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Student/teacher protests stir action

Board of Ed to vote on \$1M budget cuts Reduced cuts will rescind most lay-offs

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Board of Education will vote tonight on accepting \$1 million in cuts for their 1989-90 school budget, as recommended by the City Council. The council, at a meeting held last week, voted on a reduction of \$400,000 in the \$15,414,888 current expense portion of the board's budget and a reduction of \$600,000 in the \$737,530

capital outlay portion of the budget. The \$1 million reduction is the result of meetings and discussions between the board and the council to prevent program and staff cuts in the district. Voters rejected the budget in the April 4 schools election, and it was then up to the council to recommend reductions. Two weeks ago, the council ordered cuts of

\$1.5 million, forcing the Board of Education to send lay-off notices to approximately 75 staff members. Last week, students and teachers at the High School walked out in protest of the lay-offs. The new reduction of \$1 million will rescind those lay-off notices to all but a few staff members, said Peter Kowal, president of the

Board of Education. "With the new council reductions, no programs will be cut in the Rahway school system," said Kowal. Reductions in staff positions will be kept to a minimum, he said, mostly through retirements and attrition. Many of the students who joined in the protest were "misinformed", according to Kowal. Rumors were circulating that the athletic, art,

music and cosmetology programs would be cut. "There were heavy duty rumors flying around," said Kowal. "The kids believed these rumors as fact. They had the right idea in the protest, but their facts were incorrect." The council also proposed that a committee be formed consisting of council and board members to review all capital outlay needs

throughout the district, including asbestos removal, and to recommend a bond issue be placed on referendum, possibly in September. "In Union County, we have the smallest school debt service," said Councilman Vincent Addona. "A bond issue would not impact the dollars spent for educational purposes. We recommend a no frills referendum for capital outlay."

Board of Ed, City Council negotiate budget settlement

Rahway Board of Education President Peter Kowal and City Councilman-At-Large Vincent Addona announced last Wednesday a negotiated settlement between the committees of the Board and the City Council regarding the 1989-90 local school budget. The settlement, which will be submitted to the full Board and Council for a vote, calls for a reduction in the tax levy for public schools of \$1 million from the levy which was rejected by the voters on April 4.

Kowal and Addona stated that "both bodies are totally committed to excellence in education in Rahway and engaged in a great deal of give and take over how much is required to achieve that goal."

Kowal stated, "This Board of Education supports City Council's interest in management improvements in the school system to achieve greater efficiencies for the taxpayers. We had been planning on starting a program in this regard in the near future, pending the results of this year's elections."

Addona said that, "despite our initial dispute over how much money is needed for the school system, City Council does support the Board of Education's efforts to provide an excellent school system. In fact, as part of this settlement we have given our commitment to support needed capital improvements for the schools and will campaign for voter support as we have done in the past."

Kowal and Addona indicated that a joint committee of the bodies will be appointed to work on a capital improvement program to be placed on a referendum for needed physical improvements at school facilities. The settlement also provides, Kowal and Addona pointed-out, that the School Board will make the decisions as to where the \$1 million will be reduced. Addona stated that, "we have confidence in the Board to

P.O. says: 'Fix those mailboxes'

Rahway Postmaster Joseph P. Rufolo reminds us, "Now that warm weather has arrived and thoughts are turning to fixing up homes and yards, customers should focus their attention on mailbox receptacles."

For better, safe delivery, customers on rural, city motorized and contract routes are requested to repair and repaint worn or damaged mailboxes. If the mailbox is rusted or the door is broken off, the customer should provide a new mailbox that is safe to use and designated to protect mail from the weather.

Supports for mailboxes should be of adequate strength and size to properly hold the mailbox, and should be fastened securely. "Neat, secure, attractive mailboxes make delivery more efficient and contribute to the appearance of the countryside and streets in both urban and suburban

do what's best for education, just as we feel we've done our job for the citizens and taxpayers."

Kowal concluded by saying, "the important thing here is that both bodies have come together and shown they can work together in the best interests of the community. I feel that we do have mutual trust between the bodies and have Board Members and Council Members who care an awful lot about their community."

areas," says Postmaster Rufolo.

Customers living on rural routes or receiving city motorized delivery should place the rural box number or house number on the approach side of the mailbox. If mailboxes are grouped, the house number must appear on each door of each mailbox. The numbers must be visible to the approaching carrier and be a minimum of one inch high. Neat, visible numbers take the guesswork out of delivering the mail.

Postmaster Rufolo concluded by stating, "A mailbox that is safe and secure means, customers' mail is safe and secure. A good mailbox should be:

1. designed to protect the mail from adverse weather
2. neat in appearance
3. conveniently located, and
4. safe to use."

Mackie Post to install officers

Newly elected auxiliary officers of James E. Mackie Post 499 of the American Legion in Rahway who will serve for the year of 1989-90 are Margaret Stockley - President; Eugenia Williams and Lena Dent, vice presidents; Evelyn M. Boyd, secretary; Elsie Williams, corresponding secretary; Frances Bryant, treasurer; Luvenia Harrison, historian; Rose Sumpter, Sergeant of Arms; and Edith Golden, chaplain.

Installation services will be Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m. at the Post Home, 59 Main St., Rahway. All other posts officers and members are invited to attend.

PROFILE: Detective Shiel — first on the scene

by Pat DiMaggio
Detective William Shiel likes nothing better than a good mystery. That's because he's employed as a crime scene investigator for Rahway's Police Department, and Chief Barry Henderson says he is one of the best in the state. Give him a partial fingerprint, a thread discovered at the scene of a crime or a muddy footprint, stand back, and watch him go into action.

A crime scene investigator is one of the first police officers to be called into action. He obtains evidence left by a suspect such as footprints, fingerprints, fibers, hair and body fluids. He tries to establish what took place at that crime scene and gathers technical evidence which will link a suspect to that area. Almost every police department has an "ID man" in their identification section, but few are as concise and determined as Shiel.

Shiel joined the Rahway P.D. in 1971 and was assigned to the detective bureau in '76. Upon the retirement of George Burnett, Bill was promoted to the position of crime scene investigator.

Case History — Shiel once discovered a piece of broken glass imbedded in a doorway of a residence that had been burglarized. He was able to lift a print from the shard and discovered the impression of a scar in the print. He and another detective sat down and looked through more than 10,000 prints trying to match the distinctive scar.

A month later, a gentleman was arrested for burglary and fingerprinted. An officer noticed the scar in the prints. Shiel examined the print, determined that they matched, and the police were able successfully to close the books on a string of burglaries.

A crime scene investigator undergoes extensive training. Shiel is a graduate of Rahway High School and attained an associates degree in criminal justice from



INVESTIGATOR AT WORK... Detective William Shiel of the Rahway P.D. prepares to analyze a clue that will hopefully lead to the capture of a criminal. He has several successes to his credit.

Union College. He also attended Kean College.

He has attended more than 30 different schools taking courses pertaining to investigative techniques such as instruction by F.B.I. agents in basic and advanced fingerprinting, a course at the University of Delaware for post mortem identification, another at Rutgers University for arson investigation, one at the N.J. State Police Academy for crime scene investigation, a photography course at Eastman-Kodak in New York, and a course by Smith & Wesson, in Massachusetts, for instructions in weaponry.

Methods of investigation have changed dramatically since Shiel first started in the department. "When I took over, all latent fingerprints were sent to the county or the state for identification purposes," he said. "Now, I do it myself. I lift the prints, make comparisons and testify in court."

Up-and-coming in identification technology is DNA printing, said Shiel. Blood types are broken down and are used to positively identify a pattern and person.

"Up to now the only positive ID was fingerprinting," he explained. "DNA is trying to move into that position but it has to be tested in court. So far, it is accepted only in Florida. New Jersey

is waiting for a test case to come about."

Shiel also said photography has improved over recent years. "It has expanded from the old 4 by 5 cameras to modern equipment, from black-and-white developing in an old wash room to a fully automated color system."

Case History — A young girl was killed on St. Georges Avenue in a hit-and-run accident. Police officers stopped a car down the road but were unable to obtain any evidence linking the car to the accident.

Bill put the car on a lift and found a small, microscopic piece of thread hanging off the muffler bracket. He photographed it and the crime lab was able to match the thread perfectly to a pair of jeans the girl wore. The driver of the car was convicted.

Shiel has received seven citations for excellence and won a national award from Kodak for photography. "From day to day you never know what situation you will be challenged with," said Shiel. "When I find a piece of evidence that enables a positive identification, I get a great deal of satisfaction."

Case History — A bullet was fired through the home of a Rahway woman.



MAN OF THE CLOTH... In a celebration spread over four days, Rahway's 2nd Baptist Church will honor the Rev. James W. Ealey for having completed 22 years as the church's pastor. (story inside)

Proud Old Regina looks back on better times

At the moment, the future of Rahway's internationally famous Regina Co. does not look very bright. While optimism is buoyed somewhat by predictions of a positive cash flow by the end of May, the specter of demise, or of being swallowed by a former rival, looms large on the horizon.

In the wake of reports of false financial statements and guilty pleas by former officials on mail fraud charges, the nearly century-old company recently filed for protection from creditors under the federal bankruptcy code. The most recent blow was refusal by a bankruptcy judge to approve a \$5 million refinancing package.

While concentrating on filling outstanding orders and collecting outstanding debts, Regina has furloughed over 1,000 employees. According to a Wall Street Journal story, the company's Chapter 11 filing lists total assets of \$101 million and total liabilities of \$111 million.

The company's colorful past includes production of some of the finest, most collectible disc-playing music boxes ever built anywhere in

the world, invention of the forerunner of automatic record-changers and juke boxes, and several contributions to the perfection of the modern vacuum cleaner for household use.

The mechanical genius who founded Regina in 1892 was German immigrant Gustave Brockhausen. Although he made a great success of the music box business, he also showed signs of not being the astute businessman he was cracked up to be. One example was his failure to recognize the potential of Edison's phonograph as a formidable challenge to the music box business.

Perhaps a better example is Brockhausen's decision to sell Regina at the height of its success to gamble his fortune on some new ventures. His failure in that quest gave him something in common with William Durant, the founder of General Motors.

Durant, like Brockhausen, had built a new company into a great success, then struck out on his own and failed. Ironically, both men suffered the ultimate indignity of later having to accept menial jobs with the corporations they founded.

Board of Ed meets tonight

A Special Meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held tonight (May 11) at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room in the Intermediate School, the purpose being to discuss Board of Education candidates, which will take place in closed session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Any action regarding the discussion topic will take place in a public session at the conclusion of the closed session, or at a later date. In addition, the Board will consider and act upon modifications to the Board's position concerning the 1989-90 school budget.

Flower sale to benefit Hist. Soc.

The Rahway Historical Society has scheduled a garden plant & flower sale for Saturday, May 13, at the Merchants & Grocers Tavern (cor. St. Georges & Westfield Avenues), from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

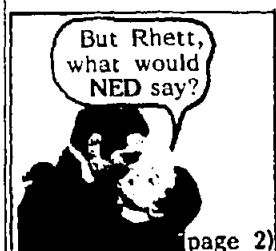
Proceeds will benefit Historical Society programs.

NAACP sponsors free show for seniors and disabled at GSAC

The NAACP-Rahway Branch, in conjunction with the N.J. Highway Authority Cultural Affairs Division, is sponsoring the Marion Williams Gospel Show, Monday, May 15, 12:30-2:30 p.m., at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel.

For many years, the dynamic Marion Williams has toured concert halls both here and abroad. The N.Y. Times says, "Ms. Williams has one of the most magnificent voices in American music," and the London Daily Mail said, "her ability to engage humanity through music has made her one of the great spiritual leaders of our time."

"When you go to court and deal in science, you can't be disrupted. It is a pure science fact."



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Stigma remains

1st woman: Have you ever seen Rahway in the winter?
2nd woman: Rahway — that's a prison.
1st woman: Some people call it a country club.

That brief snippet of a conversation was part of the dialog of the episode of TV's "Dream Street" that aired May 5 on NBC. Either the episode was written a while ago, or writers Rose Schacht and Anne Powell are unaware that the famous prison in Avenel now has a new name: East Jersey State.

True, there once was a "Rahway Prison," but it never was in Rahway. It got that name simply because its mail came through the Rahway Post Office.

The closing lines of the above conversation seemed to give Rahway a sister city in the west:
2nd woman: Isn't your husband in Rahway?
1st woman: Boonville, Missouri. Same deal.