct" by the Police Department that subjects "other persons to a pattern of conduct consisting of beatings and arrests, solely on account of race."

Ruiz and Torres are Hispanic and Roches is black.

Dermody, hired by the city to defend Houghton, said he is not yet familiar with the details of the Torres case.

Crimmins' attorney, Joseph Healy, says that the former chief had no direct knowledge of Houghton's arrests until days after they were made.

"He didn't hear about any of this until two or three days after the arrests," Healy said. "To suggest that he ordered these things is just ridiculous."

Torres' lawsuit is still in its early discovery stages, although it was filed in U.S. District Court in Newark on June 19. Torres is demanding \$2 million in damages and Roches and Ruiz are each calling for \$1 million in damages.

Neither Fucilli nor his attorney,

## Challenge set for vote in Hoboken

Petition readied against waterfront referendum

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

By night an Adams Street storefront in Hoboken serves as a social club for Italian residents. But since July 10 it's been the day-time headquarters for the Committee to Save Hoboken.

The group has been pushing to overturn a local referendum last month that defeated a Port Authority development plan for the city's southern waterfront by a 12-vote margin.

About 20 committee members yesterday afternoon signed a petition calling for a court hearing on the vote. Their lawyer, John M. Carbone, said he will submit the petition with the required signatures in State Superior Court on Monday.

Carbone, who has been involved in 73 recounts in Illinois, Texas, New York and New Jersey, says he is confident that a judge will either reverse the referendum's results or call for a new vote.

"This is one of the worse elections I've seen and for Hudson County, it's the worst," Carbone said.

In the petition, a preliminary copy of which was obtained yesterday, Carbone alleges that many improprieties were committed by Board of Elections workers during the referendum.

He claims non-residents were allowed to vote and that voters at two polling sites were turned away early in the morning by board workers who weren't ready for the vote to start.

The petition also claims non-board workers ran the polls at several sites, some vot-

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## Petition inked to take Hoboken vote to court

Continued from Page 1

ers' signatures were forged, and that a person who died in 1989 was listed as voting.

The county superintendent of elections released a report earlier this week saying numerous errors were made by board workers during the referendum.

The committee's petition also requests that 11 absentee ballots and two ballots sent by military officers which were declared invalid be counted.

Although he does not know for sure, Carbone says he has reason to believe the 13 ballots to be in favor of the referendum. Several of the absentee voters are related to police or firefighters, most of whom supported the plan for the 30-acre commercial and residential development, Carbone said.

The other outcome in court that Carbone is seeking — and which committee members say is more likely to occur — is for

the July referendum to be invalidated and for a new one to be held sometime this fall.

Many committee members concede that they didn't come out strong enough in support of the resolution but claim their side would win if a second vote is held.

After the referendum was defeated, the committee began its own push by hiring Carbone, a man who makes his living on election cases — he even named his sailboat "Recount."

At the social club at 416 Adams St. where the committee has set up shop, news clippings and voter lists plaster the walls inside. But two pictures of Maria S.S. Dei Martiti, the patron saint of Molfetta, Italy, still adorn the front windows.

The committee has about 20 core members, Meehan said, half of whom are firefighters or police officers. Many were on hand yesterday to sign the petition, anxious to take the issue to court.

## Truancy strikes board

Rossano misses 16 of 21 meetings of school panel

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

Of the Hoboken Board of Education's 21 regular and special meetings held this year, board member Michael Rossano has attended just five.

Rossano, who was elected to be a three-year member last year, holds the board's worst attendance record by far. Since he joined the board on April 11, 1989, he has missed 19 of 38 meetings. No other current member has had more than four absences since last April or two absences this year.

Rossano yesterday declined to say whether he is resigning from his unpaid position. "I have no comment about that," he said, but added that a promotion at his job as a foreign equities specialist for Salomon Brothers in Manhattan has made it difficult to attend meetings.

"I've explained all this to the superintendent," he said. "He's always excused my absences. I try to make it to the regular meetings. The special meetings don't count — I mean they're not as important."

Board member Otto Hottendorf said he thinks Rossano will quit his post this fall because of personal plans.

"He's busy and I heard he's getting married. In all likelihood, someone will be appointed this September," he said.

Board Secretary Anthony Curko said that Rossano's career makes it difficult to get to the board meetings. "He really seems to try, but the weight of his job often keeps him from coming," he said.

"I don't know if he is planning on resigning," said board member Claire DePalma, who was elected last spring with Rossano and has missed only one meeting since then.

"I think Michael really does try."

## Controversial cop's confined to desk job

Continued from Page 1

found guilty of attacking the officer in municipal court.

In the other case, Carlos Torres of Hoboken says that Houghton severely beat him with his nightstick in June 1988 because his car was double-parked. Torres was accused of assaulting Houghton but was found innocent in Municipal Court. The three men in both cases say that Houghton also called them racist names. Ruiz

and Torres are Hispanic and Roches is black.

The attorney for the three men, Ignacio Saavedra, is calling for Houghton to be fired. "Look at this man's record," he said. "He's the Mike Tyson of cops."

A trial date in U.S. District Court in Newark has been set for Roches and Ruiz sometime in October. Torres' cases is still in its early stages, Dermody said.

## Hoboken cop facing lawsuits is given desk job

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

Fighting three lawsuits by local residents charging him with brutality, a Hoboken policeman has been given a desk job until the cases against him are settled.

Kevin Houghton, a patrolman since 1984, has been off the streets for the last three weeks and is serving as a "desk adjunct" at night in the Hoboken Police Headquarters, according to police.

Houghton has been charged with beating three Hoboken men and one Jersey City man in 1987 and 1988 while on duty.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli yesterday

## Third civil case seeking damages filed in federal court

said the reassignment by Acting Police Chief Carmen LaBruno was sensible.

"I believe that the acting chief has handled the matter correctly by giving him a non-patrol assignment," Pasculli said.

Earlier this week, it was reported that Houghton was the target of two suits, but it was discovered yesterday that a third civil suit had been filed against the policeman in U.S. District Court in New Jersey on Aug. 1, 1989.

In the complaint, Roger Fucilli of Hoboken charges that Houghton attacked him and arrested him for no

reason in the early morning of March 26, 1988.

Fucilli says that while he was driving home at about 3:30 a.m., he encountered a double-parked car between Clinton Street and Willow Avenue. While he was attempting to maneuver around the car, Houghton, wearing civilian clothes, approached his car and the two got into an argument, according to Fucilli.

Houghton pointed his gun at Fucilli's head, then hit him with it repeatedly, Fucilli charges.

Houghton also struck him in the face with his badge, causing lacerations and bleeding, Fucilli alleges. Houghton arrested Fucilli and took him to police headquarters without reading him his rights, Fucilli says.

He was held there against his will for several hours before being released, Fucilli says. No charges were ever brought against him, according to attorneys on both sides of the case.

Fucilli is demanding punitive and compensatory damages and is also suing the city, saying the city improperly trained and supervised Houghton. A court date has yet to be set.

Neither Fucilli nor his attorney,

John R. Schwartz, could be reached for comment.

Houghton's attorney, Michael Dermody, yesterday denied all charges against his client but would not elaborate.

In one of the other cases, Roman Roches of Hoboken and Jorge Ruiz of Jersey City claim that Houghton beat them with his nightstick in August 1987 after he told them not to drink in public. Ruiz was beaten so badly that he needed surgery to reattach his earlobe, his lawyer said.

Houghton said that the men had attacked him. The men were later

See CONTROVERSIAL — Page 4

As Hoboken layoffs loom

## Resident measure is pushed

Unions eye workers from out of town

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Angered by administration plans to lay off more than 100 municipal employees, union leaders are pushing for enforcement of a 25-year-old ordinance that requires city workers to live here.

City officials have responded by notifying about 35 out-of-town workers they must move to Hoboken within six months or face possible dismissal.

"In the best of times, I'd like to see the ordinance eliminated," said Jim Fisher, Hoboken Municipal Employees Association president. "But these are obviously not the best of times."

When voters rejected the city's waterfront development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the \$8 million this year that would have come with it, Mayor Patrick Pasculli declared the city on the brink of a financial disaster.

To lessen the financial blow, Pasculli announced plans to lay off more than 100 workers. He also presented a budget to the City Council that included a 57 percent increase in the local tax rate.

"What you've got is a situation where some city workers are going to lose their jobs and, because they live here, are also going to see their property taxes or rents go up," Fisher said. "That's a double blow that could be devastating."

Pasculli said the problem of workers living outside the city is minor, but should be addressed. In some cases, he said, the city has no choice but to look elsewhere for qualified job applicants.

"There will always have to be exceptions," Pasculli said. "The city is going to have to enforce the ordinance as stated, but we'll remain as flexible as possible to keep the highest level of professionalism."

City Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said most of the out-of-town employees are doctors, nurses or sanitary inspectors for the city's Health Department. Those jobs require qualifications not necessarily held by city residents, Goldsack said.

Goldsack pointed out that — even if the city enforced the ordinance — the layoffs are supervised by the state Personnel De-



PASCULLI

Please see RESIDENT Page 6



# School boss wants big buyout

## Hoboken's Fine says he'll retire for package up to \$300G

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine confirmed yesterday he will leave his post this fall if the Board of Education gives him a one-year paid leave of absence and full pay for hundreds of sick days left unused during his 38-year career in the school system.

The board is expected to decide Tuesday

whether it will accept Fine's terms, which could cost between \$100,000 and \$300,000.

The 64-year-old Fine cited his age as the primary factor in his decision to retire. "It just seems like this is a good time to do it," Fine said. "Until something happens with my health, I might as well enjoy certain things."

Fine said if the board balks at his terms, he is prepared to stay on for another year

in the \$83,000-a-year job he has held since January 1986.

"I just want the same treatment as the teachers who were given a buyout," he said. "I want to be paid in full for each day I have in the sick bank. If they give me the year leave, they can subtract a full year's worth of school days from my sick bank. Otherwise, I'm going to get paid for all of them."

Retiring teachers are paid a half-day's

pay for unused sick days, though the board recently offered full pay to a group of older teachers as a retirement incentive.

Fine's announcement has unleashed the first salvo in what could be a major battle over who replaces him. While state officials have urged the board to search outside the system for a new superintendent, two popular inside candidates

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WALTER J. FINE  
May stay if board balks

### FINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are already garnering support. Board President James J. Farina and Trustee Perry Belfiore are on the record as backing Councilman Edwin Duroy, principal of Thomas G. Connors School.

Fine, meanwhile, believes Assistant Superintendent Francis McGorty should be named to the top post.

"In terms of time and experience, nobody can top Frank," Fine said. "I'm not going to say anything against Ed, but I think Frank's the best person for the job."

Trustee Claire DePalma agrees that McGorty should be tapped for the job, at least on an interim basis.

"I feel that would be a natural progression," DePalma said. "I think it's correct to do a search, but I think Frank has the experience to fill in while we look."

## Irregularities noted in Hoboken voting

By Robert Hardt Jr.  
Journal staff writer

The county superintendent of elections yesterday released a report that details many irregularities in the July 10 citywide referendum in Hoboken.

In a separate development, Superior Court Judge Stephen J. Schaeffer yesterday officially concluded a recount of the vote. His action upholds the 4,418 to 4,406 outcome of the referendum, in which Hoboken residents voted down a waterfront project proposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Hoboken.

Residents who oppose the outcome

have 10 days to file a complaint. John Carbone, an attorney for one group, said that on Monday he will petition for a hearing in Superior Court in Hudson County.

If it had passed, the referendum would have cleared the way for a massive commercial and residential development on the city's southern waterfront. But the plan was defeated by 12 votes and the project, involving 30 acres of city-owned land and three unused piers, is indefinitely on hold.

Opponents of the 3.2 million-square-foot development said it was too large for the small city while supporters said it would have brought much-needed funds

into the area.

"Numerous" errors were committed by elections workers during the referendum, said Elections Superintendent Harvey Birne in an Aug. 7 report to Julius Canter, chairman of the Board of Elections. The most serious mistakes Birne lists include nine omitted voter signatures and 18 voters who failed to sign the "buff sheet," a paper on file at the poll site by which current signatures can be compared with previously verified signatures.

Carbone, the attorney for the Committee to Save Hoboken, which favors under-

See IRREGULARITIES — Page 4

## Irregularities in referendum charged

Continued from Page 1

taking the project with the Port Authority, also alleges that two residents, both deceased, had been listed as voting in the referendum.

"I'll show you the tombstones as soon as we notify the families," Carbone said, calling the referendum bookkeeping a "mess."

"Birne is basically telling the Board of Elections that this is the worst job he has ever seen," Carbone said.

But Birne declined to use harsh words against local workers.

"There was an above-average

number of problems in a relatively simple one-level referendum," Birne said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"I thought the instruction I gave to the workers was understandable," he said. "But I'm not going to sit here and evaluate their job. It's up to the board to decide if workers should be dismissed if they are unqualified."

A Hoboken community activist opposed to the Port Authority project was full of harsh words for the elections superintendent.

"This is outrageous," said Annette Illing of the findings.

"Has Harvey Birne ever done this in any other election? He's telling us that all other elections are perfect? This has not been done in any other election in the past five years."

Police Sgt. Thomas Meehan, spokesman for the Committee to Save Hoboken, said Birne's report will help invalidate the referendum's result. "This puts us right over the top," he said. "Combined with what we have, this makes us sure that the outcome will not stand."

While Carbone wants to overturn the referendum's result, it seems more likely that a

vote may have to be held again. But Carbone, who says he has fought cases in over 55 elections, said he will win.

"I think we have an excellent chance," he said. "This is a good case."

After Carbone files a petition on Monday calling for a hearing, the court will set a date which must be between 15 and 30 days later.

No one is certain who will legally defend the referendum's result in court, but one Hoboken political insider said that Birne or City Clerk James J. Farina, a supporter of the Port Authority plan, might be called on to oppose Carbone.

Plea to Hoboken council

## Top cop: Don't weaken force

### LaBruno blasts proposed demotions

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With 15 superior officers scheduled to be demoted in a cost-cutting move, the city's acting police chief told the City Council last night that his department's budget cannot be trimmed any further.

Capt. Carmen LaBruno's remarks came during the latest in a series of budget workshops designed to help the council grapple with the \$8 million gap in this year's spending plan.

The shortfall was caused by voter rejection of a waterfront development agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Citing a 24 percent increase in service calls and a 4 percent boost in the city's crime rate during the last 18 months, LaBruno said his

officers are already overmatched. "I challenge anybody to come up with an agency in this city that does more than us," LaBruno said. "We've shown fiscal responsibility. We've improved production. I ask that you cancel the demotion list."

LaBruno said the city will save only about \$25,000 this year by demoting the superior officers. City Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi agreed with that analysis.

"The council is practicing false economy with these demotions," LaBruno said. "It's absurd."

Last week, Fire Chief Richard Tremietti — faced with the planned demotions of 12 fire superiors — made similar arguments before the council.

In response to LaBruno's presentation last night, Councilman Edwin Duroy bemoaned the city's

dilemma in making cuts in the Public Safety Department.

"I'm concerned about what this is going to look like," Duroy said. "I can't see any benefit from increasing taxes and, at the same time, cutting back services. People do not want to pay more and get less."

LaBruno said his department has suffered a 14 percent manpower loss over the last two years, but was challenged on this point by Councilman Joseph Della Fave.

"The reason there are less police officers is that there are more superiors, which is the way they wanted it," Della Fave said. "I don't think it's fair to say we lost personnel."

Chiusi said the 137-member department has three fewer officers — one chief and two captains — than it did last year.



CARMEN LABRUNO  
Notes increase in calls

In addition to the public safety demotions, Mayor Patrick Pasculli announced plans to lay off more than 100 municipal

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### BURNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing the case for a month. "The only thing we're asking is that the (tri-city authority) sign the contract," Terminal attorney Richard Laiks said. "It was awarded conditioned on (state) approval. They gave approval. It would follow that now they've got to sign. I would think even a layman could understand that."

Both local authorities approved the gasifier in October on condition the state Environmental Protection Department issue an air-quality permit for the facility.

The gasifier, part of the authorities' \$96 million upgrade of the Hoboken sewage-treatment plant, would turn sludge into gas and burn the gas. It would be built at 14th and Adams streets.

North Hudson officials and

residents have argued it would harm the local environment by adding pollutants to air that is already filthy.

But their arguments failed to persuade the department, which issued the air-quality permit in May.

While the HCUA still supports the gasifier, the tri-city authority — citing financial and environmental concerns — began lobbying against it almost as soon as the contract was awarded. Tri-city authority officials say there could be a cheaper way to dispose of sludge. They also contend the gasifier requires a state solid-waste permit, which the state never granted.

"We're concerned that the DEP and Terminal are not proceeding in accordance with the (state) Solid Waste Management Act," tri-city authority attorney Frank Leanza said. "They say they don't need that permit, but we think they do. Even a DEP commissioner can't sidestep her own regulations."

In addition, the tri-city authority notes the state called for stringent new monitoring requirements when it awarded the air-quality permit. Leanza said he is unsure whether the authority can meet those requirements.

"They want us to put an air-monitoring facility above the gasifier's 100-foot smokestack," Leanza said. "Where are we going to put it? In somebody's back yard?"

### DEMOTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

workers to ease the budget crunch. Even with the staff reductions, the tentative budget includes a 57 percent tax increase, from \$17.52 per 1,000 of assessed value to about \$27.50.

Pasculli hinted last night that the budget workshops have shown him the spending plan already is as lean as it can be.

### State approves \$400,000 for Hoboken rail station

Gov. Jim Florio yesterday signed a \$10.2 million bond act appropriating \$400,000 to assist the preservation of the Hoboken Station.

The funds are allocated to NJ Transit for the work under measure Florio approved. It was the only Hudson project from the New Jersey Green Acres, Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Act approved by voters in 1987.

"Keeping history alive helps restore our pride in New Jersey and keeps us in touch with the past," Florio said.

## No waves for leader of gay Episcopalians

Continued from Page 1

While on the job he must learn to feed those who are starving spiritually, rather than those who are literally hungry.

When asked if he had any anxiety about taking on the potentially explosive position, Norgard smiles and thinks about it for a minute.

"I can't say that I was ever afraid, particularly about people chewing me up," says Norgard.

"I was anxious to the extent that anyone's anxious when they start a new job," says Norgard, who hasn't even attended his first board meeting yet.

Norgard was one of 30 applicants for the job of Executive Director. He holds degrees from Augsburg, a small Lutheran liberal arts college in Minnesota, and Yale Divinity School.

Norgard, who was ordained in 1984, was raised a Lutheran and always dreamed of becoming a minister.

He converted to the Episcopal faith while in college because of the church's stance on a number of social issues, such as allowing women to become priests. He also admired the church's openness to debate certain topics.

His parents, staunch Lutherans, were shocked when they learned he wanted to become a minister in a "foreign" church.

They were more disturbed, however, when he told them that he was gay, which he realized early in college.

"They were upset at first," he says. "They felt deeply hurt and confused. It was, I suppose, jarring for them to learn from me directly that their son was gay. But over the course of time, they have learned to accept both me and my partner."

If the Hoboken community can learn to accept gays and lesbians into their church as wholeheartedly as his family has accepted him, half of Norgard's job will be complete.

Aside from educating the "straight" parishioners, Norgard hopes to reach into the gay community and draw out as many people as possible.

"I want to have this organization live into its name," says Norgard. "I want to establish a place of spiritual refreshment for folks who have been on a

very arduous journey."

To attract new parishioners, special services sponsored by Oasis will be held. Although they will focus on the homosexual community, the doors will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. Support groups, Bible study classes and a series of seminars will be established. Christian theology and sexuality, including topics such as AIDS, will be discussed.

The blessing of same-sex couples, which Williams had promised as an integral part of Oasis, will be put on a back burner until the Episcopal Church establishes a stronger position on the issue.

"At the moment there is no official, sanctioned liturgy for same-sex unions. But it is happening unofficially in many parishes and dioceses across the country. The issue will have to be confronted and resolved on a national level," says Norgard.

Norgard and his own partner of 12 years live together in Manhattan and may soon move to Hudson County. Their union has not been blessed. Although he won't sanction same-sex marriages at Oasis yet, Norgard says he'll support the position that such couples would only benefit from the church's blessings.

"What I do say is that Oasis is here to witness to a belief that God has created some people straight, some people gay and some people bi-sexual, for that matter," says Norgard.

When asked about his own stance on monogamy, Norgard simply smiles and averts the question, reciting the church's position. "Generally speaking, it's very clear what the church's traditional teaching is. By and large, it's clearly a question of monogamy. There is no question about that. But it is an open question in some academic circles. And I'm not unaware of that. That's really about the extent of that," says Norgard, politely, but definitively ending the discussion.

Norgard is not about to say anything that might cause a stir, and he justifies his caution. "There is still a lot of hurt to be healed within All Saints parish, within Oasis and in the diocese in general," he says. "I hope we can help to make some of that healing happen."

## Pier vote probe is requested

By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer

Hudson County's assignment judge was asked yesterday to examine whether irregularities occurred at the polls during last month's waterfront development referendum election in Hoboken.

John M. Carbone, attorney for the Committee to Save Hoboken, which supported the referendum's call for a Port Authority waterfront development plan, requested the issue be explored in a hearing.

Carbone further asked that after the hearing, the referendum either be declared duly passed or the results of the election voided and a new one held in its place.

Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia said he will hold off scheduling a date for oral arguments until Carbone submits an order to show cause, which Carbone is expected to do today.

The referendum called for a Port Authority development plan for Hoboken's southern waterfront. Voters narrowly rejected the measure on July 10 by 12 votes.

In court papers filed yesterday, Carbone alleges that numerous irregularities occurred at the polls, including non-residents voting, unofficial personnel operating polling sites and votes being cast in the names of dead people.

Court papers claim that the failure to open polling sites in a timely fashion denied some the right to vote and that properly-cast absentee ballots were not tabulated.

"As a result of these activities and other activities, the basic safeguards, protections and guarantees of fair election of full and free expression of the people were denied," Carbone wrote.

Annette Illing, a spokeswoman for the Committee For a Better Waterfront, a group which opposed the referendum, said she could not say how her group would respond until she sees the court papers.

But one thing Illing did know, she said, "I am firmly in favor of democracy and fair elections, and I always have been. I have always worked to make the elections in Hoboken as fair as possible."

Ira Karasick, attorney for the Committee For a Better Waterfront, could not be reached for comment.

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## Burner ruling on way

Dispatch 8/20/90  
By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A Hudson County judge could decide as early as tomorrow whether local officials must move forward with plans to build a sludge gasifier near the base of the Palisades.

Terminal Construction Corp. is suing to force the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority and the Hudson County Utilities Authority to sign a \$34 million contract to build the hi-tech facility. The authorities awarded Terminal the contract last year, but the tri-city authority now refuses to sign it.

Attorneys on both sides of the case said they expect a quick decision from Judge Dorothea O'C. Weffing of Superior Court in Jersey City. She has been reviewing

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# Retiring schools superintendent asks for big bucks

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Superintendent of Schools Walter J. Fine is seeking a 19 percent retroactive raise as part of a retirement package which a board member said totals nearly \$300,000. The Board of Education will consider Fine's retirement requests tonight. Board President James J. Farina

## Fine asks Hoboken school board for 19 percent retroactive raise

refused to comment. Fine plans to retire next June with an immediate leave of absence beginning next month. "I don't want to discuss school board business until after the meeting," Farina said. He added that he was not clear on the terms of Fine's retirement.

"Whatever it is, I am sure he is entitled to it," Farina said. School Trustee Otto Hottendorf said that according to his calculations, Fine, who has 34 years in the system, is asking for about \$284,000. Hottendorf bases his calculation on school records and a conditional letter of retirement Fine sent the board.

Two of the six conditions he set forth are that his existing salary of \$83,794 be increased by 10 percent to \$92,174 effective as of July 1, 1989, and by another 9 percent effective July 1 of this year, bringing his annual salary to \$100,470. The superintendent is also seeking a "terminal leave program" effective Sept. 1 in which he will receive a paid leave of absence during the 1990-91 school year based on unused vacation and sick days entitlement. According to school board records, Fine has about 567 unused sick days and vacation days, Hottendorf said. The Hoboken school district allows 25 sick days annually, he said. The statewide average number of

See RETIRING — Page 6

## Citizens protest a 57% hike

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — About 150 angry residents jammed City Hall council chambers last night to protest a projected 57 percent tax increase called for in this year's municipal budget. Confusion, outrage and frustration characterized the comments of more than a dozen speakers who questioned the management skills of Mayor Patrick Pasculli and the City Council during the 1½-hour budget hearing.

One young man who addressed the council appeared to capture the concerns of most of the people in the crowded room. "Three years ago, I bought a house on Willow Avenue," said lifelong city resident Carmine Percontino. "Now it's worth half of what I paid for it, and I'm paying twice the amount of taxes. What's going on here?"

Percontino was not alone in wondering why he faces a possible tax hike that would bring the local property-tax rate up to \$27.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The current rate is \$17.52 per \$1,000.

Dominic Casulli, of Castle Point Terrace, berated the city administration for relying on \$8 million in scheduled payments from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for its now-scuttled waterfront development proposal when drawing up this year's city spending plan.

"What you guys are doing is living off the up-front money before it comes in," Casulli said. "We've got to start living within our means. I don't know what you can do this year, but please think about the future."

\*\*\* WHEN VOTERS here July 10 rejected the \$30 million Port Authority project by 12 votes, the city went into a financial tailspin because it had been expecting the \$8 million in lease payments.

In addition to the proposed tax increase, Pasculli scrambled to meet the budget gap by announcing plans to lay off more than 100 city workers and demote about 25 police and fire superiors. Some of those workers already have lost their jobs, and the rest are scheduled to be laid off Sept. 12.

After hearing from the public  
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## Retiring schools superintendent asks for big bucks

Continued from Page 1

sick days allowed in school districts is between 10 and 15 days annually, said Joseph Flannery, director of communications for the New Jersey School Board Association.

Fine is also asking that "effective June 30, 1991 all remaining vacation days or sick bank days shall be paid to Walter J. Fine at a rate of one-two hundredth of his then existing salary" and that "the daily rate shall be \$502.35."

The payments shall be

made in three installments each Jan. 1, beginning in 1992. "From my calculations, it adds up to \$284,000," Hottendorf said.

Hottendorf said he plans to vote against the package because he disagrees with the number of vacation days Fine has applied for.

"I would like to investigate the number of vacation days," he said.

Still uncertain is whether the board will move tonight to appoint an acting superintendent of schools. Farina has told

The Jersey Journal that he wants to make Fourth Ward Councilman Edwin Duroy, principal of Connors School, the acting superintendent until a permanent appointment is made.

Hottendorf maintains that by state law, the school board must appoint an acting superintendent of schools, who is Francis McGorty.

Fine is backing appointing McGorty.

## MAXWELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In April, when they started talking about maybe closing the plant down again, we lowered the rate even further to \$14 per 1,000 cubic feet," Chius said. "It was a sign of good faith on our part."

Chius estimates that raising the Maxwell House rate could earn the city more than \$150,000 next year.

Eliminating the bulk rate could also help cushion the blow water users will feel when Jersey City — which supplies Hoboken's water — sets a new rate.

Hoboken and Jersey City are

scheduled to begin negotiating a new rate in September.

Chius hopes to have the Maxwell House water rate changed as of Oct. 1. To that end, the City Council waived the normal 30-day review period and introduced an ordinance amending the rate at its last meeting.

Although several council members questioned whether the move might cause Maxwell House to pull out sooner than planned, the ordinance was introduced by unanimous vote.

"That was the last drop," said Councilman David Roberts.

## Planned shutdown stung city

# Maxwell water deal drying up Hoboken pulling plug on perk for doomed coffee factory

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Unhappy that Maxwell House has chosen to close down its coffee plant here, city officials are moving to eliminate the discount water rates the company has enjoyed for the last 20 years.

Boosting the company's rate will bring in some much-needed revenue for the city while letting Maxwell House know that

Hoboken is still stinging over the company's decision to shut the plant here in favor of one in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We've gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to Maxwell House," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said. "Now it's time for us to reassess our whole business relationship with them."

In June, Maxwell House President Ray Viault announced the company's plans to

phase out operations — due to declining coffee consumption and duplication of operations — with final closing scheduled for early 1992.

Maxwell House is the largest water user in the city, having consumed close to 271 million gallons for its coffee processing operations last year, City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said.

At a discounted rate of \$15.50 per 1,000

cubic feet — which translates roughly to 7,000 gallons — the company paid the city \$600,000 in water fees in 1989, Chius said.

The water rate for all other businesses and residences here is \$18.50 per 1,000 cubic feet. The city lowered Maxwell House's rate in 1970 to \$15.50 in order to keep the plant alive through another threatened closing, Chius said.

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PATRICK PASCULLI  
"Time to reassess relationship"

## 5 teachers rehired

# Hoboken nixes retirement deal for school boss

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — After a lengthy closed-door session last night, the Board of Education rejected Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine's buyout proposal, accepted the resignation of a board member and rehired five teachers who were given layoff notices earlier this year.

Board members said balking at Fine's resignation terms might cost the school district extra money. But they said it would spare them headaches in conducting an orderly search for his replacement.

"As of right now, I'm going to be here Sept. 1," Fine said. "I thought my offer was in the best interests of the district. I guess the board doesn't think so."

Last month, the 65-year-old Fine notified the board of his desire to step down as by June 30. He asked for a one-year paid leave of absence and full pay for more than 300 sick days he has accumulated during his 38 years in the school system.

Fine proposed that the board deduct a full year's worth of days from his sick bank, which totals more than 500 days. In addition, Fine asked that a raise of roughly \$8,000 be added to the \$83,000 salary he has earned for the last three years.

The board's current policy is that retiring teachers are given half-pay for up to 15 unused sick days for each year they have worked in the system.

"The money is not so much the problem," Trustee Perry Belfiore said. "Administratively, we want to have an orderly transition to the next person."

Board members and Fine hinted that he will stay at the helm until January, when the search for a new superintendent is expected to be completed.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of Michael Rossano, who cited personal reasons for stepping down.

Rossano's resignation was anticipated for months. His attendance at meetings dropped sharply



WALTER J. FINE  
Will be on job for 1990-91

during the past six months.

It was unclear last night whom the board will choose to replace Rossano, but Belfiore renewed a pledge he made when the last board vacancy came up that a member of the city's black community be named.

The board also announced that five teachers who had been told their jobs were being eliminated for budgetary reasons will be rehired for the 1990-91 school year.

Kenneth Johnston, Hoboken Teachers Association president, lauded the board for bringing back the teachers. But he asked that extra efforts be made to hire an additional four teachers who are still without jobs for the coming year.

# Board asks Fine to remain on job during Level 3

## Three schools fail state standards

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken school district will most likely remain in Level 3 monitoring because the most recent state evaluation shows that three grammar schools failed to pass the state standards in basic skills.

Hudson County Superintendent of Schools Louis Accella is ordering that special attention be given to the three grammar schools starting next month.

Consequently, the school board has asked Walter Fine, superintendent of schools, to abandon his plan to take an immediate leave of absence in September and officially retire next June.

Fine, who was at work yesterday, told a reporter, "I'm here. I'm here for another 25 years. They asked me to stay."

Fine, 64, has worked in the district for 39 years. He had asked for a retirement package that would have included a 19

percent retroactive pay hike on his existing salary of \$83,749, a paid year's leave of absence made up of unused vacation and sick days, and a buyout of his unused sick and vacation time. Board members calculate the retirement package totaled about \$300,000.

School Trustee Claire DePalma said that board members wanted Fine to remain to continue the system's Level 3 monitoring and to give the board more time to find a replacement.

"Because we are not out of Level 3, the board urged Walter not to take a leave of absence," DePalma said.

"I think he worked hard on the Level 3 plan and he would like to see us through it," she added.

The Board of Education was optimistic that the district would be removed from Level 3 in September and placed in Level 1, one step from

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## BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

last night, Pasculli once again referred to waterfront development as the best way out of the city's financial problems.

"I cannot let this community suffer for a prolonged period of time," Pasculli said. "We've got to get waterfront development moving again and get this city back on its feet."

Councilman Joseph Della Fave agreed that progress must be made on the waterfront but also was critical of the administration's spending practices.

"This crisis did not come about

simply because of the result of the referendum," Della Fave said. "There have been years of unnecessary spending, at the county level, at the school board and, to a lesser extent, on the municipal side."

Percontino, among others, said he was unhappy with the explanations he heard last night and offered a note of caution.

"I want to live in Hoboken the rest of my life; I love it here," he said to the council. "But I've got no future because of the mess you got us in. You've got to start doing your jobs."

# 150 protest Hoboken budget proposal

By Kaki Kozelek  
Journal correspondent

More than 150 people jammed City Council chambers last night to protest the proposed Hoboken budget, which will add \$10 to the tax rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

For more than an hour, the council and the mayor listened to impassioned speeches from residents who fear they may eventually lose their homes.

Paul Lippman, a 10-year resident in semi-retirement, wonders how he is going to survive. "My real estate tax raise is greater than my annual income and I'm not happy."

He added facetiously that he is "puzzled as to how I am going to get by when I can't even afford to buy ketchup for my dogfood."

The meeting was opened by

## Mayor and City Council promise there will be many amendments

Council President E. Norman Wilson who said the budget is far from final and the council "will be making many amendments."

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said the proposed budget reflects a substantial tax increase, 80 percent of it "due to the fact that there have been no waterfront revenues since 1987."

Thomas Kennedy, a city police officer, was booed and heckled when he chided residents for voting against the P.A.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli based his 1990 budget on the supposition of receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority of

New York and New Jersey to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development along the Hudson River on 30 acres of city-owned land.

But voters rejected that plan last month. Thus, the city must compensate for the \$8 million budget shortfall.

"Everyone knew what they were getting into when they voted no," he said.

He slammed Councilman Joseph Della Fave for his perceived support of the waterfront petitioners. "Shame on you," he admonished Della Fave for celebrating with the petitioners on election night.

Ron Gale was armed with a list of possible revenue genera-

tors, such as selling off large, police cruisers and renting smaller cars. "Where do these big cars drive" in a city this size?" he asked.

Thomas P. Meehan, president of the Police Superior Officers Association, however, said the Police Department is suffering enough. "We are overburdened with the work load right now, our equipment doesn't work, we have radio problems, and I think we're down to one or two motorcycles," he said.

He added that "if there are any new cutbacks or demotions, you will hurt citizens as well as the Police Department."

Perhaps the audience's favorite speaker was Carmine Percontino, a homeowner who asked the council to bear with

See BUDGET — Page 6

## Budget draws residents' protests

Continued from Page 1

him because he was nervous. "I've got a house that's worth half what I paid for it," he lamented that he has to work two jobs to pay his mortgage and taxes and several times he lambasted the council "for not doing their job."

"I love it here and I want to stay but I've got no future here now," he said as the audience broke into applause.

Wilson conceded the council has faced such obstacles in remedying the budget situation as "political fighting," but he assured the audience that the council is "working together" for the common good.

"We do realize that we're

going to have to get the tax rate down so people can survive," he said.

Dominic Casulli said the "school board is too big" in light of student enrollment. "We've got to get used to living within our means."

"We have to be very careful about counting on the waterfront in the future," he added.

Pasculli took umbrage at Casulli's remarks and said, "We're making cuts but we have a mandate to the young people of this city" to educate them.

On Monday, the mayor said, he and other city officials will meet with state officials to appeal for financial aid.

## Fine puts off retirement

Continued from Page 1

certification. But a 35-page evaluation issued by the county superintendent of schools, who oversees the state monitoring, disclosed the district needs to pay special attention to Connors, Kealey and Demarest schools.

Fine's abandonment of retirement plans derails efforts by some board members to appoint Fourth Ward Councilman Edwin Duroy acting superintendent. Duroy is Connors School principal.

Trustees who support Duroy, among them Board President James Farina, realize they are working against a deadline of next spring when four board seats are up for election, which could change the balance of power.

Accella, who could not be reached by The Jersey Journal, is expected to inform the board officially next month that the district will remain in Level 3.

Hoboken fell under state monitoring four years ago when the grammar and high schools failed state tests in reading, writing and math.

While Hoboken High

School for the first time in four years passed those tests last spring, 75 percent of the students in Connors, Kealey and Demarest schools did not.

"There is also a concern regarding the extent to which the educational and personal needs of students have been addressed in some of the district's schools," Accella's report reads. "Specific problems are evident in Connors and Kealey Schools and, to a lesser extent, in Demarest School. Implementation of strategies for addressing student needs in order to provide them with the best possible education is imperative."

"It is incumbent upon the managers responsible for these areas to exercise their authority and devote their efforts toward achievement to the same degree of success as has been attained in the other areas of the Level 3 action plan."

"I am, therefore, directing the district to develop viable corrective action plans for the business office, Connors Elementary School, Demarest Elementary School and Kealey Elementary School," it states.



## Hearing set tonight on budget that will add \$10 to tax rate

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer JS 8/24/90

A public hearing will be held at 7 tonight in the Hoboken City Hall on the 1990 city budget, which as proposed will add \$10 to the existing tax rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

And, even though Mayor Patrick Pasculli has eliminated 110 jobs in the \$34 million spending plan, City Council members yesterday said that more cuts will have to be made.

Councilmen David Roberts and Steve Cappiello said that they will look at the high-paid managerial jobs to see if some of those jobs can be eliminated to reduce municipal spending.

"Having a tax rate beyond \$23 or \$24 is unacceptable and it confiscates people's property," Roberts said.

"I will do whatever needs to be done to make sure that the tax rate is not as high as projected," he vowed.

Some steps that Roberts said he is considering is asking the Hoboken Teachers Association to defer its 1990-91 salary increases, to lobby for more

state aid and sell city land to bring in more revenue.

He said that the Board of Education has to begin reducing its budget because his constituents in the Sixth Ward carry the greatest share of funding the public schools.

Cappiello noted that many of the jobs axed by the budget crunch were low paying jobs which have little effect on the tax rate.

"I can't vote for that budget as it is today. The taxpayers will be devastated. We must pull together and see what we can do," Cappiello said.

"We should talk about revolutionary ideas and about some old ideas about less government," he said.

Pasculli was basing his budget on \$8 million he expected to receive from a partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to develop 30 acres of city-owned land along the southern end of the city on the Hudson River.

But voters rejected the plan to build a 3.2 million square foot development.

But Pasculli has told the City Council that even with the

P.A. money, the tax rate was scheduled to increase by \$5 because of the Board of Education budget, increases in municipal spending and reductions in state aid.

The city used \$3 million it received from the Port Authority from a tentative agreement in its budget last year to offset the amount to be raised through local taxation.

The Board of Education, because of reduction in state aid and increases in school spending, adds \$3 to the local tax levy. The school board approved a three-year contract with the HTA in the spring that will cost \$5 million to fund.

"The fact of the matter is, I don't see us making up the ten dollars this late in the year," Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave said.

Last year, for every tax dollar, 51 cents went to the Board of Education, 17 cents went to municipal spending and 32 cents to running the city.

Under the proposed budget, 42 cents will go to the Board of Education, 36 cents will go to City Hall and 21 cents will go to the county bud; it.

## Sewerage authority quarrels over ruling

By Blanca M. Quintanilla  
and Jo-Ann Moriarty JS 8/24/90  
Journal staff writers

Union City wants the HUCW Sewerage Authority to reconsider its not appealing a ruling clearing the way for a sludge gasifier in Hoboken.

Just hours after the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken sewerage authority commissioners failed to get enough votes Monday night to challenge a ruling by state Superior Court Judge Dorothea O.C. Wefing, Union City Mayor Robert Menendez called the board's action outrageous.

Local governments will be wasting millions if the \$35-million facility is built, he said.

In a gasifier, sludge, the byproduct of sewage treatment, is floated over hot sands and burned. The gas generated is used for electricity. Emissions are expelled through a 100-foot smokestack, and the ash put in a landfill.

The judge ruled Aug. 21 that a sludge permit is not required before officials can sign a construction contract. The authority had awarded a \$35 million contract in October,

but members then refused to sign it.

The authority had cited the lack of a sludge permit and the possibility of a less costly means of treating sludge.

Richard Wolff, chairman of the Tri-City Sewerage Authority, said he has signed the contract with Terminal Construction Co. of Wood-Ridge even though he believes there are safer and cheaper ways of burning sludge.

"The contract has been signed but not delivered," said Frank Leanza, counsel for the authority.

Meanwhile, Susan O'Kane, spokeswoman for Pollution Crisis Coalition, a Hoboken environment group, said she was outraged that the contract had been signed.

O'Kane had planned to present to the authority a petition signed by nearly 2,000 area residents demanding it investigate other sludge disposal methods.

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Union City Mayor Robert Menendez tried but failed to stop the project at the

See SEWERAGE — Page 6

## Sewerage authority quarrels over ruling

Continued from Page 1

state level. Despite Monday night's results, Menendez and Union City Public Safety Commissioner Bruce Walter, also an authority commissioner, refused to give in.

Menendez said he was trying to get Weehawken Mayor Richard Turner and Pasculli to flex their political muscles to get the authority to reconsider appealing the ruling. The board has 40 days to appeal.

Menendez said the city's Law Department is looking for another avenue to challenge the board's decision.

Pasculli said yesterday he wanted a briefing from Wolff on why the authority did not vote to appeal.

Voting Monday night to appeal were Wolff and Frank Raia of Hoboken and Walter and Abe Antun of Union City.

Voting against an appeal were Commissioners Vincent Giusto and Edward Keating of Weehawken and James Caulfield of Hoboken. Five votes were needed to appeal.

Caulfield voted against the appeal because, he said, the city could lose federal funding and possibly be slapped with hefty fines by the state Department of Environmental Protection for reneging on its commitment to treat wastewater. If there is a public backlash to his

decision, he said, he will resign from the authority.

The city fought a long and hard battle to prevent the gasifier, said Wolff and Raia, and the amount of money to finance an appeal is insignificant compared to the amount spent so far on the court battle.

Terminal Construction sued in June to force the authority to follow through on the contract. Wefing's ruling virtually removed the last obstacle to building the gasifier.

"I wished we could have gone the last tenth of a mile and brought some finality," Wolff said. "Whether citizens' groups can enjoin or the municipality can enjoin the construction, those are questions beyond my authority," he said.

The gasifier is scheduled to be built at the current site of the wastewater treatment plant near 16th Street and Willow Avenue, directly below Weehawken.

The project is expected to be operational in June, 1992. The \$60 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant will restore water to 80 percent purity. The city is under a federal edict to upgrade its wastewater treatment.

The state has imposed a moratorium on sewer hookups until the upgrading is completed.

## Hoboken spending up despite job cuts

By Jo-Ann Moriarty JS 8/24/90  
Journal staff writer

Despite the elimination of 110 city jobs, Hoboken's municipal budget shows that spending in almost all city departments increased over last year in the proposed spending plan.

And the office of Mayor Patrick Pasculli is no exception.

While the mayor has voluntarily taken a pay cut of \$13,000 — after having given himself an 82 percent raise upon his election to a four-year term last spring — spending in his office has increased from \$95,558 to \$116,072, according to the city budget.

One reason for the increase is an \$8,000 salary increase given to the mayor's administrative secretary, Angela Servello. Her salary rose from \$30,073 to \$38,900, according to the budget.

Pasculli, whose salary of \$35,700 was increased to \$65,000 last year, has taken a 20 percent salary cut effective in July. His salary is now about \$52,000 and will reduce spending by \$6,470 in this budget.

In the Law Department, salaries increased from \$259,413 in 1989 to \$323,812 this year, according to the budget. The increases are directly related to hiring more attorneys. But that department will absorb a \$35,000 budget cut because of the elimination of one assistant city attorney, one stenographer and Robert King, a legal intern who serves as a consumer affairs officer.

The budget in the rent control office for salaries is up from \$71,533 to \$99,410, al-

though that department has also been cut by \$8,000, according to the budget.

The 1990 spending plan is difficult to read because of the reorganization of departments and the creation of three new directorates, the directors of Parks and Public Property, Human Resources and Public Safety.

Those three jobs, each carrying a salary of \$35,700, have been eliminated.

Helen Macri, director of Parks and Public Property, and Thomas Kennedy, the Public Safety director, have been let go.

But George Guzman, the director of Human Resources, will return to his former job as director of Hispanic Affairs and receive a salary of \$26,500, according to the budget.

The department which will

feel the greatest blow from the budget axe is Public Works, but the actual increases and decreases are difficult to note because the spending in the Public Works department has been divided from the 1989 budget to several departments in the 1990 spending plan.

The Recreation department increased its salaries from \$140,000 last year to \$191,000, although that department has also been cut by \$16,000 this year.

However, 67 jobs have been eliminated in the departments of Public Works, Recreation, Water and the central garage.

While the proposed budget contains serious cuts, members of the City Council are critical that the mayor ran the city on emergency appropriations for nine months with no spending plan.

## School chief getting Fine package

By Jo-Ann Moriarty JS 8/24/90  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education plans to begin looking for a new superintendent and will accept the present school district head's lucrative buyout package in January, board President James Farina said yesterday.

Walter J. Fine, superintendent with 39 years in the district, had planned to take a paid year's leave of absence starting in September and officially retire next June.

But Fine emerged from a closed-door school board session earlier this week back on the job.

He told a reporter that he had no immediate plans to retire.

Farina said yesterday that a majority on the school board supports Fine's retirement proposal, which members say total between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

Fine is asking for a paid leave of absence, a 19 percent retroactive salary hike on his existing salary of \$83,794 and a buyout of his unused sick and vacation time.

"The board is still negotiating with Walter. But there was a recommendation to stay on until January if the board agreed to his terms," Farina said.

In the meantime, the board will conduct a search for Fine's replacement and Farina said that search will go beyond the local district.

Farina had said that he favored appointing someone from within the school district because those employees understand the system. However, Farina said yesterday that he did not believe that philosophy precluded allowing candidates from outside the system to apply for the job.

School Trustees Eddie Garcia and Perry Belfiore agree with Farina that someone from within the system ought to be appointed to replace Fine. Board Trustee Claire DePalma supports an outside search.

State education officials have said that they will observe closely Hoboken's process in selecting a new school head. Hoboken is being monitored by the state Department of Education because basic skills test scores fell below state standards four years ago.

## Hoboken budget hearing planned

HOBOKEN — The City Council is scheduled to hold a hearing on this year's proposed \$34 million municipal budget tonight.

The spending plan reflects the loss of \$8 million in anticipated revenues from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as part of the waterfront development deal that was rejected by voters July 10.

Without the \$8 million, Mayor Patrick Pasculli issued more than 100 layoff notices and projected a tax increase of nearly 60 percent, from \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$27.49. That increase includes about a \$3 rise in the local school tax rate and a roughly \$1 rate jump to fund this year's Hudson County budget.

The hearing is scheduled for City Hall at 7 p.m. — EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

## Hoboken has SOS meeting with Florio

By Joseph Albright JS 8/28/90  
Journal correspondent

TRENTON — Hoboken yesterday bared its financial soul before Gov. Jim Florio in his State House office.

Florio listened to what was described as a one-hour "briefing" by Hoboken officials.

Hoboken's financial dilemma was outlined by Mayor Patrick Pasculli who is attempting to cope with a loss of \$8 million in Port Authority of N.Y. and N.J. revenue this year because of the 12-vote referendum defeat of the PA's \$125 million waterfront investment plan in July.

With the loss of that aid, Hoboken is faced with a 57 percent property tax increase this year — after a reduction in property taxes last year because of a \$7 million PA grant, Pasculli said.

Pasculli was joined by Assemblyman Bernard F. Kenny Jr., Hoboken Democrat, Assemblyman Robert Menendez, Union City Democrat, and Assembly Speaker Joseph V. Doria Jr., Rayonne Democrat.

Pasculli and Kenny indicated hope the state could come to Hoboken's aid this year.

No state aid figures were mentioned.

Florio's staff will work with the

Hoboken officials on the issue, Kenny said.

Meanwhile, the Pasculli Administration and other officials have been holding meetings seeking what Kenny called a "consensus" on a possibly new PA waterfront development proposal.

The meetings involved the citizens group which won a referendum from the State Supreme Court and then beat the PA plan by 12 votes in July.

Kenny said they hoped the various groups would reach a "consensus" before a modified PA plan is subject to another referendum. No date is in mind yet, he said.

Meanwhile, the City Council is wrestling with the local budget problem, aggravated by an immediate loss of \$3 million and loss of another \$5 million from the PA by year's end, Pasculli said.

Any state aid for Hoboken this year would depend on availability of state revenues in a state experiencing a turnaround in the economy.

The Florio Administration has promised that tax benefits are coming from Florio's \$2.8 billion tax increase, improved school aid money and the Homeowner Tax Rebate which the Hudson Democratic delegation voted for. But these benefits don't arrive till next year.

## Hoboken fire forces three families out

By Jo-Ann Moriarty JS 8/28/90  
Journal staff writer

A one-alarm fire at 1202 Park Ave. in Hoboken yesterday left three families homeless and sent two firefighters to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Firefighters were not certain at press time yesterday what caused the fire in the second floor of the three-family brownstone.

When the blaze erupted about 11:30 a.m., no one was at home in the three units.

But Lorraine Dellostritto, a widow who has lived at the brownstone for 13 years, was across the street when she heard about the fire.

Despite the protests from firefighters, Dellostritto entered the burning building to save her cat, Petunia, and two birds, Frick and Frack.

"I went through the smoke and fire and everything. I didn't care. The firefighters were yelling, 'Lady get out of there.' But I wanted to get my cat and birds," she said.

Firefighters rescued a cat on the third floor.

The house is owned by Michael DeTerlizzi, who moved out in June to live at the Jersey Shore, neighbors said.

Dellostritto said the first two floors have new tenants.

Deputy Chief Charles Ebersole said two firefighters, Robert Falco and Ralph Corrado, were sent to St. Mary Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. They were treated and released, said Edward Cappucci, hospital spokesman.

The fire was extinguished in 30 minutes. Twenty firefighters were at the scene.

## Hoboken's school janitors are getting big bucks

By Jo-Ann Moriarty JS 8/31/90  
Journal staff writer

More overtime has been approved for Hoboken janitors — who submitted a controversial bill last month — because they are working against a deadline to have Hoboken High School ready for students next week.

But the amount of overtime should be "minimal" yesterday, said school Trustee Perry Belfiore.

The bill should be "substantially less" than the \$48,960 given to 24 janitors for 12 days of work last month,

## More overtime approved as they race deadline

according to school Trustee Otto Hottendorf.

The Board of Education passed a resolution at its last meeting barring overtime — unless it was an emergency — for janitors to replace classroom furniture which had been moved in preparation of asbestos removal.

But school Trustees received telephone calls from the office of Walter Fine, superintendent of schools, asking for the approval of overtime, according to Belfiore and Hottendorf.

The 24 janitors who received overtime pay — one as much as \$3,100 for 132 hours of overtime pay in 12 days — worked 16 hours of overtime on Saturdays and 16 hours of doubletime on Sundays and between six and eight hours of time-and-a-half during the week, school records show.

Overtime is needed again because

the janitors are racing against a deadline to have the high school ready for students on Wednesday, Belfiore said.

"They are working vigorously wiping the furniture and moving it back to the classrooms," Belfiore said.

Because there was a 10-day gap between the asbestos company's completed its work and another firm's beginning to replace ceiling tiles and building frames, the janitors were de-

layed in returning the furniture, Belfiore said.

"It was determined by the janitors and the central office that we could not meet the target date without keeping people in after hours," Belfiore said.

Since janitors are entitled to doubletime on Sundays, and Monday (Labor Day) is a paid holiday, Belfiore noted that the work will be done without "paying doubletime and tripletime."

See JANITORS GET — Page 6

## Janitors get big bucks in Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

"There is a spirit there of 'let's get this thing done and meet our deadline,'" Belfiore said.

The July overtime bill was high because janitors assigned to other schools did not participate in moving the high school furniture until after they had worked a full day at their regularly assigned school, Belfiore said.

The board decided at its last meeting to put all janitors at the high school and assign only one to each school, said trustee Claire DePalma, who had thought that was the original plan in July.

While Hottendorf was critical of the July overtime, he said yesterday that he agreed the work had to be done.

James Farina, board president, said that the overtime was granted in July to save the city money. He estimated that private movers would have charged upwards of \$300,000.

## Fails to show in court

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN JS 8/28/90  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — A city landlord, whose rundown tenement at 600 Monroe St. is on the verge of being condemned, skipped a scheduled court date and meeting with city officials yesterday.

While landlord Daniel Makhoul continued to remain elusive, housing officials yesterday declared the building unsafe for a variety of reasons, including

inadequate plumbing and electrical fixtures, and broken smoke detectors.

But officials did not move to evict the 11 families that live there.

"We're going to give the landlord 48 hours to make emergency repairs," said Construction Code Official Alfred Arezzo. "If he doesn't do it, the city will hire professionals to make the repairs. Then we'll decide what happens to the tenants."

Arezzo's words offered little comfort to

the tenants, who repeated their vows not to leave until the city finds them permanent housing.

"Basically, it's like they're doing us a favor," Quinones said. "If they don't come up with the money to do the repairs they say the building needs, we're going to be out in the street."

POLICE FIRST arrested the 29-year-old Makhoul, of Saddle Brook, Aug. 9 on

charges he was discharging raw sewage from 600 Monroe St. and warehousing apartments there. Makhoul bought the 18-unit building in December.

After missing one court hearing on those charges, Makhoul was arrested a second time. He appeared Aug. 16 in Municipal Court to answer those and other charges, and was fined

1,700 and sentenced to 14 days in the Hudson County Jail in Jersey City. Municipal Court Judge Ross London

issued a warrant for Makhoul's arrest yesterday and lifted a previous stay he had placed on the jail sentence.

Assistant City Attorney Corinne Mullen said the city is making every effort to find new homes for the building's tenants.

"We've had some leads, but so far, there's nothing definite," Mullen said.

The city also is moving to protect the residents until permanent homes are found.

## Landlord given 48 hours to do repairs



H.D. 8/2/90

# Ousted priest: I'll wed gays

By DAVID REILLY

The Hudson Dispatch

The Rev. Robert Williams announced yesterday he would perform marriages for same-sex couples because the Oasis — a gay ministry in Hoboken that ousted him — no longer does so.



REV. ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Has two marriages scheduled

Since Williams' departure, the Oasis, at All Saints Episcopal Church on Washington Street, has stopped performing gay marriages.

The question of whether the church should marry gay couples is still

"I've been doing them all along," Williams said. "But now I don't know of any priest who will do it publicly."

Williams said he would marry couples wherever they wanted to have the ceremony performed.

The 34-year-old Texas native is a controversial gay Episcopal priest who was forced out of the Oasis after contradicting church teachings on sexuality.

While addressing a church symposium in December, Williams said celibacy and monogamy are both unnatural. Mother Theresa would be better off if she had sex, and Jesus had a gay lover.

Because of the remarks, Newark Bishop John Spong asked Williams to resign as executive director of the Oasis.

Only six weeks before, Spong was attacked by conservative factions of the Episcopal Church for ordaining Williams.

Since Williams' departure, the Oasis, at All Saints Episcopal Church on Washington Street, has stopped performing gay marriages.

The question of whether the church should marry gay couples is still

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## PRIEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

being debated by the Episcopal hierarchy.

But gay couples would lose out if they were forced to wait for an answer, Williams said. So he has announced he is available for public gay marriages.

"This is an important ministry that many gay and lesbian couples want and need," Williams said. "Since the most liberal diocese of the most liberal mainstream Christian denomination has refused to respond to this need, I want it to be known that I, as an individual Christian priest, will continue to respond as I have been all along."

Neither Episcopal Church officials, nor the Rev. David Norgard, who is Oasis' new executive director, could be reached for comment on Williams' announcement.

Williams said he is now living in Jersey City and plans to marry two same-sex couples within a month.

No stranger to controversy, Williams — who criticized Spong on the television show "Donahue" after his resignation — said he was not worried his announcement would upset church officials.

"It doesn't make any difference

to me anymore," Williams said. "I'm not allowed to function in any Episcopal Church, but I am still an Episcopal priest."

Since his ouster, Williams said, he has been taking doctoral courses at New York University and is trying to build a private practice of pastoral counseling.

## When new homes found

# Hoboken evicting Monroe tenants

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — City officials delivered eviction notices yesterday to 11 families living at 600 Monroe St., but said the tenants will not be forced from the building until new homes are found for them.

Residents of the violation-riddled tenement said they are unconvinced the city has their best interests at heart. They renewed their vow not to leave until they have permanent housing.

"We don't know what's going on," Frances Perez said. "They just gave us these notices to vacate the premises. We don't know where they're going to put us. They're playing games like always."

Perez and the building's other tenants have been in limbo since Aug. 9, when the city cracked down on landlord Daniel Makhoul for a slew of health and safety code violations.

City police have arrested Makhoul twice, and twice he has failed to appear to answer

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## MONROE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

charges of discharging raw sewage from the building, as well as warehousing apartments there.

Most recently, Makhoul, of Saddle Brook, skipped both a court date and a meeting with city officials last Friday to explain whether he plans to fix

plumbing, electrical and other problems in the building.

A new warrant was issued for Makhoul's arrest. He faces a 14-day jail sentence, city attorneys said.

After giving Makhoul almost a week to make emergency repairs,

Construction Official Alfred Arezzo labeled the building unfit for human habitation and issued the notices to vacate.

George Guzman, the city's director of human resources, is coordinating efforts to relocate residents of 600 Monroe St. He said

the city does not intend to put the tenants out in the street.

"That is not the city's intention," Guzman said. "The chances of placing them in Hoboken are very, very slim, but we'll put them wherever we can."

Guzman said most of the fami-

lies are already on waiting lists for apartments with the city's Housing Authority and the government-subsidized Applied Housing developments.

Guzman said each family can qualify for up to \$500 in relocation funds, depending on the size of the apartments they move to. The city has a relocation fund of \$13,000, which should be enough to accommodate all of 600 Monroe St.'s tenants, Guzman said.

# Hoboken hostage's husband has hope

Continued from Page 1

freed Westerners to pass through the border point, but that he was unsure when they might begin to arrive.

Kalumar, her son, Guhar, a niece and a nephew have been held since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

They were among 334 taken from a British Airways flight stranded when it landed in Kuwait to refuel moments before Iraqi troops took control of the

airport. The Kalumbaras were on their way to visit relatives in India, said Ramashandra Kalumbar of Bloomfield.

His wife has not gotten word to him, he said.

The last he heard, Kalumbar said, was that his wife and the children were being detained at a hotel in Kuwait.

Iraq has since threatened that it will move Westerners to key military and industrial targets in Iraq to use as human

shields to discourage a U.S. attack.

But Kalumbar does not know if his wife and son have been moved.

Kalumbar has been reluctant to talk to reporters in recent days for fear of attracting attention to his wife.

He said yesterday that the ordeal has been "not so good."

Two weeks ago, he called it "agonizing. Sometimes you feel very confident and it last for about a half an hour. And then you go into depression."

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report.

# Ed board may not need bids

Continued from Page 1

construction on public projects, and as a result, costs are usually inflated by 20 and 30 percent, Hartwyk said.

Also, when public bidding is used, the school board is "required" under the law to take the lowest bid and sometimes the product is inferior," he said.

The board approved a resolution at its July 17 meeting stating the need to engage in a district-wide capital facilities program and gave Farina and Clapp & Eisenberg authority to "take whatever action is necessary in order to facilitate the lease purchase financing contemplated by the board."

The board, the state Department of Education and the state Finance Board must approve the lease purchase agreement, said Hartwyk.

Local school trustees say the board must opt for this type of financing because it needs to upgrade the school buildings.

Nearly all the buildings are below state standards, but trustees doubt the public would approve a bond issue for upgrading.

Farina and Trustee Claire DePalma hope the construction costs can be financed or at least subsidized by state funds available for new facilities.

"It is going to be competitive for the grant money. But we have a jump on this because we have our five-year facility plan that is needed before you can apply for the state money," Farina said.

Hottendorf contends that lease purchase agreements are used generally when school districts are overpopulated

# Hostage's husband has hope

By Kery Murakami

Journal staff writer

H.D. 8/2/90

Yesterday offered hope to the husband of a Hoboken dentist held hostage in Kuwait.

The last three weeks have been an emotional roller-coaster ride for Ramashandra Kalumbar, the dentist's husband.

But at day's end yesterday, there was only hope.

His wife Sara Kalumbar, their 13-year-old son and more than 2,000 other Americans held in Iraq and Kuwait remain hostages.

"I'm very hopeful," Ramashandra Kalumbar said in a brief telephone interview early in the afternoon.

"Nothing has happened yet. I don't know anything more than what I've heard on the news."

Kalumbar heard Iraq's President Saddam Hussein promise that more than 1,000 Western women and children could leave yesterday.

Iraq's ambassador to the United States refused to give a timetable for their departure but said Iraq would also free the detained men after getting assurances from the United States that it would not attack.

However, no Western hostages had crossed the Jordanian border by early today, and reports from Baghdad said their departure was stalled because they did not have the required exit visas.

U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison traveled to the border post of Ruweisid, 210 miles northeast of Amman, to supervise the reception of any American women and children arriving there.

American diplomatic officials have manned the border round-the-clock for two weeks in case any U.S. hostages were freed.

Harrison's presence suggested that new arrivals were imminent.

British officials told Iraq yesterday they are ready to send aircraft to Baghdad to pick up Western women and children.

But they also said that they doubted the sincerity of Saddam's offer.

"It is a cat and mouse game — now a little mercy, now some more ruthlessness," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in London.

"His purpose, as far as one can tell, is to keep the human shield policy but divert attention by little acts of mercy from the main and totally unacceptable policy," Hurd said.

A senior Jordanian official at Ruweisid said by telephone that he expected a number of

See **HOBOKEN** Page 4

# More to be less in Hoboken

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Journal staff writer

H.D. 8/2/90

The Hoboken Board of Education is planning to build two new grammar schools to reduce the number of buildings from seven to three and keep Hoboken High School because a new study shows all buildings below state

standards.

A \$16 million plan being considered by the school board calls for demolition of Connors and Demarest schools and construction of two state-of-the-art buildings on those sites for 500 students in each facility.

The plan also calls for renovating Wallace School, which has a student capacity of 1,257 students, and the high school.

The plan is one of six possi-

bilities in a report prepared by Harsen and Johns, a consulting firm the Board of Education hired to study the conditions of existing buildings, project student enrollments and present alternatives for a five-year master plan.

The student enrollment of 3,459 in 1989-90 is expected to

See **MORE** — Page 4

# More schools to be less

Continued from Page 1

decrease to 2,579 in 1994-95, according to the study. The student enrollment 10 years ago was about 6,500.

School trustees contacted by The Jersey Journal support the plan to build two new schools, keep Wallace and the high school except Trustee Otto Hottendorf who objects to the method the school plans to use to secure financing.

One board member said that the plan may be adopted before the spring election in which four board seats are up.

Board President James Farina acknowledged that the plan may end the political careers of sitting board members.

"That is a chance we will have to take, but we have to do the right thing. But we will hold public hearings," Farina said.

Board Vice President Geraldine Pantoliano, Claire DePalma and Perry Belfiore support the plan.

"We are mandated by the state to come up with a five year plan," Belfiore said. "We want to save money but provide environments for better learning, with labs, swimming pool, and air conditioning."

"The reason why we did away with summer school is because we couldn't get anybody to teach in those sweltering hot boxes. Being comfortable is conducive to learning," Pantoliano, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, said the "buildings have a terrible learning environment."

DePalma notes that in Connors School, there are only two bathrooms — one for boys and one for girls — in the basement.

The board is accepting proposals for a financial advisor to help trustees decide which plan will accommodate educational needs and be most cost effective.

Farina said that the city should eventually save money with new facilities and the additional closings of Calabro, Brandt, Kealey to the closing of Rue School by the board two years ago.

Rue may be reopened while Demarest and Connors are being rebuilt, board members said.

Farina said the district will save on costs of reduced staffs and maintenance and utilities.

"The Demarest School is a

beautiful building but it is an educational dinosaur. There is no access for the handicapped, no elevators," Farina said.

DePalma, noting that most school buildings are 70 years old, said the district shouldn't risk its eventual certification because of problems with facilities.

She said once the district improves its academic standing and leaves Level 2 — which she felt it fell into because basic skills test scores were below state standards, "it would be unfortunate to fall back in again because of a problem with the buildings."

The five-year plan is mandated by the state Department of Education, she said, adding that the state intends to start looking at physical conditions of the schools.

Board members hope the state will provide funding for the new construction.

In addition, there is support on the board to build the schools through a "lease purchase agreement" in which the \$16 million will not need voter approval that is required for bond issues.

Hottendorf objects to the "lease purchase agreement" because he said it circumvents public ability to vote on the issue and have a voice on board spending.

But board members contend the schools will never be built if public approval is needed. DePalma points to the public's rejection of a bond referendum to remove asbestos from the high school.

"The schools will never get built," she said.

Belfiore agreed and wants to hire Jonathan Gordon, an unsuccessful school candidate in the spring election, as financial advisor. Some trustees are pushing Gordon to fill the vacancy left by Michael Rossano's resignation last week.

"What we are talking about in general is downsizing the system to three grammar schools and the high school, the building of two new schools and the rehab of Wallace and getting rid of four buildings," Belfiore said.

But he said the public will never approve. "If we put a referendum on the ballot in November to close all public schools, it stands a good chance of winning," he said.

## Blaze routs families, hurts firemen

HOBOKEN — A one-alarm fire on Park Avenue left three families displaced and two firefighters with minor injuries yesterday, fire officials said.

Initial investigations pointed to an accidental electrical problem as the cause of the blaze in the 1200 block of Park Avenue, said Deputy Fire Chief Charles Ebersole. The fire, which started just after 11:30 a.m., was brought under control within a half-hour, Ebersole said.

Ebersole said the fire heavily damaged the second-floor apartment in the three-story building and moderately damaged the other two floors.

Firefighter Ralph Corrado suffered heat prostration and minor burns, and Chief's Aide Robert Falco suffered smoke inhalation. Both were treated at St. Mary Hospital, released and placed off-duty.

—EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

# Schools may thwart bidding law

By Jo-Ann Moriarty

Journal staff writer

H.D. 8/2/90

The new type of financing the Hoboken Board of Education is considering for construction of two schools may not require public bidding.

School Trustee Otto Hottendorf said yesterday that the lease purchase agreements being considered not only don't require a bond referendum but also don't require the school

board to solicit public bids for construction.

"It is a gimmick," Hottendorf said.

Board President James Farina, who supports the \$16 million plan to reduce the number of grammar schools from seven to three by building two new schools and renovating Wallace School, was uncertain whether public bidding is required in lease purchase agreements.

"Otto might be right," Farina said.

He referred the question to the board's bond counsel, Christopher Hartwyk, of the Newark law firm of Clapp & Eisenberg.

The need for public bidding depends on "the structuring of the lease purchase contracts," said Hartwyk.

Contractors typically delay

See **ED BOARD** — Page 7

## WEDDINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from practicing as a priest," Smith said. "He is still a priest of the diocese, but he chooses to ignore the bishop's orders."

Spong asked Williams to step down as leader of Oasis in January, a month after Williams told a church symposium that monogamy and celibacy are both unnatural, that Mother Theresa would be better off if she had sex and that Christ had a gay lover.

The Oasis, and Williams' pledge to perform gay and lesbian marriages, were both put on hold after the priest left the ministry.

Norgard, looking to take a more low-key approach to running Oasis, said he would have to deliberate on the possibility of the ministry blessing same-sex

unions and discuss it with the group's directors.

"I know it's a topic for discussion," Norgard said. "But it's obvious this is such a hot, controversial issue that it doesn't do any good to debate this in the papers. This is a subject for theological and ethical debate within the church."

Smith said priests at the Oasis, or anywhere else, could only bless, not marry, same-sex couples.

For a marriage, a couple needs a marriage license, he said. Gay and lesbian couples cannot receive such a license in New Jersey.

## At Oasis

H.D. 8/2/90

# Nuptials for gays weighed

Center in Hoboken may resume services

By DAVID REILLY

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Episcopal clergy at the Oasis, a gay and lesbian outreach center, said yesterday they were considering performing same-sex marriages — a service the ministry offered briefly last year, but abandoned in January.

The Rev. David Norgard, Oasis' executive director, said he has not yet decided whether to bless gay and lesbian unions. "I haven't had time to think about it yet," said Norgard, who came to Oasis three weeks ago. "It's one of many questions I'll be considering about the ministry."

Last week, Norgard's predecessor at Oasis, the Rev. Robert Williams, criticized the Episcopal Church and Oasis for backing off its original promise to marry gays and lesbians.

Williams, who lives in Jersey City, said he would be available to perform same-sex marriages because the Oasis, at All Saints Episcopal Church on Washington Street, isn't doing them.

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark had no position on Williams' announcement, said Deacon Leslie Smith, a spokesman for Bishop John Spong.

"The bishop of the diocese asked Rev. Williams to refrain

Please see **WEDDINGS** Page 12



## Janitors won't get the big bucks

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken janitors are expected to work today preparing the high school for its fall opening Wednesday but they will not receive double-time and triple-time pay for tomorrow and Labor Day.

Patrick Pantoliano, director of custodial services, yesterday said he expected crews to be working today. They will

be paid at the time-and-a-half rate. When asked about working tomorrow and Labor Day, Pantoliano said, "the only thing we are working is Saturday and that's that."

A school trustee charged yesterday that the janitors had refused to work overtime at time and a half last Wednesday unless they were guaranteed doubletime pay on Sunday and tripletime pay on Monday.

See SCHOOL JANITORS — Page 4

## School janitors won't get those big bucks

Continued from Page 1

guaranteed the double and tripletime.

"I can't answer that, it may be a contractual dispute and result in litigation," he said.

But he confirmed that the janitors worked overtime on Tuesday, Thursday and yesterday. When asked if they worked overtime on Wednesday, Tortorella said, "No."

He would not speculate on whether the work will be completed today.

The working hours of the janitors became controversial last month when 24 of them were paid \$48,960 for 12 days' work preparing the high school for asbestos removal. More than 100,000 square feet of ceiling tile had to be replaced.

Pantoliano, director of custodial services and husband of school Trustee Geraldine Pantoliano, who chairs the committee on buildings and grounds, received the most money for overtime, \$3,100 for 132 hours, according to school records.

The janitors were paid for six to eight hours of work during the week and up to 16 hours of time and a half and doubletime on weekends, according to school records.

The overtime was authorized by the administration to clear classrooms of furniture and equipment in preparation of asbestos removal.

The Board of Education began applying for federal funds to finance the procedure in January. The school district received federal funding in May.

The school closed for the summer on June 27 and the janitors began sweeping and cleaning the high school the first week of July. The overtime was for the period between July 11 and 22.

According to Mrs. Pantoliano, the janitors had to pack all the classrooms' equipment into nearly 2,000 cartons because the faculty left for the summer recess as though "they were returning to work the next day."

The asbestos company began bringing in its equipment July 19 and began asbestos removal July 23. The work was expected to be completed Aug. 27, Anthony Curko, school business administrator, said in an Aug. 1 interview.

The Board of Education passed a resolution at its last meeting barring overtime for janitors. Instead, trustees de-

clared an emergency under which all janitors would be assigned to the high school to return furniture to classrooms and prepare the building for the first day of school.

But three trustees, Perry Belfiore, Otto Hottendorf and Raul Morales, said they received telephone calls Tuesday from the office of Schools Superintendent Walter Fine, asking permission to approve more overtime.

Belfiore said he was asked to approve the overtime because it was needed to get the school ready for next week. He said he believes there was a 10-day gap between the time the asbestos work was done and the tile replacement contract began.

The trustees were not clear on the sequence of events and the need for the overtime.

Trustee Claire DePalma said she believed asbestos removal was completed Aug. 21, the tile replacement contract awarded Aug. 22 and the contractor began working Aug. 23.

The tile is to be replaced at this time only in the corridors for fire safety reasons, DePalma said. Originally, there was a plan to replace the tiles on the first floor when the asbestos company had moved to the second, she said.

But the original tile replacement contract came in at \$1 million and the school board took another two weeks to readvertise and award a contract at \$600,000.

There was also a question of having city building inspectors on vacation when the school board needed permission to occupy the building during the asbestos removal and allow the tile contractors to begin replacing the ceiling.

DePalma said janitors were not allowed to bring the furniture back to the classrooms until the contractor replaced the tiles in the corridors for fire safety reasons.

Hottendorf said he believes the board's architect was shortsighted in preparing for the various problems that occurred during the procedure. "We lost two days here, two days there and it's 10 days. That is typical of government," Hottendorf said. "What annoys me is that the architects were unable to predict any of these problems so that we could plan for them."

"No one goes the extra mile at the Board of Education to say how can we help the community. They are out for the almighty dollar," said Trustee Eddie Garcia, a Hoboken police lieutenant.

Charles Tortorella, high school principal, would not confirm that the janitors had refused to work extra hours Wednesday unless they were

See SCHOOL JANITORS — Page 4

## She brings order to PATH 'chaos'

HOBOKEN — It's 6 a.m., daylight is just a suggestion, and Glenda Hutchinson stands in the cavernous PATH station awaiting the onslaught of 28,000 or so travelers.

The public-information officer is a combination traffic cop, trouble shooter and entertainment guide to the waves of harried commuters and confused tourists.

At 7:30, the station verges on chaos. A New Jersey Transit train has just arrived on the street-level tracks above, and men and women, clutching briefcases and sweating through business suits, run down the tunnel leading to the PATH turnstiles.

A woman in her early 20s slows down to a trot and asks Hutchinson which train goes to 14th Street. The 33rd Street train,

Hutchinson answers.

A quarter gets stuck in a turnstile machine. A traffic jam of jumpy commuters grows. Hutchinson, dressed in a burgundy PATH jacket, springs into action.

With a pass, she clears the machine and reopens the blocked floodgate to New York.

"We'd be lost without her," says Don Free- swick, an electrical engineer with the U.S. Energy Department, on his way to work in Manhattan.

The PATH trains — heading to 33rd Street and the World Trade Center — depart. Calm returns.

For tourists, the 28-year-old Hutchinson often offers suggestions on what to see across the Hudson River — Greenwich Village, the

Empire State Building and the Museum of Natural History are three of her frequent suggestions.

"They come with all types of accents and all types of languages," Hutchinson says. "Some don't speak English, which makes for an interesting conversation."

The Jersey City native and single mother says she is a natural for the entry-level job she hopes will lead to a position in management.

"I like to work with people," she says.

The opportunity to meet scores more, even if it's just for the briefest of moments, comes almost as though on cue. Another NJ Transit train unloads its human cargo upstairs and commuters swoop downward — again.

## Planning pushed for urban schools

By BETH KUHLES

The Hudson Dispatch

9/4/90

In the span of four months, 30 poor, urban school districts — including five in Hudson County — can win or lose millions of dollars in state aid.

### Back to school

Second in a series.

How they fare will depend on their planning. The Quality Education Act, passed during a whirlwind legis-

lative session in June, can provide a windfall of new money to impoverished city schools, including those in Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City, West New York and Harrison.

The law sets up 30 "special needs districts" — the state's poorest areas, and targets them for millions of dollars in additional aid for programs like pre-school, all-day kindergarten and parental outreach.

But with the huge amounts of money will come more accountability.

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## SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In order to get that money, the districts have to identify programs on which it will be spent. The plans must be approved by Education Commissioner John Ellis.

Teams of state officials will visit the districts in mid-September to review the programs. But a random survey shows many districts have yet to start the planning process — and might not be ready by the time the state officials visit.

West New York is waiting for a statewide conference on Sept. 13 to get direction on how to proceed, said Schools Superintendent Rose P. DeFino.

Jersey City has been tied up with starting a new school year and has yet to begin the process. But 11 months after the state took over the school district, Jersey City has already done much of the assessment and new programs.

"The state is in the perfect position to use Jersey City as a model," said Assistant Education Commissioner Walter McCarroll. Because Jersey City is a state-operated school district, it will not be subject to the same intensive budget review process as the others, McCarroll said.

Other school districts are beginning the planning process with both barrels loaded. Union City officials said they see preparations for the Quality Education Act as an extension of



ROSE P. DEFINO  
Waiting for conference guidance

the work under way for the state monitoring process.

"We know where we want to spend our money," said Carl Johnson, Board of Education secretary.

Hoboken is using a management council set up during a state monitoring procedure as the sounding board for new programs. That group met daily the week before school opened to iron out a final draft of where it would like money to go, said Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine.

Fine already has his wish list, including science labs in the elementary schools, expanded



WALTER J. FINE  
Already has wish list

early-childhood education, and foreign language instruction and guidance counselors in the elementary schools.

Fine said he hopes to start a pilot program this year to bring in some of these teachers and programs from the high schools. But one of the big questions that has yet to be answered is how many of these programs he can afford, Fine said. He is trying to determine his state aid based on the number of eligible students and the cost of programs and equipment on the outside.

"... we are not really ready," said Fine, "but we have started."

## Tri-cities will appeal gasifier ruling

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority voted last night to appeal a recent court ruling allowing construction of a gasifier to burn sludge in Hoboken.

Six of the seven-member panel attended last night's meeting and voted unanimously to reverse its earlier decision to not fight the ruling of Superior Court Judge Dorothea Weffing.

The prior vote had been 4-to-3 to fight the ruling, but five votes are needed to initiate an appeal.

The gasifier would burn sludge produced as a byproduct of wastewater treatment.

After hearing a dozen residents from the tri-city area, Hoboken Commissioner James Caulfield and Weehawken Commissioner Vincent Giusto said they believed the public wanted to oppose the construction of a gasifier even at the risk of hefty fines from government agencies.

Susan O'Kane, representing the Pollution Crisis Coalition, said her contacts with the state indicated that it was not anxious to slap fines on the tri-city area because the technology for gasifiers is unproven.

Charles Lanigan of Weehawken said about 2,000 area residents have signed petitions asking state lawmakers to halt the project.

Helen Manogue, of the Hoboken Environment Committee, asked for a court ap-

peal to give citizens more time to have their lawsuit against the construction heard in court.

Laurie Parsons, who moved into Hoboken seven years ago, said upwardly mobile people are horrified by the gasifier.

Thus, the market the tri-city area is trying to attract with development could be scared away if construction proceeded, she said.

Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, who has fought the construction, asked members to go beyond a parochial view for a wider view.

"I know you are concerned about the fines and penalties," Menendez said, "but I may have to send out tax bills if it comes

See TRI-CITIES — Page 4

## Tri-cities will appeal ruling OKing gasifier

Continued from Page 1

to that, I would rather protect thousands of citizens."

Commissioners Edward Keating, who missed the last meeting, Caulfield and Giusto had opposed an appeal because they feared costly fines would be imposed on the cities for failing to meet state and federal clean water mandates.

The tri-city sewerage authority is under a state and federal mandate to upgrade its wastewater treatment.

Thus a moratorium on sewer hookups has been imposed, which has stifled development.

Richard Wolff, authority chairman, told the commissioners a "viable alternative" for disposing of sludge could be presented to the state Department of Environmental Protection within 10 days.

The authority's reversal means that it will not deliver the gasifier construction contract that Wolff signed last week after the Superior Court ruling.

Terminal Construction Co. of Wood-Ridge was to build a \$40 million gasifier.

Attorney Richard Laiks, representing Terminal, yesterday said he has filed papers with Weffing asking that the authority release its contract, schedule a preconstruction conference and proceed with the project.

After the vote, Wolff explained to the 25 residents that the authority had voted last October to award a contract to Terminal upon legal advice that otherwise an administrative consent order between government agencies and authority on upgrading sewerage treatment would be jeopardized.

But the state then delayed the project by requiring an air quality permit, Wolff said, and the authority began exploring other options for disposing of sludge.

While Laiks contends that another permit to dispose of solid waste "will not prevent construction," but only delay the project, Wolff maintains that the authority could abort the plans for the gasifier if it had an alternative accepted by the state DEP.

But Pittman withdrew his name from contention, citing medical reasons. He has been on a medical leave from his job as a firefighter since February.

"Willie thought it wasn't in his best physical interests to pursue the board seat," said the Rev. William Beatty, a member of the NAACP's executive board. "Once he told us of his decision, we chose Gene. We think he would be our best bet."

Beatty said he would be surprised if the board does not appoint Drayton.

"A commitment was made," Beatty said. "We feel it's going to be done."

But Farina isn't so sure. "The commitment to Pittman was there," Farina said. "There's a lot of confusion right now. I'm not sure what's going on. We're getting a lot of mixed signals."

## No public disclosure

## Agency hit on ethics

Sewer board's code called a 'charade'

By MICHAEL FINNEGAN

The Hudson Dispatch

An ethics code adopted by the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority is meaningless and unenforceable, according to a state legislator and an ethics lobbyist.

The authority's code "means nothing," said Ed McCool, executive director of New Jersey Common Cause in Trenton.

The code is "a charade," said state Sen. Paul J. Contillo, D-Paramus, who drafted one of the strictest ethics codes in New Jersey for Bergen County.

To have any value, Contillo and McCool say, an ethics code must require public disclosure of officials' sources of income and their private business relationships with government contractors.

It must also set up a system for enforcement, Contillo and McCool say.

The authority's code requires no public disclosure of anything and establishes no means of enforcement at all.

"It's a show," Contillo said. "There's no point in having it. You've got to have disclosure to back up an ethics code. Otherwise it's meaningless."

Under the authority's code of ethics, commissioners and employees use their own discretion in revealing "substantial" conflicts of interest to the authority, but not to the public.

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## Fire ruins holiday in Hoboken

Labor Day revelers carried suitcases, beach bags and heavy hearts yesterday as they looked back to the passing summer and ahead to cooler temperatures and a less carefree way of life.

With the sun shining hot on this unofficial last weekend of summer, it was a time for many to bid farewell to foamy surf, backyard picnics and sun-dappled vacations. Others, less regretful, merely took the time to relax and brace for another work week.

The holiday was not without its gloomy side, however.

Several Hoboken residents were displaced from their homes when a fire spread through the top floor of a three-story building at 306 Hudson St. Sunday night, fire officials said.

The two-alarm fire started about 7:45 p.m. in the bedroom of a third-floor apartment belonging to Kathy Jaccodine.

Twenty-two firefighters with three engines and two ladder trucks arrived at the scene to stop the spread to the attic and roof. By 8:55 p.m., the fire was out.

There were no injuries. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. Firefighters had to force their way into the building.

Jaccodine's apartment and the roof were badly damaged. Tenants living on the first and second floors of the red brick building were evacuated because of smoke and water damage and will be staying with relatives until repairs are made, officials said.

The building's landlord, George Gregory of Englewood, was making repairs to the roof of the building yesterday. He refused to speak to a reporter.

The cause of the fire is being investigated, according to fire officials.

State police estimated that 6.2 million drivers had clogged the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway over the

## Hoboken dentist, son free

9/5/90

By Kery Murakami

Journal staff writer

Ramashandarra Kalumbar had stopped watching television for fear of hearing worse news about his wife and son, who were hostages in Kuwait.

But Friday afternoon, his brother-in-law called from Michigan saying he had to turn on CNN Headline news.

There, in a report on Iraq's release of hostages, he saw his wife, a Hoboken dentist, boarding a bus for Baghdad.

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

## Hoboken dentist, son safe

Continued from Page 1

She looked healthy. And she was free.

From Baghdad, Kalumbar and her 13-year-old son, Guhar, would fly to her parents' home in Madras, India to visit relatives — finally ending a month-long ordeal.

The Kalumbars had set out on July 31, but when their British Airways flight landed in Kuwait to refuel, they were caught up among thousands of innocent civilians in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Kalumbars and 365 other passengers and crew were taken to hotels in Kuwait. There was no word about their condition.

Kalumbar called her husband late that night and said she was all right. She's supposed to fly back to JFK Airport Tuesday.

"She said she was treated well," Ramashandarra Kalumbar said in a telephone interview from the family's Bloomfield home. "She was worried more about the children because they (her son, a nephew

and a niece) had American passports."

Kalumbar, who carried an Indian passport, worried that Americans would be the first harmed by the Iraqis.

"It was very bad," Ramashandarra Kalumbar said. "It was the worst part of my life."

The worst, he said, came during the second week of the conflict when President George Bush called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "a liar."

"I was very scared that war would break out. I'm just very exhausted. Some nights I would just not sleep. It was definitely not normal," he said.

As he has throughout the ordeal, Kalumbar refused to discuss the invasion and taking of hostages for fear of endangering those still there.

"It's still a very scary situation," he said. "I hope they find a solution. I'm praying for the families of the people who are still there."

Kalumbar said he struggled through the worry by praying. "There wasn't anything else I could do."



EUGENE DRAYTON  
NAACP supports him

## Pasculli backs Toscano

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

9/4/90

HOBOKEN — City officials gave mixed reviews yesterday to an NAACP recommendation that Police Officer Eugene Drayton fill a vacant seat on the Board of Education, raising doubts about whether the board will appoint a black member at tonight's meeting.

The endorsement by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People touched off a round of telephone calls and closed-door meetings between Mayor Patrick Pasculli and his allies on the City Council.

By late yesterday, Mark Toscano — a 27-year-old city native who works for the New York City-based Bear, Stearns brokerage house — emerged as the leading candidate to replace the departed Michael Rossano.

Sources said Toscano is supported by Pasculli and a majority of the City Council, but it was

unclear how many board members will vote for him if he is nominated.

Although the school trustees will fill the vacancy, the mayor and City Council members wield significant influence.

"Mark is one of the people being considered," Pasculli said. "I would say he is one of the top few being looked at."

Toscano said he is very interested in serving on the board and performing the role of a "taxpayers' advocate."

"I'd like to see where the taxpayers' money is going," said Toscano, whose family has lived in the city for more than 50 years.

"I made a big investment in this city two years ago when I bought a three-family house. I think now is a good time to get involved."

Last week, it appeared the board was ready to name Firefighter William Pittman for the post.

Pittman, who is black, received

the backing of the NAACP, Pasculli and school board President James J. Farina.

But Pittman withdrew his name from contention, citing medical reasons. He has been on a medical leave from his job as a firefighter since February.

"Willie thought it wasn't in his best physical interests to pursue the board seat," said the Rev. William Beatty, a member of the NAACP's executive board. "Once he told us of his decision, we chose Gene. We think he would be our best bet."

Beatty said he would be surprised if the board does not appoint Drayton.

"A commitment was made," Beatty said. "We feel it's going to be done."

But Farina isn't so sure. "The commitment to Pittman was there," Farina said. "There's a lot of confusion right now. I'm not sure what's going on. We're getting a lot of mixed signals."



Elysian case 1/3 9/5/90

## Fraud charges denied

Ex-bank chief pleads innocent to extortion

By MICHAEL FINNEGAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

NEWARK — The former president of the defunct Elysian Federal Savings Bank in Hoboken pleaded innocent yesterday to federal charges that he shook down developers seeking loans.

After Ernest J. Badaracco entered the plea, U.S. District Judge Alfred J. Lechner Jr. scheduled his fraud and extortion trial for Oct. 15.

Badaracco is accused in a 10-count indictment of forcing four developers to pay his family's electrical companies \$346,500 for work on Hoboken condominium projects.

In exchange, Badaracco allegedly gave them several million dollars in loans.

"The government's charged him with abusing a position of trust for his own personal gain," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter F. Timpane.

Badaracco was photographed and fingerprinted yesterday by the U.S. Marshals Service after his arraignment at the federal courthouse here.

The judge released Badaracco after the former bank president promised to pay \$10,000 if he fails to show up for trial. Lechner said Badaracco could go ahead with his plans for a vacation this month in West Germany.

In addition to the criminal indictment, Badaracco faces federal lawsuits filed by the four developers: Eli Dresler, Patricia

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## CHARGES

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Tuohy, Perry Belfiore and Alan Richman.

The lawsuits allege criminal activity more widespread than the charges in the indictment.

The developers accuse Badaracco of bribery, theft, racketeering, extortion, fraud and other misconduct.

Badaracco declined to comment after his brief appearance before Lechner.

But his attorney, Gerald D. Miller, said Badaracco denies all the developers' allegations.

Dresler, who borrowed \$510,000 from Elysian in 1985 to build Court Street Condos at 61 Fifth St., accuses Badaracco of "demanding" that he hire Badaracco Brothers & Co. Inc. to perform electrical work on the project in exchange for the loan.

Dresler "had no choice but to agree" to hire Badaracco Brothers "at a substantially inflated price," Dresler's legal papers say.

When Badaracco delayed payments to Court Street contractors, slowing construction to "a virtual halt," Dresler says. Then Badaracco allegedly forced Dresler to borrow an additional \$185,000 in 1986 by threatening to foreclose on the first loan.

Dresler also accuses Badaracco and his "puppet," Edward Carcich, of stealing about \$32,000 from the second loan by falsifying requisitions for un-

needed plumbing work. Carcich could not be reached for comment.

Tuohy formed a partnership with an Elysian subsidiary, Elysian Financial Services Corp., to build a 23-unit project at 530-532 Jefferson St.

The partnership, Crystal Condos, borrowed \$1.56 million from Elysian Federal Savings Bank in 1984 to buy the property and build the project.

Badaracco told construction supervisor Barry Riggs "that unless Badaracco Brothers was awarded the electrical subcontract, the Elysian financing would be pulled," Tuohy's legal papers say. Under duress, Riggs yielded to the extortion threat, the papers say.

Tuohy also says she was coerced into borrowing an additional \$600,000 in 1986 to finish the project when Badaracco threatened to foreclose on all of her outstanding mortgages with Elysian.

In a sworn statement, Tuohy said her troubles with Badaracco "could do me in."

"My ability to earn my livelihood has been seriously impaired," she wrote. "I am having great difficulty in getting investors, co-venturers, clients and financing. I need to get out from under this cloud as quickly as possible so that I can get on with my life and my work."

Roger A. Lowenstein, an attorney for the developers, has asked U.S. District Judge Maryanne Trump Barry to postpone proceedings in the civil suit until Badaracco's criminal trial is over, but she has not yet issued a ruling.

## School pay hike lacked approval

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Custodians and administrators in the city's schools received pay raises — and about \$68,000 in back pay — last month without Board of Education authorization.

The raises were part of new contracts agreed to weeks ago by negotiators for the board and about 65 employees. But the pacts are still awaiting approval from a majority of the full board.

Board members said they were alarmed that such an error could occur.

"My feeling is they're putting the cart before the horse," said Ed Garcia, who sits on the board's negotiating committee. "I hope the whole board ratifies the contracts at the next meeting. Otherwise, we're going to have to ask for some money back."

"It's clearly something that should not have happened," said board member Claire DePalma, who joined Garcia and Perry Belfiore on the negotiating committee. "You can't be sending out pay if it's not approved by the board. It's amazing how things get done sometimes."

Schools Superintendent Walter J. Fine said that as soon

Please see SCHOOL Page 22

## Census enumerators say, Don't count on accuracy

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer 9/10/90

Completed census sheets and other government material including address books were lost by the Union City census bureau, which also oversaw the 1990 population count in Hoboken, Weehawken and West New York.

Enumerators and office staffers were instructed by the Union City office management to mark "vacant" sheets that were either lost or never completed, according to Hoboken residents hired to work the census.

"After the weekend I expected my supervisor to come here and pick up the completed

sheets. When I called her, she told me she was on her way into an important meeting concerning missing forms," said Janet Brinkos yesterday.

Brinkos worked as a crew leader in Hoboken during the census, supervising about 20 enumerators.

She said that when she asked her supervisor's boss about the missing forms, "He didn't deny it. He just said that only a small percentage were from Hoboken."

"Later, when I went to the (Union City) office, and saw that there was no way a small percentage — a lot of sheets were lost in Union City, West New York and Hoboken," Brinkos said.

She said enumerators and office workers were instructed to mark "vacant" on census forms for residences that were never contacted or for sheets that had been misplaced.

The reason the forms were marked "vacant" was to meet a federal deadline on a particular phase of the census operation, she said.

"It was easier to go through a pile of computer printouts and mark them 'vacant' to meet a deadline," she said.

The work was to be corrected when enumerators rechecked the "deletion and vacancy" lists, Brinkos said.

But, enumerators at that

See EX-ENUMERATORS — Page 4

## Hoboken counts on census tally being far short

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer 9/11/90

Hoboken officials will take clip boards in hand this morning and count doorbells and dwellings to disprove the federal census that shows the city lost 25 percent of its population in the last decade.

Peggy Thomas, Community Development Agency director, said she and the administration believe the census figures for Hoboken are "way off."

The 1990 census shows that 31,790 people live in Hoboken, compared to 42,460 people in 1980, according to preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census.

Hoboken, like several other Hudson communities, stands to lose federal funds because preliminary census figures show a drop in population. Officials in Union City, Jersey City, West New York, Weehawken and North Bergen have disputed the preliminary figures.

Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, calling for a united North Hudson response to what he labelled undercounting, has threatened to sue census officials if the initial figures are not revised.

The census shows that the Mile Square City has 16,946 housing units now, compared to 16,821 a decade ago.

"That means that only 125 units have been added to the housing stock in 10 years," said Thomas, whose office is instrumental in helping the city and private developers build housing developments with money from the state and federal governments.

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli wrote to the Census Bureau in January to disagree with the preliminary figures. He maintained that the Department of Labor estimated that the city had 18,211 housing

units. He will join the effort today to recheck the figures.

"I will be out in my neighborhood," Pasculli said. "We will be undergoing another unit count to provide verification to challenge what we believe has been an undercount in population," he said.

The census is an economic issue because much federal and state funding is allocated based on population.

State Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, who served as chairman of the local census committee, believes the count is incorrect because the number indicated that "1.6 persons live in a housing unit."

"They have Hoboken with the lowest population rate per unit rate in the county. The county average is 2.5 people per unit. At that rate, we are over 40,000 people," he said.

Kenny said the city's population was displaced during the last decade and fewer people live in housing units now than 10 years ago.

But he contends more people live in units than were recorded by the federal workers.

"The only recourse is to show that there are more units because of new construction and that more people live in them than the Census Bureau believes," he said.

Without question, he said, the city's demographics have changed in the last decade. A political poll conducted last year during the governor's race showed that half the population had moved to the city in the last five years, he said.

"But we have 21,000 registered voters. We have 'X' number that is not registered which brings us up to 28,000 adults. We have 3,500 kids in the public schools. Plus we have kids in private schools and parochial schools. And we

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

## SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he found out what had happened, he told the payroll department to stop paying custodians and administrators at the new rate until the board approves the contracts.

"I knew there was no contract, so I put a stop to it," Fine said. "As to why it wasn't on the agenda for the last meeting, that would have to come from the Board of Education. That's in their domain."

Garcia said the issue is not the raises — 7 and 10 percent for the custodians over the course of a two-year contract, and 6 percent a year for the administrators during a three-year contract.

The approximately 50 custodians have been working without a contract since June 1989, while the district's 12 administrators have been without one since June 1988.

"I think the contracts are very reasonable," Garcia said. "It's the fact that proper procedures weren't followed. It's an outright error. That shouldn't happen."

Board Secretary Anthony Curko took responsibility for the mistake, saying it was caused by a "breakdown in communications."

Curko said he knew that the board's negotiating team had reached "handshake agreements" with both the custodians and the administrators.

He said he told the payroll department to prepare the salary guides, as well as the retroactive checks.

Curko said he expected the board to ratify the contracts at its Aug. 21 meeting.

Advertisements for the Aug. 21 meeting indicated that the board would discuss the contracts. But on the night of the meeting, the agenda contained no mention of the contracts.

"I don't know what happened," Curko said. "It was my fault. I knew there was a problem when I saw the contracts weren't listed on the agenda."

Board President James J. Farina was at a loss to explain how salaries were given without board approval, but said he thought it was an honest mistake.

"I can't see why it wasn't ratified," Farina said. "Somehow, somehow, it just got away from us."

The board is now scheduled to ratify the contracts at its Tuesday meeting.

## FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion for a Better Waterfront. "I think it's pretty clear people want something different from what the administration put forward. We're trying to answer that."

Making the picture murkier still is a group of city residents and workers who have filed a legal challenge against the July 10 election. The petitioners allege the election was rife with fraud and seek to have the deal's 12-vote defeat overturned.

When the deal was debated, the city saw \$8 million in anticipated lease payments from the authority evaporate.

To fill the looming budget gap, the city was forced to send layoff notices to more than 100 municipal employees. The bulk of the layoffs are scheduled to take effect Wednesday.

In addition, Pasculli proposed a budget that predicted a 57 percent property tax increase, up from \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$27.49.

About half of that increase can be attributed to spending increases by the city Board of Education and Hudson County.

"I cannot let this community continue to suffer," Pasculli said. "We have to get waterfront development moving. I want to get something before the public before the end of this calendar year."

To that end, the authority plan is undergoing further scrutiny, both by the council and the city Planning Board.

A council committee made up of Thomas Newman, Joseph Della Fave, David Roberts and E. Norman Wilson has met twice with New York real estate experts for advice on how Hoboken should proceed.

"I don't want to comment on those meetings right now," said Newman, who voted against the authority deal in December.

"We're just trying to find out what our options are. We'll have more to report in a couple of weeks."

Meanwhile, a recent board hearing elicited comments from concerned residents. Many voiced objections to the authority project's height and density.

Roberts, who also sits on the board, said the public's views will be incorporated into a modified plan.

"It looks like there's support for a mass transit corridor as part of the project," Roberts said. "I think we're also going to stress to the public that the residential buildings are not going to be 20 stories high."

Hine said preliminary research by the waterfront coalition in-

# Hoboken students up HSPT

## 9th-graders raise scores by 11 percentage points

By Deborah Yaffe  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken public high school students improved their scores on the state's High School Proficiency Test for 1990 by an average of 11.3 percentage points.

Last year 59.1 percent passed and this year it improved to 70.4 percent.

For the second time in three years, Jersey City's ninth graders had the state's lowest pass rate on the HSPT, which students must pass to graduate.

Among Hudson County's other districts, Harrison and Union City, where 68.5 percent

of ninth graders passed all three sections of the HSPT, ranked lowest, topping only 13 other districts statewide. Hoboken came next, with a passing rate higher than that of 16 other districts.

Only two Hudson County districts — Secaucus and Bayonne — reached or topped the state average of 64.4 percent of ninth graders passing all three sections of the test.

Only Secaucus, with an overall pass rate of 94.9, ranked in the top half of the 260 non-vocational districts where students took the test.

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## Hoboken students up state HSPT scores

Continued from Page 1

Jersey City, whose schools were taken over by the state last October, has ranked at or near the bottom in the HSPT standings since the test was first administered in 1984.

Two years ago, Jersey City ranked last, and in 1989 only East Orange had a lower percentage of students passing all three sections.

This year, 45.4 percent of Jersey City's ninth graders — less than half — passed all the sections of the basic skills test.

After years of steady improvement Jersey City's pass rates on the reading and math sections fell slightly this year, to a level that state-appointed Superintendent of Schools Elena J. Scambio called "totally unacceptable and abysmal."

Jersey City's pass rates of 72.5 percent on the writing section and 53.9 percent on the math section were the lowest statewide.

On the reading section, only Paterson, East Orange and Trenton fell below Jersey City's 86.4 percent pass rate.

Scambio has announced plans for intensive efforts to improve the scores next year, including an HSPT review during the spring vacation, after-school tutoring for students in grades six to eight, extra teacher training, and a district-wide

focus on math skills. "It is my expectation that these major initiatives will have a positive effect on our students and the level of their achievement," Scambio said in a statement released yesterday.

But she cautioned that substantial improvement will take time.

"Years of neglect and not putting students first cannot be corrected in a short period of time," she said.

In the 1991-92 school year, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City and West New York will share in extra state money earmarked for poor urban districts.

In most districts statewide, between 80 and 100 percent of the students taking the HSPT passed all three sections.

In all but five districts — East Orange, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton — 90 percent or more passed the reading section.

On the writing section, 80 percent or more passed in all but five districts: Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton.

Scores on the math section were generally lower in districts throughout the state, with 15 districts — among them Harrison and Jersey City — seeing fewer than 80 percent of their students pass.

After vote 9/11/90

## Shoreline future is clouded

### Pasculli, foes keep stands on P.A. plan

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Two months after voters rejected the city's proposed \$30 million development deal with the Port Authority, the future of the southern waterfront remains cloudy.

Although city residents cited numerous reasons for voting against the project, Mayor Patrick Pasculli and his City Council allies are still committed to it in some form.

"Until it is otherwise proven that our project is not a good one, I stand behind it," Pasculli said.

"We put that plan together over two years."

On the other side of the issue are the people who spearheaded the movement to defeat Hoboken's agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. They are now working to put together their own waterfront plan.

"We've been very busy," said Ron Hine, a member of the Coalition.

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# Sinatra enjoys cozy corner in Hoboken Library

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We had 'Joy of Sex' here," Sasso recalled. "But whenever a patron requested it, it was unavailable." The book is now on the shelf.

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

There are photographs of



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Act of 1894. The city's first library opened Oct. 2, 1890 in the basement of the Second National Bank Building at Second and River streets.

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

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

Photo by Laurie Butcher

## Mistake raised pay in Hoboken schools

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

A \$68,000 mistake in the Hoboken Board of Education's business office gave janitors and administrators a raise last month that had not been approved by the full board.

School Trustee Eddie Garcia, a chairman of the negotiating team, yesterday said he had asked about the pay raise in August, at the last board meeting. But unbeknownst to him, raises and retroactive pay checks recently went out without board authorization.

The two-year contract giving janitors a 17 percent wage raise and a 12 percent raise for the district's 12 administrators will be voted by the full board next week, Garcia said.

Fifty janitors have been working without a contract since June; the proposed contract expires next June.

Administrators who also receive benefits from the recent Hoboken Teachers Association three-year contract, which carried about a 30 percent raise and increased bonuses for longevity — have been without a contract since June, 1988.

"It was brought to my attention, not by the business administrator, but by an outside source, that the janitors were receiving the pay raise," Garcia said.

"There is no problem with the contract. It was a hard-fought battle with the unions and the negotiating team. But the procedures were violated," he added.

Business Administrator Anthony Curko declined to be interviewed yesterday, but superintendent Walter Fine said that when he learned about the discrepancy, he instructed the central business office to stop preparing checks with the pay raise.

## Census won't count on its ex-employees

Continued from Page 1

second operation," said Robaina. "Their work was coming back to the office way too slow. Their work might have been good, but it was late getting here and we must obey certain federal guidelines."

But Robaina was adamant about allegations of lost or misplaced forms.

She said emphatically, "Nothing was lost" work was merely reassigned to other people, and certain crew leaders just were not privy to this information.

She said enumerators were told to make three attempts at finding people at a household, dismissing the two Hoboken workers' "vacant" apartment allegations.

Harold Hayes, assistant regional census manager for the U.S. Census Bureau at the Philadelphia Census Center Office, praised Quintana and the Union City office.

"Out of 16 offices in New Jersey, the Union City office was one of the most efficient and best run," he said, adding it was inappropriate for a crew leader to contend work was not being done.

"Granted, when you have 700 employees, you will have certain management problems," he said. "But we had certain chains of command that were followed. We had quality control crews — all part of a network to help people work in a very complex operation."

Hayes said the Census Bureau is still working and canvassing problem areas, and said local governments have become involved in verifying numbers.

"In essence, you are asking people to do a perfect job in an imperfect environment," Hayes said.

Asked if he thought the Hoboken crew managers might

have been under the gun because they were just trying to get an accurate count, Hayes said, "You could work hard and not do a good job."

David Lippman, a former census worker in Hoboken, said that was not the case of Brinkos, who just quit the job because she grew tired of the way the Union City office perpetuated mismanagement.

"It was a pretty screwed up operation and a case of classic stupidity," said Lippman, a former assistant editor for The Hudson Dispatch in Union City.

Lippman, who worked for the census bureau from early April to about the end of June, said a three-day crash course given by the government to census workers on how to fill out the forms contributed to the confusion.

"A lot of people just quit on the spot," he said. "It was a system created by geniuses to be run by geniuses. ... It just went far beyond their ability (Union City office district). ... In the Union City office they just had no idea what they were doing," Lippman said.

He said it was difficult trying to find out where to complain about the problems and, when workers found someone willing to listen, they were just told to "play it by ear."

"In this case, the confusion is not a case of malice," Lippman said. "It's not Hudson County politicians trying to screw each other, but an office trying to wrestle with a very complicated process."

Hayes acknowledged the census process was a complex one, but he maintained the Union City office did a good job of trying to cover a challenging area.

"It was a massive field operation and we are still trying to complete the work," he said.

## Trustees set to fill ed post

Board wants black for seat in Hoboken

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The Board of Education is ready to fill its vacant seat with a candidate chosen by leaders of the city's black community, board members said yesterday.

The move, which is backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli, could come as soon as Tuesday's meeting. City Firefighter William Pittman and Police Officer Eugene Drayton, a former board member, have emerged as the leading choices.

Board President James J. Farina said Pittman, who ran unsuccessfully for the board in 1988, appears to be the leading contender.

"I support Pittman," Farina said. "I feel it would give the board a good balance to have a black representative. (Trustee) Perry Belfiore is making the recommendation."

Belfiore, however, said he is still waiting to hear from the city's black leaders before making a nomination.

"I still haven't been contacted by the black leadership," Belfiore said. "I like Bill Pittman. I ran with Bill Pittman. But I think my odds-on favorite right now is Gene Drayton."

Pasculli said he would support Pittman if he is nominated. Eighteen percent of the city schools' students are black, and that segment of the community needs to be represented on the school board, he said.

"If the board chooses Bill Pittman, I would support that move," Pasculli said. "I think that he could function in the best interests of all members of the community, but I think foremost the children."

Some of Pasculli's City Council and school board allies lobbied the mayor to support Jonathan Gordon for the vacant post. Gordon, backed by Pasculli foe Councilman Joseph Della Fave, narrowly lost a board seat in the April school election.

Gordon's supporters said his financial expertise would benefit the board and qualify him to replace the departed Michael Rossano, who chaired the board's financial committee.

Councilman David Roberts said he was disappointed Gordon would not get the seat.

"I don't think this kind of appointment sends the right message to the taxpayers at this time," Roberts said. "I'm holding my position."

Drayton is president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Pittman is a member of the group's executive board. Neither returned repeated telephone calls.

In a recent letter to The Hudson Dispatch, the group spelled out its position on how the vacancy should be filled.

"It is not unreasonable to expect an Afro-American named to the board to represent Afro-Americans that comprise 18 percent of the population," the NAACP Education Committee wrote in the letter. "It is also not unreasonable that this same person can represent the taxpayers of Hoboken."

Special edition

## Hoboken firefighters performed excellent work in emergencies

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction and our community great pride that the members of its Fire Department have displayed a high level of professionalism in carrying out their duties on a routine basis and at some recent responses which are listed below.

• The actions of Group "A" under the command of Deputy Chief Pasquale Sarnella at the two alarm fire which took place on July 30 at 358 Sixth Street. The aggressive response resulted in the saving of life and minimum property damage.

The following incidents took place while the Department was functioning under the guidance of Deputy Chief Robert Moore.

• The discovery of hazardous waste at the City's Central Garage. Deputy Chief Edward Sharneck along with Emergency Management Response Team, Captain Jack Lisa, Firefighter Mike Lisa and Police Sgt. Mario Mercado, Coordinator.

• Off-duty Captain Frank Daliani discovered fuel being pumped from a private source into the street and subsequently into the sewer. Units from Ladder 1 and Engines 2 and 4 from Group "C" under the command of Deputy Chief Edward McDonald responded. They joined Mike Lisa and

Capt. Jack Lisa in assisting the Department of Environmental Protection and Hudson County Regional Health.

The incident turned out to be a major spill requiring a special contractor and units from the Police and Ambulance Corp. to join the Fire Department Units in mitigating the situation.

• While the above incident was taking place, a tractor trailer owned and operated by Rutgers Service overturned at the railroad tracks at the City's Southwestern boundary. The tractor's fuel tanks ruptured spilling its contents into a naturally occurring creek in the area. Deputy Chief McDonald dispatched Ladder 2 and Engine 1 to the scene. Fire personnel minimized the situation by promptly sealing the leaking fuel tanks and calling for assistance from Hudson Regional Health and units from Hoboken's Emergency Management Team.

• On August 22 while Fire units were still on the scene of the fuel spill on 16th and Jefferson Streets, a fire broke out at 1202 Park Avenue. Units of Group "D" under the command of Deputy Chief Charles Ebersole responded to the fire which quickly spread to two alarms.

The aggressive attack and

containment kept damage to a minimum. Two firefighters, Ralph Corrado and Robert Falco, were injured on the fire scene. The men of Group "D" were assisted by Capts. Jack Lisa and Mike Taglieri and Firefighters Mike Lisa and off-duty men, John Berkowitz, Thomas Molta and Nick Trincellita.

• On August 23, units from Group "A" under the command of Deputy Chief John Lewis responded to what was reported as a vehicle fire on Sixth and Jackson Streets. What they found on arrival was an accident involving several high voltage lines down and rows of vehicles threatened by fire. The cool-headed actions of the Fire Personnel at the scene averted a major incident involving what could have been serious civilian casualties.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks for a job well done to the members who took part in these incidents. They performed with the highest degree of excellence under not only the stress of the emergency but with the additional concerns brought about by the current economic crisis facing the city of Hoboken.

RICHARD R. TREMITIEDI  
chief  
Hoboken Fire Department

Homework in all five subjects — math, English, a foreign language, science and social studies — will be given nightly, Carey said.

So if students miss a test, skip a day or cut a class, they and their parents can expect a telephone call.

Seats will be assigned and in some classes, students will work in groups on assignments and projects to improve social skills.

"The reason why people lose their first job is because of social skills. They don't know how to get along with other people," Carey said.

## Lucky Hoboken students are in core of education

Continued from Page 1

jersey, a lot of jewelry and and Doc Marten shoes.

Sandy Pepin, who wants to be a doctor, said she was bored by being in the same classroom but also was anxious about the first day. She decided to wear a black skirt and print jacket.

Alfredo Gonzales, wearing a black shirt and pants, sat in the front seat to the side of the classroom. While he is nearly 6 feet tall, Gonzales told a reporter that he too "was nervous about coming to a new school."

The core program is designed to ease the transition from grammar school into high school.

The ninth-grade students in the core program will be assigned to a "buddy system" in which the students receive each other's home numbers in case there are questions about homework.

Homework in all five subjects — math, English, a foreign language, science and social studies — will be given nightly, Carey said.

Shirley Ortiz were surprised at her grades by the end of the year.

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Carey's former ninth-grade students are anticipating another year in the core program at the sophomore level.

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## Lucky Hoboken students are in core of education

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

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"core program" and responsible for 100 students will act as a team in finding the most effective ways to teach them individually or as a group.

"Every day the five teachers will have meetings," Carey said. "We may find that Jose doesn't look like he is getting enough sleep and try to find out what the problems is."

"What we expect in return is for you to give 100 percent," she said. Carey, a trim, petite woman, seems like a boot camp instructor

getting a new batch of recruits. Instead of their bodies, she wants to sharpen their minds.

The high school began the core program last year with 100 students. One result was that the ninth-grade class passed the state Department of Education's proficiency tests in math, language and writing for the first time since the state began keeping records four years ago.

The core program had a 98 percent attendance rate. Of the 100 stu-

dents, only one dropped out of school, compared to the average 6 percent dropout rate for the entire school.

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Instead of sitting in the same classroom everyday with the same teachers, they have to find their way around a maze of hallways and corridors to lockers, homerooms and classes.

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the top," said Chris Colon. "Now we are at the bottom and we have to work our way up, got to find new friends and make the adjustment."

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Evelyn Gonzalez, who wants to sing professionally, couldn't decide to wear pants, a dress or skirt. She selected a pair of black pants, a blue

See LUCKY — Page 4

## Census: 'Don't count on disgruntled ex-staffers'

By Blanca M. Quintanilla  
Journal staff writer

Allegations of inefficiency and mismanagement at the U.S. Census Bureau office in Union City are the product of disgruntled former employees who were not following federal guidelines and procedures, according to Roger Quintana, the former district office manager.

Quintana, who has since been promoted to regional technical advisor for the New York City area in the South Bronx, said the Union City office closed its doors Friday.

During the summer, the

Union City office had a staff of about 700 people.

The Jersey Journal reported yesterday that completed census sheets and other government material including address books were lost by the Union City census office, which also oversaw the 1990 population count in Hoboken, Weehawken and West New York.

Quintana yesterday denied the loss of any material and said the federal government had a "check and balances" system that worked well during the census.

"There was no loss of any count," Quintana said firmly.

"We had a number of Hoboken employees who were not performing satisfactorily, and we ended up replacing them with other people."

Despite Quintana's reassurances, several North Hudson municipalities (including Union City, Hoboken, and West New York) are challenging the preliminary U.S. Census results, claiming their real populations had been undercounted by thousands.

Hardest hit was Hoboken which, according to preliminary figures, lost about 25 percent of its population in the last decade. The 1990 census shows

that 31,790 people live in Hoboken, compared to 42,460 in 1980.

Yesterday's edition of The Jersey Journal quoted two former U.S. Census Bureau employees working in Hoboken talking about some of the problems contributing to the results.

Janet Brinkos, who quit her job as a crew leader supervising about 20 enumerators in Hoboken during the census, and Ann Kinney, who also worked as a crew leader, said Union City office supervisors told them to mark vacant any unit that wasn't answered on the first visit.

"It was extremely mismanaged," Kinney said of the Union City office.

Enumerators and office staffers were instructed by the Union City office management to mark "vacant" sheets that were either lost or never completed, according to the two women.

But Regla Robaina, who worked as field operations supervisor at the Union City census office, said Brinkos and Kinney are wrong.

"They are just upset because they weren't used for the

Hoboken official in debt

## City finance chief files for bankruptcy

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Buried under a mountain of debt brought on by a failed business, the city's finance director has filed for bankruptcy.

Nicholas Goldsack lists 21 creditors in papers filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newark.

His largest creditor is his aunt, Rosalie Trombetta, who says he owes her \$132,000 for the Adams Street paint store she sold him in 1986.

Trombetta said she hopes to scuttle the bankruptcy, but her attorney said he is unsure whether he will try to legally block it.

"He's my nephew, I trusted him, I had faith in him," Trombetta said. "I'm going to try and stop this thing because I want my money."

Goldsack, who earns \$48,000 a year at his city job, bought the store from Trombetta four months after her husband, Jim,

died in September 1985, she said. Court papers show Goldsack and his wife, Andrea, have debts of \$420,917 and property worth \$193,568, including a one-family house appraised at \$190,000 at 11th and Garden streets.

Trombetta, 52, said the two had an informal agreement under which she lent Goldsack the purchase price of the store and he agreed to pay her \$500 a month for a time and then increase the monthly payments to \$800.

"There were other offers for the store, but he was part of the family," said Trombetta, who lives in North Bergen. "I figured between my pension and the monthly payments, I'd have a pretty nice life."

Goldsack made the payments through July of last year, Trombetta said. Suddenly, they stopped coming and Goldsack eventually closed the store at the end of the year.

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See CENSUS — Page 4



# Sinatra enjoys cozy corner in Hoboken Library

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

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

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

But thanks for the letter. It'll be added to the library's Sinatra memorabilia section.

As part of the birthday celebration today, there will be a science exhibit, a magic show at noon, and cake and punch. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

The book is now on the shelf.

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

There are photographs of



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

Photo by Laurie Butcher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Mistake raised pay in Hoboken schools

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

A \$68,000 mistake in the Hoboken Board of Education's business office gave janitors and administrators a raise last month that had not been approved by the full board.

School Trustee Eddie Garcia, a chairman of the negotiating team, yesterday said he had asked about the pay raise in August, at the last board meeting. But unbeknownst to him, raises and retroactive pay checks recently went out without board authorization.

The two-year contract giving janitors a 17 percent wage raise and a 12 percent raise for the district's 12 administrators will be voted by the full board next week, Garcia said.

Fifty janitors have been working without a contract since June; the proposed contract expires next June.

Administrators who also receive benefits from the recent Hoboken Teachers Association three-year contract, which carried about a 30 percent raise and increased bonuses for longevity — have been without a contract since June, 1988.

It was brought to my attention, not by the business administrator, but by an outside source, that the janitors were receiving the pay raise," Garcia said.

"There is no problem with the contract. It was a hard-fought battle with the unions and the negotiating team. But the procedures were violated," he added.

Business Administrator Anthony Curko declined to be interviewed yesterday, but superintendent Walter Fine said that when he learned about the discrepancy, he instructed the central business office to stop preparing checks with the pay raise.

# Census won't count on its ex-employees

Continued from Page 1

second operation," said Robaina. "Their work was coming back to the office way too slow. Their work might have been good, but it was late getting here and we must obey certain federal guidelines."

But Robaina was adamant about allegations of lost or misplaced forms.

She said emphatically, "Nothing was lost," work was merely reassigned to other people, and certain crew leaders just were not privy to this information.

She said enumerators were told to make three attempts at finding people at a household, dismissing the two Hoboken workers' "vacant" apartment allegations.

Harold Hayes, assistant regional census manager for the U.S. Census Bureau at the Philadelphia Census Center Office, praised Quintana and the Union City office.

"Out of 16 offices in New Jersey, the Union City office was one of the most efficient and best run," he said, adding it was inappropriate for a crew leader to contend work was not being done.

"Granted, when you have 700 employees, you will have certain management problems," he said. "But we had certain chains of command that were followed. We had quality control crews — all part of a network to help people work in a very complex operation."

Hayes said the Census Bureau is still working and canvassing problem areas, and said local governments have become involved in verifying numbers.

"In essence, you are asking people to do a perfect job in an imperfect environment," Hayes said.

Asked if he thought the Hoboken crew managers might

have been under the gun because they were just trying to get an accurate count, Hayes said, "You could work hard and not do a good job."

David Lippman, a former census worker in Hoboken, said that was not the case of Brinkos, who just quit the job because she grew tired of the way the Union City office perpetuated mismanagement.

"It was a pretty screwed up operation and a case of classic stupidity," said Lippman, a former assistant editor for The Hudson Dispatch in Union City.

Lippman, who worked for the census bureau from early April to about the end of June, said a three-day crash course given by the government to census workers on how to fill out the forms contributed to the confusion.

"A lot of people just quit on the spot," he said. "It was a system created by geniuses to be run by geniuses. ... It just went far beyond their ability (Union City office district). ... In the Union City office they just had no idea what they were doing," Lippman said.

He said it was difficult trying to find out where to complain about the problems and, when workers found someone willing to listen, they were just told to "play it by ear."

"In this case, the confusion is not a case of malice," Lippman said. "It's not Hudson County politicians trying to screw each other, but an office trying to wrestle with a very complicated process."

Hayes acknowledged the census process was a complex one, but he maintained the Union City office did a good job of trying to cover a challenging area.

"It was a massive field operation and we are still trying to complete the work," he said.

# Trustees set to fill ed post

Board wants black for seat in Hoboken

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The Board of Education is ready to fill its vacant seat with a candidate chosen by leaders of the city's black community, board members said yesterday.

The move, which is backed by Mayor Patrick Pasculi, could come as soon as Tuesday's meeting. City Firefighter William Pittman and Police Officer Eugene Drayton, a former board member, have emerged as the leading choices.

Board President James J. Farina said Pittman, who ran unsuccessfully for the board in 1988, appears to be the leading contender.

"I support Pittman," Farina said. "I feel it would give the board a good balance to have a black representative. (Trustee) Perry Belfiore is making the recommendation."

Belfiore, however, said he is still waiting to hear from the city's black leaders before making a nomination.

"I still haven't been contacted by the black leadership," Belfiore said. "I like Bill Pittman. I ran with Bill Pittman. But I think my odds-on favorite right now is Gene Drayton."

Pasculi said he would support Pittman if he is nominated. Eighteen percent of the city schools' students are black, and that segment of the community needs to be represented on the school board, he said.

"If the board chooses Bill Pittman, I would support that move," Pasculi said. "I think that he could function in the best interest of all members of the community, but first and foremost the children."

Some of Pasculi's City Council and school board allies lobbied the mayor to support Jonathan Gordon for the vacant post. Gordon, backed by Pasculi's foe Councilman Joseph Della Fave, narrowly lost a ballot seat in the April school election.

Gordon's supporters said his financial expertise would benefit the board and qualify him to replace the departed Michael Rossano, who chaired the board's financial committee.

Councilman David Roberts said he was disappointed Gordon would not get the seat.

"I don't think this kind of appointment sends the right message to the taxpayers at this time," Roberts said. "I'm holding my position."

Drayton is president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Pittman is a member of the group's executive board. Neither returned repeated telephone calls.

In a recent letter to The Hudson Dispatch, the group spelled out its position on how the vacancy should be filled.

"It is not unreasonable to expect an Afro-American named to the board to represent Afro-Americans that comprise 18 percent of the population," the NAACP Education Committee wrote in the letter. "It is also not unreasonable that this same person can represent the taxpayers of Hoboken."

Special edition

# Hoboken firefighters performed excellent work in emergencies

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction and our community great pride that the members of its Fire Department have displayed a high level of professionalism in carrying out their duties on a routine basis and at some recent responses which are listed below.

• The actions of Group "A" under the command of Deputy Chief Pasquale Sarnella at the two alarm fire which took place on July 30 at 358 Sixth Street. The aggressive response resulted in the saving of life and minimum property damage.

The following incidents took place while the Department was functioning under the guidance of Deputy Chief Robert Moore.

• The discovery of hazardous waste at the City's Central Garage. Deputy Chief Edward Sharneck along with Emergency Management Response Team, Captain Jack Lisa, Firefighter Mike Lisa and Police Sgt. Mario Mercedo, Coordinator.

• Off-duty Captain Frank Daliani discovered fuel being pumped from a private source into the street and subsequently into the sewer. Units from Ladder 1 and Engines 2 and 4 from Group "C" under the command of Deputy Chief Edward McDonald responded. They joined Mike Lisa and

Capt. Jack Lisa in assisting the Department of Environmental Protection and Hudson County Regional Health.

The incident turned out to be a major spill requiring a special contractor and units from the Police and Ambulance Corp. to join the Fire Department Units in mitigating the situation.

• While the above incident was taking place, a tractor trailer owned and operated by Rutgers Service overturned at the railroad tracks at the City's Southwestern boundary. The tractor's fuel tanks ruptured spilling its contents into a nearby creek in the area. Deputy Chief McDonald dispatched Ladder 2 and Engine 1 to the scene. Fire personnel minimized the situation by promptly sealing the leaking fuel tanks and calling for assistance from Hudson Regional Health and units from Hoboken's Emergency Management Team.

• On August 22 while Fire units were still on the scene of the fuel spill on 16th and Jefferson Streets, a fire broke out at 1202 Park Avenue. Units of Group "D" under the command of Deputy Chief Charles Ebersole responded to the fire which quickly spread to two alarms.

The aggressive attack and

containment kept damage to a minimum. Two firefighters, Ralph Corrado and Robert Falco, were injured on the fire scene. The men of Group "D" were assisted by Capt. Jack Lisa and Mike Taglieri and Firefighters Mike Lisa and off-duty men, John Berkowitz, Thomas Molta and Nick Trincellita.

• On August 23, units from Group "A" under the command of Deputy Chief John Lewis responded to what was reported as a vehicle fire on Sixth and Jackson Streets. What they found on arrival was an accident involving several high voltage lines down and rows of vehicles threatened by fire. The cool-headed actions of the Fire Personnel at the scene averted a major incident involving what could have been serious civilian casualties.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks for a job well done to the members who took part in these incidents. They performed with the highest degree of excellence under not only the stress of the emergency but with the additional concerns brought about by the current economic crisis facing the city of Hoboken.

RICHARD R. TREMITIEDI  
chief  
Hoboken Fire Department

# Lucky Hoboken students are in core of education

Continued from Page 1

jersey, a lot of jewelry and and Doc Marten shoes.

Sandy Pepin, who wants to be a doctor, said she was bored by being in the same classroom but also was anxious about the first day. She decided to wear a black skirt and print jacket.

Alfredo Gonzales, wearing a black shirt and pants, sat in the front seat to the side of the classroom. While he is nearly 6 feet tall, Gonzales told a reporter that he too "was nervous about coming to a new school."

The core program is designed to ease the transition from grammar school into high school.

The ninth-grade students in the core program will be assigned to a "buddy system" in which the students receive each other's home numbers in case there are questions about homework.

Homework in all five subjects — math, English, a foreign language, science and social studies — will be given nightly, Carey said.

So if students miss a test, skip a day or cut a class, they and their parents can expect a telephone call.

Seats will be assigned and in some classes, students will work in groups on assignments and projects to improve social skills.

"The reason why people lose their first job is because of social skills. They don't know how to get along with other people," Carey said.

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# St. Mary unit still strong at 25

The Hudson Dispatch

In 1965, a small group of Hoboken women joined to pay tribute to the late Dr. Eugene Kiely, a physician on the staff of St. Mary Hospital, by raising more than \$50,000 toward construction of the Kiely Memorial Laboratory located in the hospital.

When they first came together, little did the women know their dedication and commitment for raising funds to benefit St. Mary Hospital still would be going strong today.

In 1990, celebrating its 25th anniversary, the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary — which has more than 140 members — is still conducting fund-raisers on behalf of the hospital.

"We had very strong hopes and ambitions when we first formed together," says Mary Anne DePascale, who served as the first president of the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary, "but I don't believe we thought the group would still be together and functioning 25 years later."

Since its creation, the auxiliary has raised more than \$1 million that has been used to fund hospital building projects and purchase equipment.

In the earlier years of the auxiliary, most of the money came through fund-raisers such as the annual luncheon-fashions show, dinner-dances, cake and rummage sales.

"Members were always coming up with ideas to raise money and get contributions," says DePascale, whose husband, Louis, was mayor of Hoboken during her term as auxiliary president. "Everyone was very enthusiastic and excited over the prospect of serving as a liaison between the hospital and the community."

"When we first started, the auxiliary was extremely community-minded," she continues. "We worked hard, but we also had fun. There was always a different type of fund-raising event taking place each month."

Today, most of the organization's funds are raised through the auxiliary-operated hospital gift shop and the Bargain Box, a thrift store located in Hoboken. Although fund-raising events aren't as numerous as they were when the group started 25 years ago, the auxiliary continues to hold an annual luncheon-fashions show, Run for Health, a holiday boutique, and various art, candy and bake sales. Total proceeds from the auxiliary's functions, along with the gift shop and Bargain Box, add up to more than \$100,000 annually.

"Times and society have changed drastically since the start of the auxiliary 25 years ago," says Lucille Casulli, who, with Ann Accetta, are the only women who have served two terms as auxiliary president. "Today, women have returned to the work force and don't have the time to devote to volunteer organizations that they used to (have). Therefore, many fund-raising events we once carried out are no longer conducted."

ond-hand clothes, shoes and pocketbooks at low prices. It was an event that proved to be extremely popular and profitable. With the rummage sale becoming more and more popular, in 1977 the auxiliary rented a store and opened its own thrift shop called the Bargain Box. "People were always asking when were we going to hold the next rummage sale," says Casulli, who was auxiliary president at the time. "So we thought it would be a good idea to start a thrift shop so people could have an opportunity to purchase used clothing all year long. It has proven to be extremely profitable."

But raising money isn't the only function of the auxiliary. Members also involve themselves in community-service programs such as Lifeline, an outreach program that aids people who are isolated or handicapped. "Lifeline allows people who live alone — or are handicapped — to get help in case of emergencies with the press of a button," says Casulli. "Lifeline is a program which doesn't make money but it can help save lives."

In 1989, the auxiliary launched its annual nursing scholarship program, that provides a three-year scholarship for a qualifying Hoboken resident to attend the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Jersey City.

"I believe that hospital auxiliaries are much more than fund-raising groups," says DePascale. "An auxiliary serves as a link between the community and the hospital. It's a means of getting people involved and giving them an opportunity to give something back to the community."

The most successful fund-raiser, sponsored annually by the auxiliary, is its luncheon-fashions show. This year, the program will be held Nov. 17 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, the site of the first show in 1965.

"This year, we are honoring all past presidents," Casulli reports. "We are seeking out people who were members over the past 25 years who may not be part of the auxiliary today. We decided to return the program to Stevens because it's going to be an event full of memories."

There have been 10 presidents of the auxiliary: DePascale, 1966-68; Marguerite Quinn, 1968-70; Inez Scrivani, 1970-72; Margaret Kroll, 1972-74; Anne Blom, 1974-76; Casulli—1976-78 and 1982-84; Carlotta Winslow, 1978-80; Margaret McFeely, 1980-82; Ann Accetta, 1984-88; and Dina McKnight, 1988-1990.

Anyone interested in more information concerning the auxiliary or attending the luncheon-fashions show should call 792-8070.



The original officers of the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary appear in this 1966 photo. From left are Frances Klimkeit, since deceased; Inez Scrivani, Marguerite Quinn, Florence Budd, since deceased; Mary Anne DePascale; and Vera Riccardi.

For school board

## Choice of Toscano infuriates blacks

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — In a move that angered black community leaders, the Board of Education last night appointed self-styled "taxpayers' advocate" Mark Toscano to fill its vacant seat.

More than two dozen black city residents who turned out for last night's meeting hoping to see Police Officer Eugene Drayton get the post stormed out of the board room after the trustees named Toscano.

"This administration has broken its commitment to the black community," Drayton said. "It is clear we cannot work with this

administration. So we will see them in April, and we'll see them again in May," Drayton was referring to next year's school board and City Council elections.

Toscano, a 27-year-old executive with the New York City-based Bear Stearns brokerage house, said he is looking forward to working with the other board members.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I've got a lot of ideas, and I'm glad to be getting a chance to take an active role in the city."

Drayton and other black leaders — including the Rev. William Beatty and Housing Authority Commissioner Walter Johnson — said Mayor Patrick Pasculli and board Presi-

dent James J. Farina broke promises to the black community.

"We have been promised a seat on the board for the last two years," Beatty said. "We are not getting the proper representation that we deserve."

The local unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had lobbied hard for a black board member after Michael Rossano stepped down three weeks ago. There has not been a black representative on the school board since Drayton finished a

Please see VACANCY Page 10

## Three towns will not take short counts lying down

Continued from Page 1

be costly, but that cost will be nothing compared to how much towns like Union City will lose if undercounted."

If the counts are not corrected, Monendez estimated, the city could lose \$12 million in federal aid during the next decade.

West New York Mayor Anthony M. DeFino has demanded the Census Bureau increase its estimate of town residents after volunteers counted 971 housing units allegedly missed by census enumerators.

DeFino said he launched the recount after preliminary census figures estimated that West New York, one of the state's most densely populated communities, has 37,011 residents — a loss of 3,000 since 1980.

"It's upsetting to me," he said. "It's not like they missed a few."

After receiving the figures, West New York officials reviewed tax, building and unit records, DeFino said.

Volunteers hand counted mail box addresses, and the results have been mailed to census officials, he said.

"The Census Bureau's mistakes and carelessness will cost us for years to come," DeFino said. He called the Union City office's count "slipshod." The Union City office managed the count for that city, Weehawken, Hoboken and West New York.

DeFino has been critical of the Census Bureau before. In 1980, after the bureau

### Count on it

■ Census director says population figures will be revised upwards Page 28

failed to count hundreds of Spanish-speaking Cuban immigrants in West New York, he successfully sued to have the number increased, said town spokeswoman Mary Kay Risi.

"Based on that experience, the town was prepared for this to happen," she said. Hinting that West New York may again take legal action, Risi declined to reveal when the town's count took place.

"The town does not want to tip its hand to the Census Bureau, revealing how it conducted the count," she said.

Hoboken officials say nearly 2,000 housing units were overlooked by the Union City office of the Census Bureau.

"We have been busy the last week, counting every unit of housing we could identify. Through this effort, we found 1,893 units beyond the figure that the Census Bureau had submitted to us," said Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli.

"We feel that this is a substantial difference and forms a significant basis for an appeal," he said.

The discrepancy was unearthed after city officials and volunteers canvassed door-to-door and block-by-block to recheck preliminary figures. Hoboken lost 25 percent of

its population in the last decade, according to preliminary numbers.

The 1990 census shows that 31,790 people live in Hoboken, compared to 42,460 people in 1980. Records show the Mile Square City has 16,946 housing units now compared to 16,821 a decade ago.

But the state Department of Labor's records show there are 18,211 housing units in the city, Pasculli noted.

Pasculli said that the recount — conducted by his office, the Community Development Agency, volunteers, members of the City Council and Planning Board as well as Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, shows 18,830 dwellings.

"That is more in line with the Department of Labor," Pasculli said.

Kenny wants the Union City office of the Census Bureau to conduct an in-house investigation into reports about missing census sheets and other government material, including address books.

Roger Quintana, who headed the Union City office, dismissed those reports as rumors from disgruntled employees.

Hoboken officials are documenting reports from residents who worked the census and contend that completed census sheets were misplaced and that there was mismanagement in the Union City office.

"We are going to call for an investigation," Kenny said, adding the city cannot accept a 25 percent loss in population "without verification."

## Towns won't take low census count

By Blanca M. Quintanilla  
Journal staff writer

Three North Hudson communities have taken up arms, or rather calculators, against the federal government as they seek to reverse low census counts.

In Hoboken, Union City and West New York, volunteer enumerators and city officials have conducted their own counts and submitted challenges to the U.S. Census figures.

On Thursday, Union City Mayor Robert Menendez announced that the Census Bureau missed more than 1,300 housing units — a gap suggesting that at least 3,000 people had not been accounted for.

He said "Operation Hound Dog" an intensive search for uncounted residents, found 1,321 uncounted housing units in the city. That same day, he filed his report with the Census Bureau, challenging the preliminary count.

The mayor has said that for every person not counted, a community would lose about \$4,000 in federal funding. Low population could also mean the loss of representation in the state and federal legislatures.

The 1980 Census revealed that Union City had 55,593 persons living within its borders. Menendez said the city has grown to at least 60,500 people during the past decade.

However, 1990 preliminary figures showed only 55,343

people had been counted in the city. Some 250 were still missing when the Census Bureau released its preliminary figures.

"If the final numbers produced by the 1990 Census Bureau are not reasonable, we'll seriously consider litigation against the federal government," Menendez said. "A court battle with the feds may

See THREE TOWNS — Page 4

## VACANCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

three-year term in 1988.

At the same time, Pasculli's allies on the board and City Council were pushing the mayor to recommend a candidate who could bring financial experience — and a conservative attitude on school budgets — to the board.

Toscano emerged as a leading candidate in the last few days, after the NAACP withdrew Fire-fighter William Pittman's name from consideration in favor of Drayton's.

Both Farina and Pasculli — who had publicly endorsed Pittman for the seat — backedtracked

when the NAACP changed candidates.

Last night's vote indicated there was a considerable difference of opinion on the board over who the seat should go to. Farina, Claire DePalma and Angel Alieca Jr. voted for Toscano, while Perry Belfiore and Otto Hottendorf voted for Drayton. Geraldine Pantoliano and Ed Garcia abstained, and Raul Morales was absent.

"I hope this vote doesn't polarize an already polarized community even more," Belfiore said. "I honored my commitment. Some people here didn't."

## Runs Oasis ministry

By DAVID REILLY  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — As new leader of the Oasis ministry for Episcopal gays, the Rev. David Norgard wants to avoid becoming a lightning rod for controversy. But avoiding controversy is not easy for the ministry's executive director.

After just a month at Oasis, Norgard already is being called upon to say whether he will bless marriages of gay couples.

It is the first of probably many touchy subjects Norgard will have to deal with. "There are several topics we'll have to address," Norgard said. "The directors of the ministry and myself will meet to discuss them, but they are only one aspect of the pastoral ministry. ... Once the work of the ministry gets started, I

believe the controversy around the ministry itself will recede."

The 32-year-old Minnesota native has not yet taken a stance on same-sex marriages or other issues that confront Oasis, the ministry at All Saints Episcopal Church in Washington and Seventh streets.

But once he does, Norgard's approach is likely to be low-key, non-confrontational and couched in intellectual terms. "I'm not a person who likes to work in terms of confrontation," Norgard said. "I have a penchant for organization and management."

Norgard has had extensive organizational experience, having run the Episcopal Church's largest soup kitchen, at Holy Apostles Church in Manhattan. He also helped found and organize the Yale Gay and Lesbian Cooperative while doing graduate work at the Yale Divini-

"If you were a part of the church and never felt welcome, you'll be welcome here."

THE REV. DAVID NORGARD

ty School in New Haven, Conn., in the early 1980s.

Norgard, who is gay, wants the Oasis to provide a gateway into the Episcopal Church for gays throughout North Jersey.

"If you were a part of the church and never felt welcome, you'll be welcome here," he said. "Or if you were never a part of the church and weren't aware

that Christianity and lesbian and gay people can interact, that's the type of people we also want to reach."

Norgard's emphasis on running an organization smoothly without rocking the church's boat is in sharp contrast to the approach of his predecessor, the Rev. Robert Williams, who founded Oasis.

In the six weeks he ran Oasis, Williams became embroiled in a national controversy after speaking at a church symposium.

Williams said monogamy and celibacy were unnatural, that Mother Teresa's life would be enhanced if she had sex and that Christ probably had a gay lover.

After hearing the remarks, Newark Bishop John Spong, who ordained Williams in December, asked the priest to resign from Oasis.

Williams is still a priest, but has no functions.

After his brief tenure at Oasis, Williams lambasted Spong and other church officials during an appearance on the nationally telecast Donohue show. He is now living in Jersey City, studying at New York University and writing a book about his experiences.

Williams recently announced he would bless gay marriages because Oasis and other Episcopal clergy would not do so publicly.

The comment prompted Norgard to say the issue was undecided.

Norgard avoids or ignores Williams' remarks, preferring to keep the focus of Oasis on the ministry.

After Williams' resignation, Oasis closed for eight months. It reopened when Norgard took over.

"It's not really a second start," Norgard said. "It's more like starting all over again."

## Police unhappy as election due bills are being deducted

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Some Hoboken police officers are questioning the legality of deducting \$20 from their paychecks to finance the challenge of the July special referendum in which residents rejected by 12 votes a waterfront development plan.

Soon after the July 10 referendum, police, firefighters and residents organized a group called The Committee to Save Hoboken to contest the election and call for a new vote.

The group hired John Carbone, who specializes in overturning elections, at a cost that may reach \$60,000. His bill was supposed to be financed by money the group raised from

other residents, businesses and developers.

The police and fire unions voted in the summer to contribute \$3,500 each to the cause. Some members believed that the money would be returned to their treasury once donations started rolling in.

But, according to several police officers and City Hall insiders, the money is trickling in and that for the most part the police and fire unions are footing the bill.

"Yeah, there is dissension," a police officer said. "My union is taking \$20 a paycheck and it doesn't seem legal, never mind frustrating."

Police Sgt. Thomas Meehan, president of the Superior Officers' union and chairman

of the Committee to Save Hoboken, said, "It is legal, according to my bylaws."

Meehan said that the dissension in the Police Department is among the officers slated for demotions.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli based his budget — which is before the City Council — on receiving up to \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey from a 50-year partnership to build a 3.2-million-square-foot development on the waterfront.

To make up for the budget deficit, Pasculli is rescinding promotions he made in the police and fire departments and laying off 110 city workers.

The demotions and layoffs become effective Wednesday,

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said.

Since the demotions and layoffs become effective this week, some police officers want to drop the challenge and concentrate on efforts to bring an alternative waterfront plan before the public.

Attorney Ira Karasick, who represents the Coalition for a Better Waterfront, has asked the court to dismiss the challenge. That motion will be heard Friday in Superior Court.

Meanwhile, the City Council, members of the Coalition for a Better Waterfront — which spearheaded the campaign for the special election — and the administration are considering other develop-

ment plans. But Meehan maintains that the plan rejected at the polls is the best one for the city and that another election should be held. Moreover, he said that the committee has signed a contract with Carbone and that it must be fulfilled.

"I signed a contract. That was discussed at (last week's union) meeting. They saw the figures. We are liable, no matter what," Meehan said, adding the bill could go "up to \$60,000."

Meanwhile, Karasick has his own money problems. He successfully defended the Coalition for a Better Waterfront's right to have a referendum right up to the state Supreme Court.

The Pasculli administration tried preventing the election's being held and the city paid a law firm nearly \$100,000 to stop the election.

But while Annette Illing, a CBW member, sees Karasick as a group member and hopes that his out-of-pocket expenses can be eventually reimbursed by the group, Karasick wants to be paid cold hard cash.

So far, he has not received any money. "I want to be paid. I have told these people I am tired of working for nothing," said Karasick.

"The reality is that the citizens of Hoboken deserve to have the vote defended by somebody since the city is taking a hands-off approach," he added.



## Double identity

Housing inspector/building manager angers tenants

By Alex Ladd

Hoboken Reporter  
9-2-90

A Hoboken Housing Inspector served as a building manager for a Washington Street building before tenants complained to city officials of possible conflict of interest. Two of the tenants allege that the inspector, Santiago Diaz, when denied entrance into the building to do repair work, attempted to use his status as inspector to gain entry.

George Guzman, Hoboken's director of Human Resources, confirmed that he has received letters from tenants in three different apartments at 230 Washington St. complaining about the possible conflict of interest of Diaz serving as the building's manager.

According to Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney, Diaz has since been instructed by the city's law department to end whatever association he may have had with the building.

Two of the building's tenants, R.W. Powers and his roommate Mitchell Guay, say that Diaz managed their building for approximately one month before being told by the city's law department to discontinue any association with the building. Powers contends that during this time Diaz performed substantial repair work on his ceiling. Diaz could not be reached for comment.

In late June, Powers claims that Diaz first introduced himself as the new building manager.

"The first time I met Diaz was in the hallway of my building. He said he was the new building manager. I confronted him about being a housing inspector and he said that he was but he would be impartial," Powers said.

According to Powers, at that moment Diaz requested that rent be paid to him.

"I told him that I would pay him the rent money once the repairs were completed."

Powers says that during July, Diaz and workmen worked on and off on the apartment. On one occasion, Guay says that Diaz asked to be let in as a housing inspector.

"One time he wanted to work on our apartment and he said, 'You have to let me in because I am a housing inspector,'" Guay said.

Powers contends that Diaz and workmen closed a gaping hole in his ceiling and fixed the leak that caused the problem but did nothing to correct the structural damage to the ceiling. He fears that the

ceiling is still in danger of collapse. "I was shocked that a housing inspector who is supposed to have integral knowledge of the structural integrity of a building would do such a poor repair job. To me it appeared that he was either an inept worker or confident that any slipshod job that he did would be passed by him or another inspector," Powers said.

Powers' problems with his ceiling began in February when part of the ceiling in his study collapsed, leaving a 15 square-foot hole which left the above floor joists exposed. Powers still keeps in his living room a bag with the 80 pounds of ceiling plaster as testimony to the incident.

By May, Powers states that the ceiling had not been fixed and he began placing his rent in escrow. On June 19, he was taken to court by landlord William Krieger and in arbitration it was agreed that May's back rent would be abated while another month's rent would be paid upon completion of repairs to Powers' apartment by July 1.

Tenants say that the building was previously managed by Fiore Real Estate, which sometime in late June, announced to tenants that because of the chronic problems in the building it would no longer be managing it.

The building, which has not been registered with the city's rent control office for the last nine years, was cited for 22 violations -- 15 of them in Powers' apartment -- on June 5 by city housing inspector Anthony Fringo. The rent control ordinance states that buildings are supposed to be registered annually for the purpose of calculating the correct rent for an apartment.

According to Powers, shortly after learning of Diaz' identity as a housing inspector, he contacted George Guzman of the Department of Human Resources and was assured that Diaz would no longer be allowed to enter the building.

Powers said that he was concerned about the possible conflict of interest of a city housing inspector serving as a building manager.

"I think that there is an incredible conflict of interest being both a building manager and a housing inspector. It shocked me that the city of

continued on page 4

## HOUSING INSPECTOR

from cover

Hoboken does not have an express policy forbidding that," said Powers.

According to Powers and Guay, several weeks after receiving assurances from Guzman that Diaz would no longer be associated with the property, Diaz came by and attempted to gain entrance into the building when Guay was there.

"He came by with landlord William Krieger, came upstairs and said that he wanted to work on the apartment. I told him that he couldn't -- that he would need 24 hours notice. I said that I thought that him being a housing manager and a housing inspector was a conflict of interest. He said that it wasn't and that he was just doing it on the side. He said something like 'everyone makes an extra buck,'" said Guay.

According to Powers, that same day his roommate received a call from Fringo demanding that Diaz be let in to perform repairs. Fringo threatened to issue a summons to Guay for not letting Diaz in.

"What happened is that there is a law that says that a tenant must let the landlord in to do repairs," said Jude Fitzgibbons, the city's chief housing inspector. "The owner complained that they were not letting people in. No matter who the person is, they were not letting him in to do repairs."

At that point, Powers called the mayor's office and was referred to the city's law department. Calligy says his office then instructed the housing

inspector's office that Diaz discontinue his association with the building.

Tenants say that during the end of July, a new manager who is currently managing the building was assigned.

According to Calligy, there is nothing illegal about Diaz working as a building manager and that it is up to the housing inspector's office to determine if a conflict of interest existed or whether any disciplinary action should be taken.

"I don't find a major problem at the moment. He (Diaz) stopped doing what he was doing and he's out of there and a new (building) superintendent is in there," Calligy said.

Fitzgibbons says that he considers the case closed.

"All I know is he was going to do work and I had him stop immediately," Fitzgibbons said.

Fitzgibbons says that he questioned Diaz about the incident and was told that Diaz never managed the property but only did repairs. An attorney for the landlord, though, stated that Diaz did serve as a manager of the building.

"Diaz is an honest man," said Fitzgibbons. "He's getting laid off. He has a family with three children. Whatever he does on the side helps him get by. He has been (doing repairs) for years in New York and in other cities."

According to Fitzgibbons, Diaz has worked for the city for 11 years and is being laid off in September because of the city's fiscal crisis.

"Fringo is on vacation. When he comes back, I'll instruct him to do an inspection," Fitzgibbons vowed.

## Waterfront master plan revealed

Residents air concerns

By Alex Ladd

Hoboken Reporter 9-2-90

ment plan now rest with the council.

Hoboken Planning Board meetings rarely are the site of big turnouts, but coming in the wake of a citywide referendum which narrowly defeated the city's multi-million dollar Port Authority waterfront development deal, it should come as no surprise that Tuesday night's meeting was packed. Time set aside at the end of the meeting for public questions and comment revealed continued concerns about the levels of density that the city is proposing.

A resolution passed unanimously at Aug. 8th's City Council meeting sent the city's defeated waterfront plan back to the planning board for consideration. Last week's meeting was scheduled for the purpose of observing a presentation by the Toronto-based planning firm of Berridge, Lewinberg and Greenberg of its waterfront master plan. Public opinion was solicited.

The planning board will now write a report of the public's input which will be forwarded to the city council. Any amendments to the city's redevelop-

### The Berridge Plan

The main item on the agenda at Tuesday's meeting was a presentation by Joe Berridge of his firm's master plan for the city's entire waterfront. Berridge had stated before the meeting that he would be looking for audience reaction to his

The term "master plan" actually was the subject of some confusion amongst members of the audience because it was confused with the city's official Master Plan, a long-term policy document which regulates city zoning ordinances and city development in general.

Berridge has called his waterfront plan a master plan. However, George Pappas, an attorney for the planning board, said that technically it is not a master plan. The confusion, according to board consultant Ralph Seligman, arises from architects

continued on next page

## Worried about their future

### Hoboken lays off 100

Employee cuts are result of \$8 million budget gap

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — More than 100 municipal employees cleaned out their desks and punched time clocks in City Hall for the final time yesterday, the victims of massive layoffs designed to ease the Hoboken's fiscal woes.

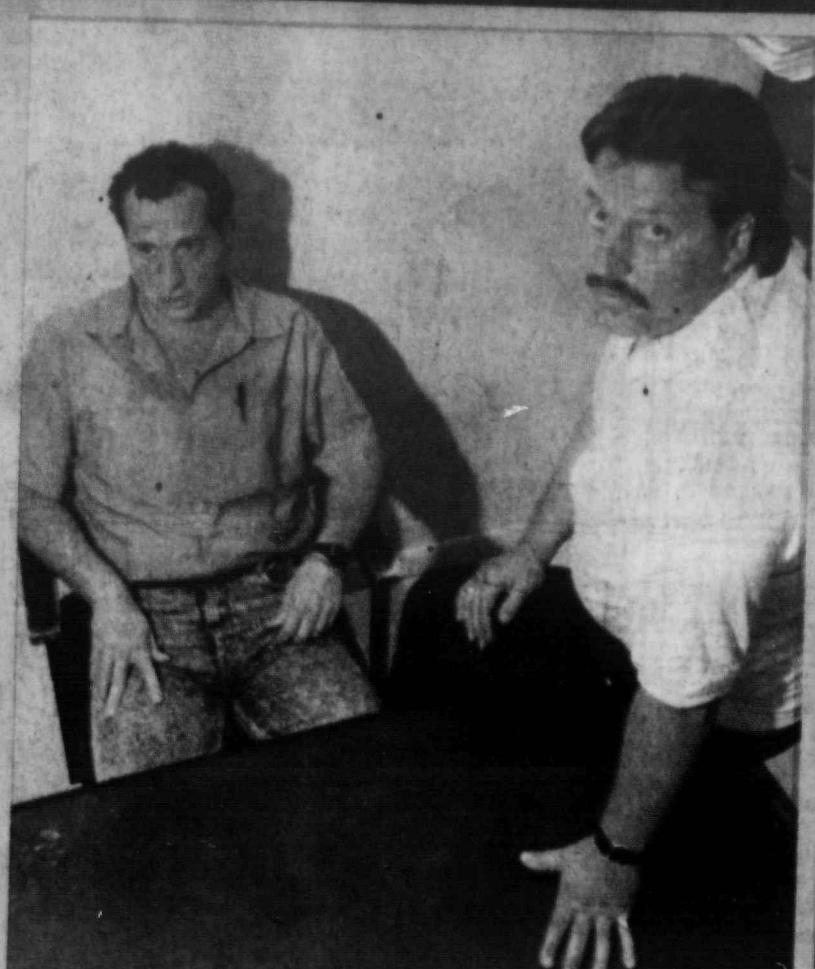
Many were bitter and concerned for their future. Others predicted a marked decline in city services.

"It's going to be a field day for the litterers and the slumlords in this city," said Santiago Diaz, a housing inspector for 11 years.

The firings are the crux of an austerity program designed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to address an \$8 million budget gap.

The shortfall is the result of voters' rejection two months ago of a waterfront development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"This is a difficult day," Pasculli said. "It's unfortunate that we have to lay off dedicated workers, but we have to tighten our belts. It's going to put more of a burden on those who



John Schisani, in chair, and Joe Grossi, worry about their futures after being laid off.

## LAYOFFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remain."

Unless the state comes up with emergency aid, Pasculli is projecting a 57 percent increase in the local property tax rate, from \$17.52 to \$27.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

About half of that jump is due to increased school and Hudson County taxes, officials said.

The layoffs will save the city an estimated \$300,000 this year, according to city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

But workers said yesterday the projected savings do not justify the massive cutbacks.

"I don't think we were treated fairly," said John Schisani, a housing inspector for six years. "I think anybody with five years or more of service should not have been laid off. How much is being saved? \$250,000? Come on."

Schisani, 31, said he is concerned because his wife is due to deliver the couple's second child in early October.

"My health benefits are going to run out at the end of October," Schisani said. "The first baby came late. I just hope this one comes on time. I don't know how we'd pay for it otherwise."

Schisani's boss, Chief Housing Inspector Jude Fitzgibbons, said the cutbacks are going to have a devastating effect on city services. Housing inspectors are responsible for making sure buildings meet safety, health, building and fire codes.

"I'm afraid we're going to see a decline in people maintaining their homes," said Fitzgibbons, whose department will be cut in half with the departure of Schisani and Diaz. "These guys

are as vital as cops and firemen." Pasculli said he is dedicated to reviving waterfront plans in order to reinstate those who were laid off yesterday. That was little consolation to workers in the process of finishing their last days on the job.

"I think every councilman up for election in the spring is going to feel the heat from this," said Joe Grossi, a public works complaint investigator.

## Trenton still mulls the Hoboken budget

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken's municipal budget is the only spending plan still being reviewed by Trenton, which may know today how much, if any, extra state aid the city will receive.

"We should know by the end of the week and possibly as early as tomorrow (Wednesday) what Hoboken will be getting," Jay Johnston, a spokesman for the Department of Community Affairs, said yesterday.

Asked if Hoboken is definitely getting more aid, Johnston said, "I can't say that."

Business Administrator Edwin Chius — who asked for an extra \$12 million to bail the city out of a financial crisis — said the director of local government services is recommending to Gov. Jim Florio that Hoboken get another \$8 million. Director Barry Skokowski has not mentioned a dollar amount to the governor, said Johnston.

Chius said he and the mayor would be meeting with state officials later this week to discuss the budget.

See TRENTON — Page 4

## Trustee says Fine earned \$240G buyout package

Continued from Page 1

said she voted for the package because Fine was entitled to it. She said the Board of Education decided four years ago to encourage "older teachers" to retire to eventually save the district money.

Teachers with more than 25 years experience have and are allowed to bank 15 days annually, she said. Fine has the most time accrued for unused sick and vacation days, she said.

"Anybody in the system can take this buyout — any teacher, clerk or janitor. It is an option. If Walter is ready to retire, he is entitled to the buyout package," DePalma said.

"This is not something special for him but for anyone who wants to retire. He has worked hard and has a fantastic attendance record," she said.

Only Trustee Otto Hottendorf opposed the retirement deal. He said that he disagreed with the number of unused vacation days Fine was being paid for.

"I have no way of knowing if it is legal or not to include the vacation time. I don't believe vacation days can accumulate. If you don't use them, you lose them," Hottendorf said.

The school board will begin searching for a successor to Fine.

## Fine will get \$240G buyout

Board of Education approves superintendent's retirement

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

9/13/90

The Hoboken Board of Education has approved a retirement buyout — which costs about \$240,000 — for Walter Fine, superintendent of schools, who plans to retire in June but may leave as early as February.

Part of the package includes a 10 percent retroactive increase of his existing salary of \$83,795 for last year and a nine percent pay hike for this year, the superintendent said yesterday.

The raise, approved Tuesday by trustees, will bring his salary to about \$100,000.

Assistant School Superintendent Francis McGorty received a similar increase for the two years.

McGorty's salary is \$2,500 less than Fine's.

Business Administrator Anthony Curko also received a 19 percent hike of his existing

salary of \$65,000 which will increase to \$77,935.

Fine noted that the three top administrators received no salary increase three years ago.

Fine, 64, has nearly 39 years on the job and has accumulated about 570 sick days and unused vacation time. If he were to be paid for all those days, the total would be about \$240,000, he said.

"This is done every day in business and every day in education. I've got people walking around thinking I'm getting something I don't deserve," Fine said. "I've earned it," he added.

But he said that for every day he uses before his official retirement next June, that day is deducted from his retirement package. He said that he may leave anytime after February.

Trustee Claire Depalma

See TRUSTEE — Page 6

## WATERFRONT

continued from previous page

and planners using the term loosely.

Berridge's plan mirrored closely a preliminary report that his firm issued in May, 1989. According to Berridge, the main difference between the plan as it was presented Tuesday night and the preliminary report was the level of development along the northern waterfront. Berridge says that although levels of development along the northern

waterfront were not detailed in the preliminary report, they were initially more dense than what he was proposing on Tuesday night.

Berridge is proposing that the northern waterfront be primarily residential with a maximum building height of five stories throughout most of the area with "strategically placed" buildings being offered as high as 20 stories.

On the minds of most people in the audience was how Berridge's plan would differ from the defeated redevelopment plan designed by the planning firm of Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut and Whitelaw. Berridge said that the defeat of the city's redevelopment plan caused him to reflect on the appropriate levels of development. He concluded that in his professional opinion, the level of development proposed in Eckstut's plan was essentially correct.

Berridge did propose three modifications, however, for the southern waterfront. One is the modification of building heights along River Street; another is that a 20-story ceiling be placed on construction on the southern pier (Eckstut's plan called for a maximum height of about 35 stories); and lastly, that stricter guidelines be placed on construction along River Street to insure that no above-ground garages be built.

One surprising aspect of Berridge's plan was a proposal that the city purchase Maxwell House and expand Elysian park onto that property. The proposal would call for the re-routing of Sinatra Drive around the Maxwell House property. Critics in the audience pointed out that the city would likely have to purchase prime real estate from Maxwell House's, Philip Morris, and that in addition, it would have to shoulder the cost of demolition and cleanup of any hazardous material that may be on the property. Berridge, however, defended his proposal, saying that it could be paid for with proceeds generated from development along the southern waterfront.

As is the case in the preliminary report, Berridge called for leaving Castle Point essentially undeveloped and to strictly limit construction that would block the waterfront view along Sinatra Drive.

"Any development should be of a park-like nature. Castle Point is a significant topographical and historical event that should be respected," he said.

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## Trenton still mulls the Hoboken budget

Continued from Page 1

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"In a normal year, that would be alarming," he said, adding "but Hoboken had the fiscal rug pulled out from under it."

Pasculli's budget carries an estimated tax rate of \$27.49, up about \$10 on the existing rate. But even with the waterfront development, a 3.2-million-square-foot development, the tax rate would have gone up by about \$5 because of increases in spending and reduction in state aid.

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"Is there anything in your report other than your opinion?" Tumpson asked.

"I am trying to provide a vision," answered Berridge, who said that much of what he was proposing was based on his professional expertise rather than hard data. "It should be refined and examined. You have to start with a proposition. We are trying to provide a basic idea of an attractive and desirable unfolding of development."

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The board must now submit a report on Tuesday's meeting to the city council, which can then effect changes to the defeated redevelopment plan.

"We will incorporate all of the public comments and possibly even offer our own advice and input and send it to the council in a timely fashion," said Councilmember and planning board member Dave Roberts.



## Double identity

Housing inspector/building manager angers tenants

By Alex Ladd

Hoboken Reporter  
9-2-90

A Hoboken Housing Inspector served as a housing manager for a Washington Street building before tenants complained to city officials of possible conflict of interest. Two of the tenants allege that the inspector, Santiago Diaz, when denied entrance into the building to do repair work, attempted to use his status as inspector to gain entry.

George Guzman, Hoboken's director of Human Resources, confirmed that he has received letters from tenants in three different apartments at 230 Washington St. complaining about the possible conflict of interest of Diaz serving as the building's manager.

According to Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney, Diaz has since been instructed by the city's law department to end whatever association he may have had with the building.

Two of the building's tenants, R.W. Powers and his roommate Mitchell Guay, say that Diaz managed their building for approximately one month before being told by the city's law department to discontinue any association with the building. Powers contends that during this time Diaz performed substandard repair work on his ceiling. Diaz could not be reached for comment.

In late June, Powers claims that Diaz first introduced himself as the new building manager.

"The first time I met Diaz was in the hallway of my building. He said he was the new building manager. I confronted him about being a housing inspector and he said that he was but he would be impartial," Powers said.

According to Powers, at that moment Diaz requested that rent be paid to him.

"I told him that I would pay him the rent money once the repairs were completed."

Powers says that during July, Diaz and workmen worked on and off on the apartment. On one occasion, Guay says that Diaz asked to be let in as a housing inspector.

"One time he wanted to work on our apartment and he said, 'You have to let me in because I am a housing inspector,'" Guay said.

Powers contends that Diaz and workmen closed a gaping hole in his ceiling and fixed the leak that caused the problem but did nothing to correct the structural damage to the ceiling. He fears that the

ceiling is still in danger of collapse.

I was shocked that a housing inspector who is supposed to have integral knowledge of the structural integrity of a building would do such a poor repair job. To me it appeared that he was either an inept worker or confident that any slipshod job that he did would be passed by him or another inspector," Powers said.

Powers' problems with his ceiling began in February when part of the ceiling in his study collapsed, leaving a 15 square-foot hole which left the above floor joists exposed. Powers still keeps in his living room a bag with the 80 pounds of ceiling plaster as testimony to the incident.

By May, Powers states that the ceiling had not been fixed and he began placing his rent in escrow. On June 19, he was taken to court by landlord William Krieger and in arbitration it was agreed that May's back rent would be abated while another month's rent would be paid upon completion of repairs to Power's apartment by July 1.

Tenants say that the building was previously managed by Fiore Real Estate, which sometime in late June, announced to tenants that because of the chronic problems in the building it would no longer be managing it.

The building, which has not been registered with the city's rent control office for the last nine years, was cited for 22 violations -- 15 of them in Power's apartment -- on June 5 by city housing inspector Anthony Fringo. The rent control ordinance states that buildings are supposed to be registered annually for the purpose of calculating the correct rent for an apartment.

According to Powers, shortly after learning of Diaz' identity as a housing inspector, he contacted George Guzman of the Department of Human Resources and was assured that Diaz would no longer be allowed to enter the building.

Powers said that he was concerned about the possible conflict of interest of a city housing inspector serving as a building manager.

"I think that there is an incredible conflict of interest being both a building manager and a housing inspector. It shocked me that the city of

continued on page 4

## HOUSING INSPECTOR

from cover

Hoboken does not have an express policy forbidding that," said Powers.

According to Powers and Guay, several weeks after receiving assurances from Guzman that Diaz would no longer be associated with the property, Diaz came by and attempted to gain entrance into the building when Guay was there.

"He came by with landlord William Krieger, came upstairs and said that he wanted to work on the apartment. I told him that he couldn't -- that he would need 24 hours notice. I said that I thought that him being a housing manager and a housing inspector was a conflict of interest. He said that it wasn't and that he was just doing it on the side. He said something like 'everyone makes an extra buck,'" said Guay.

According to Powers, that same day his roommate received a call from Fringo demanding that Diaz be let in to perform repairs. Fringo threatened to issue a summons to Guay for not letting Diaz in.

"What happened is that there is a law that says that a tenant must let the landlord in to do repairs," said Jude Fitzgibbons, the city's chief housing inspector. "The owner complained that they were not letting people in. No matter who the person is, they were not letting him in to do repairs."

At that point, Powers called the mayor's office and was referred to the city's law department. Calligy says his office then instructed the housing

inspector's office that Diaz discontinue his association with the building.

Tenants say that during the end of July, a new manager who is currently managing the building was assigned.

According to Calligy, there is nothing illegal about Diaz working as a building manager and that it is up to the housing inspector's office to determine if a conflict of interest existed or whether any disciplinary action should be taken.

"I don't find a major problem at the moment. He (Diaz) stopped doing what he was doing and he's out of there and a new (building) superintendent is in there," Calligy said.

Fitzgibbons says that he considers the case closed.

"I know it is he was going to do work and I had him stop immediately," Fitzgibbons said. Fitzgibbons says that he questioned Diaz about the incident and was told that Diaz never managed the property but only did repairs. An attorney for the landlord, though, stated that Diaz did serve as a manager of the building.

"Diaz is an honest man," said Fitzgibbons. "He's getting laid off. He has a family with three children. Whatever he does on the side helps him get by. He has been (doing repairs) for years in New York and in other cities."

According to Fitzgibbons, Diaz has worked for the city for 11 years and is being laid off in September because of the city's fiscal crisis.

"Fringo is on vacation. When he comes back, I'll instruct him to do an inspection," Fitzgibbons vowed.

## Waterfront master plan revealed

Residents air concerns

By Alex Ladd

Hoboken Reporter 9-2-90

ment plan now rest with the council.

### The Berridge Plan

Hoboken Planning Board meetings rarely are the site of big turnouts, but coming in the wake of a citywide referendum which narrowly defeated the city's multi-million dollar Port Authority waterfront development deal, it should come as no surprise that Tuesday night's meeting was packed. Time set aside at the end of the meeting for public questions and comment revealed continued concerns about the levels of density that the city is proposing.

A resolution passed unanimously at Aug. 8th's City Council meeting sent the city's defeated waterfront plan back to the planning board for consideration. Last week's meeting was scheduled for the purpose of observing a presentation by the Toronto-based planning firm of Berridge, Lewinberg and Greenberg of its waterfront master plan. Public opinion was solicited.

The planning board will now write a report of the public's input which will be forwarded to the city council. Any amendments to the city's develop-

The main item on the agenda at Tuesday's meeting was a presentation by Joe Berridge of his firm's master plan for the city's entire waterfront. Berridge had stated before the meeting that he would be looking for audience reaction to his

The term "master plan" actually was the subject of some confusion amongst members of the audience because it was confused with the city's official Master Plan, a long-term policy document which regulates city zoning ordinances and city development in general.

Berridge has called his waterfront plan a master plan. However, George Pappas, an attorney for the planning board, said that technically it is not a master plan. The confusion, according to board consultant Ralph Seligman, arises from architects

continued on next page

## WATERFRONT

continued from previous page

and planners using the term loosely.

Berridge's plan mirrored closely a preliminary report that his firm issued in May, 1989. According to Berridge, the main difference between the plan as it was presented Tuesday night and the preliminary report was the level of development along the northern waterfront. Berridge says that although levels of development along the northern waterfront were not detailed in the preliminary report, they were initially more dense than what he was proposing on Tuesday night.

Berridge is proposing that the northern waterfront be primarily residential with a maximum building height of five stories throughout most of the area with "strategically placed" buildings being offered as high as 20 stories.

On the minds of most people in the audience was how Berridge's plan would differ from the defeated redevelopment plan designed by the planning firm of Ekstut and Whiteclaw. Berridge said that the defeat of the city's redevelopment plan caused him to reflect on the appropriate levels of development. He concluded that in his professional opinion, the level of development proposed in Ekstut's plan was essentially correct.

Berridge did propose three modifications, however, for the southern waterfront. One is the modulation of building heights along River Street; another is that a 20-story ceiling be placed on construction on the southern pier (Ekstut's plan called for a maximum height of about 35 stories); and lastly, that stricter guidelines be placed on construction along River Street to insure that no above-ground garages be built.

One surprising aspect of Berridge's plan was a proposal that the city purchase Maxwell House and expand Elysian park onto that property. The proposal would call for the re-routing of Sinatra Drive around the Maxwell House property. Critics in the audience pointed out that the city would likely have to purchase prime real estate from Maxwell House's Philip Morris, and that in addition, it would have to shoulder the cost of demolition and cleanup of any hazardous material that may be on the property. Berridge, however, defended his proposal, saying that it could be paid for with proceeds generated from development along the southern waterfront.

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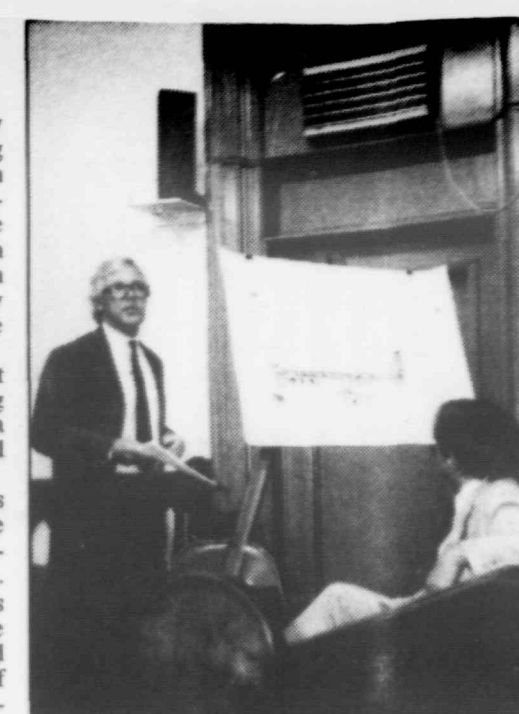
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## Worried about their future

Hoboken  
lays off 100  
Employee cuts are result  
of \$8 million budget gap

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — More than 100 municipal employees cleaned out their desks and punched time clocks in City Hall for the final time yesterday, the victims of massive layoffs designed to ease the Hoboken's fiscal woes.

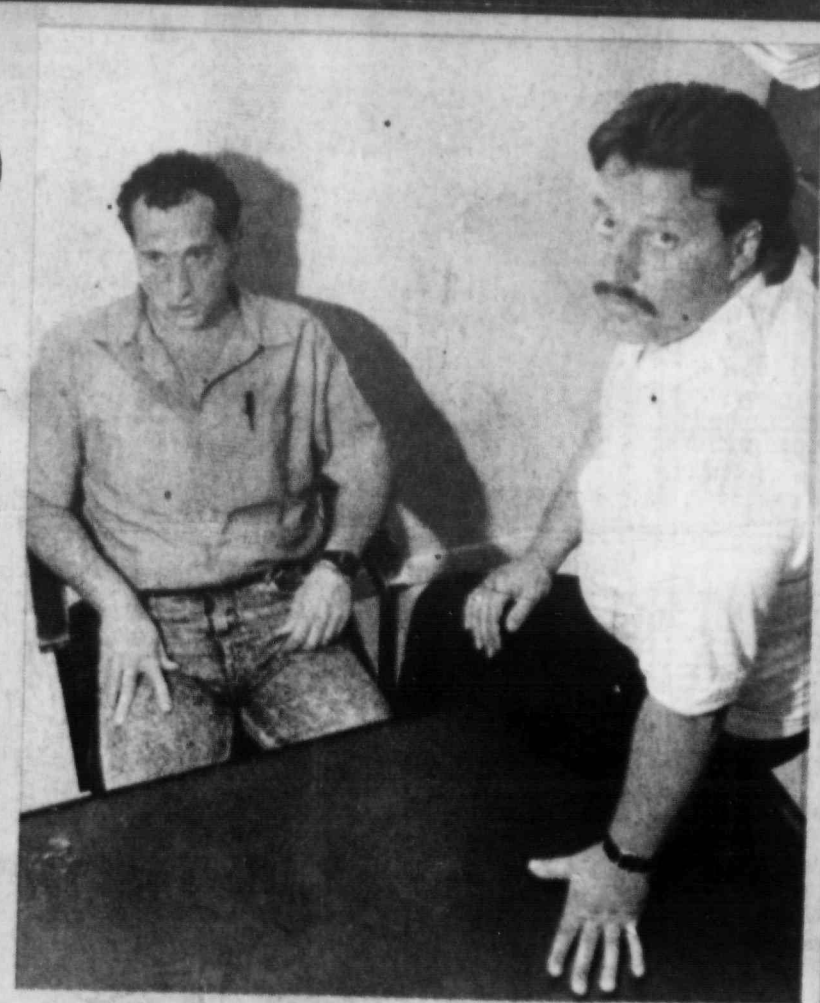
Many were bitter and concerned for their future. Others predicted a marked decline in city services.

"It's going to be a field day for the litterers and the slumlords in this city," said Santiago Diaz, a housing inspector for 11 years.

The firings are the crux of an austerity program designed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli to address an \$8 million budget gap.

The shortfall is the result of voters' rejection two months ago of a waterfront development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"This is a difficult day," Pasculli said. "It's unfortunate that we have to lay off dedicated workers, but we have to tighten our belts. It's going to put more of a burden on those who



John Schisani, in chair, and Joe Grossi, worry about their futures after being laid off.

## LAYOFFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remain." Unless the state comes up with emergency aid, Pasculli is projecting a 57 percent increase in the local property tax rate, from \$17.52 to \$27.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

About half of that jump is due to increased school and Hudson County taxes, officials said.

The layoffs will save the city an estimated \$300,000 this year, according to city Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi.

But workers said yesterday the projected savings do not justify the massive cutbacks.

"I don't think we were treated fairly," said John Schisani, a housing inspector for six years. "I think anybody with five years or more of service should not have been laid off. How much is being saved? \$250,000? Come on."

Schisani, 31, said he is concerned because his wife is due to deliver the couple's second child in early October.

"My health benefits are going to run out at the end of October," Schisani said. "The first baby came late. I just hope this one comes on time. I don't know how we'd pay for it otherwise."

Schisani's boss, Chief Housing Inspector Jude Fitzgibbons, said the cutbacks are going to have a devastating effect on city services. Housing inspectors are responsible for making sure buildings meet safety, health, building and fire codes.

"I'm afraid we're going to see a decline in people maintaining their homes," said Fitzgibbons, whose department will be cut in half with the departure of Schisani and Diaz. "These guys

are as vital as cops and firemen." Pasculli said he is dedicated to reviving waterfront plans in order to reinstate those who were laid off yesterday. That was little consolation to workers in the process of finishing their last days on the job.

"I think every councilman up for election in the spring is going to feel the heat from this," said Joe Grossi, a public works committee investigator.

## Fine will get \$240G buyout

Board of Education approves superintendent's retirement

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education has approved a retirement buyout — which costs about \$240,000 — for Walter Fine, superintendent of schools, who plans to retire in June but may leave as early as February.

Part of the package includes a 10 percent retroactive increase of his existing salary of \$83,795 for last year and a nine percent pay hike for this year, the superintendent said yesterday.

The raise, approved Tuesday by trustees, will bring his salary to about \$100,000. Assistant School Superintendent Francis McGorty received a similar increase for the two years.

McGorty's salary is \$2,500 less than Fine's.

Business Administrator Anthony Curko also received a 19 percent hike of his existing

salary of \$65,000 which will increase to \$77,935.

Fine noted that the three top administrators received no salary increase three years ago.

Fine, 64, has nearly 39 years on the job and has accumulated about 570 sick days and unused vacation time. If he were to be paid for all those days, the total would be about \$240,000, he said.

"This is done every day in business and every day in education. I've got people walking around thinking I'm getting something I don't deserve," Fine said. "I've earned it," he added.

But he said that for every day he uses before his official retirement next June, that day is deducted from his retirement package. He said that he may leave anytime after February.

Trustee Claire Depalma

See TRUSTEE — Page 6

## Trenton still mulls the Hoboken budget

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken's municipal budget is the only spending plan still being reviewed by Trenton, which may know today how much, if any, extra state aid the city will receive.

"We should know by the end of the week and possibly as early as tomorrow (Wednesday) what Hoboken will be getting," Jay Johnston, a spokesman for the Department of Community Affairs, said yesterday.

Asked if Hoboken is definitely getting more aid, John-

ston said, "I can't say that."

Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi — who asked for an extra \$12 million to bail the city out of a financial crisis — said the director of local government services is recommending to Gov. Jim Florio that Hoboken get another \$8 million. Director Barry Skokowski has not mentioned a dollar amount to the governor, said Johnston.

Chiusi said he and the mayor would be meeting with state officials later this week to dis-

See TRENTON — Page 4

## Trustee says Fine earned \$240G buyout package

Continued from Page 1

She said she voted for the package because Fine was entitled to it.

She said the Board of Education decided four years ago to encourage "older teachers" to retire to eventually save the district money.

Teachers with more than 25 years experience have 25 sick days per year and are allowed to bank 15 days annually, she said. Fine has the most time accrued for unused sick and vacation days, she said.

"Anybody in the system can take this buyout — any teacher, clerk or janitor. It is an option. If Walter is ready to retire, he is entitled to the buyout package," DePalma said.

"This is not something special for him but for anyone who wants to retire. He has worked hard and has a fantastic attendance record," she said.

Only Trustee Otto Hottendorf opposed the retirement deal. He said that he disagreed with the number of unused vacation days Fine was being paid for.

"I have no way of knowing if it is legal or not to include the vacation time. I don't believe vacation days can accumulate. If you don't use them, you lose them," Hottendorf said.

The school board will begin searching for a successor to Fine.

## Trenton still mulls the Hoboken budget

Continued from Page 1

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While Pasculli's popularity is on a downward spiral, politi-

cal heavies are planning a meeting for tomorrow night at Harrigan's to discuss resolutions to the budget crisis.

Third Ward Councilman Steve Cappiello, a three-term mayor defeated in 1985, said that the meeting will be a vehicle for airing complaints and possibly find "ways and means to run the city more economically."

Sal D'Amelio, chairman of the Republican Party, said it is a "word of mouth get-together" being held "because everyone is so frantic about their taxes."

But everyone in City Hall is describing the meeting as a recall meeting and Cappiello concedes that "politics will be discussed."

Even Pasculli refers to the meeting as a recall meeting. "You mean the recall meeting?" Pasculli asked. He dismissed it as no serious threat to his administration.

"The head of a recall rears itself every year and every Hudson County mayor has to confront it in one way or another," Pasculli said.

Helen Macri, a former council president and more recently the director of parks and property (a City Hall job that ended last week) said the meeting "is going to be like a town meeting and hopefully everyone will come and come up with some ideas."

One insider speculates Harrigan's will have "more spies there than recallers."



## Hoboken receives \$7.2 million in state aid

Pasculli: 'We have been thrown a life preserver.'

*Hoboken Reporter 9/30/90*  
Mayor Patrick Pasculli in a Monday press conference announced that Hoboken will be receiving \$7.2 million in state aid. The announcement came after two months of intense negotiations between state and Hoboken officials.

rate down to about \$22 per \$1000 assessed valuation. The proposed tax rate, after voters rejected the city's development plan for the southern waterfront in a July 10 referendum, was \$27.52 per \$1000 assessed valuation -- a 60 percent increase from the previous tax rate of \$17.49.

The state aid is said to be primarily in the form of a bridge loan, although the exact terms of it are still being worked out in Trenton and should be revealed this week.

## Hoboken renews waterfront lease with Port Authority

By John M. Cropley

*9/23/90 Hoboken Reporter*  
By a unanimous vote Wednesday night, the Hoboken City Council approved a renewal of the Port Authority's six-month lease on the city's piers, where a private firm retained by the P.A. now operates a parking lot.

Critics of the renewed lease see it as an inappropriate city overture to the P.A. in light of July's referendum, which defeated the Hoboken P.A. waterfront development plan. However, the Council decided that immediate termination of the lease would not be in the city's best interests. A provision to allow either Hoboken or the P.A. to terminate the agreement on 30 days' notice was included, though.

A P.A. spokesperson said Thursday that "we (the P.A.) will favorably consider the city's action," although she added that no decision to accept or reject the lease had been made.

Most of the councilmembers were initially in favor of extending the lease.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius estimated that the city would incur \$50,000 to \$100,000 in insurance costs by

ending the lease. Also, the city would have to pay for maintenance and security.

The existing parking spots yield \$18,000 monthly net income to the P.A. Chius estimated, however, that since the city, lacking skilled managers, couldn't operate the lot itself, and since the Parking Authority would have to solicit bids from private operators, the city wouldn't realize any income for at least three months. He recommended renewing the \$70,000-a-year lease.

Councilman David Roberts also questioned whether Hoboken wanted to end the lease and send "a major signal to the P.A. that we want to completely disassociate ourselves from them."

Some audience members thought so.

Terminating the lease would tell other developers that the P.A. that the city was ready to "entertain serious discussion," said Dan Tumpson, who helped lead efforts to overturn the Hoboken P.A. partnership in the referendum.

"The city has been screaming about lost revenue, and when

they get a chance to have revenue (by operating the parking lot) they want to give it back to the Port Authority," Tumpson screamed at councilmembers.

Councilmember Joe Della Fave later said he was "all set to vote against the lease," but was swayed when the council accepted his suggestion of the 30-day termination clause. While it would be great to have a city-run parking lot there, he said, "the administration gave us no forenotice," noting that the lease came before the Council just eleven days before its expiration. With a month to study options, he said, the Council could have lined up insurance and a plan to operate the parking lot.

In other business, the Council voted to send a notice to the School Board urging it to "exercise fiscal responsibility," noting that the taxpayers' tab for the schools has increased 358 percent since 1985, though enrollment has declined 26 percent. It was noted, though, that state defunding played a part in the decline. It was also noted that the missive would be nothing more than a gesture, since the Council has no authority over the Board.

The Council agreed to look into the delays in completing the 13th Street firehouse, which is over budget, two months behind schedule and still accruing designers' fees. Another \$10,000 bill came due from project architects Dean Marchetto and James Caulfield, raising their tab so far to \$70,000.

And finally, at Roberts' request, the Council gave its wholehearted support to a fair being held Oct. 13 at Church Square Park to fund volunteer renovation of the park.

According to Wolff, in a worse case scenario in which the authority would lose all \$29 million in grants, the pelletization plant could cost as much \$4 million to \$5 million more than the gasifier.

"The mayors will have to agree to support the authority in case we have to spend more money," Wolff says.

Wolff, however, says he is confident that \$24 million in grants may be salvaged and that the authority would only lose \$5 million in grants for innovative technology, in which case pelletization would be a much cheaper alternative than the gasifier. Wolff concedes that time is on the side of the parties who want the gasifier built. According to Wolff, the authority is under a consent order to complete a waste water treatment plant and a sludge disposal plant by June, 1993.

"That's why we are proceeding with (the amendment plan) at breakneck speed," he said.

To complicate matters, however, the contract to build the gasifier has been signed by the authority and delivered -- by court order -- to Terminal Construction. The contract is worth \$35 million, but with delays and other factors, could be worth as much as \$45 million.

Wolff concedes that any consideration of pelletization would have to take into consideration the cost of a buy-out of Terminal's contract.

According to Wolff, another obstacle will be getting HCUA approval for the facilities plan amendment. Wolff characterizes the HCUA as being obstructionist.

"The HCUA has been a constant obstacle. They have done nothing but block us at every turn," he said.

George Crimmins Jr., chairman of the HCUA, denies Wolff's allegations.

"We are not being obstructionists. If (the authority) comes up with something, we'll look at it. They have to remember, though, that the contractor has started working (on the gasifier). They have 900 days to finish the project and they are going ahead with it. They have already ordered material," Crimmins said.

Crimmins also pointed out that the authority could stand

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## Tri-City Sewerage Authority opts for pelletization; gasifier option eliminated

Authority members call on public to pressure HCUA to accept its choice

By Alex Ladd

*9/30/90 Hoboken Reporter*  
In a Monday meeting, the Tri-City Sewerage Authority voted to accept its consultant's suggestion recommending that the authority opt for pelletization as the choice for sludge treatment for the communities of Hoboken, Union City and Weehawken. The authority's action, which must still be approved by the Hudson County Utilities Authority (HCUA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), comes as the Terminal Construction Company of Wood-Ridge starts work on a controversial gasifier plant designed for the same purpose.

"What we did was eliminate the other options and say, 'Yes, pelletization is the option we want,'" said Tri-City Chairman Richard Wolff.

The authority, according to Wolff, will now seek to get approval for pelletization from the DEP by preparing a facilities plan amendment which it will now submit to the agency. According to Wolff, the DEP has agreed to comment on the plan on their own terms. Eventually, however, the facility plan will have to be approved by the HCUA, which in the past has been a major proponent of the gasifier. The HCUA is responsible for applying for and disbursing federal grants to the county's local sewerage authorities.

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In accepting its consultant's report, the authority is saying that pelletization, which involves turning the sludge residue into pellets and then marketing them as fertilizer, is environmentally safer as well as cheaper than the controversial gasifier, which burns sludge to create electricity.

The gasifier has been opposed by the mayors of all three communities, as well as by a group of area environmentalists and concerned citizens who say they have gained over 2,000 signatures protesting its construction.

## City officials claim 1,900 housing units missed by census

Millions of dollars at stake

By Alex Ladd

*Hoboken Reporter 9-16-90*  
In its appeal of preliminary census figures, the city is claiming to have found almost 1,900 housing units missed by the census department. The appeal comes amidst allegations by Hoboken residents who worked on the census that the operation was rife with errors and mismanagement.

Preliminary census figures show Hoboken's 1990 population to be 10,000 less than what was found in the 1980 census, making it the biggest loser -- by far -- in Hudson county in terms of population.

However, more than headcounts are involved. The census figures translate into millions of dollars that the city receives in state and federal aid. Peggy Thomas, director of Hoboken's Community Development Agency, estimates that if the preliminary figures stand, the city could lose as much as \$41 million in federal and state aid over a 10-year period.

The preliminary census figures show a total population of 31,790 for Hoboken, compared to count of 42,460 for the 1980 census -- a decrease in over 10,000. According to the

figures, the county saw its population as a whole decrease from 556,972 to 533,598.

The census preliminary count shows 16,946 Hoboken housing units tallied. According to Thomas, the city's tally found a total of 1,893 units that were not counted, which would bring the total housing units in the city to 18,839.

City Business Administrator Ed Chius believes that with the new units which the city has reported in its appeal, the city's population should climb up to the 40,000 resident total which was reported in 1980. Chius feels that the figure of less than two residents per household reported in this year's census is too low and should be investigated.

According to Janet Brinkos, a Hoboken resident who was one of four crew leaders for the Hoboken count, census sheets were lost by the Union City Census Bureau, which oversaw the count in Hoboken, West New York and Weehawken. Brinkos claims that the lost sheets were then marked "vacant" by census workers under instruction from the management to meet federal deadlines. Brinkos also claims that buildings which were only visited once were

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According to Thomas, a total of 30 people made up of volunteers and city employees -- including Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Chius -- canvassed the city in search of new units to be included in the city's appeal.

The appeal has been sent to the regional census headquarters in Philadelphia, says Thomas, and Hoboken must now await the Bureau's decision on whether it will revise the preliminary figures.

## Troubling stats don't trouble Stevens Tech

Many new initiatives planned for institute's 120th year

By John M. Cropley

*Hoboken Reporter 9/9/90*  
Though Stevens Institute of Technology's student enrollment has leveled off at a figure considerably lower than in the early 1980s and its tuition and operating costs continue to climb, the 120-year-old college is making plans to expand and develop high technology manufacturing facilities on its campus and waterfront property.

The college's first waterfront plan, a cooperative venture with Hartz, called for a commercial development with tall buildings on the Hudson River's edge at Sixth Street. It was rejected by the Hoboken City Planning Board almost a year ago as being unwieldy and out of synch with Hoboken's character and infrastructure capacity.

Now that the city's plan for its own southern waterfront, a bigger version of the Stevens plan, has been derailed, the Stevens proposal could become the first waterfront development to finally take shape on Hoboken's waterfront.

Dr. Hal Raveche, president of Stevens, said the plan -- in "final negotiations" with Park Town Group of New York -- should be ready by the end of the year.

Speaking in general terms, he described it as a technology pavilion which would allow light high-technology manufacturing firms to benefit from the Stevens community and facilities. A July New York Times report said Stevens' plan includes a three-story building on the waterfront and a 14-story structure on an existing parking lot on campus. Raveche said it would include recreation facilities for the city and not obscure views from Castle Point.

Highly enthusiastic, he predicted it would "bring high tech research and development to Hoboken and be the turning point in bringing industry back to the city."

This comes as Stevens undergraduate enrollment remains well under its previous totals. Though it represents a 60-student increase from last year, the 1990 enrollment of 1,283 is considerably lower than the 1,500 students who attended Stevens in the early 1980s, according to Peter Persutti, Dean of Admissions.

Beth Callahan, director of marketing and communications, says the statistics are shared by many private schools, a result of the "baby bust." Stevens is also affected by a lackluster Northeast economy -- annual undergraduate costs of \$14,300 put it out of the reach of many -- and a nationwide apathy towards mathematics and engineering.

But Persutti points out several bright spots in

these statistics: the incoming class in 25 percent female, up from last year's 19 percent and well above the national average of 11 percent in engineering schools. The infamous freshman attrition rate is down to only 25 percent, and the lessened enrollment makes the student-faculty ratio 9:1, among the best in America, Persutti says.

"I'm not sure we'd want to be a 1,500-student school again," he says, noting that the dorms and other infrastructure are ideal for 1,300.

While most city residents may be most interested in the Stevens waterfront plan, of note to engineering enthusiasts is the Oct. 30th opening of the Design and Manufacturing Institute. Carnegie Lab, the Institute's oldest engineering facility, will house this new endeavor.

A new degree option, concurrent engineering, will be offered. In concurrent engineering, serviceability, reliability and cost are given equal consideration with design.

"It is the key to strengthening the American manufacturing position," Raveche says, noting that the concept is one of the tenets of modern high tech industry.

Meanwhile, in the long, windowless building at Seventh and Hudson streets, Stevens' ocean engineering department is testing the United States' America's Cup boat and completing a plan to control beach erosion along the entire New Jersey shore.

If the \$9 million New Jersey Jobs and Competitiveness Bond Act is passed, Stevens will join with other state colleges in researching surface engineering materials. A component of super conductor, semi-conductor, ceramic and composite manufacture, this involves making modifications at a molecular level to the surface of solids to affect their performance.

And finally, in January, the institute will undertake a capital fundraising campaign to improve its engineering labs and physical fitness space. Like most private schools, Raveche says, Stevens needs but can't afford these things.

Another thing the school -- and its students and faculty need -- is a grounding in arts and human values. Raveche said at a convocation last Wednesday. The interaction between science and technology and society and human values is "unavoidable," he said, urging students to expand their knowledge beyond mathematical equations and scientific facts. Stevens' mission, he said, is to groom as well as educate the men and women who will lead the world.

## Hoboken and her neighbors

|                       | Hoboken             | West New York      | Union City                            |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Population            | 41,000*             | 42,354             | 58,000*                               |
| Area (square miles)   | 1                   | .875               | 1.5                                   |
| Fire costs (millions) | close to \$20*      | N/A                | \$15.5*                               |
| Firefighters          | 95                  | 68                 | 90                                    |
| Fire Officers         | 36                  | 26                 | 24                                    |
| Fire Vehicles         | 2 trucks<br>4 pumps | 1 truck<br>4 pumps | 2 trucks<br>5 pumps<br>1 rescue squad |
| Fire stations         | 3 open              | 5                  | 4                                     |
| Annual calls          | 1,800*              | 2,100*             | 3,000*                                |
| Fireman/citizen ratio | 1:304               | 1:451              | 1:509                                 |
| Calls per fireman     | 13.7                | 20.2               | 19.3                                  |
| Police Officers       | 79                  | 65*                | 114                                   |
| Police Superiors      | 49*                 | 25*                | 41                                    |
| Annual calls, 1989    | 38,000**            | 38,000*            | 66,103                                |
| Cop/citizen ratio     | 1:328               | 1:471              | 1:374                                 |
| Calls per cop         | 297                 | 422                | 426                                   |

\* (Approximate figure)  
\*\* (Reflects civilian layoffs)  
# (Prior to demotions)

## (Expected to climb past 50,000 -- 391 per cop -- in 1990)

Sources: Hob., U.C., W.N.Y. Police and Fire Departments, Hob. Business Administrator, U.C. Treasurer and City Clerk. --JMC

## Pier-less!

*Hoboken Reporter*  
Workers narrowly miss injury when structure collapses

By John M. Cropley

*9/30/90*  
Two thirds of Hoboken's Pier B collapsed into the Hudson River Wednesday morning, just seconds after laborers dismantling the pier fled the pier shed, the Army Corps of Engineers reported.

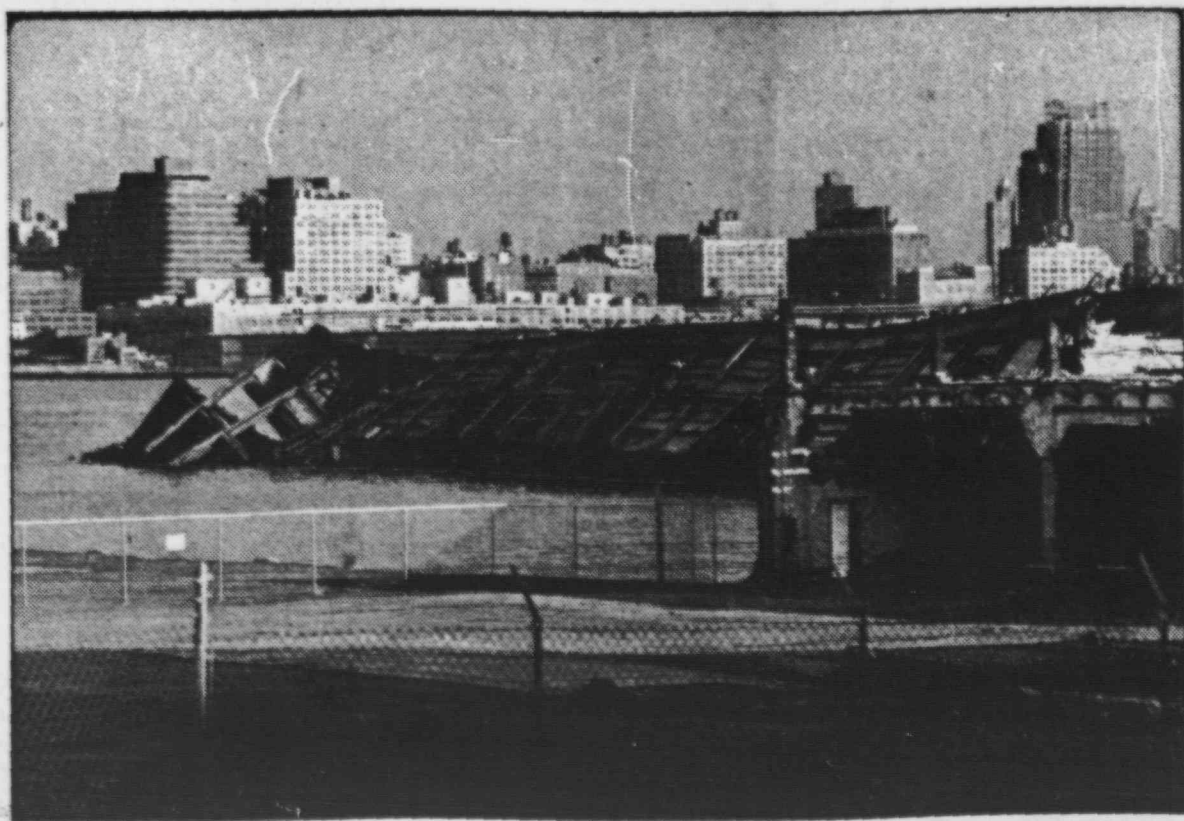
According to Richard Burroughs, spokesperson for the Corps, the collapse occurred at about 7 a.m. Workers for Don Jon Marine, a private demolition contractor, were walking out into the pier shed when they heard a loud creaking sound, "like a tree falling." They ran back out, Burroughs said, and 600 feet of the 900-foot pier suddenly collapsed. The second floor of the shed fell down and the walls folded in on top of it.

According to Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremietedi, none of the workers was hurt by the falling shed. Police reports said, though, that Carlos Enriquez of Jersey City fell while running and injured his left shoulder.

They cleared the building just 15 seconds before the structure fell into the river, Tremietedi reported. "Those men are lucky," he said.

The steel trusses that support the shed had been cut by the demolition crew. The weight of the shed's second floor apparently buckled the steel support beams along the side of the shed -- they snapped at the base.

According to Burroughs, the pier is being removed as part of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Drift Project, a shared-cost endeavor of the Corps and the state of New Jersey. The \$880,000 demolition of Pier B, originally slated for completion next March, is not related to the stalled removal of the rest of the pier structures.



The state of Pier B after last Wednesday's collapse.

Burroughs said that the Corps inspected the pier the next day and would revise demolition plans accordingly.

The Drift Project is designed to "get rid of decrepit piers around the Harbor before they collapse into the water and create navigational hazards," Burroughs said.

Pier B lost its lower level to fire in 1962. It still stands on the original pilings sunk by the German Shipping Lines in 1857.

Last Friday, a minor blaze there was extinguished by the Hoboken Fire Department. At the scene, Tremietedi said it appeared that sparks from an oxyacetylene cutting torch smoldered until workers left, then ignited a section of wood flooring. Fortunately, flames from the fire didn't spread to the large oxygen and acetylene gas tanks nearby and water service to the city had been restored by the time the firefighters went to put out the fire.



*Hoboken Reporter 9-9-90*  
The Hoboken Library recently received a grant from the Panasonic Company, Secaucus, for the purchase of large print books needed for senior citizens and the visually impaired. Shown here, during the presentation at the Hoboken Library are: (back row, from left to right) Alice Stremme, library clerk; Irv Needle, Panasonic grassroots coordinator; Wilda Gastele, adult book librarian; (front row, from left to right) Martha Whitley, Hoboken resident and Panasonic public relations manager, and Terry Sasso, acting library director. This grant is part of the Panasonic Company's continuing effort to reach out to its neighbors through community support programs.



## Hoboken receives \$7.2 million in state aid

Pasculli: 'We have been thrown a life preserver.'

*Hoboken Reporter 9/30/90*  
Mayor Patrick Pasculli in a Monday press conference announced that Hoboken will be receiving \$7.2 million in state aid. The announcement came after two months of intense negotiations between state and Hoboken officials.

The state aid is said to be primarily in the form of a bridge loan, although the exact terms of it are still being worked out in Trenton and should be revealed this week.

## Hoboken renews waterfront lease with Port Authority

By John M. Cropley

*9/23/90 Hoboken Reporter*  
By a unanimous vote Wednesday night, the Hoboken City Council approved a renewal of the Port Authority's six-month lease on the city's piers, where a private firm retained by the P.A. now operates a parking lot.

Critics of the renewed lease see it as an inappropriate city overture to the P.A. in light of the city's recent decision to allow either Hoboken or the P.A. to terminate the agreement on 30 days' notice was included, though. A P.A. spokesperson said Thursday that "we (the P.A.) will favorably consider the city's action," although she added that no decision to accept or reject the lease had been made.

Most of the councilmembers were initially in favor of extending the lease.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius estimated that the city would incur \$50,000 to \$100,000 in insurance costs by

ending the lease. Also, the city would have to pay for maintenance and security.

The existing parking spots yield \$18,000 monthly net income to the P.A. Chius estimated, however, that since the city, lacking skilled managers, couldn't operate the lot itself, and since the Parking Authority would have to solicit bids from private operators, the city wouldn't realize any income for at least three months. He recommended renewing the \$70,000-a-year lease.

Councilman David Roberts also questioned whether Hoboken wanted to end the lease and send "a major signal to the P.A. that we want to completely disassociate ourselves from them."

Some audience members thought so. Terminating the lease would tell other developers than the P.A. that the city was ready to "entertain serious discussion," said Dan Tumpson, who helped lead efforts to overturn the Hoboken/P.A. partnership in the referendum.

The city has been screaming about lost revenue, and when

they get a chance to have revenue (by operating the parking lot) they want to give it back to the Port Authority, Tumpson screamed at councilmembers.

Councilmember Joe Della Fave later said he was "all set to vote against the lease" but was swayed when the council accepted his suggestion of the 30-day termination clause. While it would be great to have a city-run parking lot there, he said, "the administration gave us no forenotice," noting that the lease came before the Council just eleven days before its expiration. With a month to study options, he said, the Council could have lined up insurance and a plan to operate the parking lot.

In other business, the Council voted to send a notice to the School Board urging it to "exercise fiscal responsibility," noting that the taxpayers' tab for the schools has increased 358 percent since 1985, though enrollment has declined 26 percent. It was noted, though, that state defunding played a part in the decline. It was also noted that the massive would be nothing more than a gesture, since the Council has no authority over the Board.

The Council agreed to look into the delays in completing the 13th Street firehouse, which is over budget, two months behind schedule and still accruing designers' fees. Another \$10,000 bill came due from project architects Dean Marchetto and James Caulfield, raising their tab so far to \$70,000.

And finally, at Roberts' request, the Council gave its wholehearted support to a fair being held Oct. 13 at Church Square Park to fund volunteer renovation of the park.

In the meantime, Wolff says Tri-City will be taking a long hard look at the numbers involved in implementing a pelletization plant.

"I have talked to (Hoboken) Mayor Pasculli and I know that he wants the numbers to be firm," Wolff said.

According to Wolff, the estimated cost of a pelletization plant would be approximately \$13 million, while the costs for the gasifier could be as high as \$45 million. Wolff concedes, however, that any look at the dollar numbers for a pelletization plant would have to factor in the costs of reimbursing Terminal for breach of contract, as well as for the prospect of lost federal grants. Assuming that Terminal sues for lost profit, which for construction projects of this magnitude can be as high as 15 percent, Tri-City may have to settle with Terminal for at least \$5 million and perhaps as much as \$7 million when expenses are included.

According to Wolff, in a worse case scenario in which the authority would lose all \$29 million in grants, the pelletization plant could cost as much as \$4 million to \$5 million more than the gasifier.

The mayors will have to agree to support the authority in case we have to spend more money," Wolff says.

Wolff, however, says he is confident that \$24 million in grants may be salvaged and that the authority would only lose \$5 million in grants for innovative technology, in which case pelletization would be a much cheaper alternative than the gasifier. Wolff concedes that time is on the side of the parties who want the gasifier built. According to Wolff, the authority is under a consent order to complete a waste water treatment plant and a sludge disposal plant by June, 1993.

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| Fire stations                        | 3 open          | 5             | 4              |
| Annual calls                         | 1,800*          | 2,100*        | 3,000*         |
| Fireman/citizen ratio                | 1:304           | 1:451         | 1:509          |
| Calls per fireman                    | 13.7            | 20.2          | 19.3           |
| Police Officers                      | 79              | 65*           | 114            |
| Police Supervisors                   | 49*             | 25*           | 41             |
| Annual calls, 1989                   | 38,000##        | 38,000*       | 66,103         |
| Cop/citizen ratio                    | 1:328           | 1:471         | 1:374          |
| Calls per cop                        | 287             | 422           | 426            |

\* (Approximate figure)  
\*\* (Reflects civilian layoffs)  
# (Prior to demotions)

## (Expected to climb past 50,000 — 391 per cop — in 1990)

Sources: Hob., U.C., W.N.Y. Police and Fire Departments, Hob. Business Administrator, U.C. Treasurer and City Clerk. —JMC

## Pier-less!

*Hoboken Reporter 9/30/90*  
Workers narrowly miss injury when structure collapses

By John M. Cropley

Two thirds of Hoboken's Pier B collapsed into the Hudson River Wednesday morning, just seconds after laborers dismantling the pier shed, the Army Corps of Engineers reported.

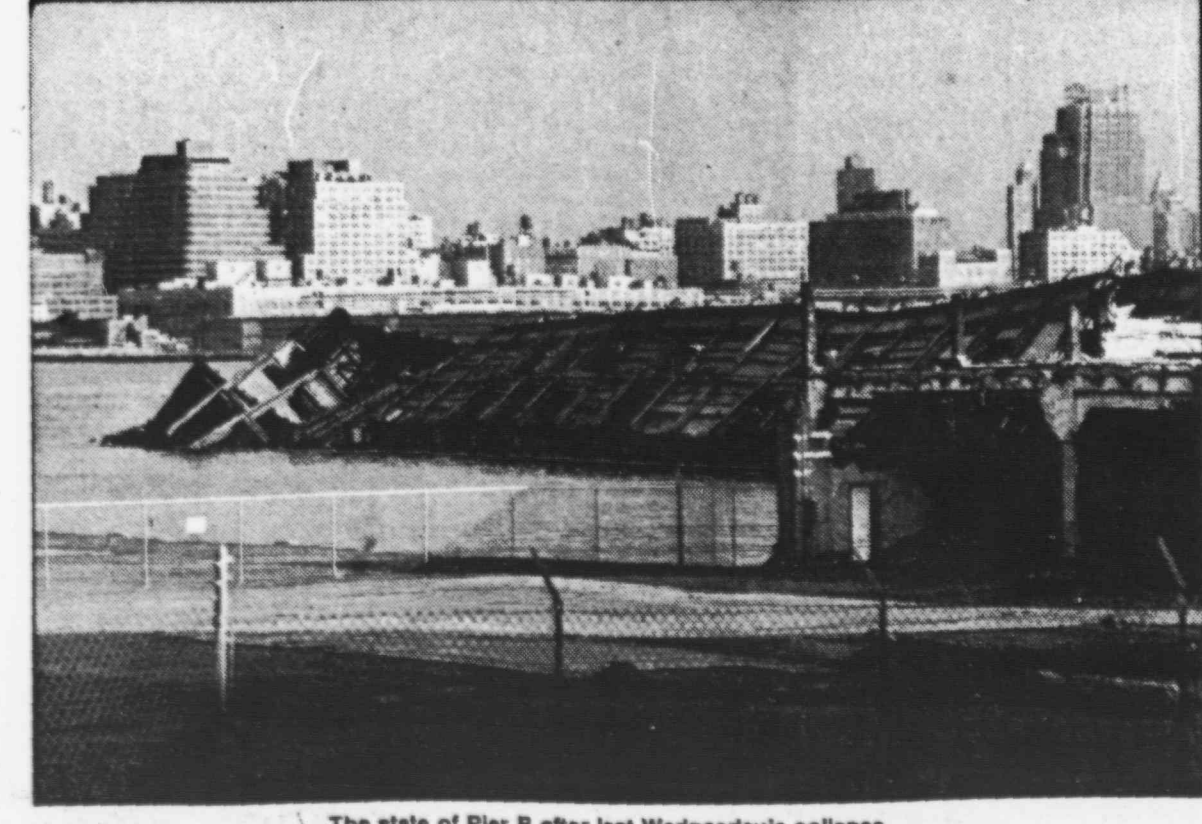
According to Richard Burroughs, spokesperson for the Corps, the collapse occurred at about 7 a.m. Workers for Don Jon Marine, a private demolition contractor, were walking out into the pier shed when they heard a loud creaking sound, "like a tree falling." They ran back out, Burroughs said, and 600 feet of the 900-foot pier suddenly collapsed. The second floor of the shed fell down and the walls folded in on top of it.

According to Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi, none of the workers was hurt by the falling shed. Police reports said, though, that Carlos Enriquez of Jersey City fell while running and injured his left shoulder.

They cleared the building just 15 seconds before the structure fell into the river, Tremittedi reported. "Those men are lucky," he said.

The steel trusses that support the shed had been cut by the demolition crew. The weight of the shed's second floor apparently buckled the steel support beams along the side of the shed — they snapped at the base.

According to Burroughs, the pier is being removed at part of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Drift Project, a shared-cost endeavor of the Corps and the state of New Jersey. The \$880,000 demolition of Pier B, originally slated for completion next March, is not related to the stalled removal of the rest of the pier structures.



The state of Pier B after last Wednesday's collapse.

Burroughs said that the Corps inspected the pier the next day and would revise demolition plans accordingly.

The Drift Project is designed to "get rid of decrepit piers around the Harbor before they collapse into the water and create navigational hazards," Burroughs said.

Pier B lost its lower level to fire in 1982. It still stands on the original pilings sunk by the German Shipping Lines in 1857.

Last Friday, a minor blaze there was extinguished by the Hoboken Fire Department. At the scene, Tremittedi said it appeared that sparks from an oxyacetylene cutting torch smoldered until workers left, then ignited a section of wood flooring. Fortunately, flames from the fire didn't spread to the large oxygen and acetylene gas tanks nearby and water service to the city had been restored by the time the firefighters went to put out the fire.



The Hoboken Library recently received a grant from the Panasonic Company, Secaucus, for the purchase of large print books needed for senior citizens and the visually impaired. Shown here, during the presentation at the Hoboken Library are: (back row, from left to right) Alice Stremme, library clerk; Ivy Needie, Panasonic grassroots coordinator; Wilda Gastelu, adult book librarian; (front row, from left to right) Martha Whitely, Hoboken resident and Panasonic public relations manager, and Terry Sasso, acting library director. This grant is part of the Panasonic Company's continuing effort to reach out to its neighbors through community support programs.



# Toscano appointed as School Trustee

Blacks feel slighted

By John M. Cropley

The Hoboken School Board Tuesday evening appointed financial analyst and self-described "taxpayer's advocate" Marc Toscano to the board. The appointment has disappointed black leaders who say the Board of Trustees and Mayor Pat Pasculli had agreed to appoint a black to the position.

Toscano's appointment was made to fill the incomplete term of Michael Rossano, who resigned in August.

When that vacancy came up, the appointment of a black trustee was promised, according to the Rev. William Beatty, boardmember of the Hoboken chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "Pasculli had promised, and other Board members had promised, that a black would be appointed," Beatty said.

Blacks account for about five percent of Hoboken's population; Beatty says they make up 18 percent of the

school enrollment, although the Board of Education puts them at 11 percent.

City firefighter William Pittman, a black who had run for Trustee without success in a previous election, reportedly was the choice of Pasculli and the NAACP. For health reasons, though, Pittman declined to be considered.

The NAACP chapter then advanced Eugene Drayton, its president, as its choice, but the School Board had other ideas. By a 3-2 margin, it chose Toscano over Drayton, who served a 1985-1988 term as Trustee.

"He reneged on his promise, and he got them to change their mind," Beatty angrily says, referring to Pasculli and Trustees Jim Farina, Angel Alicia, Jr. and Claire DePalma, who voted for Toscano.

One critic, though, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the need for black representation wouldn't justify Drayton's appointment, since Drayton would just use the appointment as a political position.

"He and the Reverend are the big black politicians in

continued on page 3

## TOSCANO

from cover

town. It would just be another 4th Ward politician on the Board, and we don't need that."

However, Trustee Perry Belfiore, who voted for Drayton, feels "a board, to be balanced, needs people from all parts of the community." He says he therefore would have voted for any candidate chosen by the black community. "I thought there was a consensus of the board that it was agreed a black would be appointed."

No one else on the Board or in City Hall would confirm this, however.

Pasculli, who has been working late hours trying to find money for the city's school board multimillion dollar budgets, was unavailable for comment, as were Alicia and DePalma. Farina was likewise unable to be reached last

week.

While he would not describe the school budget — at an all-time high of \$31.56 million — as too big, he said, "I don't know if there's any more the taxpayer can take," pledging to be a "taxpayer's advocate" and "see where the money is going." He said his everyday job at Bear Stearns is to monitor the profitability and loss of deals in the same dollar range as the school budget.

In other School Board doings, the Trustees voted to raise school Superintendent Walter Fine's salary to \$100,000 and approve his \$250,000 retirement package. Fine, who has over 550 accumulated sick and vacation days, will be paid for all of them when he goes through with his announced retirement next year.

Trustees Geraldine Pantoliano and Ed Garcia said they abstained from the vote because both candidates were equally qualified. Neither Garcia or Pantoliano said there was a commitment to appointing a black.

Maverick Trustee Otto Hottendorf, too, said he was unaware of any agreements because he is not privy to the political machinations of the Board and city administration. He said, though, that his vote for Drayton came because "Gene had promised to try to reduce the budget," not because of race. "He has a record as a trustee of watching pennies. Every person is without color to me."

Toscano, for his part, wished to sidestep the debate over his appointment and get to work. A financial analyst with Bear Stearns, a mid-sized New York investment banking firm, he will take over as head of the Board's finance and budget committee. Pantoliano says Toscano's professional background was a big factor in his selection — "He's got a little more expertise than we do."

The 27-year-old Toscano is a Hoboken native who owns his home and coaches Pop Warner Football — attributes which he says embody his concern for both children and taxpayers.

## Sewage Authority to appeal court's gasifier decision

By Alex Ladd

With the encouragement of many irate citizens and Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, the Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewage Authority took a significant step last Tuesday towards challenging the construction of a controversial \$35 million gasifier plant in Hoboken.

The authority voted 6-to-0 to appeal a recent court decision by Superior Judge Dorothea Weffing which stated that a state-issued solid waste management per-

mit is not necessary for proceeding with construction of the gasifier.

The authority's decision gives it more time to pursue alternatives to gasification, a controversial procedure which involves the burning of sludge to generate electricity.

Tuesday night's meeting was a special session called just one week after the authority was unable to garner the five votes necessary to appeal despite a 4-3 vote in favor of such action. Five votes are needed to pass an authority resolution.

"(The first vote) was an aberration," said

Authority Chairman Richard Wolff. "We felt only one vote short of an appeal. I think Tuesday's vote got us back on a track that we had been pursuing unanimously."

Hudson County Utilities Authority Chairman Anthony Russo estimates that the authority stands to lose a minimum of \$24 million dollars in grants which his agency has secured from the federal government.

He says that the authority also faces fines from the federal government unless it upgrades its treatment facilities soon. The HCUA is responsible for applying for and disbursing federal grants to the county's local sewage authorities.

But to Union City Mayor Robert Menendez and residents of the tri-city area, environmental concerns outweighed the possible fines and loss of grants. "I know that you are concerned about the fines," said Menendez addressing the authority before it voted. "I am concerned that I may have to

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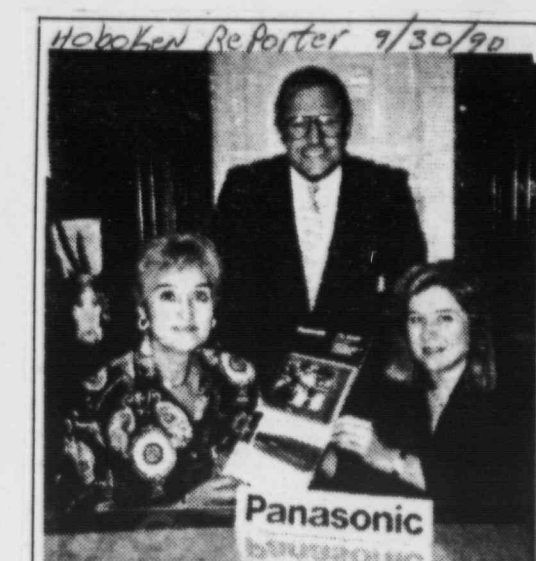
send the tax bills, but I'd rather stand here and protect the thousands of citizens that may be affected by something (gasifier technology) which is essentially untried."

Also present at the meeting were several residents of Troy Towers in Union City, which overlooks the site of the proposed plant. They expressed numerous fears and concerns about the gasifier.

After listening to Menendez and concerned citizens, Authority Commissioner James Caulfield of Hoboken and Commissioner Vincent Giusto of Weehawken explained that they had originally voted against an appeal because of the fear of possible federal fines and the loss of grants which the authority will likely incur but that upon reflection they had decided to change their votes.

"I'm glad that people finally spoke. At the

continued on page 7



**100TH YEAR CELEBRATION** — The Panasonic Company, Secaucus, commemorates the 100th year celebration in October of the Hoboken Public Library, by donating a gift of a new Panasonic state-of-the-art video equipment, consisting of a color television/video monitor and video cassette recorder. Shown here accepting the much needed equipment are, from left to right, Terry Sasso, Supervisor, Hoboken Library; Patrick Pasculli, Mayor of Hoboken and Martha Whiteley, Hoboken resident and sponsor of the Panasonic donation. This grant is part of the Panasonic company's continuing effort to reach out to its neighbors through grassroots community support programs.

## Layoffs begin

Angry city workers explore options

By Alex Ladd

About 100 municipal employees — or close to 15 percent of Hoboken's municipal workforce of 650 employees — were laid off Wednesday, leaving city residents with the prospect of drastically reduced city services.

The layoffs left many city workers angry and confused. Some have worked for the city for over 10 years.

The layoffs are an attempt by the city to balance its budget in the face of a proposed \$10 increase in the city's tax rate. The city had been operating for seven months on a budget which anticipated \$8 million dollars of Port Authority money which failed to materialize when the city's deal with the Port Authority was narrowly defeated by voters in a July 10th referendum. The defeat of the Port Authority deal, however, accounts for approximately half of the proposed \$10 increase, with the other half coming primarily from the increase in the city's school budget, coupled with increases in the county budget.

### A trying experience

"It has been confusing to many of the employees," said Maria Corcoran at the city's personnel department on Wednesday. "A lot feel that their layoffs will be rescinded, that's how things worked in the past but this time it doesn't look that way."

On Monday, City Council chambers were filled with about 50 municipal employees as Mary Ann Edling and Ramona Freeze of the Hoboken Unemployment Office explained to municipal workers how to fill out unemployment applications. Many were clinging to the hope of a last minute rescissions, which never happened.

According to Edling, as of Wednesday her office had received only 34 applications for unemployment, a figure significantly less than the number of workers that showed up at Monday's meeting.

Angel Reyes, a part-time laborer for the Department of Public Works, explained why he was not filling out his unemployment form just yet.

"It doesn't pay to fill out the form now. They've been giving us the run-around." Reyes said he had been hearing many rumors of possible rescissions. "You don't know who to believe anymore," he lamented.

When asked about his immediate plans, Reyes responded, "I have a family to support, I'll be looking around for another job, that's for sure. I won't be waiting around for

unemployment.

He was not sure why he was losing his job. "Maybe it was because of the election, that might be the reason."

Others had stronger opinions about why they were losing their jobs.

Anne Cerbo, who has been working for the city approximately one year full-time and one year part-time responsible, is responsible for scheduling sport events at the city's parks. "Whatever the mayor plans, I'm against it if I'm not working by Sept. 13th. It's his fault, he should not have spent the (Port authority) money before it came in, she said.

An 11-year employee of the Parks and Public Property Department who wished to remain anonymous had a different opinion. "I attribute it to the outcome of the referendum. If the (Port Authority) deal was approved, the outcome would have been different," she said.

When asked of her plans she said, "I'll collect unemployment and hope to get back."

Jim Pasquale has been working as an inspector for the Hoboken Fire Department for five years. "Our whole department has been let go. I don't understand it. We bring in a lot of money for the city. They're claiming that the city is broke, but they didn't have plan B after plan A," he said.

### Brooms are first to go

By far the hardest hit department is the Public Works Department, with 37 layoffs. According to Public Works

### LAYOFFS from cover

unnecessary. It remains to be seen what the impact of their elimination will be on the city.

### Do they stay or do they go?

Compounding the emotionally taxing effect of the layoffs was the confusion generated by the so-called "bumping rights" and the residency requirements.

According to Sandy Cooney, a spokesperson for the New Jersey Department of Personnel, a civil servant that is fired has the option of "bumping" into a title that is of a lower rank, regardless of seniority, or of bumping to an equal title of a worker who has less seniority.

Michael Pellicchia has been certified as a permanent employee for the city since 1981 when he worked for the Department of Public Works as a laborer. However, he was shocked to find out three weeks ago that he was being bumped by a worker who had accrued less time with the city and who reportedly lived out of town. Pellicchia is one of about 15 workers whose layoffs have been extended for about one week until their cases can be better determined, according to Chius.

According to the New Jersey Department of Personnel in Trenton, Pellicchia's seniority in the Department of Public Works only dates back to 1989. According to Cooney, Pellicchia forfeited his seniority in the Public Works Department when the sewage plant was privatized in 1989 and some of the workers from the plant elected to stay with the Department of Public Works.

That is a bitter pill for Pellicchia to swallow. He says that he was never informed when he was transferred back to DPW that he would lose his seniority. Pellicchia is one of several municipal employees who say they plan to appeal their layoffs. Chius says that he will encourage the Department of Personnel in Trenton to reconsider the cases of the former Sewage Authority workers. According to James Fisher, Municipal Employees Association (MEA) president, at least 25 employees will appeal their layoffs.

As for the residency requirement, Thomas Callig, Assistant City Attorney, says the city's law department sent a letter to all non-residents setting a six month time limit which out-of-town workers have to move back to Hoboken under penalty of losing their jobs. The six month warning is required by state statute.

The Municipal Employees Association has called

for enforcement of the requirement. "In the best of times I would like to see the residency requirement repealed, but these are not the best of times," said Fisher.

According to the city payroll office, there are 33 municipal employees listed as being out-of-town, although a payroll employee said the figure of out-of-town workers may be as high as 45 when employees that report fictitious addresses are added in.

Many of the laid off employees expressed anger that no police and fire fighters had been laid off. Police and firefighter representatives convinced the City Council that there numbers were dangerously low and that layoffs in their ranks would affect public safety. According to Chius, the city would put in jeopardy a \$3.5 million municipal revitalization grant from the state which proscribes the layoff of police and firefighters. It is not clear how binding the clause in the grant proscribing layoffs is.

However, compounding the feeling by municipal employees that they were making the brunt of the sacrifices was the revelation at Tuesday's budget workshop that demotions that had been planned for firefighters and police had been delayed with a package of givebacks offered by their unions. The givebacks were a combination of deferment of clothing allowances and early retirements said to be equal to the savings that would have been created by the demotions.

Fisher says that his union was not afforded the same opportunity to negotiate with the city to avert layoffs, a claim that is sharply disputed by Pasculli, who says he was never offered a package of concessions by the union. The council in a Wednesday budget meeting, said that it would look at any concessions that the union brings forth. Fisher said that he would discuss the possibility of givebacks with members of his union. However, he points out that his union was the only city employees union which has been operating on a 1989 contract.

According to Phil Feintuck, an attorney for the MEA, the union plans to sue the city, claiming that it did not exhaust all means possible to avoid the layoffs as mandated by state law.

Cooney says that he feels the city has acted according to the law in implementing the layoffs. "Frankly I'm surprised by the suit," he said. "I think that Hoboken has done everything in its powers concerning the layoffs, in what are obviously trying times." Chius estimates that the layoffs will account for approximately 35-45 cents out of the proposed 10 dollar increase, and that the city would save approximately \$450,000 in salary costs this year.

Director Roy Haack, the layoffs will reduce this department down to 45 men. "We'll continue to provide a service to Hoboken and that service will be greatly curtailed. We made great inroads as far cleaning the streets and recycling. Those services will now be greatly curtailed."

Haack says that the majority of those dismissed are either street sweepers or sewage cleaning workers. Commenting on his department hearing the brunt of the layoffs, Haack said, "The priority in a city are (in order) taxes, guns and brooms. When the taxes go up, I always find that the brooms are first to go."

Jude Fitzgibbons, director of the Housing Inspector's office, lost two of his four housing inspectors. "We lost half of our manpower, that means that inspections won't be done properly. Before, we answered complaints within 24 hours. Now we have more work to do. If one man is on vacation and the other is sick, then it's just me," he said.

Fitzgibbons estimates that his office receives an average of 10 complaints a day.

In addition to the cuts in Public Works, three departments created by the mayor last fall will be eliminated. They are the Department of Human Resource, the Parks and Public Properties Department and the Department of Public Safety. The departments have been criticized by some as being

## Public safety vs. economic conditions

Policemen/firemen demotions and municipal layoffs fuel controversy

By John M. Cropley

As Hoboken's budget dilemma forces the layoff this Wednesday of 110 city workers and the demotion of fire and police superiors, top police and fire officials are scrambling to avoid layoffs in their departments whose ranks have thus far been untouched.

The bottom fell out of Hoboken's financial situation in July, says Business Director Ed Chius, when the referendum vote threw out Hoboken's waterfront development agreement with Port Authority (PA). The city had already been operating for six months with a budget that anticipated \$8 million in revenues from the PA, and when that money was not forthcoming, the fiscal picture turned ugly. With a \$5 million school budget increase, a \$1.5 million tax revenue decrease and an anticipated \$600,000 county tax increase, the city now has a deficit of over \$15 million.

The police and fire departments, which Chius says consume more than half of the city's \$35 million budget, are prime targets for cuts to head off a crippling 50 percent tax increase.

Already, 15 police and 12 fire superiors are scheduled to be demoted Wednesday — a move Chius says will save \$216,000 next year. These demotions rescind last December's promotions, which were criticized at the time as unaffordable and unnecessary in already top-heavy departments. Further thinning of the ranks may be in the works.

### It's a dangerous world...

"With more buildings being proposed, the num-

ber of men should go up, not down." Fire Chief Richard Tremittedi claims. "Firefighter layoffs are totally out of question."

When the civilian layoffs take effect, firemen will have to perform more clerical tasks and safety inspections, he says, so strength will already be reduced. Though the department assigns four men to each of the four pumper trucks and five to the two hook and ladder trucks, the actual strength is never that high. Because of injury, sickness or vacation, the average crew per vehicle is only 2.7, reports Captain Jack Lisa. The National Fire Protection Association recommends five or six firefighters per pumper and truck.

According to a report by Jersey City firefighter and union president Joseph Krajnik, who is seeking increased strength for his department, firefighters are more often injured when they work fewer to a truck. For example, a gradual cutback from 122 to 74 firefighters in Altoona, Pa. (pop. 55,000) since the early 1970s has been followed by a 120 percent increase in injuries, according to a captain there, despite more modern equipment. Also, exhaustive tests by the Dallas Fire Department show four-man and three-man engine crews to be 65 and 38 percent as effective as five-man crews.

On Aug. 22, when firefighters Bob Falco and Ralph Corrado were injured at a 1202 Park Ave. blaze, there were 19 men on the department's six vehicles, an above average number. Though it is

continued on page 6

### GASIFIER from page 3

other meeting there was no opposition," said Caulfield.

Speaking after the meeting, Giusto said, "I was not happy with my vote the first time around. I was concerned with the possibility of fines. In the week that I had to prepare for Tuesday's meeting, I spoke to (Weehawken) Mayor (Richard) Turner and he shed a lot of light on the subject."

Commissioner Edward Keating of Weehawken, who had also voted against appealing Judge Weffing's decision during the authority's first vote on the matter, was absent for Tuesday's vote.

Mayor Menendez, Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Weehawken Mayor Richard Turner have all come out publicly against the gasifier. Pasculli, asked to comment on Tuesday's meeting said, "The

community of Hoboken feels that we have not not exhausted every avenue of appeal. I believe that the authority is acting properly in opposing the gasifier. I believe that the majority of the community neither wants nor supports it."

The decision to appeal now gives the authority time to prepare an application to the DEP for an alternative form of sludge treatment. "We are not just sitting back and waiting," said Wolff. "We are pursuing alternatives. If the court rules in our favor and a permit is required, that's an eight-month process. Within 10 days we should have an application for an alternative in with the Department of Environmental Protection." The three options which the authority has been considering are pelletization, composting and fertilization — all options which Wolff says are environmentally safer than gasification.

### CONDITIONS

from cover

hard to guess whether their injuries could have been averted by having more firefighters on the scene, Lisa said, Falco was inside alone, which is always a hazardous situation.

"My job is to protect the city," Tremittedi said. "The city's — or rather, the Council's job, is to fund me properly. To cut funding any more would be the death of the fire defense system in Hoboken," he concluded, noting that there are more calls and time-consuming hazardous materials calls than ever before.

### It really is a dangerous world...

Sergeant Thomas Meehan, president of the Hoboken Police Superior Officer's Association, paints an equally dismal picture of a Hoboken with a reduced police force.

With a 10 percent cut in manpower, which Meehan says he has heard being proposed, 12 to 15 patrolmen would be laid off. There are currently 79 patrolmen. The department's table of organization provides for 92. Though the eight sergeants being demoted would help offset losses through layoffs, layoffs and demotions would still "hurt morale and make it dangerous" for the police officer on the street.

A study commissioned by the City Council prior to last December's promotions stated that although the department was already top-heavy, the promotions should go through anyway to boost morale.

Sgt. James Fitzsimmons, who is glumly preparing for demotion, agrees: "How who you like to work for a company knowing that there are no chances for advancement?"

This will be the second such demotion for some of the policemen, whose 1985 promotion was soon revoked when the table of organization was revised.

Some critics charge that Meehan is mainly looking out for the interests of his colleagues and trying to scare the city into accepting another partnership with the Port Authority so it can recover some money for the budget. (Meehan is a vocal member of the Committee to Save Hoboken, which seeks to overturn the referendum results.)

Meehan says this is not the case. While Hoboken is very lucky not to have much violent crime now, he warns, there is a smothering drug war in the 4th Ward housing projects, and offenses such as break-ins are held in check only by police presence. "They (burglars) go where the pickings are easiest," he says, and because of the plainclothes manpower on the streets, they aren't coming here.

Before a departmental reorganization increased the force on the street, last fall, dozens of homes were burglarized weekly. Only a few break-ins are reported now. Capt. Carmen LaBruno, acting police chief, reports that already, two uniformed officers per shift have been reassigned to be dispatchers, formerly a civilian job.

### But it's an expensive world, too

For their part, the city fathers insist each agency must bear fiscal crisis, though no decision has been made on specific cuts.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave says that although "as much as we can cut (from the police and fire budgets) we'll have to, I don't know where the figures [Meehan's rumored 10 percent] come from."

No aspect of city spending can be spared scrutiny, he insists. "We're vigorously going after every dollar that can be saved for the taxpayer. We're in an \$18 million hole now."

Council President E. Norman Wilson, Della Fave's colleague and frequent opponent, seconds Della Fave's words. "We're examining now [to determine] a rational, safe complement of people for a city of Hoboken's size. We don't want to be reckless with the public's safety, [but] manpower cuts are still under consideration by the Council."

Critics of city spending, scoffing at the notion that the city needs all its cops and firemen, nonetheless refuse to say exactly what the staffing level should be. However, they note that Hoboken's neighbors often make do with less. (See table for comparative statistics between Hoboken, Union City and West New York, three Hudson County municipalities similar in size and architecture.)

The Hoboken public safety debate mirrors to some degree the debate over the U.S. defense budget. There may very well be more troops, police and firefighters than needed, but when cut below a certain level of strength, they don't serve to deter aggression, intimidate criminals or undertake fire prevention, and at some point, cease to be effective altogether.

Finding that first level is difficult, and getting all sides to agree on it is often impossible.



## Furious cabbies may strike



Taxi drivers Salvador Rivera, left, of Hoboken, and Ray Morales of Union City discuss the tenfold increase in their annual license fee proposed by Hoboken City Council. DON SMITH THE HUDSON DISPATCH

## More city taxis eyed Hoboken wants to raise fares, license fees

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Irate over proposed changes in the city's taxi regulations, cab owners here vowed yesterday to battle the City Council over the new rules.

Some of the owners floated the possibility of a one-day strike to show city officials they were serious about their opposition to the sweeping changes, which would raise fares for the first time in 10 years but also increase the annual license fee.

"We can't go for this," said taxi owner-operator Paul Lisboa. "These changes would hurt us real

bad. If they go ahead, then maybe we'll strike." Other owners said a work stoppage could hurt their image with the public, but agreed the proposed rule changes warrant some protest. "I don't know what they're doing to us," said Hoboken Quick Service owner Richard Revoir. "If they go through with this stuff, a lot of guys are going to be having a hard time."

The proposed changes would boost the taxi fare from \$1.75 to \$2.50 and raise the annual license fee from \$50 to \$500. In addition, owners would be required to increase the amount of liability insurance they hold, from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Please see TAXIS Page 18

For waterfront land

## Hoboken extends P.A. lease

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Over the heated protests of a handful of residents, the City Council voted unanimously last night to give the Port Authority a six-month extension on the lease it holds on 32 acres on the city's southern waterfront.

Before approving the renewal, the council amended the lease to include a 30-day termination

clause for either party. The council also pledged to investigate the possible financial benefits of taking control of the piers and the parking lot operating there. "I don't think we'd be sending the right signal to the Port Authority by terminating the lease at this point," said Councilman David Roberts, summing up the feelings of most members of the council. "I think that could

leave us with an unknown and dangerous situation." Last night's 9-0 vote renewed the authority's lease on the property, originally signed in 1952, for the third time since a 1988 court order essentially dissolved that agreement. The lease calls for the authority to pay the city \$70,000 annually for the piers and also pick up maintenance and insurance costs. City Business Adminis-

trator Edwin Chius said it could cost the city between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to pick up those expenses itself.

The city has continued to extend the lease while attempting to finalize development plans for the prime waterfront parcel.

On July 10, voters here rejected a proposed \$30 million lease agreement, under which the city

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### LEASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and authority would have combined to build 3.2 million square feet of office, residential and retail space. When the agreement was voted down, the city lost \$8 million in anticipated lease payments this year.

Several speakers last night cited the deal's 12-vote defeat as a sign that the community wants the authority out of the city.

"All the evidence suggests the people of Hoboken do not want the Port Authority here any longer," said Sada Fretz, a member of the group that spearheaded the campaign against the project.

Don Tumpson, another authority opponent, called the proposed lease extension "a slap in the face to the community."

Roberts, for one, took issue with their comments, saying he was not convinced that public opposition to the authority's involvement in the project was the deciding factor in the election.

Much of the debate leading up to the vote centered on the parking lot that stands on the southernmost pier. Several council members said it would be un-

wise to pass up an opportunity to take in new revenue, in light of the city's fiscal problems. The authority estimates it took in \$110,000 from the parking lot in the first half of the year.

"Why turn down that kind of money?" asked Councilman Thomas Newman. "We could run that parking lot. It's not such a big deal."

### TAXIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Taxi owners said the increased costs of doing business would offset whatever profits could be gained by the fare increase. They also pointed to the rising cost of gasoline and repairs as additional reasons they need a larger fare increase.

At the same time, the city plans to increase the number of available taxi medallions from 43 to 60, a move that baffles the owners.

"It's tough enough to make a living now," Lisboa said. "More cabs is going to mean less money

for the rest of us."

The revised taxi ordinance had been scheduled for introduction at tonight's council meeting. But protests from the Hoboken Taxi Owners Association led the council to postpone introduction until the Oct. 3 meeting.

"We're looking at their complaints," said Councilman Steve Cappiello, a member of the council's Transportation Committee. "I think maybe they've got some legitimate gripes."

## Pasculli seeks longer P.A. lease

Continued from Page 1

pected to be voted on by the City Council tomorrow night. The existing lease expires Sept. 30. The proposal is to extend the lease until March, 1991.

Pasculli acknowledged yesterday that the lease extension would keep the doors open for negotiating with the Port Authority. The City Council authorized Pasculli to sign a 50-year contract with the Port Authority in December.

However, residents rejected that contract two months ago because voters opposed the financial arrangement and the size of the project.

"I don't want to close any doors, especially given the state of the present economy," Pasculli said.

But Ron Hine, a CBW member actively involved in seeking an alternative waterfront development plan, said there is no need for extending the lease.

The mayor and Business Administrator Edwin Chius

cite economic reasons, such as the Port Authority's footing the bill for insurance, security and maintenance during winter months. But Hine and CBW member Steve Busch contend that the city could recover these expenses by renting parking spaces on the pier property.

"There is no reason to extend the lease," Hine said.

"The only reason why they want to do it is that they want to make another deal with the Port Authority. Pasculli is desperate to get some deal from the waterfront — that is his vision — to get some money for the current fiscal crisis," Hine said.

Hine said someone in the group likened the position of the Port Authority in Hoboken to a "big cat waiting at a mouse hole. It is a huge bureaucracy and it's not going to leave."

After residents by a 12-vote margin rejected the plan assembled by Pasculli and his administration, the mayor met twice with CBW members to

discuss an alternative plan.

CBW member Sada Fretz said that Pasculli never seemed willing to negotiate but cooperated by handing over reports prepared by consultants the city had hired.

Lately, the mayor seems more cemented to his plan which voters had rejected, observed Hine.

"If you read Pasculli's latest comments, he has gone back to square one and still is defending this plan," Hine said.

Two other factors are involved in the waterfront scheme. The City Council has formed a committee to look at the Hoboken/P.A. plan — specifically its size and the 50-year contract.

Second Ward Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who unsuccessfully ran against Pasculli last spring and was the only council member to oppose the plan, has been asked by the administration to serve on the committee. Della Fave had been iced out of previous negotiations.

Also serving are Councilmen Thomas Newman, a critic of the Port Authority; David Roberts and Council President E. Norman Wilson, both of whom endorsed the mayor's plan.

While Della Fave voted against extending the lease last spring because of the upcoming referendum and because the P.A. was involved in heavy demolition work, he said yesterday he is unsure how he will vote when the item comes up tomorrow.

Since demolition has stopped, Della Fave said that he will weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the lease extension.

Meanwhile, police and fire unions as well as residents have formed the "Committee to Save Hoboken."

## Hoboken's mayor still wants lease

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli is recommending that the city extend its lease of three piers to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which had planned co-developing a 3.2-million-square-foot waterfront project with the city.

But members of a Coalition for a Better Waterfront say that the lease extension violates public trust since residents voted July 10 against developing the waterfront with the bi-state agency.

The lease extension is expected to be voted on by the City Council tomorrow night.

See PASCULLI — Page 6

## Hoboken extends lease

### Port Authority deal approved

By Eugene King  
Journal correspondent

The Hoboken City Council last night offered the Port Authority an extension on its waterfront property lease, but reserved the right to end the lease on 30 days' notice.

The lease for is property near the Hoboken PATH station and would have expired in 11 days. The council voted unanimously last night to extend the lease until March 1991, but wanted to make sure the city could take over the property and use it as a parking lot. The P.A. has had the lease since 1952 on a currently sub-leased the land to a private parking firm.

The council wants a study commissioned to determine if the city can run a parking lot in that space and earn money for city coffers. City officials project an annual income of \$150,000 from the lot.

The administration of Mayor Patrick Pasculli had planned to jointly build a 3.2 million square foot mixed use commercial development there with the P.A. but the plan was defeated in a July 10 referendum. Since then the city has faced budget problems that forced layoffs of 100 city employees.

Councilman David Roberts engaged in a heated debate during the meeting with an anti-lease advocate who called the attempt to pass the measure "a slap in the face to the community and the work of an entrenched political

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## Hoboken extends P.A. lease

Continued from Page 1

machine." Council members Lourdes Arroyo and Richard DeBocicco were berated by several members of the public who vowed to vote them out of office. One speaker suggested the entire city council be removed. The criticism particularly pointed last night on the eve of what is being called a recall meeting tonight at Harrigan's to unseat Pasculli.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, with the support of Councilman Thomas Newman introduced the amendment to the lease extension resolution which gives Hoboken the power to declare the lease void after a 30-day notice.

The amendment was approved after some cautious debate among the council members. One city advisor estimated that a city-run parking lot could raise \$18,000 a month, but at least four months would be needed to map out the specifics of managing the business, he said.

If approved, the facility would be under the direction of the city Parking Authority. The advisor said any city takeover of the property in short matter of time would probably give the city a short-term loss and the "lack of in-house management skills" would hurt the operation.

Insurance rates were also cited as a problem. The parking authority is already paying high insurance for its three parking operations.

## Sludge project gets OK Cities 'couldn't stop' sewage gasifier plans

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority has given its final authorization for a sludge gasifier to be built as part of the city's sewage treatment plant.

The authorization means that work on the controversial project could begin as early as next week. But tri-city authority officials said the fact that they have given the gasifier contractor a formal notice to proceed will not stop their ongoing legal fight against building the facility.

"We couldn't stop it," said authority Chairman Richard Wolff. "If we didn't follow the judge's orders, we could have been found in contempt of court."

On Monday, authority attorney Frank Leanza asked Hudson County Superior Court Judge Dorothea O.C. Wefing to stay her previous order that the agency execute its \$34 million contract with Terminal Construction Corp. to build the gasifier.

Wefing refused and ordered the authority to deliver the notice to proceed, which the authority had withheld. Though the signed contract was delivered last week and a pre-construction meeting was

Please see GASIFIER Page 6

## Hoboken may get \$7.2M state aid to make up for waterfront loss

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
and John A. Oswald  
Journal staff writers

Trenton may bail out Hoboken with an extra \$7.2 million in aid to make up for money expected from a huge waterfront project with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, well-placed sources said yesterday.

While Mayor Patrick Pasculli and Assemblyman Bernard Kenny of Hoboken would not specifically confirm whether Gov. Jim Florio has approved the extra aid for the Mile Square City,

Pasculli did say he has scheduled a press conference on Monday to discuss the aid.

"We have not gotten all the details yet," Pasculli said. "We have been working around the clock on this for the better part of two months now and we are very close to receiving the final word from the state as to the level of aid."

Reached last night, Emma Byrne, a spokeswoman for Florio, said she was unaware of an aid package for Hoboken. But she did say talks between city officials and Florio aides took place this past week.

Since July when residents by a 12-vote margin rejected a 50-year contract with the bi-state agency to build a 3.2 million square foot waterfront project, Pasculli and Kenny have traveled to Trenton on a weekly basis asking for money.

"We are near the end of this whole effort," Pasculli said. "Bernie (Kenny) has put in more time than anybody. We have been burning a lot of gas coming back and forth from Trenton. Right now we are waiting until Monday morning to be notified by the state for the level of aid we will be receiving."

Yet well-placed state sources said yesterday that the city has been informally told it will be receiving the \$7.2 million.

Sources in Jersey City also confirmed news of the deal. An official close to Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann said McCann lobbied for additional aid for Hoboken at a Democratic leadership meeting held Wednesday in the Meadowlands.

"He stood up at the meeting and said if the state does not come up with \$8 million for Hoboken it would go down the drain," said the source. McCann, with Pasculli's backing, was

recently selected the spokesman and leader of the statewide Conference of Urban Mayors.

Attending the Wednesday meeting was Florio's Chief of Staff Joe Selima.

Kenny and Pasculli went to Trenton on Thursday and the deal was made official late yesterday afternoon, the source said.

"We expect to be working through the weekend with the state to firm up things by Tuesday, maybe Monday," Kenny said last night.

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## Hoboken faces a tough future

More than 100 Hoboken employees — some of whom toiled for the city for a decade or more — spent their first day yesterday as ex-Hoboken employees.

They were the casualties of longstanding fiscal and political mismanagement that finally caught up to the city.

City officials will tell you that the massive layoffs were caused by a special election two months ago, when voters rejected the city's multi-million-dollar development deal with the Port Authority.

But that's twisting the facts. The massive layoffs were caused by years of patronage and waste and inefficiency that swelled the city payroll to Orson Wellesian proportions.

Sure, losing the Port Authority deal was no doubt a blow to city coffers.

But city officials exacerbated the blow by counting on the Port Authority's money before the deal was finalized.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli and the City Council bulldozed the deal through the legislative process, without public comment, without public approval. Then they used \$7 million from the Port Authority to cover last year's budget, and \$8 million to expand this year's.

When it turned out that that money didn't exist, the city found itself up the Hudson River without a paddle.

Now a financial crisis looms. Pasculli and his allies can blame the election for their woes, but the truth is the fault lies with them. They acted hastily.

What city officials should be doing is what they should have done years ago: trim the fat from city government. There's still plenty left, even after the layoffs.

A city cannot cut 100 people from its payroll and survive unless the payroll was excessive to begin with.

And 100 layoffs doesn't even begin to address the problem.

The firings saves the city \$300,000 this year. That's not even a dollar on the tax rate.

Extrapolated over the entire year, the city saves \$1 million, maybe \$1.5 million. That still leaves the budget with a \$6 million gap.

Where is that money coming from? Will it come from increased layoffs? Or will the pounds of flesh be extracted entirely from taxpayers?

Hoboken officials have some tough decisions ahead of them. There will have to be a tax increase. There will have to be more layoffs. And there will have to be some sort of waterfront development.

When city officials tackled these issues before, they stumbled badly. We hope they find the right path this time.

## Hoboken may gain \$7.2M aid

Continued from Page 1

Pasculli based his 1990 budget on receiving \$8 million from a partnership with the Port Authority. The loss of that money means that the existing tax rate of \$17.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation would increase to \$27.52.

In dollars, that rate would add an average of \$1,000 to \$4,000 on homeowners' bills.

While Pasculli blames the hefty tax increase on the defeat of the waterfront project, he said that the rate would have increased by about \$5 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation because of increases in municipal, school and county spending and decreases in state aid.

The mayor laid off 110 city employees because of the financial crisis. It is uncertain whether those jobs will be recalled because of the state aid.



# Hoboken likely to extend P.A. lease

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — With plans to develop the southern waterfront at a standstill, the city is expected to offer the Port Authority a six-month extension on the lease its holds on the property.

Although critics want the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey chased out of the city, officials said it makes financial sense to renew the lease, under which the authority pays the cost of maintaining and insuring the property.

The City Council is expected to approve the renewal at tomorrow night's meeting.

"We believe, at this point in time, the advantages of the Port Authority holding the lease outweigh the disadvantages," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said. "In our present financial situation, we simply can't afford to take back the piers."

The city first leased the prime parcel to the bistate agency in 1952.

The current lease grew out of a 1988 Hudson County Superior Court order calling for the authority to return the 32-acre property to the city.

Since then, the City Council has repeatedly extended the 1952 lease until officials could complete a waterfront development plan.

If the city did not renew the lease, it could cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to maintain and insure the property, city Business Administrator Edwin J. Chius said.

"The only reason not to renew the lease would be to show a certain segment of the public that we are not locked into working with the Port Authority," Chius said. "On the other hand, renewing the lease keeps the door open in terms of executing a waterfront development plan with the P.A."

On July 10, voters rejected — by 12 votes — the city's plan to lease the property to the authority for \$30 million. The deal

called for the authority to find developers to build 3.2 million square feet of residential, commercial and office space.

Opponents of the deal are opposed to renewing the Port Authority's lease, seeing it as a move that will only tighten the agency's grip on the property.

"There's no reason to extend it," said Ron Hine of the Coalition for a Better Waterfront. "The only reason the administration is doing it is because they're still ready to make a deal with the P.A."

Port Authority spokesman Allen Morrison said agency executives were considering yesterday a city request to extend the lease.



PATRICK PASCULLI  
City finances dictate renewal

## Pasculli calls off demotions

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli said yesterday he will not demote police and firefighters because some veteran public safety officials will take early retirements and their salaries will pay for the promotions.

"Good business practice dictates when concessions outweigh what the cost savings would have been — then the concessions should be considered," Pasculli said.

"We owe it to the taxpayers and the public safety officials to do that," he added.

Two police captains have filled out retirement papers to leave their jobs effective Oct. 1 as well as two fire captains and two deputy fire chiefs, said Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

Another police sergeant and captain may leave next year, he said.

Those retirements represent about a \$500,000 savings on the payroll, Chius said.

Pasculli, with City Council approval, promoted 15 police officers and six fire officials

See HOBOKEN — Page 4

## Rights and wrongs of Hoboken's schools

By Kaki Kozelek  
Journal correspondent

More than 100 Hoboken parents met at the High School last night to air their grievances to a representative of the state Department of Education.

Paul Cohen, a state employee who leads an external team composed of state Department of Education staff and other volunteers, hosted the two-hour meeting in the high school auditorium as a preliminary step to assess Hoboken's educational needs.

The district stands to gain up to \$3.7 million in state aid next year through the Quality Education Act of 1990. The Act recognizes 30 urban "special needs" districts, one of which is Hoboken, for special funding and assistance. It is designed to achieve equity and quality for all schools in New Jersey, say administration spokesmen.

Throughout the meeting, parents were encouraged to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the Hoboken school system.

Gail Tuzman, a mother of two, complained that there is "very little diversity in teaching styles from school to school" in Hoboken. "You will find the same thing from room to room and from school to school," she said, and "there is very little room for children to guide their own learning."

Another parent thought that the students, and not just parents, should be quizzed on Hoboken's educational needs. She complained that Hoboken school children aren't "motivated" and are "bored" by the curriculum.

Cohen said the external team will be meeting with Hoboken students next week to hear their comments.

Not all parents, however, are dissatisfied with what they are seeing in the schools.

Gloria Sierra announced that "Hoboken residents don't realize how lucky they are." She said her fourth grader daughter required afterschool tutoring at her grade school in Weehawken, but still made failing grades. Her daughter is now enrolled at Kealey School, "where she's been getting the help she needs" in the classroom, not after school.

Some Hoboken teachers who were in the audience were offended by what they called "teacher bashing."

Jennifer Lopez, a Kealey school teacher, noted an "anger towards teachers" from members of the audience, and feels many parents and members of the community are "just not in touch with what is happening in the schools."

"Most people aren't aware of programs that are available" to their children.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he was glad Hoboken is finally

receiving the funds it needs and sees the QEA as a "new commitment and new opportunity for the school district."

"Children educated in an urban setting have a handicap," the mayor said, and "this brings equity" to the system.

Ken Johnston, president of the Hoboken teachers union, added, "You only get what you pay for."

## Hoboken won't demote cops, firefighters

Continued from Page 1

this year. Those promotions added more than \$200,000 to the payroll. Promoted were eight patrolmen to sergeants, five sergeants to lieutenants and two lieutenants to captains in the Police Department as well as four firefighters to captains and two fire captains to deputy chiefs.

When Pasculli announced budget cuts, he said each department would be affected. About 100 city workers became jobless Wednesday because of layoffs.

The mayor said that, to maintain public safety, he would not lay off police or firefighters, but said those departments would feel the budget crunch through demotions.

Now, Pasculli said, the early retirements have to be evaluated. The demotions have been suspended until Oct. 1 to insure that the retirements take place.

Police Sgt. Thomas Meehan, head of the superior officers union, and the firefighters union presented incentive packages to persuade the administration to cancel the demotions.

In both cases, the incentive packages were the deferral of the departments' clothing allowances and the retirements of veteran police officers and fire officials, said Councilman Steve Cappiello, a former police officer.

"They really gave nothing," Cappiello said.

But Chius insists the veter-

an officers, specifically in the Fire Department, were not planning on retiring this year.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave said the retirements would eventually save the city money. He said he voted against the demotions because the city cannot afford them and they are not necessary.

Meehan is also spearheading the campaign, known as the Committee to Save Hoboken, to challenge the July 10 special referendum in which residents, by 12 votes, defeated a waterfront development project with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Pasculli blames the defeat of that deal for the city's financial woes. He based his 1990 budget on \$8 million he expect-

ed to receive from a partnership with the bistate agency.

However, the city, which now expects a \$10 tax hike on the existing rate of \$17.52 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, was headed for a \$5 tax hike even with the waterfront project because of increased spending in city government and at the Board of Education as well as reductions in state aid.

City workers are angry that their departments absorbed the budget deficit while Police and Fire departments were untouched.

"It's not fair," Cappiello said. "I feel very sorry for poor souls making \$13,000 to \$14,000 picking up garbage." Hardest hit were Department of Public Works employees.

From condemned building

## Tenants have trouble relocating

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Three weeks after their building was condemned by the city as unfit for human habitation, residents of 600 Monroe St. are still living in the rundown tenement while officials struggle to find them new homes.

Officials have found apartments for almost half the building's 11 families, who should be moved out by the end of the month.

But the relocation efforts have been stymied by the small number and size of available apartments in the city, by strict guidelines regulating how federal rent subsidies are spent and by the reluctance of residents to move to what they believe are unsafe buildings.

"So far, it's working out pretty good," said

city Relocation Officer Martin Corrado. "But we need some landlords to come forward with apartments. It's not that easy to find places for 11 families."

Police arrested the building's landlord, Daniel Makhoul, twice in August, when officials condemned the property. Makhoul, of Saddle Brook, has skipped numerous court dates to answer charges he was discharging raw sewage from the building and warehousing apartments there.

Officials also cited numerous health, fire, plumbing and building violations in declaring the building unfit on Aug. 30.

Since then, tenants have been wondering what their futures hold.

Corrado said four families will be moved into new apartments on Madison and Monroe streets by Oct. 1. He hopes to have the rest of the building's occupants relocated by the end

of October, but is unsure he can find appropriate homes for some of the tenants.

"Some of these people have two and three children," Corrado said. "The federal guidelines say you've got to get them enough rooms for all the kids. Otherwise, they won't pay the rent subsidies."

Ileana Torres said she was shown a four-room apartment on Adams Street near Third Street.

"How am I going to move into that place when everybody there is talking about moving out because of the crime?" Torres asked.

Corrado said he understands Torres' concerns, but he is trying to find empty apartments anywhere he can.

"Some of these places might not be in the best neighborhoods," he said. "But we've got to get them out of that building they're in. They're living in squalor."

## Maxwell House morale low as grounds in pot

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Ask the manager of the Maxwell House coffee plant in Hoboken, a union official or one of the workers what's the mood inside the 50-year-old plant slated to close in 18 months, the answer is the same.

Everyone feels bad, from the executives to production workers, plant manager Bert Quarfordt said in a recent interview.

Quarfordt's days are spent meeting production demands and preparing a layoff schedule for the 480 blue collar workers and 100 white collar workers. The plant will close in the spring of 1992.

Stephen Hornik, vice president of Local 56 of the United Food Commercial Workers, is at the plant just about every day.

"Morale is low. People feel bad and it's hard to put on a happy face," Hornik said.

A worker said the plant's mood "has a daily cycle. It's

worse now because no one will know anything until Sept. 27. Rumors take over and depending on the rumors, the mood swings up and down."

General Foods decided to close the plant because of a decline in coffee consumption. Corporate officials announced in February it would close either the Hoboken plant or the one in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Jacksonville plant was picked to stay open and now that plant, where workers agreed to union concessions, will produce 80 percent of the company's coffee.

Hoboken workers with five years or more experience are covered by the contract which expires in March, 1992. Right now, the workers are waiting to hear the layoff schedule that will be announced in 10 days.

The wait is agonizing, workers say.

Morale has gotten worse recently.

Very recently, workers became bothered more than usual by security guards who were

assigned by the White Plains, N.Y., corporate office to the plant soon after the June 27 closing announcement.

Last week the guards — who look like White House Secret Servicemen dressed in crisp white shirts and dark dress pants — began checking women's purses and men's lunch pails and even peeking

inside folded newspapers, workers said.

"We don't feel the outside guards are necessary. People feel ill at ease. A lot of them feel bad. It's an embarrassment to the workers," said Charles Kane in a recent interview.

Kane has found another job and his last day at the plant was Friday.

"The company never told us who they are or what they are doing there or what is their objective. The women feel bad — elderly women who have been here 30 to 35 years — having to empty their pocket-books," Kane said.

Another problem was that

See MAXWELL HOUSE — Page 6

## Schools chief gets the OK to retire

HOBOKEN — The Board of Education will begin searching for a new schools superintendent after agreeing to buy out Walter Fine's contract so he can step down from the top post as of Feb. 1.

Last month, the board balked at accepting Fine's retirement terms until the school year was underway and a transition period to the next superintendent could be established.

In agreeing to Fine's retirement package, the board approved a combined 19 percent increase in his \$83,000 salary to cover last year and this year.

The board will also pay the 64-year-old Fine half-pay for the roughly 570 sick days and vacation days he has accumulated during his 39-year career as a teacher and administrator in the district.

— EDWARD K. SHANAHAN.

## Trenton will lend Hoboken \$7.2M to alleviate the crisis

Continued from Page 1

Pasculli and Kenny.

Kenny said they were able to convince the governor that Hoboken was a unique case and needed special treatment because the city had anticipated revenue from a development deal.

Kenny said 60 percent of Hoboken's properties are tax-exempt and another 25 percent are tax-abated. Thus, the measure required to recover the \$8 million in property taxes would have been disastrous to homeowners, he said.

Details about repayment are still being ironed out, said Jay Johnston, spokesman for the Department of Community Affairs, which will oversee the

allocation of the money.

"There will be a contract executed between the state and the city," Johnston said. "I don't know how it is going to be structured," he added.

The money is coming from the state's general treasury, Johnston said.

The mayor said the state requires him to present a fiscal recovery plan. The city's financial stability depends on the waterfront, said Pasculli.

Although voters rejected the plan, Pasculli still supports the concept of developing the waterfront with the Port Authority, he said.

"Until I am convinced what we did was wrong, I stand by the plan," he said.

See TRENTON — Page 4

## Hoboken officials say they can't meet payroll, but mayor says check in mail

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken could be called Hoboken.

Both the school and city administrators say they don't have the cash to meet next week's payroll.

But not to worry, Mayor Patrick Pasculli says that the check is in the mail.

School trustees said yesterday they were told by School Business Administrator Anthony Curko there is not any money to meet the October payroll.

"The Board of Education has not been paid from the city. If they don't come across with the money, we cannot meet our payroll," DePalma said.

Municipal Finance Director Nicholas Goldsack said that

the city has been unable to pay the school board the \$2 million it owes each month since July because the city has been running on borrowed money.

But Edwin Chius, city business administrator, was unsympathetic toward the problems at the school board.

When told the school board had no money, Chius snapped, "What else is new?"

"I scraped by to meet our payroll and I am scraping to see if I can meet the next one," Chius said.

Since the city has not struck a tax rate, it could not send out third-quarter tax bills, which Chius estimated at \$8 million in uncollected taxes.

While Chius said there was a good chance the city would not have the money to give the

school board for next week's payroll, James Farina, board president, was confident the money will be forthcoming.

Pasculli said he was unaware of the problem at the Board of Education.

But the mayor said that the \$7.2 million check from the state should be delivered to the city by Monday.

The state is giving Hoboken a check to bail the city out of a financial crisis. The mayor based his 1990 budget on anticipation of receiving \$8 million from a development deal with the Port Authority.

But in a special referendum in July, voters rejected the plan to sign a 50-year contract with the bistate agency and build a 3.2 million-square-foot waterfront project.

## Maxwell House morale low as grounds in bottom of pot

Continued from Page 1

the security guards showed no identification, Hornik said.

Quarfordt said that the company has responded to complaints and have asked the guards to show more personality and identification when dealing with the production workers.

The extra searches began last week in response to a bomb threat at the plant that proved to be a hoax, Quarfordt said.

Although workers know

about the bomb threat through the rumor network, they said that they were not told anything official by the company.

The company's silence on the layoff issues is also causing tension among the workforce.

"They are not telling us what's happening. They are messing with my life," said a worker with 10 years on the job.

"I'm not getting younger. I'll be going out in my forties against some kid in his twenties," he said.

Of the 480 production work-

ers, 101 of them live in Jersey City, 76 live in Hoboken and 280 in Hudson County, according to the personnel director.

"We are preparing to phase out the plant," Quarfordt said. He said that people will be offered jobs when available within Philip Morris and Kraft General Foods, which owns Maxwell House, "if they are willing to move."

Maxwell House hired the Transition Team from Michigan to assist workers in preparing resumes and improving

skills for job interviews. The team will also assist in counseling and obtaining job training, Quarfordt said.

"We have good people working here. I am confident that they will handle it (the phase out) in a proper manner," Quarfordt said.

But Quarfordt acknowledged that there is a shortage in this area of jobs paying as well as Maxwell House — where veteran workers get more than \$13 hourly to sweep floors.

Before Maxwell House, Kane worked at Colgate, another company where benefits and wages provided a good living. He already has another job.

"When you have a job and you go looking for a job, you're more relaxed," Kane said.

"The longer you are out of work and you go to an interview you wonder, 'Is it you? Is there something wrong with you?' When you go to an interview, all you can think is 'I got to get this job.'"



# School board considering destroying, replacing Connors

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education is considering tearing down the Connors School at the close of this school year and replacing it with a new facility, Board President James Farina said yesterday.

"There is a consensus on the school board, except for Otto Hottendorf, to rip down the Connors School, close it in June 1991, and put a new school there," Farina said.

"We would probably put those kids in Demarest next fall," he added.

The school board is mapping out a five-year plan for its school buildings as part of a mandate from the Department of Education, which is monitoring the Hoboken school district because basic skills test scores fell below state standards four years ago.

While the school district has improved its academic performance, Trustee Claire DePalma and Perry Belfiore said that the buildings themselves are substandard.

How the school board will finance the new construction and improvements is unclear. The board hopes to benefit from \$600 million the state may make available to needy school districts for new construction and renovations.

DePalma said the school board would be in a good position to compete for that money if its application, complete with specifications for a new school, is ready by December.

The board also is considering financing a loan that would not require public approval such as bond issues.

One plan being considered by the board is to tear down both the Connors School, located in the heart of the city's public housing area, and the Demarest School, centrally located, and replace them with smaller, state-of-the-art buildings. The school board would also renovate the existing Wallace grammar school and the Hoboken High School.

The plans to reduce the number of grammar school buildings from seven to three and to renovate the high school

comes with a price tag of about \$16 million.

The Connors School in particular is "intolerable," Belfiore said, because there is only one working laboratory in the basement of the building and no gymnasium.

One woman, whose daughter attended Connors School and whose granddaughter is now enrolled, said that the bathrooms are in poor condition and that she always fears that anyone from the streets could slip into the unguarded laboratories.

But the woman said she and her family lived at the nearby Hoboken Housing Authority

project and enjoyed the convenience of the school, which she considers part of her community.

Councilman Edwin Duroy, the principal of Connors School, said that he will not object to tearing down the school as long as there is a plan to build a new one.

School Trustee Eddie Garcia is worried that the school board may be creating a segregated school district.

He said he wanted to avoid a "new school downtown for minorities" and a "new school uptown for the rest of the city."

"I would not want to build a school in the downtown area

and restrict it to the housing authority and build another school uptown and have an issue of segregating schools," Garcia said.

Rather, Garcia hopes that a new Connors School would attract children on a citywide basis because its curriculum will be as attractive as a new building.

"I am worried that the curriculum is not going to draw the general population — which already sends their children to private schools," Garcia said.

"And I am afraid that the curriculum will not be up to par."

If the system only has three grammar schools, Garcia said, he wants "to make sure that mi-

norities are represented at each school."

Garcia advocates a committee to act as a watchdog on integration, a mechanism that Belfiore said he believed existed.

DePalma said that the issue should be resolved at the central office and that perhaps a quota system of mixing the student population could be implemented in all the schools.

Like Garcia, DePalma is unsure whether she wants to build another new school in addition to Connors. Both said that projected enrollments and costs will be factors in that decision.

## Senate eyes Hoboken parking tax

By Joseph Albright  
Journal correspondent

TRENTON — A Senate committee considers legislation today that would give Hoboken authority to impose a parking tax.

The measure by Sen. Thomas F. Cowan, Jersey City Democrat, is directed toward Manhattan-bound commuters who clog the city's streets and parking lots.

The Senate County and Municipal Government Committee will discuss it this afternoon and its approval is likely. Cowan is committee vice-chairman.

The bill is drafted to re-

fect a complicated population criteria which limits it to Hoboken, explained the non-partisan Office of Legislative Services.

Specifically, it allows a municipality with a population exceeding 40,000 and a population density exceeding 30,000 persons per square mile in a first class county with more than 10,000 persons per square mile to enact an ordinance imposing the parking tax.

Last year Jersey City and Newark were given five-year approval to impose parking taxes through Dec. 31, 1994.

Meanwhile, the Assembly Education Committee discusses the final two bills in the

education reform act approved last spring.

These would authorize the State Educational Facilities Authorities to issue up to \$600 million in bonds every four years for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, alteration, expansion or repair of public school facilities, and to revise the system for evaluating and monitoring public schools.

School districts would submit plans to State Education Commissioner John Ellis, who would make recommendations to the State Education Board, which would award the bond grants Feb. 1 each year. They would cover 90 percent of the

costs.

More stringent monitoring of the 30 special need districts created under the Quality Education Act of 1990 is required under the other bill before the Assembly panel.

These districts, given an additional 5 percent in state aid, include Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City and Jersey City in Hudson County.

The Senate Labor, Industry and Professions Committee is expected to release today a bill by Sen. Christopher J. Jackman, D-West New York, requiring certification of dialysis technicians by the State Board of Nursing.

## Firefighters snuff Hoboken blaze

HOBOKEN — Hoboken firefighters yesterday extinguished a late afternoon blaze on Pier B, 2nd and River streets.

They received the first of three alarms at 4:48 p.m. All fire companies responded to the pier, but Deputy Chief Edward Scharneck said that not all firefighters responding were needed to fight the blaze.

He said the fire was caused by a pile of lumber that ignited. He said it was "easily and quickly extinguished."

Scharneck said no one was injured. He said the Fire Prevention Bureau will investigate the blaze Monday.

HD 9/22/90

—LEO LLOYD.

## Hudson mayors may sue U.S. to reverse census counts

By Blanca M. Quintanilla  
Journal staff writer

Mayors in seven Hudson County municipalities have threatened to bring a lawsuit against the U.S. Census Bureau in an effort to reverse low census counts.

The North Hudson Council of Mayors yesterday decided unanimously to take a "regional" approach to fighting the federal government instead of separately challenging figures.

West New York Mayor Anthony M. DeFino suggested the move during a council meeting yesterday. Mayors and officials representing Union City, Hoboken, Secaucus, North Bergen, Guttenberg and Weehawken readily seconded the plan.

Most municipalities in Hudson County have already conducted their own counts and challenged U.S. Census figures.

But the mayors gathered at the West New York Town Hall yesterday think a regional approach could be a more effective tool.

"We are hurting," said Secaucus Mayor Paul Amico, one of the first mayors yesterday to voice his willingness to join a regional lawsuit.

"We are also objecting to the (U.S. Census preliminary) figures," said Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli, whose municipality lost 25 percent of its population over the last decade according to figures recently released.

"We are challenging the figures and we have been sending people out to count housing units in order to get a revised count," the Hoboken mayor said. North Bergen Mayor Leo Gattani Sr. and Guttenberg Mayor Nicholas J. Cicco nodded vigorously.

"We've got to do something," said DeFino, who suggested the U.S. Postal Service should conduct the next census.

DeFino said he would order his law department to contact attorneys representing the six

municipalities to draw up a legal battle.

"We have until December to file, don't we?" asked Weehawken Mayor Richard F. Turner.

DeFino said he had written to the U.S. Census Bureau, challenging the low census counts for West New York.

"I didn't get any responses," said DeFino, who urged the other mayors not to wait until the last minute to file a challenge. "Rather than have 10 different lawyers filing lawsuit, let's have one person following a regional approach."

Union City Mayor Robert Menendez, not present at the meeting yesterday, was the first Hudson mayor to threaten to bring a lawsuit against the federal government if revised U.S. Census figures did not more accurately "coincide with the reality" of his city.

DeFino has also voiced his dissatisfaction with the count, demanding that the Census Bureau increase its estimate of town residents after volunteers counted 971 housing units allegedly missed by census enumerators.

DeFino said he launched the recount after preliminary census figures estimated West New York — one of the state's most densely populated communities — has 37,000 residents, meaning a loss of 3,000 residents since 1980.

Meanwhile, Menendez has said the U.S. Census Bureau missed more than 1,300 housing units in his city — a gap suggesting that at least 3,000 people have not been accounted for.

The Union City mayor has said a community would lose about \$4,000 in federal funding for every person not counted. Lower population could also mean the loss of representation in state and federal legislatures.

North Hudson mayors have also been critical of the Union City Census Office, which also handled counts in Weehawken, Hoboken and West New York. Hoboken officials said nearly 2,000 housing units were overlooked by the

Union City office of the Census Bureau.

Of all Hudson County municipalities, Hoboken was hardest hit with a 25 percent loss of its population in the last decade, according to preliminary numbers.

In other business, the council voted yesterday to continue funding a \$45,000 AIDS program in the North Hudson area after Jean Forest,

director of the Reach Out (a North Hudson AIDS program) explained a fund-raising proposal she is sending to the state.

The proposal calls for \$200,000 in money to run the AIDS program, but Forest is not too optimistic she will get the amount.

"If only we could get money to pay an administrative clerk for the office," she said.

## Waterfront development

## Hoboken plan pushes tax cut

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The City Council is considering a resolution that would call for all revenue from waterfront development to go toward reducing taxes — and not toward increasing spending.

The resolution is an attempt to curry favor with voters who rejected a deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to develop city-owned land on the waterfront.

But while the proposal is mostly symbolic, the councilman sponsoring it says it represents a commitment by officials to earmark new revenues for property tax relief.

"We have to show the public that development is going result in lower taxes," Councilman David Roberts said. "We have to make it clear that we won't expand government when new money comes in."

Roberts called for the non-binding resolution in an effort to win public support for a revamped development on the southern waterfront. One reason voters rejected the \$30 million authority deal on July 12 is that many residents believed the municipal and Board of Education budgets are already bloated, Roberts said.

"This is a statement that we are not looking for ways to increase our budgets," he said. "If we can't use waterfront monies to lower taxes, then let's just put a park down there."

Mayor Patrick Pasculli offered his tentative support of the resolution. He pointed to the fact that he plans to devote the city's entire \$7.2 million emergency state aid package to tax relief. He has pledged not to use the money to rehire any of the more than 110 municipal employees laid off earlier this month.

"We have not discussed the resolution in detail," Pasculli said. "I support the spirit of the resolution. The general goal of development is to bring down taxes, but you have to maintain some flexibility."

School Board President James Farina said he also supports Roberts' concept, but is not sure such a resolution is necessary. The board has come under attack for not being cost-conscious.

"As a taxpayer, I'd like to see the rate come down myself," Farina said. "But the city has to give us whatever our budget requires in terms of taxes, whoever it comes from. They can't stop us from getting what we've got coming."

## 4 voters can't duck Hoboken probe

By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer

Four Hoboken voters tried unsuccessfully yesterday to quash their subpoenas to testify during the on-going state Superior Court inquiry into the July 10 waterfront referendum election held in Hoboken.

The voters fought appearing on the grounds that their subpoenas were not served in a timely fashion, and that the subpoenas failed to mention the reason their votes are being challenged.

Their attorney, George Sommers of Hoboken, strongly

hinted he would appeal Judge Arthur N. D'Italia's ruling, according to attorneys involved in the case. Sommers could not be reached for comment.

The subpoenaed voters do not question that a voter may be compelled to disclose the nature of his vote, and then have it expunged, after a judicial determination that it was illegally cast. Sommers wrote in papers filed with the court.

Rather, they maintain that they have been denied the process that is constitutionally due them before this determination is made.

The voters — Elizabeth

Hoch, Nicholas Parslow, Jean Fordyce and Kevin McHugh — utility bills and leases or rent receipts.

Asked outside court why he subpoenaed the four voters, attorney John M. Carbone said, "Their residency is being questioned."

Carbone represents the Committee to Save Hoboken, which asked D'Italia to examine the allegations of Election Day irregularities.

The committee claims that non-residents voted during the election, unofficial personnel operated polling sites and legal votes were rejected by some polling places not open-

ing at 7 a.m. as required.

Voters narrowly defeated a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey proposal to develop Hoboken's southern waterfront, a plan supported by the Save Hoboken committee.

In other developments yesterday, several election workers and voters testified that three polling places were late in opening.

Two voters testified that they tried to vote at the ward one, district three polling site, but it was closed. The site opened about 45 minutes late, witnesses testified.

cm Testimony in the case resumes at 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

## Authority votes for pellets

## Gasifier rejected; contract in peril

The Hoboken-Union City-Weehawken Sewerage Authority last night voted to accept pelletization as an alternative to gasification at the Hoboken sewage treatment plant.

The action by the commissioners, pending the approval of the Hudson County Utilities Authority and the state Department of Environmental Protection, would stop the gasifier project and open the tri-city authority to a multi-million-dollar law suit.

The authority entered into a \$35 million contract with the Terminal Construction Corp. of Wood-Ridge to build a sludge gasifier last October, but later moved to void the contract and consider other means of sludge treatment.

On June 1, Terminal filed suit in state Superior Court in Hudson County seeking to force the authority to honor its contract. Since then, the authority has been ordered by a Superior Court judge to allow construction of the gasifier. The panel said last night that they would seek to negotiate the termination of their contract with Terminal.

Last night, six of the seven-member commission heard a final report from CH2M Hill Engineering Co. of Philadelphia on pelletization, a sewerage treatment process that would turn sludge into pellets for fertilization. The panel went into closed-door session and deliberated for over an hour.

Following the closed-door session, the panel agreed unanimously to go with pelletization

See GASIFIER — Page 4



PATRICK PASCULLI  
Cites grounds for appeal

## Big bucks at stake

## Hoboken demands census recount

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN

The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — Armed with figures showing that federal enumerators overlooked about 1,900 housing units here, city officials yesterday joined their counterparts in other Hudson County communities in demanding a census recount.

Many of the uncounted units were easily found by city inspectors, said city Business Administrator Edwin Chius.

"They look at a house and figure it's a one- or two-family dwelling," Chius said. "But when you go up and count the

doorbells, you find out it's a three- or four-family house."

Last week, Union City and West New York officials said that intensive housing inspections in those municipalities also turned up significant undercounting.

"We are working very hard to ensure that we get a fair and accurate count," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said. "I think we have solid grounds to appeal the preliminary figures."

Early results released by the U.S. Census Bureau indicated that the city has lost about 10,000 residents in the last

decade. In the 1980 census, the mile-square city had 42,460 inhabitants, while this year's preliminary figures put the population at 31,790.

Local officials refuse to believe the city's population has dropped by 25 percent. Because federal funding is based on population, they are determined to fight until the number stands closer to what they believe is the actual population — about 45,000.

The city could lose millions of dollars in aid if the 31,790 figure is used to determine funding.

Census representatives maintain the preliminary figures are just that and should not be cause for alarm, but local officials are not prepared to sit back without scrutinizing the numbers.

"This is the most densely populated area in the state, maybe even the country," said state Assemblyman Bernard F. Kenny Jr., D-Hoboken. "We realize it is difficult to do the count here, but this is just too much of a discrepancy."

Officials are also challenging the census' estimate that 2,400 of the city's housing units — roughly 15 percent — are vacant.



# Uncertain future worries Maxwell House workers

Continued from Page 1

the current contract, which expires March 1992, until or unless a phase-out agreement is struck, he said.

Workers said that they believed they would have answers to those questions yesterday.

They said it is three months since the time that Ray Viault, former Maxwell House president who has since been promoted to a job in Europe, announced that Kraft General Foods, owned by Philip Morris, was closing the Hoboken plant because of a decline in coffee consumption.

At the June press conference, Viault said the company would "work hard to match workers with job openings" and "We will assist their spouses in job searches at the new locations."

A release prepared by Viault's staff said, "The company will provide opportunities for learning new job skills as well as assistance with their job searches. Stay-on bonuses will be paid to employees who remain until their jobs come to a close. Severance payments will be provided for those who leave the company."

Days after Viault's announcement, Quarfordt said that The Transition Team of Troy, Mich., will begin counseling employees about stress, help them write a cover letter, prepare for a job interview or obtain job training.

But Quarfordt said yesterday that none of those amenities are guaranteed and that they must be "discussed" with the unions.

"Ray Viault gave out pamphlets to discuss with unions. Yes, some people expected to hear more," Quarfordt said.

"We are discussing (the issues) with the union and it is still too early to say that we are not being fair," Quarfordt said.

"Now that we have a schedule, we can more intelligently talk about those subjects," Quarfordt said. "I hope we can resolve this soon."

Hourly workers will not be entitled to severance pay if they leave before their termination dates, Quarfordt said. Hourly workers receive a week's pay for every year on the job. Management receives four years pay for every year of service.

"They are holding us hostages," said a pipefitter with 25 years at the plant.

Other workers say that they cannot accept another job because they stand to lose hefty severance pay.

A man with 25 years on the job said that he will be 40 days shy of 55 years old when the plant closes. To be eligible for retirement medical benefits, workers must be 55 and have 15 years on the job.

Another man, whose wife is pregnant, is worried how long the company will continue his medical benefits.

## Maxwell House gives workers layoff dates

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer J.J. 9/2/90

Maxwell House revealed its schedule for laying off 462 employees in Hoboken yesterday, but workers say they are still struggling with other uncertainties.

The schedule calls for 112 job terminations next June and another 350 with the final plant shutdown in March, 1992.

Some workers say they are angry because, even after

meeting with management, they are unsure of their medical benefits, severance pay or the prospect of job retraining.

"They are giving us nothing," said a 28-year production worker as he left the plant yesterday.

The 100 salaried employees were notified and they too are uncertain about benefits the company will provide, said a veteran employee.

Extending health insurance beyond the day the plant closes on March 25, 1992, severance pay, counseling, job retraining or job relocations are all matters for discussion, said Bert Quarfordt, plant manager.

"We are discussing all those things," Quarfordt said, adding, "How it is going to end up, I don't know."

Management will abide by

See UNCERTAIN — Page 4

## Hoboken employees are given pink slips

Continued from Page 1

six sanitation inspectors who enforce the city's recycling system and garbage ordinances.

"The layoffs mean a free for all for slumlords and litterers," said Santiago Diaz, a housing inspector with 11 years on the job. His third child is a month old and his last day was yesterday.

Jude Fitzgibbons, head housing inspector, said they all took municipal jobs to become public servants for modest wages with job security and benefits. Inspectors earn about \$22,000.

They said they are bitter that seniority did not play a part in the layoffs.

"People who have been here a year and a half still have their jobs. It doesn't seem fair," Schisani said.

They were angry that police and firefighters were untouched by the layoffs because housing inspectors are state certified fire officials.

"This is a political town. We all stand on street corners to get these guys in office and we are the first to go. I'll never stand on another corner again," Schisani said.

Joe Grossi, a sanitation inspector and former Colgate worker, said he will sign up for unemployment and consider the restaurant business or making perfume again.

But next spring, he plans to run for a City Council seat.

"We got to get rid of all of them," Fitzgibbons said.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius, during a morning press conference, said termi-

nation of about 30 of the 121 workers slated layoff will be postponed because of Civil Service bumping rights.

He said he would know which employees were getting a reprieve by the end of the work day.

But Marion Roland, municipal court administrator, and Helen Macri, director of Parks and Public Property, were uncertain about the future of their employees late yesterday afternoon.

Macri, whose job — created by the mayor last fall — was terminated yesterday, was visibly agitated when she was unsuccessful in getting a meeting with Chius.

"Eddie Chius hasn't got the time to meet with anybody. I don't even know who is taking over this department," said Macri. "Where's Chius? That's the big question in City Hall."

"This is a hell of a way to run a railroad. It's crazy," she said.

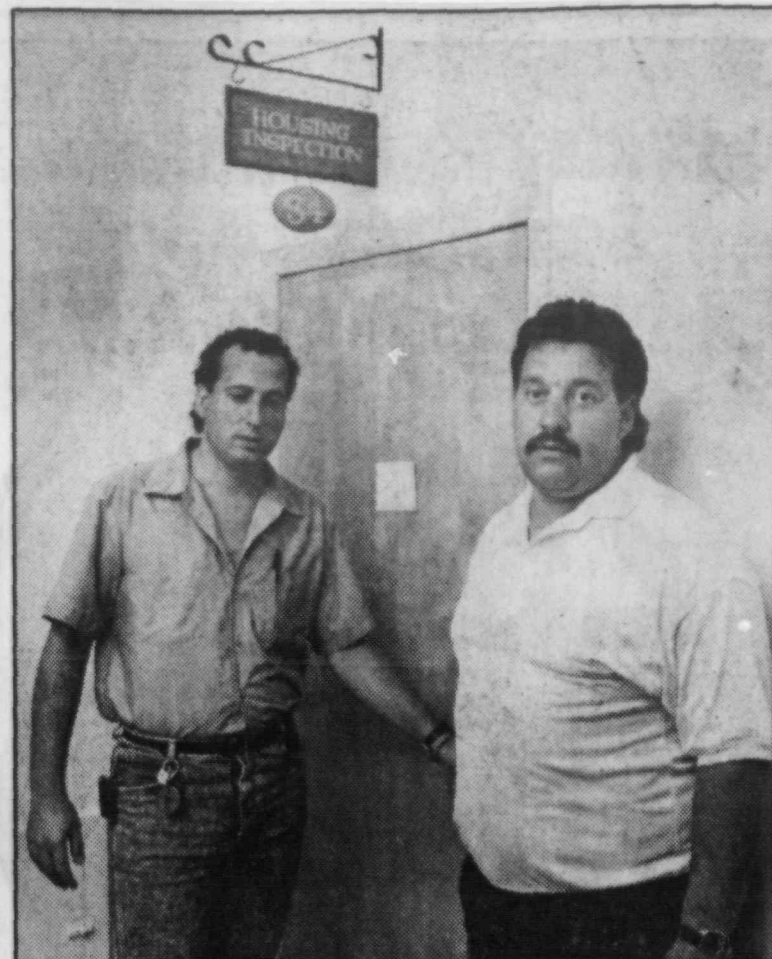
Roland said she was upset that Chius waited until the last day.

"The milk of human kindness doesn't flow through his veins," she said.

Public Safety Director Thomas Kennedy, also appointed last fall by the mayor, said his last day on the job was sad and morale was low because 40 people in his department of 356 were affected by the layoffs.

Roy Haack, director of DPW, said that his department lost 30 jobs.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli is wishful that the state will bail the city of its financial



Journal photo by John Gastaldo

John Schisani, left, a housing inspector, and Joe Grossi, complaint investigator, leave their Hoboken City Hall office for the last time, laid off yesterday in the budget crunch.

woes. But he acknowledges that just about every city and town in New Jersey is asking more state aid.

The mayor handed down a 1990 budget to the City Council last month, at a time when council members said the city had already adopted a budget through emergency appropriations.

Councilmen pressured the administration for a budget because members worried that spending for nine months would already be obligated.

The 100 employees laid off yesterday have little effect on the tax rate — about 25 cents because the jobs are low paying and because the layoffs affect the costs for salaries for only the three months left this year.

The existing tax rate of \$17.52 will increase to \$27.49

per \$1,000 assessed valuation under the present budget.

Pasculli largely blames the defeat of a plan to build a 3.2 million square foot waterfront development with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for the city's financial ruin. The mayor anticipated upwards of \$3 million from that partnership.

But residents, by 12 votes, rejected the 50-year partnership contract because of the financial plan itself, the size of the project and role of the P.A. and because of a practice of spending money the city did not have.

The mayor has said that even with the waterfront development, the tax rate could have gone up by \$5 because of increases in city spending, the Board of Education budget and loss of state aid.

## 100 Hoboken workers are out on the street

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer J.J. 9/2/90

About 100 Hoboken city workers are jobless after layoffs caused by an \$8 million budget shortfall became effective when City Hall closed yesterday.

Emotions ranging from anger to frustration to confusion filled City Hall as department heads attempted to grapple with seniority rights, bumping privileges and terminations.

Housing Inspector John Schisani, 31, with six years on

the job, worried whether his medical benefits — which end Nov. 1 — will cover the hospital expenses for his wife, who is pregnant with their second child.

"I am 31 years old and today I feel 61," said Schisani.

"I may be going on the unemployment line. I don't want to go on the welfare line," he said.

Two of the four housing inspectors who enforce housing codes are laid off as well as the

See HOBOKEN — Page 6



Journal photo by John Gastaldo

## It all came tumbling down

A young man is dwarfed by Hoboken's Pier B which collapsed yesterday, with workers narrowly escaping injury. (Story on Page 3)

## \$7.2M aid package will bail out budget

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch 4D. 9/25/90

HOBOKEN — Local officials announced yesterday that Gov. Jim Florio has given his blessing to an emergency \$7.2 million state-aid package designed to help the city stave off a nearly 60 percent tax increase this year.

The state funds — \$5.5 million of which are in the form of a loan — will fill most of the gaping hole that opened up in the 1990 budget after voters here rejected the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey development deal and thus lost the \$8 million lease payment the city expected this year.

"This gives us a significant amount of breathing room to develop a tax rate that is reasonable," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said. "What we've gotten is a life preserver."

Pasculli's proposed 1990 budget — presented to the City Council just days after the deal's 12-vote defeat — carried a tentative tax increase from \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$27.49 per \$1,000.

At the same time, the city laid off nearly 120 municipal workers for a saving of close to \$500,000.

With the influx of state aid, the rate could be held under \$22 per \$1,000, according to city Business Administrator Edwin J. Chius. The money will not be used to rehire any of the terminated employees, officials said.

"All of this money is going directly to property tax relief," Pasculli said. "We will not be



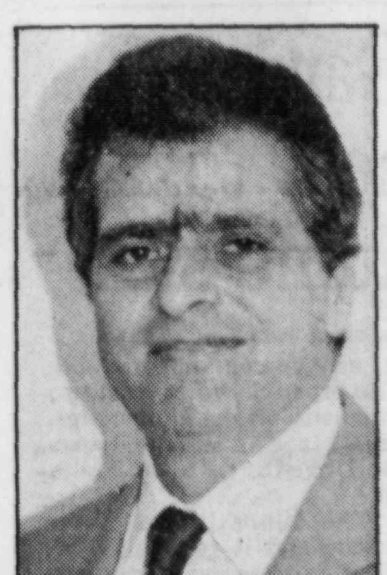
PATRICK PASCULLI  
"We've gotten a life preserver."

bringing back any of the laid-off workers."

Pasculli, accompanied by three Democratic officials: Assemblymen Bernard F. Kenny Jr. of Hoboken and Robert Menendez of Union City, and Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski, announced the aid package at an afternoon press conference.

The four men shared the credit with each other and other Hudson County Democrats for the successful lobbying effort that freed the funds from the state treasury. Kenny was hailed for doing the lion's share of the lobbying.

Please see HOBOKEN Page 6



Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Tremietti has ordered his men to stay off the pier.

## Demolition crew flees Hoboken pier collapse

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer J.J. 9/2/90

Fifteen construction workers escaped injury as they rushed off the vacant Hoboken Pier B, minutes before it collapsed yesterday morning.

"They heard just a crackle — they're professionals — they knew what it meant," said project manager Kathleen Howard of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the \$880,545 pier demolition.

The Army Corps of Engineers, contracted by the State of New Jersey, is demolishing the pier, between Third and Fourth streets, as part of a state and federal program.

Actual work is being done by Don Jon Marine of Hillside.

The city slapped a stop work order on the demolition site and Fire Chief Richard Tremietti barred firefighters from entering the 600-foot wooden pier until the department receives a report on the pier's structural safety.

"I have told my men not to go on the pier to fight fires until we know its stability," Tremietti said. He said he contacted the Coast Guard and New York City Fire Department to be on standby in case of another fire.

If that happens, "we will attack from the water," he said.

Tremietti was annoyed by yesterday's collapse because nearly two dozen firefighters were at the site four days ago to put out a fire that had begun in the middle of the pier.

Tanks containing chemicals and oxy-

gen have been removed from the pier, he said.

Ronald Borroughs, also from the Army Corps, said a team of engineers will go to the site today to determine why the pier caved in.

"It hasn't been determined what weakened it. Probably several factors — the fire in 1982 and of course it is a very old structure, originally built in 1857 by a German shipping line. It is very old steel," Borroughs said.

Last week's fire had "no cause and effect," he said. "There will be a team going out tomorrow to look into this and revise what procedures will have to be followed for the rest of the work."

Plans to demolish the pier began in 1987, but the contract was halted after asbestos was discovered at the pier, Borroughs said.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said the contract is part of the New York-New Jersey drift removal program to clear hazardous debris from waterways. He said the project is not part of a bigger plan to demolish the piers and build a 3.2 million-square-foot project with the Port Authority.

"Basically it is to clean up debris and burned out piers along rivers and oceanfronts. It has nothing to do with the Port Authority," Pasculli said.

The Pasculli/P.A. plan was rejected by voters and the mayor is planning to reintroduce a scaled down version for voter approval. Terry Benck, P.A. spokesperson, said that the agency assisted the city in applying for the federal and state money in the mid-80s.

## HOBOKEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the same time, the four stressed the importance of coming up with a workable development plan for the city's waterfront.

"This is a stopgap measure," Pasculli said. "We are still committed to raising new revenue and that means mostly developing the waterfront."

The terms at which the loan are to be repaid were unclear. Kenny characterized it as a "no-interest, no-collateral loan," but Jay Johnston, state Department of Community Affairs spokesman, referred to it as a "low-interest loan." One highly-placed Florio administration source said the Treasury Department set a 6 percent interest rate on the loan.

Johnston said state officials agreed to the aid package after acknowledging the city's serious financial predicament.

"Hoboken certainly posed a special set of circumstances," Johnston said. "There are not a lot of communities in the state that had the fiscal rug pulled out from under them."

The final details of where the money is coming from and how it will be paid back are expected to be finalized by the end of the week, Pasculli said. Chius said he expects to see the money start coming in to the city early next week.

## Some poll workers never showed up

By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer J.J. 10-2-90

Some polling place workers showed up late or not at all during the July 10 waterfront referendum election in Hoboken, according to testimony in the fourth day of a state Superior Court inquiry into the election.

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## Hoboken city clerk testifies he pressed others into service for referendum vote

Louis Taglieri, a poll worker pulled from another election district to work in Ward One, District Two, testified that when he arrived at 7:50 a.m., "challengers" were operating the polling place and 45 votes had been cast.

Challengers are private citizens whom the Hudson County Board of Elections grants permission to physically be in a polling site to observe an election.

In election district Ward One, District Three, poll workers showed up 30 minutes late, testified Allen Ross, chief custodian of Hudson

County's voting machines.

Ross said he noticed the unopened polling site when he came to investigate a malfunctioning voting machine used by another election district, which was in the same room.

Ross saw about 11 people waiting to vote. He said he reported his findings to the deputy city clerk who informed him the election materials were on their way.

Testimony is being gathered to ascertain whether voting irregularities occurred during the referendum election in which voters narrowly defeated a Port Authority

proposal to develop the city's southern waterfront.

The Committee to Save Hoboken, which supported the referendum question, lodged the charges and has asked Judge Arthur N. D'Italia to explore them.

In a related event, Thomas Illing, a member of the anti-development group, the Coalition for a Better Hoboken, was served with a subpoena by John M. Carbone, attorney for the Save Hoboken Committee, as soon as Illing attempted to sit in on the proceedings.

Testimony resumes at 1:30 p.m. today. Four voters who unsuccessfully fought last week to quash their subpoenas are scheduled to testify, Carbone said. Carbone is challenging whether they live in the election districts in which they voted.

## Hoboken gets \$17,110 grant to increase DWI checkpoints

The Hoboken Police Department will receive a \$17,110 federal grant to increase the number of driving while intoxicated patrols, Director James A. Arena of the state Division of Highway Traffic Safety announced.

Municipal police will be assigned overtime at sites with high accident rates.

"Through this project, we hope to significantly increase the apprehension of drunk drivers and decrease alcohol-related accidents on New Jersey's roadways," Arena said.

According to the division, 200 people died during 1989 as a result of drunk driving acci-

dents and 891 fatalities occurred last year.

The federal funds for this program were provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and are administered by the New Jersey Division of Highway and Traffic Safety.



# Workers faulting Maxwell House

J.J. 10-2-90  
Layoff promises haven't been kept

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The letter ex-Maxwell House President Ray Vialut wrote to 650 Hoboken workers three months ago doesn't look like it has small print at the bottom.

Perhaps Vialut, who has been promoted to an executive job abroad, should have footnoted the two-page letter detailing the company's intentions to make the plant closing in 18 months as painless as possible.

In the June 27 letter, Vialut wrote that the company has hired The Transition Team to assist employees. "Its activities will include operation of a job-placement center, counsel for individual employees and workshops on a variety of topics."

Now, three months later, workers say they have not been offered job training, counseling or help in finding another job and have never met with The Transition Team.

Twelve workers lost their jobs in January and another 125 next June. Union officials have asked for severance pay if workers have secured jobs before their termination dates and for extensions on health insurance. Management says it is discussing those issues.

Workers who have found other jobs say they will forfeit their severance pay because the job market is so uncertain it is better to have a job.

Plant manager Bert Quarfordt said that Vialut did not promise anything three months ago.

Instead, Quarfordt said,

those issues should be discussed.

In his letter, Vialut stated that the company will match workers with job openings elsewhere in Maxwell House, Kraft General Foods or parent company, Philip Morris, and assist their spouses in job searches at the new location.

"Further we will help those who seek other employment — providing opportunities for learning new job skills and assistance in the job hunt," the letter read.

"We will provide fair and equitable severance for those who leave the company, as well as options to continue participation in benefit programs," the letter states.

"We will provide a pay bonus to those who stay on board until their jobs expire," Vialut wrote.

Nan Redmond, General Foods USA spokeswoman at the White Plains, N.Y., corporate office, said that the "confusion" concerning the eligibility for severance pay may be that "leave the company means leave General Foods versus those who leave the Hoboken plant."

"That is my understanding. Severance payment as a rule is provided on an agreement that there is a finishing date," she said.

Redmond said that the plant has to continue operating for 18 months. Thus the company has no safeguard against the possibility of the "whole plant walking out on the same day."

James Crismale, chief union steward of Local 56 of the United Food and Commercial

See ILGWU — Page 4

## ILGWU says its too soon to panic

Continued from Page 1

Workers, said yesterday, "It is too soon to panic" on whether the company "is reneging." He added, "When the smoke clears, it will be beneficial to the people."

Still, he agreed "it is important to have the Transition Team in now." He said that the union has made demands to management and is waiting for answers. "We are not officially

negotiating. These are artificial negotiations because we have nothing to bargain."

## J.J. 10-10-90 Homework hour

The Hoboken Public Library, 500 Park Ave., sponsors a "Homework Hour" for grammar school children on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 4 p.m. Call 420-2346 for more details.

To ease budget crunch

## \$1.5M mortgage sale sought by Hoboken

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — City officials are hoping to gain more financial relief by selling a \$1.5 million mortgage to Hudson County.

The city wants the county to use Affordable Housing Trust Fund money to buy Hoboken's mortgage on the Applied Housing Co.'s Hudson Square North project.

If county officials agree, the city could shave \$1 off this year's municipal tax rate.

"What we want to do is create as many alternate sources of revenue in the short term as we can," Mayor Patrick Pasculli said. "From what I understand, this is something that could possibly be

finalized by the end of the calendar year."

At the suggestion of Councilman Richard F. England Jr., the City Council is expected to approve a resolution tomorrow night authorizing Pasculli to initiate the mortgage sale by applying to the county Planning and Economic Development Department.

While it is unusual for the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be used to buy mortgages, the city's financial predicament makes this sale possible, according to Kenneth G. Blane, head of the planning department.

"Certainly everybody's concerned about the emergency Hoboken and its residents are facing," Blane said. "The county wants to do anything it can

Please see MORTGAGE Page 4

## MORTGAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to help."

The city found itself in a budget crunch after voters defeated a proposed development deal with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. That erased the \$8 million in lease payments the authority would have delivered this year.

To fill the budget hole, Pasculli laid off close to 120 municipal employees and proposed a 57 percent increase in the local property tax rate, from \$17.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$27.49 per \$1,000.

Last week, state officials announced the city would be receiving \$7.2 million in emergency aid, about \$5.5 million in the form of a no-interest loan. Final terms of the agreement have yet to be finalized.

The state aid would allow Pasculli to lop about \$5 per \$1,000 off the tax rate, according to city Business Administrator Edwin Chius. But Pasculli is seeking more tax relief.

At issue is the 30-year, low-interest mortgage the city holds on Hudson Square North. Of the building's 150 units, 30 are earmarked for low-income tenants, while 20 more are to be set aside for middle-income tenants.

Workmen recently broke ground at the building site at the intersection of River and Third streets. Construction is scheduled to be finished in about 18 months, according to Peggy Thomas, city Community Development Agency director.

Blane said the project would appear to qualify for trust fund money, although the city's application would first have to be reviewed by the Hudson County Improvement Authority and county Executive Robert C. Janiszewski.

The city would be required to guarantee that Applied Housing paid off principal and interest on the loan.

"We're confident they'll make the payments," Pasculli said. "They always have in the past."

## Michael A. Damato, 50, Hoboken school teacher

By Yvonne Latty  
Journal staff writer

Michael A. Damato, 50, a science teacher at Hoboken High School for 27 years, died yesterday at Jersey City Medical Center. Born in Jersey City, Damato was a Weehawken resident for many years.

"Mike was a hard working, dedicated educator who was very well liked and respected by his peers," said Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli, himself a teacher. He worked with Damato for several years at Dearest Junior High School.

"He always had a smile on his face even when things weren't going well. Mike was a well-respected teacher and will be missed by the entire education

community."

"He was sensitive to the needs of the kids," said Larry Yacullo, the head of the science department at Hoboken High School for the past 10 years.

"He was very popular with his students and always eager to give a little extra without question. It's a very tragic loss," he said.

Damato was a member of the Hoboken Elks.

Surviving is a daughter, Rosemary Hanna; his mother, Mary, and sister, Mildred Heltzman.

Mass will be said at 9 a.m. Saturday at St. Francis Church, Hoboken. Arrangements are by Earl F. Bosworth Funeral Home, Hoboken.

## Goodwin accused of arranging Hoboken killing

By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer

A 21-year-old Plainfield man charged with helping a former Hoboken basketball star and two juveniles murder the athlete's cousin went on trial yesterday in state Superior Court.

David Goodwin of Plainfield was branded by Assistant Hudson County Prosecutor Charles D'Amico as "the person who arranged the murder" of James "Bo" Wheeler, 21, of Hoboken.

"I didn't say he pulled the trigger," D'Amico said during his opening statement. "But this is a thought out, pre-conceived, senseless murder for drugs that he participated in knowingly and willingly."

D'Amico said Goodwin revealed de-

tails of the Feb. 11, 1989 murder in an audio-taped statement given to investigators from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. He said that in the statement, Goodwin said he went to Newark to pick up two juveniles — Ronald and Willie Henderson — so the pair could find Wheeler "to rob him, shoot him or whatever they got to do."

D'Amico said Goodwin drove the juveniles and Wheeler's cousin and former basketball star, Timothy White, to Hoboken, where one of the juveniles gave Wheeler this order, "Give it up."

When Wheeler refused "to give up anything," he was shot, D'Amico said. A relative who earlier had seen Goodwin and the others drive by tried to warn Wheeler trouble might be coming, D'Amico said, but Wheeler wanted to be a

"macho" man.

In his statement, according to D'Amico, Goodwin said the attack was retribution for Wheeler "ripping off" someone who worked for Wheeler's allegedly drug-dealing cousin, Timothy White.

"Timothy White is one of the biggest drug-dealers in Hoboken," Goodwin reportedly said. White was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison for pleading guilty to armed robbery and manslaughter in connection with the slaying.

Wheeler and White have been described as very close when attending Hoboken High School. White starred on the 1985-86 basketball team.

Goodwin's attorney, Robert T. Norton, conceded to jurors that his client drove the Hendersons to the crime

scene and that afterwards he led authorities to the murder weapon, a handgun. He even conceded his client might be guilty of possession of a weapon.

"But he's not guilty of murder," Norton said. "Just because David Goodwin got scared and hid the gun afterwards doesn't make him guilty of felony murder."

Norton identified Ronald Henderson as the triggerman. Henderson is expected to be called as a witness.

Goodwin is charged with murder, felony murder, first-degree armed robbery and unlawful gun possession offenses. If convicted, he could face life imprisonment.

Testimony resumes at 10 a.m. today before Judge Patricia K. Costello in Jersey City.

## Hoboken council votes to sell Barry mortgage

By Eugene King and Vincent Campanella  
Journal correspondents J.J. 10-4-90

Hoboken's City Council, faced with a ballooning tax rate and shrinking revenues, voted 9-0 yesterday to sell a \$1.5 million mortgage the city holds against property at Hudson and Third streets.

The 9-0 vote came amid criticism from some councilmen who worry that the move to raise money may be too little too late.

"It's still an indication of business as usual," said Councilman Joseph Della Fave. "Plug the hole, but don't stop the hemorrhaging for the long term."

But Councilman Richard England told the board the move would get costs under control.

The plan calls for the Hudson County Affordable Housing Trust Fund to buy the mortgage the city holds on developer Joseph Barry's land at Third and Hudson.

"We are going around hocking everything in sight," Councilman Thomas Newman said. "What are we going to hock next year?"

Hoboken was forced to lay off 100 city employees after city voters rejected a plan to build in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

As the city councilmen wrestled with the budget, a small group of Hoboken residents were meeting blocks away to plan a takeover of City Hall.

The group, which first met at Harrigan's three weeks ago, has organized itself as PUSH-People United To Save Hoboken. One of the group's main objectives is to start a drive to call for the resignation of Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli, said Sal D'Amelio, an organizer of the group.

Republican congressional candidate Fred Theemling and Hoboken Board of Education Trustee Otto Hottendorf were among those who gathered at the Holiday Lounge.

Hottendorf proposed a consolidation of the Hoboken school system, which would entail the closing of a number of schools that have only a few hundred enrolled.

The trustee further suggested that Hoboken could sell the vacant buildings for revenue.

PUSH is expected to nominate candidates for April's Board of Education elections and May's City Council elections.

## Councilmen want Hoboken tax under \$20

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken City Council members aligned with administration are saying that they will not approve a city budget if it carries more than a \$2.47 increase on the existing tax rate of \$17.52.

City Business Administration Edwin Chius said that it is possible the \$34 million budget could go before the council tonight at its regular bimonthly meeting.

Before the budget is sent to the council for adoption, Chius needs to iron out details of a \$7.2 million state loan. He is expected to meet this morning with Barry Skowski, state director of local government services.

Councilmen Richard England, who ran on Mayor Patrick Pasculli's ticket last year, and David Roberts, a friend and political ally of the mayor's, said they will not vote for a tax rate of more than \$20 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

"I will not vote for a budget that hits or exceeds \$20. I have said it enough times. I have no qualms saying it publicly," England said.

"I hear Chius is at \$20.50 and that is unacceptable," England said, adding "I love the sound of \$19.99."

Pasculli said he was "working hard toward that goal. We are still working out the details with the state and we are going to do every-

thing possible to reach that goal."

Trenton has bailed the city out of its financial crisis because Pasculli based his 1990 budget on \$8 million he expected to receive from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as part of a deal to co-develop the southern waterfront.

But residents in a special referendum rejected the P.A. contract and plans to build a 3.2 million square foot project along the Hudson River.

After the deal's defeat and before the state intervened, Pasculli was predicting a \$10 tax rate increase to recover the budget shortfall and fund increased spending in school and city spending.

With the P.A. money, the mayor still anticipated a \$5 increase on the rate.

Now that the state has intervened, Pasculli's allies on the council want him to minimize the tax hike.

Roberts is planning to

introduce a resolution that requires a decrease in taxes if the city moves ahead with a waterfront development.

"I am convinced the problem we had with the referendum was because there is a perception of too much spending and more importantly, the school board contract," Roberts said, referring to the three-year contract signed in April that costs \$5 million to fund and gives teachers a 30 percent pay increase.

"Taxpayers are a little bit angry about how we are going to handle revenue. If the perception is wrong, we have to undo it, if it is real, we have to change it," Roberts said.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who unsuccessfully challenged Pasculli for mayor last year, said that municipal spending has increased by \$3 million over 1989 and that revenues decreased by \$4 million.

"We knew we would have \$4 million less in revenues but we upped spending by \$3 million. Anyone with half a brain would realize we would have had a shortfall," Della Fave said.

"The philosophy is get the money — from the waterfront, whatever — and spend the money, on jobs, promotions, raises," Della Fave said.

Part of Pasculli's austerity program was laying off 110 municipal employees. The mayor has subsequently reversed an earlier decision to rescind promotions in the police and fire departments which added \$201,000 to the payroll.

The police and fire unions are financing a legal challenge to the July 10 special election. The case is pending in Superior Court.

To soften the blow to taxpayers, England has developed a plan that calls for Hudson County buying off a \$1.5 million mortgage the city holds on developer's Joseph Barry's land at Third and Hudson streets.

The county will buy the mortgage from money available in its Planning and Economic Development Department, according to Susan Mearns, a department analyst. The arrangement would help Hoboken's money woes and contribute to affordable housing, she said.

Pasculli said that the money will be used to offset the tax rate.

"We are searching all ways and means in order to identify revenue to bring the tax rate as far down as we can to an acceptable level," Pasculli said.

"This recommendation initiated by Councilman England has done a great deal of work being innovative to identify alternative sources of revenue," the mayor said.

The mayor said that the city will also use \$175,000 in extra revenue from the Parking Authority to offset the rate. The 110 jobs will cut spending by \$500,000 and \$2 million next year, he said.

HOBOKEN — The baseball regular season is over. The debate over where the game was born continues.

New York City is making the latest pitch for being the game's birthplace — a claim that's hardly a hit with officials and baseball enthusiasts here.

An article in yesterday's edition of The New York Times carried the headline "Cooperstown? Hoboken? Try New York City." The story purported to offer new evidence that Manhattan — not Hoboken, and certainly not Cooperstown, N.Y. — spawned our national pastime.

Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he found the article more amusing than anything else.

"There's nothing in there we didn't already

Debate rages on

## NYC: Baseball was born here

Pasculli balks and insists Hoboken hosted first game

By EDWARD K. SHANAHAN  
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN — The baseball regular season is over. The debate over where the game was born continues.

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Mayor Patrick Pasculli said he found the article more amusing than anything else.

"There's nothing in there we didn't already

know," Pasculli said. "And there's certainly nothing there to change our minds that Hoboken is baseball's true birthplace."

The bistate battle over baseball's origin has raged for years, with both Hoboken and Cooperstown staking claims as the game's birthplace.

Hoboken made its most-dramatic pitch yet for national recognition when it celebrated its first annual Baseball Day on June 19. Officials insist the first baseball game was played in 1846 at Elysian Fields here.

The celebration was designed, not just to attract attention to the city, but also to give Alexander J. Cartwright Jr. his proper due as the man who established the rules forming the foundation for the modern game.

Yesterday's New York Times article credited Cartwright for his innovations, but pointed to a

recently unearthed box score of an 1846 game as evidence that the game began in Manhattan.

The game itself, like the 1846 game, was played at Elysian Fields. But the newspaper account of the contest implied there had been earlier games in New York City.

According to yesterday's Times: "Historians of the game have to agree that Hoboken was merely a pleasant place for the teams from Manhattan and Brooklyn to play."

Pasculli balked at that notion.

"This simply gives more legitimacy to the fact that Hoboken was the site of the first game," Pasculli said. "It proves what we already knew from our research."

Stephen Speiser — the local attorney who is the

Please see BASEBALL Page 17



This plaque on Frank Sinatra Drive in Hoboken declares the city is the birthplace of baseball. THE HUDSON DISPATCH



# Hoboken still holds first place as birthplace of baseball

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Forget that New York Times article yesterday — a Harvard graduate says his research for a doctoral dissertation further substantiates that the first game of baseball was played in Hoboken.

"Hoboken is safe. The game was always played in Hoboken, all this (his research) does is push it (the birthdate) a year earlier from the June, 1846 game," yesterday said Edward L. Widmar, a Harvard graduate student.

"A lot of people from Hoboken seem bent out over the box score. I think the issue here is semantics," said Widmar.

"Tell Hoboken it is still the birthplace," he said during a telephone interview from his home in Cambridge, Mass.

What he speculates got Hoboken-

ites hot under the collar was the Times' headline yesterday reading: "Cooperstown? Hoboken? Try New York City."

What was Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli's reaction to the front-page article claiming that baseball was first played in the Big Apple not the Mile Square City?

"There is no great revelation there," commented Pasculli, who notes that even The Baseball Encyclopedia lists the birthplace of America's national pastime in Hoboken and its inventor Alexander Cartwright.

"By the box score itself you can see only eight players on each team. And that certainly is not baseball. Historically, many forms were played prior to 1846. The first game, under new rules with two organized teams played as we know baseball today was June 19, 1846," Pasculli said.

Pasculli and Assemblyman Ber-

nard Kenny, D-Hoboken, organized Baseball Day here on June 19 to once and for all set the record straight that the first game was played at Elysian Fields, 1846.

The purpose of Hoboken's baseball day, which will be an annual event, is to dispel the myth that baseball was invented in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1836 by Abner Doubleday, who later gained fame as a Civil War hero.

The Times article implies that the discovery of the 1845 newspaper account, complete with a box score, shows that "other teams were already playing baseball in New York City a year earlier and that baseball as it is known now probably evolved from a number of enthusiasts from New York in the mid-1840's."

Ironically, this newspaper account of the Oct. 21, 1845 game reports it was played at Hoboken's Elysian

Fields, now the site for Maxwell House coffee.

Widmar said that his research does not take away from Hoboken's significance in the sport but does weaken the argument that the game was invented by Alexander Cartwright and his team, the New York Knickerbockers.

Instead, of being invented on one particular day, the game evolved during the last half of the 19th Century, Widmar said.

"I think people are just being semantic," he said.

Kenny, interviewed yesterday between voting in the state Assembly, said that the latest research "is good news for Hoboken but it further solidifies that the first game was played here as we have indicated and puts to rest the Cooperstown claim in 1939."

"It also says that the game evolved here as well," Kenny said. But Kenny

remained steadfast that Cartwright did finalize the rules that govern the sport today and that other games were only variations of earlier ball games.

Stephen E. Speiser, president of American Baseball Heritage, Inc., agreed that the 1845 newspaper clipping "provides no proof whatsoever that game played by the two teams was the Knickerbocker version."

But Speiser said that all historic data sets June 19, 1846 as the first time baseball was played under modern rules developed by Cartwright with two organized ball clubs.

"When the New York Times covered our baseball day — and we had the governor here — we were in section B. Today, without calling me, they run a front page story telling the world (baseball) was invented in New York" without proof conclusive."

"They have totally mischaracterized the past," he added.

## Connors planning continues Architects may get the go-ahead

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The Hoboken Board of Education is expected tonight to continue planning to replace Connors School with a new building as part of a plan to build another school and consolidate six grammar schools into three.

While School Trustee Claire DePalma said yesterday she plans to authorize the board's architects to undertake a \$12 million project for Connors School, complete with a community swimming pool, she said the public should be allowed to vote on the financing.

Board President James Farina vowed "a new school is going to be built. We can't start getting cold feet."

Farina supports a bigger plan developed as an option by architects Harshen and Johns to replace the Connors School in the Fourth Ward and consolidate the Kealey, Calabro and Brandt schools into the new Connors School and the existing Wallace and Demarest schools.

Board members are considering replacing Demarest School as well if new construction is cheaper than renovation.

Despite dramatic decreases in enrollment, the Board of Education is considering new construction as part of a state-mandated five-year plan to bring school buildings up to state code.

At the same time the board is considering this endeavor, it is seriously deciding whether to finance the new construction or renovation through a lease purchase agreement which doesn't require public approval.

In a lease purchase, a developer holds the mortgage to the school until the project is paid off. At that time, the school board gains back the title to the land and building.

School board members are hopeful the new construction can be financed through state funds expected from a new, as yet to be approved \$600 million state program.

But the board's bond counsel is doubtful Hoboken will be eligible for that money because the city is paper rich, DePalma said.

She will vote to authorize the architects to draw up plans for Connors School but DePalma said she will be opposed to hiring a financial advisor tonight, a position usually hired when a lease purchase agreement is taken.

DePalma said that voters should vote on new construction.

She said she also has problems with that lease purchase agreement, none of the project's contracts is subjected to open bidding.

School Trustee Perry Belfiore said that his committee will recommend that the school board proceed with plans to build a new school. He said he estimates building new schools and renovating existing ones will cost about \$700,000 annually for 30 years.

But Belfiore said that he will vote against hiring a financial advisor, not because he opposes the lease purchase agreement form of financing but because he said it is too early for that appointment.

He said the financial advisor will only assist the school board in proceeding with a lease purchase agreement instead of developing a five-year financial plan.

School Trustee Eddie Garcia said he is undecided if he will support a new school. Although it is needed, Garcia said he has to weigh the expense to taxpayers.

## SUSPECT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Hoboken because he would not hand over his drugs.

"Bo" refused to give the stuff," Goodwin said. "So he got shot for the stuff."

The taped statement ran for about 15 minutes.

Goodwin's attorney, Bob Norton, questioned investigator Patrick Sorrentino, who took the statement, about the way he interrogated Goodwin.

"Did you think it might be significant to question Mr. Goodwin as to whether he planned this so-called hit, or robbery?" Norton asked.

Sorrentino said it was an important question. But he replied, "I didn't do it."

Goodwin's trial before county Judge Patricia K. Costello is scheduled to continue this morning.

## Calabro School lottery ends; first come now first served

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The time-honored tradition in Hoboken of drawing numbers each spring to gain admittance to the Salvatore Calabro School, known for its academic excellence, has been discontinued.

The policy now is first-come, first-served, said Principal Richard Del Boccio, also a City Council member.

The policy change was news to City Councilman Joseph Della Fave, who 10 years ago was instrumental in developing the lottery system as part of a plan to create an alternative education experience.

"The lottery was begun in the early '80s because Calabro was being developed as an alternative school. The feeling was that everyone should have equal opportunity to get in, not just those in the neighborhood," Della Fave recalled.

"If Calabro is different, then the lottery should continue. If it is not, then why did an exciting, growing development program stop?" Della Fave asked last week.

"The tragedy here is not ending the lottery but that Calabro no longer offers an alternative curriculum," he said.

It is true, Del Boccio said, the school has the same textbooks and curriculum as the five other elementary schools.

Why did Calabro cease being an alternative experimental school?

For one thing, experimental teaching "is no longer in vogue," Del Boccio said.

Teachers believed that some elements in alternative instruction did not work, Del Boccio said.

But the primary reason is that the state Department of Education has become more involved in local school districts by mandating curriculum — including specified amount of minutes for certain subjects, he said.

"We follow a district curriculum. We follow local and state-mandated programs. We are required to do this. The basic difference (at Calabro) is the structure of the building and the classrooms. But the books and educational programs are the same as in other schools," he said.

"The state has a tremendous foothold in local districts. Jersey City has made that very clear. The state is running that school district," he added.

"In the early '80s, the state was not deeply involved in local districts. Then in the latter part of the decade with Dr. (Saul) Cooperman, it really got into districts with monitoring," Del Boccio said.

Hoboken fell into Level 3, the step before a state takeover, five years ago, because test scores for reading, writing and math were below state standards.

Since that time, Hoboken's scores have improved dramatically and the district is close to leaving state monitoring.

Calabro School always had a good academic reputation. Della Fave said the pilot program at Calabro was intended to encourage other pilot programs in the system and to attract students from private and parochial schools to the public school system.

When St. Francis, at Third and Jefferson streets, closed in June and merged with St. Ann's, some of those students

joined Calabro this fall, Del Boccio said.

The lottery was also designed, Della Fave said, to safeguard the enrollment system against political favoritism.

"The lottery was intended to give everyone a chance at enrollment, including students from the Hoboken Housing Authority projects," Della Fave.

But Walter Fine, superintendent of schools, said that the system is developing magnet schools.

Fine recommended discontinuing the lottery because he wanted the enrollment policy consistent with the rest of the district, which has open enrollment.

The superintendent said he also wanted to maintain a fair representation of students at Calabro in the event of future school consolidations. But Fine noted while some schools have greater concentration of minorities than others, students can choose which school they wish to attend.

The white population district-wide is 17 percent. Calabro has a white population of 44 percent.

Maria Fasilecia, the past president of the Parent, Teacher and Student Organization, supports the change in policy.

"We have taken students from all over the city anyway. We will still have the same kind of children and they will know they are in a school very much supported by parents," Fasilecia said.

Fourth-grade teacher Evalie Batistich, chairman of the school site management council, also supported the change because it makes the policy consistent with the rest of the district.

## On police tapes

## Suspect admitted driving 2 killers

By DAVID REILLY  
The Hudson Dispatch

A Plainfield resident accused of orchestrating the drug-related slaying of a Hoboken man told police he drove the killers to the murder scene, according to a tape-recorded statement played during his trial yesterday.

David Goodwin gave the statement to investigators from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Squad about three hours after James "Bo" Wheeler Jr. was shot to death on Feb. 11, 1989.

On the tape, Goodwin said he knew the two juveniles he drove to Hoboken were hired by another man "to rob (Wheeler), or shoot him or do whatever they gotta do."

But Goodwin, 21, said he did not see the shooting.

Wheeler died at St. Mary Hospital after his attackers shot him once in the chest.

Goodwin is charged in Superior

Court in Jersey City with murder for allegedly plotting Wheeler's death with Timothy White, who already has pleaded guilty to manslaughter and armed robbery.

Assistant County Prosecutor Charles D'Amico said the two planned the shooting because Wheeler was stealing drugs from White's dealers.

Goodwin gave the same reason for the shooting on the tape, but never said he was involved with the murder.

"(Wheeler) was robbing Timmy's drugs," Goodwin said. "The whole thing was about robbing his drugs."

Although he picked up the two juvenile brothers after the shooting, Goodwin said he received nothing for the taxi service.

Goodwin said the two juveniles told him they shot Wheeler in front of the Jackson Gardens apartments on Marshall Drive in

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## WITNESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of onlookers. He said Wheeler grabbed the gun during a struggle and it accidentally went off.

Henderson said he and his cousin ran away. He said he tried to reach Goodwin on a walkie-talkie that Goodwin gave him before the shooting, but Goodwin had his car stereo blasting and couldn't hear him.

After meeting Goodwin at a prearranged spot behind the projects, the three sped away in Goodwin's car to the Newport Mall in Jersey City, Henderson said.

There they allegedly met White, who drove the teenagers to Newark. Goodwin headed back to Hoboken, Henderson said.

Goodwin wanted to go back to the projects "so it would seem he had nothing to do with it," Henderson said.

Goodwin was arrested after driving past the scene. Witnesses told police that Goodwin drove White and the two Hendersons past Wheeler only moments before the shooting.

Henderson said Goodwin and White were pointing out the victim for him.

## Pasculli calls on Council to adopt budget

By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli wants a special council meeting on Friday to adopt the \$34 million budget, with a \$3 million increase over last year.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday that unless serious cuts are made, the rate will be about \$21 and "substantial change." The rate could be close to \$22, he said.

The complete municipal budget means owners of a house valued at \$200,000 paying \$3,504 in taxes would see their taxes increase to \$4,400. Similarly, owners of \$300,000 houses will see taxes increase from \$5,250 to \$6,600.

Council members are considering cutting the Police and Fire departments, which went nearly

unchanged by the ax which chopped 110 jobs to offset an \$8 million shortfall.

"I am looking at across-the-board cuts to stabilize the rate for the 1990 budget," Councilman Steve Cappiello said yesterday.

"I don't want to see people get hurt. There is a lot of waste, the city has too many vehicles and not enough space for them. We are getting to be a big bureaucracy for a lesser population," Cappiello said.

Cappiello, a former police detective, confirmed there may be police and fire cuts. Councilman David Roberts, a former firefighter whose brother is a fire captain, said he would support reasonable cuts.

Chius said it was unwise to make cuts in public safety because the city's economic

growth depends on the city's image of safe streets.

A quiet discussion of Hoboken's money woes soon escalated yesterday morning at City Hall. Councilmen Cappiello, Roberts, Joseph Della Fave and Thomas Newman were in City Hall yesterday for a waterfront meeting when the talk turned to money.

Upon hearing their criticism, Pasculli came from his office to the City Clerk's office demanding that council members make specific recommendations.

"I like you guys to have specific line-item recommendations," Pasculli snapped.

Della Fave noted that the administration and council ignored his specific line-item recommendations last October as well as his cry for

financial management to guide fiscal policies.

"It's a joke that he is asking for specifics now. We need a fiscal management plan or every year we are going to be in this mess," Della Fave said.

Newman agreed the city couldn't continue borrowing or selling off assets.

Pasculli said he cannot provide a fiscal agenda unless the city has a solid plan to develop the waterfront.

Pasculli based his budget on receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as part of a deal to co-develop the southern waterfront.

Della Fave said Pasculli increased municipal spending this year when he knew the waterfront deal was at

risk. Voters in a special referendum in July rejected the 50-year agreement. The election is being contested by an effort largely financed by the police and fire unions.

The state intervened and lent the city \$7.2 million. Even with that, taxes will go up and about 100 city workers will be jobless.

While Pasculli has virtually controlled the council since his election in May of last year, it is doubtful that he has the five votes needed to pass the budget.

Councilman Richard England, who ran on the mayor's ticket, has vowed not to approve a budget that carries a tax rate of more than \$19.99 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Della Fave, Newman and Cappiello are critical of the budget. Council President E. Norman Wilson's attendance is uncertain.

## Drug-turf slaying

## Witness: \$1,500 bought Hoboken death

By PETER F. DONOHUE  
The Hudson Dispatch

JERSEY CITY — The alleged trigger man in a Hoboken drug-turf slaying testified yesterday that a Plainfield man on trial for murder promised him \$1,500 to "rob or shoot" the victim.

Ronald Henderson, the last prosecution witness in the trial of David

Goodwin, bolstered the state's claims that the 21-year-old defendant orchestrated the Feb. 11, 1989, murder of James "Bo" Wheeler, a former Hoboken football star.

Henderson, 17 at the time of the attack, described a detailed plot during which Goodwin, of Hoboken, gave him a handgun and a walkie-talkie to carry out the assault and aid his getaway.

But the teenage gunman's memory was faulty at times, eliciting disbelief and exasperation from defense attorney Bob Norton.

"Do you know what it means to tell the truth?" Norton asked during his cross-examination of Henderson, the state's key witness.

Wheeler, 21, was fatally shot in the chest on Marshall Street outside the

Jackson Gardens housing projects around 10:30 p.m. as about seven people watched.

Henderson, of Newark, said he was recruited for the attack because Wheeler was ripping off drug dealers working for Goodwin and Timothy White, Wheeler's cousin.

White, 22, also of Hoboken, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and armed robbery in connection with the slaying.

The gunman said he and his cousin, Willie Henderson, then 17, approached Wheeler intending only to rob him. But he said Wheeler resisted.

Henderson said he pulled a .38-caliber handgun out of his black leather trench coat when he was surrounded by a group

Please see WITNESS Page 20

## Hoboken trustees to ask state for school funds

By Kahl Kozelak  
Journal correspondent

The Hoboken Board of Education voted last night to approach the state for funds to tear down Thomas G. Connors Elementary School and build a new school in its place.

The proposed demolition and construction is part of a plan to modernize Hoboken school facilities in accordance with a state mandate that gives Hoboken five years to upgrade the schools, board officials said.

"The state says we have inadequate facilities and we are trying to remedy that one step at a time," school trustee Perry Belfiore said. "This is

just the first step."

The board plans to appeal to the state for building funds from a not-as-yet approved \$600 million educational program.

"We will be making an application for funds to the state," Belfiore said. "And if we are not successful, we will go before the taxpayers in a referendum or we will enter into a lease-purchase agreement."

But according to Belfiore, the board is not considering a lease-purchase agreement in earnest at this time.

School Superintendent Walter J. Fine added that the educational community will be approached about any proposed construction.



# Columbus Day appeals to ethnic pride in Hoboken

Continued from Page 1

man Empire to a decision in 1963 to nearly name the Verrazano Bridge after John F. Kennedy following his assassination, more than 100 high school students and their principal, Charles Tortorella, quietly filed into the park.

They quietly left 45 minutes later when the class period ended.

Pane, who spoke above car alarms and youths playing basketball, said that New Jersey is named after Ceasar, that Giovanni Da Verrazano discovered Hudson Bay 85 years before

## Public officials, past and present, celebrate their Italian heritage

Henry ever saw it, and that an Italian bishop wrote the Baltimore Catechism.

"Queen Isabel never pawned her jewels," Pane said. Rather the journey to find the New World was financed by merchants — originally from the section of the world now known as Italy — who wanted to expand their markets and bring home more spices and silks.

"Our goal to come here was to

improve the status of ourselves and our children," Pane said.

DeFazio thought the lecture was brilliant.

"I am shocked, surprised that you did not have the students from Hoboken High school and their teachers were not here," DeFazio chastised.

The lecture was more valuable for students rather than those gathered in the audience because "we're 90 percent over the bridge," DeFazio said.

"They were here," corrected retired Jersey City Municipal Court Judge Edward Zampella from the audience.

"How many? Six?" DeFazio asked. He then turned his attention to the statue of Christopher Columbus. "Do you see that arm hanging there?" DeFazio asked. "That is the arm of Pete Natali, the nephew of..." there is a hesitation.

Zampella offers, "Carmine De-

Sappio," referring to a former New York City political boss. "What is this, an act," Zampella asked rising from his seat.

DeFazio then gives a 30-second lecture about politicians and their need to overspend, which caused Farina, who has a reputation of being a big spender, to roll his eyes.

Also attending the ceremony was DeFazio's nephew, Edward DeFazio, 38, chief judge of Jersey City Municipal Court, and his grandnephew, Mark, 4, of Rutherford, who wants to be a "fireboy."

# Hoboken remains faithful to the Faithful Navigator

By Jo-Ann Moriarty J.J. 10-9-90  
Journal staff writer

Hudson County Executive Robert Janiszewski told a small gathering at (Christopher) Columbus Park in Hoboken yesterday morning that the forthcoming ceremony was about "tradition, families and the contribution of Italian Americans."

He was right. The ceremony was about tradition — Hoboken-style.

There was retired Hoboken Municipal Judge Charles DeFazio, 85, wearing a blue Villanova cap that matched his eyes, greeting the crowd, "It's nice to be alive."

"Columbus, he didn't know what the hell he had found," said DeFazio, who held an encyclopedia-sized book about the discoverer of the New World.

But after the tradition stopped after two years, City Clerk James Farina and Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Maurice Fitzgibbons, state director of ethnic affairs, under the organization of the Young Democrats, and state Assemblyman Bernard Kenny, D-Hoboken, decided three years ago to carry on the annual event.

Each year DeFazio is invited as a guest speaker. Farina, president of the Board of Education, collects DeFazio in his car, drives him to the park at 11th and Clinton streets, right next to Hoboken High School, then brings him to the Young Dems Club, at 332 Jackson St., for a meatball dinner.

Keynote speaker yesterday was Remigio U. Pane, chairman of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission who also founded the Italian Department at Rutgers University in the early '40s.

Pane, who immigrated to the United States when he was a teenager, put himself through college by working as a shoemaker during the day and studying at night.

Soon after his hour-long lecture began, which spanned the Holy Ro-

See COLUMBUS DAY — Page 6

# Hoboken drug killing goes to jury

J.J. 10-11-90  
By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer

The case of a Plainfield man accused of masterminding the drug turf slaying of a suspected Hoboken drug-dealer ended yesterday, but a Superior Court jury remained undecided after several hours of deliberation.

They will try again today to reach a verdict in Judge Patricia K. Costello's courtroom in Jersey City.

Goodwin has been standing trial for six days on charges of "purposeful and knowing" murder, felony murder, armed robbery and two unlawful gun possession offenses for which he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Just about every fact in the case has been contradicted. One fact not in dispute is that the defendant, David Goodwin, 21, drove two juveniles to Hoboken the night of Feb. 11, 1989 and within minutes James "Bo" Wheeler, 21, was shot.

Goodwin admits a cousin of his gave passenger, Ronnie Henderson, Goodwin's 38 caliber handgun at a Newark nightclub the evening before the slaying in order that he

could protect himself from would-be robbers.

The prosecution's case relies heavily on an audio-taped statement Goodwin gave Hudson County investigators approximately three hours after the shooting. The voices of investigators are clear, but Goodwin is barely audible.

In that statement, Goodwin denies hiring anyone to kill Wheeler, but acknowledges Wheeler's cousin, Timothy White, a former Hoboken High School basketball star, wanted a contract out on him. Instructions were to rob or shoot Wheeler.

Goodwin said the attack was retribution for Wheeler stealing drugs from White, whom Goodwin described as one of Hoboken's biggest drug-dealers. White was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison for his involvement in the shooting.

During closing arguments yesterday, Goodwin's attorney, Robert T. Norton, said Goodwin sounded groggy on the audio-tape because he had popped narcotic pills that night.

He criticized investigators for not asking his client critical, fundamental questions during their interrogation.

"This is a perfect example of the horrible job Sorrentino and Bartucci did investigating this case," he said.

Norton told the jury to disregard the testimony of Ronnie Henderson, who claimed Goodwin was to pay him \$1,500 to rob or shoot Wheeler.

He reminded jurors that

Henderson, also known as "Red Barry," has rejected plea deals offered him by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and is soon to stand trial for murder.

"Disregard what Red Barry said," Norton said. "He wants a better deal. He's a killer." Henderson testified he accidentally shot Wheeler during a robbery attempt.

Assistant Hudson County Prosecutor Charles D'Amico turned the tables on Norton, saying Goodwin should have denied involvement in the killing on the audio-tape if investigators had failed to query him.

Turning to the jury, D'Amico said, "If you knew you had nothing to do with it, you would (have said so). He didn't because he's guilty."

## Hoboken's 14th St. viaduct open

Officials reopened the 14th Street viaduct in Hoboken yesterday, following the completion of a three-year reconstruction of the bridge. The viaduct connects uptown Hoboken with Union City and Jersey City's Heights section.

Starting in 1987, the bridge received a complete overhaul, including the repair of its steel structure and the replacement of its concrete roadway.

Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski, Hoboken Mayor Patrick Pasculli and other officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate completion of the work.

"This ceremony may be long-awaited, but all good things take time," Janiszewski said. "What's more important, however, is that the 14th Street viaduct has a life expectancy of 20 years."

The cost of the project was originally slated for \$8.75 million, but was completed for \$9.25 million.

—DAVID REILLY.

# After 94 years, Industrial School doors close

J.J. 10-11-90  
By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

For the first time in 94 years, the Industrial School in Hoboken is not offering free adult education because the \$23,000 annual funding was axed by Mayor Patrick Pasculli's administration.

"It is really sinful to see the doors close after 94 years when so many adults really relied on it," yesterday said Josephine Valente, school director.

But Pasculli said drastic actions were needed to recover the \$8 million budget shortfall. He noted that the summer recreation programs were cut short and the cultural arts programs eliminated.

"My point is that we cannot be selective, they are all worthwhile programs. The Industrial School has been a viable education for decades and we want to see it continue," Pasculli said.

Pasculli based his 1990 budget on receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to co-develop the southern waterfront. When voters rejected the plan, Pasculli eliminated 110 city jobs and cut programs.

The mayor did not cut the police and fire departments and promotions in those departments added

\$200,000 to the budget this year. The Hoboken Education Association was also given a three-year contract in April, costing \$5 million to fund and giving teachers more than a 30 percent raise.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said that he doubts the school can open before January because it will be at least November before he can send the board of directors a check if the council approves.

Chius said the City Council should demand an operational budget and statement of purpose for the school.

"It was founded to prepare immigrants for work. When I went there, I found classes like hat making," Chius said.

Indeed, Josephine DeAngelis has been teaching sewing and Marie Barile millinery since the 1930s. Lessons in art and ceramics are also offered.

"We have very dedicated teachers," Valente said. "Our classes are a mixture of people wanting to better themselves. We also have a lot of yuppies," she said.

This year Valente was going to replace stenography with resume writing and job preparation.

The school is open from Monday through Thursday from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and offers courses in English as a second language, Spanish and Italian as well as computer science, basic typing and advanced typing, business management and income tax preparation. Registration is \$5 and the 20-week course is free.

Councilman Joseph Della Fave asked that the funding for the Industrial School be reinstated. Councilman Steve Cappiello said he believed the council has enough votes to override the cut.

"The \$21,000 out of an \$18 million problem is not the answer. There is no need to jeopardize that state funding for a minuscule contribution from the city," Della Fave said. The state contributes \$21,000 to the school.

## GUILTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

taking back the streets," D'Amico said.

During the six-day trial, Ronald "Red Barry" Henderson, 18, said he was hired — and armed — by Goodwin to rob or shoot James "Bo" Wheeler.

Wheeler, 21, was ripped off the defendants' drug dealers, the Newark teenager said.

Henderson said he only meant to rob the former Hoboken High School football standout, but the gun discharged accidentally during a struggle with the victim

outside the Jackson Gardens housing project on the night of Feb. 11, 1989.

The jury acquitted Goodwin, who said he lived in Plainfield and Hoboken, of homicide. A homicide conviction implies a defendant purposely caused the death of another person. Felony murder implies a killing was the unplanned result of another crime, in this case, robbery.

County sheriff's officers hustled D'Amico from the courtroom after the foreman read the verdicts. Goodwin's parents huddled in the hallway.

His mother, who declined to give her first name, fought back tears but was boiling with anger.

Goodwin said her son refused to plead guilty to lesser charges even though that would have meant about two decades less behind bars.

"He didn't take the deal because he's not guilty," she said, after her handcuffed son, who previously was free on bail, was led off to the county jail.

Mrs. Goodwin expressed outrage that Henderson, whom she dubbed "the killer," could get out of prison before her son.

The Prosecutor's Office offered Henderson a plea deal calling for 30 years in prison, if he had

accepted it, he would have to spend 12 years behind bars before becoming eligible for parole.

Henderson rejected the deal. D'Amico is expected to try him on a murder charge.

Timothy White, 22, of Hoboken, whom the defense claimed was the drug dealer behind Wheeler's death, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and armed robbery. White, Wheeler's cousin, was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Willie Henderson, Ronald's cousin, was with the accused gunman on Feb. 11, 1989. His case is pending in Family Court.

Defense attorney Bob Norton declined to comment. Judge Patricia K. Costello is to sentence Goodwin Nov. 30.

# Homeless troubled at removal of shrubs

Continued from Page 1

shape bordering the waterfront. The land belongs to the New Jersey Transit but is leased to the city for use as a park.

The 80 or more shrubs provided the homeless with a place to stash their belongings during the day.

"They are not supposed to keep clothes hidden on city property," Baker said. "They defecate on public property. They urinate on the grass."

Baker said he met with Mayor Patrick Pasculli about ways to keep the plaza clean and he did mention to Peggy Thomas, community development director, that the plaza would look better shrubless.

"It was rat infested and filled with beer bottles, broken cans and needles and presented a health hazard," Baker said.

"They (the homeless) get drunk and bother people sitting out there. They hold their genitals and yell at the women," he said.

Baker said he met with Mayor Patrick Pasculli about ways to keep the plaza clean and he did mention to Peggy Thomas, community development director, that the plaza would look better shrubless.

Pasculli said he did not know about the shrubs being removed. But the mayor said that he instructed the park superintendent to accommodate Baker's attempt to keep the plaza clean.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who oversees parks and public buildings, said that the shrubs are routinely replaced. "They've been replaced several times," said Chius.

Chius said that he believes that Baker was going to plant new shrubs, not grass, because grass would "really attract the homeless."

In the late afternoon, after the shrubs had been leveled, groups of homeless people sat on benches around the plaza.

A soft rain began and a homeless woman named Melissa headed toward the outside of the Baker Building to keep dry. In a Balducci bag, she carried her belongings — newspapers and some magazines.

"The rats are just an excuse," she said. "They want to chase us."

See HOMELESS — Page 4

# 25 percent increase in Hoboken tax rate shown in new budget

J.J. 10-13-90  
By Jo-Ann Moriarty  
Journal staff writer

The revised Hoboken \$34 million city budget carries a 25 percent tax rate increase with a projected rate of \$21.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The budget was introduced last night to the City Council, which will vote on the spending plan next Wednesday.

The existing rate is \$17.52. Mayor Patrick Pasculli said that "no one is happy with the tax rate. But under the circumstances, we have done the best we possibly could do."

"We have in place the most ambitious austerity program in the history of the city. Now we must set out to raise revenue through waterfront development to put the city back on the road to financial stability," Pasculli said.

"No additional employees will be hired back. Upon vacancies, we will evaluate the

need for replacements," he said.

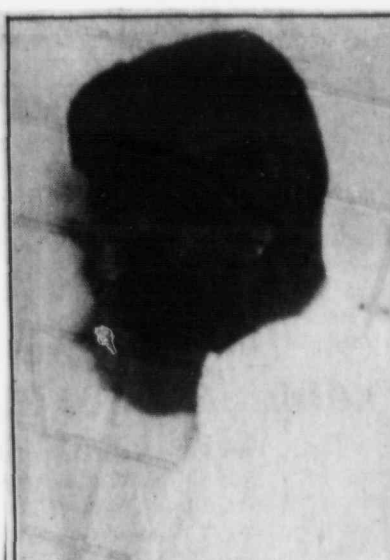
The rate will most likely remain at \$21.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation because there are not enough votes on the council to make budget reductions in the police and fire departments, Councilman Joseph Della Fave said.

Pasculli based his 1990 spending plan on receiving \$8 million from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to co-develop the southern waterfront.

But in a special referendum, voters rejected the plan and the 50-year deal with the bistate agency.

The state intervened and is loaning Hoboken \$7.2 million to get out of its fiscal crisis.

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



DAVID GOODWIN  
Found guilty of felony murder  
Drug vendetta

# Killing leader guilty

Crime in Hoboken spells long sentence

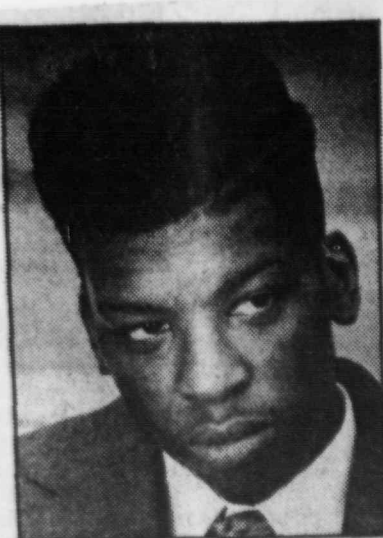
By PETER F. DONOHUE  
The Hudson Dispatch 10-12-90

JERSEY CITY — An alleged drug dealer accused of masterminding the killing of a reputed rival in Hoboken was convicted of felony murder yesterday.

A Hudson County Superior Court jury foreman announced the verdict at 2:20 p.m. as David Goodwin stood silent and motionless, his eyes closed, in a crowded courtroom. Upon hearing the verdict, the lanky 21-year-old — who now faces at least 30 years in prison — sank into his seat.

Assistant County Prosecutor Charles D'Amico said the jury of eight men and four women, which also convicted Goodwin of armed robbery and two weapons offenses, was sending a warning to drug dealers.

"The people of the county are sending a message that they're



David Goodwin  
Faces 30 years to life

# Guilty verdict in drug killing

Defendant refused prosecutor's offer of plea bargain

By Earlene C. McMichael  
Journal staff writer

A Superior Court jury found a Plainfield man guilty yesterday in the murder of a reputed Hoboken drug dealer. David Goodwin, 21, will have to serve at least 30 years in prison and could be sentenced to a life term.

Goodwin's parents continued to maintain their son's innocence despite the jury's determination that he had been

an accomplice in the murder and robbery of James "Bo" Wheeler, 21.

Goodwin's mother, who would not reveal her first name, said her son repeatedly rejected the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office's offers of a lighter plea.

"He did not take the deal because he is not guilty," a teary-eyed Mrs. Goodwin said, as she angrily walked through the halls of state Superior Court in Jersey City with her husband and other family members.

Under those plea deals, Mrs. Goodwin said, her son would have served no more than seven and a half to 10 years in prison.

But now Goodwin is guaranteed 30 years to life in prison when sentenced on Nov. 30 by Judge Patricia K. Costello.

The tall Goodwin, wearing

See GOODWIN — Page 4

# Goodwin convicted in Hoboken killing

Continued from Page 1

a thick, black and white pullover sweater, rocked his head gently from side to side in apparent disbelief after the verdict was announced and he was led away in shackles. His \$150,000 property bail bond was revoked.

Robert T. Norton, Goodwin's attorney, would not comment on the verdict. Assistant Hudson County Prosecutor Charles D'Amico beamed and offered a philosophical observation.

"The verdict says two things: the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office's Homicide Squad did a good job and the other is the people of this county were sending a message to drug-dealers that they're taking back the streets," he said.

D'Amico contended Goodwin promised to pay Ronnie Henderson, 18, \$1,500 to rob or shoot Wheeler on the night of Feb. 11, 1989 in retribution for Wheeler stealing drugs from Timothy White, a former Hoboken High School basketball star. Wheeler

and White were cousins and have been described as close, even inseparable.

The jury of eight men and four women deliberated for two days after hearing six days of frequently contradictory testimony.

The panel convicted Goodwin on four of seven charges: felony murder, first-degree armed robbery and two unlawful gun possession charges.

He was acquitted of "purposeful and knowing" murder, aggravated manslaughter and manslaughter.

A manslaughter conviction carries a mandatory five years in prison and guilt of aggravated manslaughter requires at least 10 years behind bars.

Henderson, accused as the triggerman, is in Hudson County Jail awaiting trial. Henderson's cousin, Willie, a juvenile, is awaiting court action for his alleged involvement in the killing.

White was sentenced June 12 to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter and armed robbery in connection with the case.

Among the undisputed facts was that Goodwin drove two juveniles to Hoboken's Jackson Gardens housing projects the night of the killing and within minutes Wheeler was shot; and that Goodwin gave a .38 caliber handgun to Henderson. The gun was later identified by ballistics experts as the murder weapon.

Goodwin claimed he gave the gun to Henderson the night before the incident so he could protect himself from would-be robbers.

He admitted that he hid the gun and later surrendered it to county investigators.

Henderson, who claimed that he accidentally shot Wheeler during a robbery attempt, said that Goodwin gave him the gun within minutes before the shooting.

Goodwin claimed he knew White wanted "to get" Wheeler, but denied knowledge of the specific time and place of the "hit."