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Economic progress cited in Mayor's 18th annual report

by Pat DiMaggio
Mayor Daniel L. Martin's 18th annual report, given at Rahway's Organization Meeting held on January 2, included references to crises faced by the City along with praise for economic progress.

In explaining financial expenditures by the City, Martin pointed to Police and Fire protection which draws 70 percent of salaries paid by the City.

Taxes include 45 percent going to the schools, 16 percent to County government, 15 percent to Police and Fire Departments and 9 percent for garbage and sewage.

"It is clear that in this day and age frivolous spending just does not exist, not in Rahway and probably not in most municipalities in New Jersey," explained Martin.

"Wherever we can, all of us involved in City government, elected officials, appointed officials and staff, have been doing a good job in holding down those costs of government which we can control while delivering the services which the people need to have."

Pointing to positive financial developments in 1988, Martin included the sale of municipal bonds in which Rahway received one of the highest ratings from the financial community and the in-depth audit of City financial management and practices conducted by auditors from the Department of Community Affairs.

The number one enemy of taxpayers today, said Martin, is the garbage crisis. In 1988, there was an increase in garbage service costs of

over \$2 million, a tripling of costs from the prior year. Local governments might have to add staff in order to save money, said Martin.

"Every ton of garbage which does not go to the transfer station for shipment to Pennsylvania saves the taxpayers of Rahway \$137," he noted. "Every two percent of reduced garbage going to the transfer station saves Rahway taxpayers about \$30,000. Therefore, having a full or part-time garbage inspector or enforcement officer who could reduce Rahway's solid waste flow by five percent would more than pay the salary and save tax dollars."

Accolades went to new businesses recruited into the City. Chase Manhattan transferred one of its subsidiaries, Chase Trans Info to Rahway, and Crossland Savings, one of the nation's largest banks is transacting business in the community.

Martin also praised the expanded new facilities of Rahway Hospital and the Rahway Savings Institution and the successful achievement of a prestigious State Council on the Arts grant by the Union County Arts Center.

Some of the community problems tackled by the Municipal Council included zoning codes for condominium and townhouse developments, new regulations to resolve citizen complaints about truck parking in the community and the distribution of unsolicited advertising materials. The council also undertook a complete evaluation of the salaries paid by the City government.

Other improvements in the City included the purchase of a state-of-the-art fire fighting machine, improvement of the equipment situation in the Public Works Department and the complete upgrading of the City's computer systems, said Martin.

Martin also pledged a commitment to the Police and Fire Departments. "In police, we created a unit totally devoted to combatting the drug problem which besieges our society," he said. "While this further strains our budget and causes personnel shortages in other areas, we believe we owe it to the youth of our community to do everything in our power as community leaders to give them a hometown environment as free from this scourge as possible."

The Fire Department was also reorganized during 1988. "With renewed emphasis on fire prevention, code enforcement and training, the Fire Department is prepared to make itself more valuable than ever to the people it serves," noted Martin.

Rahway's Volunteer Emergency Squad also drew praise from the mayor. "If there ever was any doubt that Rahway has the best squad, it had to be resolved in 1988 when we saw our squad called upon in unprecedented fashion to render service to other communities in need of help," said Martin.

Resource recovery made substantial progress in 1988, completing all of the highly technical and detailed work necessary for the construction permits, noted Martin. It will now proceed to public hearings on those permits

and will commence construction in the first half of this year.

"In this day and age municipal government is not for the faint-hearted," continued Martin in his closing remarks. "It is tough, demanding work, full of frustrations and setbacks. But the greater the challenge the greater the reward in meeting the challenge. And the greatest reward of all is solving a problem so that we will have done our job for the next generation; so that we leave our community better for our children than our predecessors left it for us. With this philosophy ever in mind, we will succeed in continually making Rahway the very best it can possibly be."

Council has jobs for sr. citizens

The Union County Senior Citizens Council of Union County is currently recruiting interested people age 55 or over for a variety of entry-level jobs, part time or full time. Employment opportunities include clerical, home health care, driving, dietary aide, store employment, sales, maintenance, security jobs, data entry and more.

Anyone interested may apply in person on a Tuesday or Thursday, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Union County Senior Citizens Council, 2165 Morris Avenue, Union. The council is located on the 2nd floor of the Chamber of Commerce building.

For more information, call 964-7555. Thomas Boyle is the program coordinator.



IN THE HOLIDAY TRADITION... Key Club members from Rahway High School helped the city's Kwanza Club prepare holiday food baskets for the needy. Pictured left to right are Key Club members Anthony Hau, Sherry Haberle, Eric Messersmith, and Principal Robert L. Brown. Other members not pictured are Julie Chason, Carol Brown, and Rodney Farrow.

New councilmembers sworn in

by Pat DiMaggio
Six new members of Rahway's Municipal Council were sworn into office during ceremonies at the Organization Meeting held on January 2. All of the City's six wards will have new representation in the coming year, the highest turnover in recent memory.

Sworn in were Republican Michael Esposito, representing the First Ward, Democrat Dennis Hemmaway representing the Second Ward, Republican William Wauack representing the Third Ward, Democrat Chester Holmes, sitting for the Fourth Ward, Democrat Alex Shipley, sitting for the

Fifth Ward and Republican Katherine Fulcomer, representing the Sixth Ward.

The rest of the nine member council consists of Vincent Addona, James Cadigan and Walter McLeod, all in at-large positions.

Walter McLeod was voted as council president for the 1989 year. McLeod, employed by the Rahway Housing Authority as Director of Maintenance, has been on the council since 1973. This is his third term as president.

"I'd like to welcome the new council members into this realm of order," said McLeod. "There will be many nights when they will

have to bite the bullet and not let the crowds who come out sway their opinion. Their decisions must not be geared to anyone or two individuals but to benefit the majority."

One of the first orders of business during the meeting drew fire from Councilwoman Katherine Fulcomer who introduced an amendment to a resolution creating a temporary budget for 1989. Her amendment would have reduced operational accounts by \$113,600, but was defeated on a vote of five opposed, Fulcomer, Esposito and Wauack in favor and Cadigan absent.

The council also appointed Suplee Clooney and

Company, Registered Municipal Accountants, as auditors for the City and selected The Rahway Branch of the National State Bank as the City's authorized legal savings bank.

The council also approved the following banks as legal depositories for public monies: National State Bank of Elizabeth, Rahway Branch; United Jersey Bank, CTC, of New Jersey, Rahway Branch; First Fidelity Bank, Newark Branch; City Federal Savings and Loan Association, Rahway Branch; The Summit Trust Company, Clark/Rahway Branch; The Howard Savings Bank, Clark/Rahway Branch.

Rahway's Francis gets law doctorate

Elizabeth Pascale Francis of Rahway graduated from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida December 17 with a juris doctor degree.

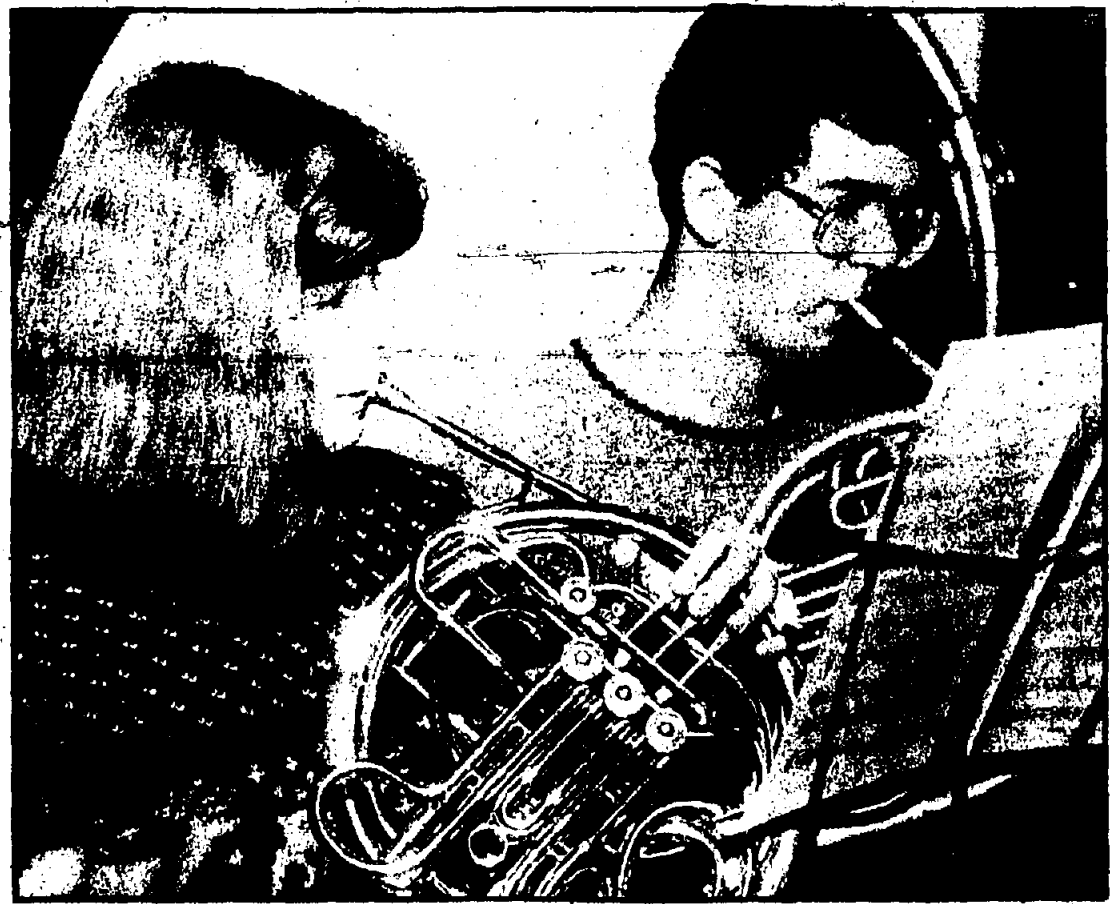
Francis received the \$200 Cecil and Augusta Bailey Scholarship Award for female students. She also was cited for inclusion in the current edition of Who's Who Among Students in American College and Universities.

Previously the recipient of a bachelor's degree cum laude in geology from the University of Pennsylvania, Francis was a Dana Scholar and a Teaching Fellow. She

received the American Jurisprudence Book Award for Evidence and the Abe Levine Memorial Award.

The College of Law at Stetson is the state's oldest. Established in 1900, it was first housed on the DeLand campus in a building constructed by Henry Flagler.

In 1954, the college was moved to St. Petersburg. It has gained a national reputation for producing outstanding trial lawyers, and its percentage of students passing the Florida bar examination on the first try has consistently been the highest or among the highest in the state.



PRACTICE... Charles Brainard of Rahway, at right, is among the Youth Symphony's Young musicians practicing for their appearance at the N.J. Youth Orchestra Festival in New York's Carnegie Hall on January 14 at 3 p.m. (At the left is Jocelyn Holland of Gladstone.) They will be joined by the Bergen Youth Orchestra and the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra for a gala event

sponsored by the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation. The N.J. Youth Symphony will feature Rimski-Korsakov's "Russian Easter Overture", which it plans to take on its tour of Poland this summer. A few tickets for this free concert are still available at the N.J. Youth Symphony office (Phone 522-0365 or 609-275-0433.)

Utilities Authority announces pick-up schedule for recyclables

The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) has released the schedule for curbside pickups of recyclables during January for the 11 municipalities participating in the County's Regional Recycling Program.

Newspaper, glass and aluminum will be collected in Rahway according to the following schedule:

Rahway (west of railroad tracks) - Jan. 9, 23 (Mondays).

Rahway (east of railroad tracks) - Jan. 10, 24 (Tuesdays).

UCUA officials remind residents to set out their recyclables by 7:30 a.m. the day they are scheduled for collection. Residents should prepare their materials according to the following guidelines:

Newspapers - must be clean, dry and tied in bundles that are no more than 8 inches thick. The bundles should not include magazines, telephone books, junk mail or glossy paper.

Aluminum beverage containers - must be well rinsed and placed in sturdy, reusable containers. Tin and bimetal cans will not be collected. [Note: A magnet will not attract the side or bottom of a recyclable aluminum beverage can.]

Glass bottles and jars - must be well rinsed with all caps and lids removed (labels, Styrofoam, metal rings and plastic wrappings do not have to be removed). Glass containers should be placed at the curb in sturdy, reusable containers. Only bottles and jars will be collected - residents should not put out window glass, mirrors, Pyrex or crystal.

Glass and aluminum recyclables must be kept in separate containers. Materials placed in plastic or paper bags will not be collected.

Did You Know? When you carry an umbrella in your car trunk, protect it by covering with two heavy cardboard mailing tubes.

Neil Cohen, Union County Freeholder, (D-Union), announced that he will soon introduce an ordinance to combat the illegal disposal of garbage that has been plaguing county communities. He stated that the ordinance is the culmination of nearly 11 months of study, research, and dialogue with many towns, officials, and governmental agencies.

Cohen further noted that the comprehensive ordinance will be the first of its kind on a county level in New Jersey, and will serve as a prototype for the rest of the counties in the state.

The rash of illegal garbage dumping incidents in Union County has posed severe environmental and health problems causing groundwater contamination and blocking of streams and sewers. They include commercial and residential waste as well as construction and demolition debris.

Cohen noted that the high cost of garbage removal has created an incentive for individuals to utilize parks, streets, and open spaces as their private, free-of-charge landfill. "We are going to utilize and employ all available resources within the county, including our citizens, to combat this problem," he said.

The County Police will work with local police departments to establish a hotline network to encourage reporting of dumping incidents. After violators are identified, and appropriate evidence is compiled, the Union County Regional Environmental Health Commission will work with local health agencies to investigate and assist in the prosecution of all offenders.

Under the statutory scheme, according to Freeholder Cohen, maximum fines of \$50,000 per day, seizure of vehicles utilized for illegal dumping activities, cost of cleanup, and attorney's fees will be sought. Cohen stated that he and Acting Council Jerry O'Dwyer, have devised a method of allocation for fines which are collected.

All fines collected will be distributed equally between the county, the municipality where the dumping incident occurred, and the Union County Regional Environmental Health Commission to recoup all expenses associated with the program, according to Cohen.

"The County will appropriate \$100,000 in 1989 to the Union County Regional Environmental Health Commission to start up the program," Cohen said. "The Commission and County will also be eligible for funds and matching grants from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection to train and equip county and local police and health inspectors to investigate illegal dumping incidents."

"We realize that the issue of soaring garbage disposal costs must be addressed, but in the interim, we cannot allow illegal dumping to destroy our most important natural resource - our environment," Freeholder Cohen stated.