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INCOMING PRESIDENT, Ed Mette of the Rahway Retired Men's Club takes the mike to address members at a recent meeting of the club at the Rahway Senior Citizens Center.

## August schedule for recyclables in Rahway set

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

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

West of railroad tracks — August 7 & 21 (Mondays); east of railroad tracks — August 8 & 22 (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 and tied in bundles that are no more than 8 inches thick. The bundles should not include shopping bags, magazines, telephone

books or junk mail.

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

— Aluminum beverage containers — must be well rinsed and placed in a sturdy, reusable container. Tin cans, paint cans and spray cans can not be collected. (Note: A magnet will not attract the side or bottom of a recyclable all-aluminum can.)

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

## Over citizen objections ...

# COUNCIL PASSES \$19.16 MILLION BUDGET

### \$2.14 per \$100 tax rate remains intact

by Pat DiMaggio  
More than 500 angry and vocal residents jammed City Hall last Thursday night to complain about the City's recent revaluation and increased taxes. A smaller crowd showed up for

Monday's meeting, at which the \$19.16 million budget was approved. Rahway's Municipal Council met on July 27 to adopt their 1989 budget. However, in the process of preparing the budget for

review by the State, the Finance Office discovered that it had not included \$165,000 for pension costs in the final total. As a result, the \$19.1 million budget was \$74,379 over cap, the state allowed increase, and could not be adopted.

The council approved recommended reductions in the budget totalling \$130,400, bringing it under cap of \$621. Although these reductions did not offset the \$165,000, they will not affect the total rate of \$2.14 or the total budget percentage increase of 4 percent. The meeting to adopt the 1989 spending plan was rescheduled for Monday, July 31.

**Thursday's Meeting**  
At last Thursday's meeting, City Hall was packed with angry residents complaining of the new assessments on their homes and increased taxes. People stood against the walls, in the aisles, and many of them sat on the floor, shouting out their opinions.

"I am angry and upset at this tax increase," said Marion Baruka, Jacques Avenue, who said her taxes would increase by more than \$700 this year. "I feel we're getting nothing for that increase. My solution to this problem is that I am getting out. I'm moving to Florida."

Laura Sigley, Scott Avenue, said when she purchased her home four years ago, her taxes were \$1500, now they total \$3000. "Yes, we have good services here in Rahway," she noted, "but I would like to know how I can continue to improve my home and continue to live in Rahway."

Many of the residents complained about the new valuations on their homes, saying they could not sell them for the assessed price. "My complaint with the taxes is that they go up year

after year," said George Wagenhoffer, Elm Terrace. "I couldn't sell my house for what they revalued it for. Something had better be done or you'll have a ghost town here."

Diane DeJesus's suggestion of not paying taxes was echoed by residents' shouts of "tax revolt, tax revolt."

"For the most part, I really like this town," said DeJesus. "I want to help my City, and I believe in fair and equitable taxes. But right now these taxes don't seem fair. I will join in with these people in not paying these taxes."

One 80-year-old resident voiced the concerns of many of the senior citizens who attended the meeting. "I don't want to go into an old man's home or an apartment," he said. "I love my home and I want to stay in it."

"This revaluation is unfair and should be junked," said James Fulcomer, former 6th Ward councilman. "I strongly object to the high tax increase this budget would give the taxpayers of Rahway."

Fulcomer pointed to the \$1 million reduction the council made in the defeated Board of Education budget last April. "You cut this money from the Board of Education budget before one cent was spent on education," he continued. "Why not cut \$1 million from your budget?"

Council President Walter McLeod tried to limit residents' comments to two minutes. When Fulcomer refused to yield the floor after the allotted time, McLeod called a recess and all the Democratic councilmembers, the mayor and administrator and the city clerk left the chambers.

"I have the right to speak for 10 minutes on any item on the agenda," shouted Fulcomer. "It is the law of the

City. And they just violated the law."

By midnight, the crowd had thinned out to approximately 100 people. Councilman Michael Esposito introduced a resolution to further reduce the budget by \$600,000 by temporarily laying off personnel and by reducing the increase for department heads in the City from 6 percent to 5 percent. "This resolution would eliminate politically created jobs and reduce unnecessary people on the payroll," said Esposito.

Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett, in looking over the resolution, said it would only cause a \$264,000 reduction because Esposito's numbers were incorrect. Hartnett said Esposito included a reduction of \$324,000 in the Police Department account that had already been made. "This is a major misrepresentation," said Hartnett.

"We all feel the sting of tax increases," said Councilman F. Alex Shipley. "But this is the first I am seeing of this piece of paper (Esposito's resolution). I would like to get an idea of what would be cut. You can't just capriciously delete some numbers. I don't think anyone on the council can vote for this."

Republican Councilmembers Esposito, Katherine Fulcomer and William Wauck voted in favor of the resolution, all other Democratic councilmembers were opposed.

**Monday's Meeting**  
When the council met again on Monday to finalize the budget, the number of citizens who showed up was

less than half that at the previous meeting. Former councilman Fulcomer returned to repeat his charges that "the budget doesn't serve the people," and a dozen or more other attendees also voiced complaints against the budget and high property valuations.

Diane DeJesus was among others who returned after having attended the previous meeting. "Shame on you," she scolded the council, "you're supposed to be for the people."

Republican councilmember Esposito introduced an amendment, specifically calling for elimination of many clerical positions including that of City Clerk. The amendment had the support of other Republican councilmembers Katherine Fulcomer and William Wauck.

Reached for comment, City Clerk Francis "Bud" Senkowsky cited state

statutes 38-9-133 and 38-9-134, which, collectively, (a) require municipalities to have city clerks and (b) grant tenure after 5 years in office. He said there is also another statute "that says they can't cut any salary." Esposito, he added, in introducing his amendment, was "simply following Jimmy's lead."

Business administrator Hartnett and Councilmember James Cadigan explained that the problem faced by residents has to do with state property tax laws and aid cuts, and that moving the municipal budget would not solve the problem.

In the end, the council passed the \$19.16 million budget with a 5-to-3 vote along party lines.

**UCU in need of direct transfer now possible**

Students attending Union County College may now take advantage of a direct transfer agreement with Kean College, Union, a four-year state college to which selected credits in physical and health sciences may be directly applied. For more information, call the Kean Admissions office, 527-2195.

**CORRECTION on Fishing Derby site**  
The site of the Fishing Derby scheduled for Wednesday August 9 and reported on last week's front page has been changed. Instead of Milton Lake as originally reported, the derby will be held at Rahway River Park Lake. Registration is 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. that day. Fishing time is 6:15 to 7:15. The rain date is August 10.

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**MULTIPLE HONORS ...** Retired teacher Joe Androvich, a native of Rahway, a Rahway High School graduate and a member of Rahway's Athletic Hall of Fame, now residing in Toms River, has been named New Jersey's "Outstanding Commandant" by the N.J. State Department of the Marine Corps League. A three-year veteran of the Marine Corps (1953-56), he currently serves as Commandant of the Cpl. Philip A. Reynolds Detachment of Freehold, cited as an "Outstanding Detachment" for the year 1988-89. Androvich was earlier inducted into the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Society in Philadelphia, at ceremonies which included the awarding of the Society's Bronze Medallion to another Rahway native, General Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. A member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, Pound #136, the "fun and honor society" of the Marine Corps League, Androvich was recently elevated to 2nd degree. For his services to his fellow Marines and others and for his representation at affairs sponsored by the Marine Corps League, Androvich was awarded the Distinguished Service Award-Bronze Medal. He has been appointed to serve as the N.J. Dept. Marine Corps League Chaplain for 1989-90.



**'HOW'D I GET HERE?'** ... The boating and wading were excellent but swimming, fishing and crabbing were a no-no at quickly formed Lake "Jefferson," at the confluence of the Inman and Jefferson Rivers, also sometimes known as "Gassaway Corner" in Rahway. The lake was formed by the torrential rains of early July. (Photo by Sam Gassaway)



**COMPLETES TRAINING ...** Jemod G. Ellis has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., during which he received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions. He is the son of John R. and Christine Ellis of Capobianco Place, Rahway.

## BIG, okay. But how does it taste?

New Jersey's largest tomato grower will reap a \$1000 prize in the twelfth annual N.J. Championship Weigh-In this year, said Agriculture Secretary Arthur R. Brown Jr.

He said growers should consider planting their tomatoes soon, if they want to compete in this annual contest held in August, which spotlights one of the Garden State's most famous crops.

Brown noted that contestants should choose seed varieties known to produce large fruit and place the plants deep in soil that is well-drained, easily worked and located in strong sunlight to encourage growth. Winning tomatoes usually weigh between 4 to 4.5 pounds.

The contest will be held August 26. Semi-finalists from around the state will meet at Monmouth Mall, Eatontown, where they will compete for the prizes, ranging from \$100 to \$1000, according to contest founder and organizer Joseph Heimbold of Monmouth Beach. Semi-finals are held the same day from 9 to 11 a.m. at various "weigh-in stations" (sponsoring garden and hardware stores) throughout New Jersey.

This year, for the first time, winners at the weigh-in stations will be paid for mileage costs — at least \$25 (more for longer distances) — to attend the final contest at Monmouth Mall. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Monmouth Mall at 542-0333.

**HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CLEAN**

**TURN IN: A DRUG DEALER**

**TURN IN A DRUG DEALER** ... The sign with the words "HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CLEAN" is a project of Capobianco Place. The sign with the words "TURN IN: A DRUG DEALER" is a project of the Rahway Police Department. Honorary PRA plans to place these signs in the neighborhood. Watch for them. If you see one, call the police or anything of a...