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25 CENTS



Mayor Dan Martin

## Mayor responds to Republican charges

### Bids opponents strive for statesmanship

Mayor Daniel L. Martin, a Democrat, issued a statement today calling on Republican Council Members Katherine Fulcomer, Michael Esposito, and William Wnuck to "discontinue their partisanship and start behaving as responsible public officials," Martin commented he "had never, in 20 years as Mayor, seen more partisan Council Members than these three."

"I invite these Council Members to join me in striving for statesmanship, not partisanship, in City government," Martin stated. Responding to Republican charges that he has not met the law in submitting the budget to City Council, the Mayor said "that is simply not true."

"In order to meet the requirements of the law, I submitted to Council on January 16 of this year, a budget the same as last year's budget," the Mayor said. "I did this in the best interests of the people of Rahway until we can get as much information from the State as possible to submit a new budget to Council that would go as easy as possible on the taxpayers," the Mayor declared. "We need to have some idea of what the State and County are doing before we can develop an intelligent budget for the people of Rahway," the Mayor noted.

Responding to Republican allegations that there is no draft City budget because the City Administrator, Joseph Hartnett, has not been devoting enough time to it, the Mayor said "this, also, is frivolous and partisan." "The City Administrator has already fully completed one draft budget as part of the State municipal revitalization program and will be doing many others until we have a final budget," Martin explained. "The issue is not whether we have a budget we can submit," the Mayor asserted, "the issue is when I as Mayor will have at least a minimal amount of information from Trenton to do the best budget job possible for the taxpayers."

"The taxpayers need help," Martin said, "and we have to extend ourselves in every way possible to provide that help." The Mayor also declared that "the Republicans shouldn't complain about public employees being in-

voluted in politics in their free time because two of the three Republican Council Members — Mrs. Fulcomer, a teacher, and Mr. Wnuck, employed by Essex County — and Republican City Chairman James Fulcomer, also a teacher, are all publicly engaged full-time and also engaged in political activity."

"I believe the Republicans do not abuse their situations and I make sure that no Democrat does," Martin said, adding, "this is an area of conscience, and I have no evidence to question anyone's conscience, either Republican or Democrat." The Mayor noted his belief that "these recent Republican charges are emotional overreactions to being caught double-dipping on health benefits, as they were." He noted that he "didn't even go into the issue of the current Republican City Chairman — Mr. Fulcomer — having been a triple-dipper when he wastefully charged the taxpayers three times for the same health coverage when he was a Councilman, County Freeholder, and a teacher."

"Martin pointed out 'even these Republicans voted on March 12 for my health benefits reform plan, as it passed unanimously at the Council meeting that night. I believe this fact should clearly demonstrate to the public the correctness of my position on this matter.'"

"I know the Republicans have been rocked at being caught double-dipping," the Mayor said, "but facts are facts." "Let's all put that behind us now and work for the betterment of Rahway," he said. "That is most definitely my objective and vision for the community and will always be," the Mayor concluded, "even in spite of partisan squabbling which occasionally comes up."



William Wnuck



Katherine Fulcomer



James Fulcomer

## Kennedy:

## Viewpoint poll reveals concerns with Martin administration

Local community leader James J. Kennedy has responded to Rahway Democratic City Chairman Shipley's recent challenge to a poll conducted by Viewpoint Associates. The poll determined that, in addition to widespread dissatisfaction with the direction of the city, voter preference for the next mayor supported Kennedy by 41 percent, Martin by 21 percent, with 38 percent of Democratic voters undecided.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Shipley chose not to recognize the legitimacy of the poll and the significant concerns it raised regarding the management of this city. Instead, he chose to attack two highly respected professionals," stated Kennedy.

"Mr. Shipley's effort was designed to deflect the voters' attention from issues facing Rahway residents, such as soaring property taxes and unresponsive city management," commented Kennedy. "After a careful review of their professional credentials, we contracted with Ms. Sobolewski's firm, Viewpoint Associates, to conduct a comprehensive poll of citizen attitudes. It's unfortunate Mr. Shipley chose to impugn the reputation of Ms. Sobolewski who has worked for numerous Democratic Federal, State and County candidates."

Kennedy added that the poll was coordinated with Bariff/Lawrence, a nationally recognized media consultant firm with offices in New Jersey and New York. "They have contracted their services with Mayor David Dinkins of New York City, Congressman Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), Congressman John Lewis (D-Georgia), Congressman Chester Atkins (D-Mass) and former member of Congress Geraldine Ferraro (D-NY)," Kennedy noted.

Mr. Bradley D. Lawrence, a principle partner in the Bariff/Lawrence firm, commented, "I am confident of the results of this poll. The poll was conducted in uniformity with accepted principles of survey research. The poll utilized a valid statistical base of 400 registered Democrats, providing for margin error of 4 points."

Ms. Sobolewski commented, "the poll results indicated substantial voter dissatisfaction with two principle areas of Rahway city life. Increasing property taxes and unresponsive city management were by far the major concerns of Rahway Democratic primary voters."

"The purpose of the poll was to provide Mr. Kennedy with accurate snapshot of voters' perceptions, including Mayor Martin's administrative performance, to a wide range of important issues facing Rahway. Both for professional and ethical reasons, we would serve Mr. Kennedy no responsible purpose for misrepresenting the accuracy of Rahway voter perception," concluded Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Kennedy stated, "after thoughtful review of the polling results in consultation with my Campaign Steering Committee, we will make a major announcement regarding my potential candidacy on Tuesday March 27, at 7 p.m. at the Town House Restaurant, Irving Street."



James J. Kennedy, mayor hopeful

## Students briefly govern city

### Council recognizes 'Women's History Month'

by Pat DiMaggio  
It was Kwanzaa Youth Student Government day last week when students took over the reins of City government during the Municipal Council's regular monthly meeting.

Following is a list of positions for which the students substituted and the names of the students: Mayor Daniel Martin - Sherry Haberle; Councilman Michael Esposito - Erica Mesermit; Councilman Dennis Hemenway - Sheila Smith; Councilman Chester Holmes - Jessica Miller; Councilman Alex Shipley - Monica Quinn; Councilwoman Katherine Fulcomer - Jennifer Jones; Council President Vincent Addonizio - Lisa Mierolonda; Councilman James Cadigan - Mathias Ealey; Councilman Walter McLeod - Robert McClain; Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett - John Tan; City Clerk Francis "Bud" Senkowsky - Eric Collins; Director of Law Louis Rainone - Venisha Glatton.

The council also approved a resolution recognizing the month of March as "Women's History Month." According to the resolution, the City of Rahway acknowledges the substantial role played by American Women in every sphere of national life.

Many governmental agencies have joined in designating March as Women's History Month. Women's groups, such as the Union County Women's Political Caucus, observe this month with services and activities.

A resolution authorizing an agreement between the City and the Corporation of N.J. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Union Branch, was also approved by the council. The agreement provides for specialized services and will cost the City \$15,000 annually.

The council designated Police Captain Anthony Penna as the Safe Neighborhood Program Municipal Coordinator, Thomas Schimmel as the Clean Neighborhood Program Coordinator, Anthony Deige, Health Officer, as the representative to the Union County Women's Political Caucus, observe this month with services and activities.

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## Councilman charges Martin, Hartnett wage destructive 'food war'

### Sees RAO program hurt by city intrusion

Rahway Councilman Michael Esposito demanded recently that Mayor Daniel L. Martin and Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett stop their "unethical use" of Rahway city employees' and tax dollars in their "food war" with the Rahway Community Action Organization.

"Mayor Martin and Hartnett are trying to destroy a highly successful and idealistic food-for-the-poor operation run by volunteers. They are doing this by duplicating similar services in the same territory."

"Martin and Hartnett are motivated by ruthless political motives. They want to destroy this volunteer operation simply because it is led by a black Democrat who refuses to yield to their dictation of the city Democratic Party," said Councilman Esposito.

Esposito said that the use of city employees in this food war is proof that the Martin-Hartnett administration has more city employees on the payroll than they need and further evidence that the Martin-Hartnett administration is resorting to ever more desperate tactics to perpetuate their 20-year-old rule over Rahway.

## Hydrant flushing may discolor city tap water

The City of Rahway, Division of Water, will start its Spring Hydrant Flushing Program on Monday, April 2. It is expected that the flushing procedures will take three to four weeks. Time of flushing will be from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily to minimize traffic interruptions and to prevent discolored water to customers during normal daily usage.

Customers drawing water during the above time period can expect discolored water if they are in the flushing area.

## Board of Ed sets public hearing on 1990-91 budget

The Rahway Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing at 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, in the Intermediate School Auditorium, Kline Place, Rahway, at which time the Tentative Budget for the 1990-91 school year will be open to examination and discussion.

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## Barbershop chorus meeting monday

The Jerseyaires Chorus of the Rahway Valley Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBS QSAI) will meet Monday March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Male singers of all ages are invited. For further information phone 494-3580.

## Florio reneges on incinerator go-ahead

In his campaign for governor, James Florio had indicated that, although he was opposed to new starts on garbage incinerators in the state, those already approved for construction could proceed. He appears now to have changed his position, and his new posture could impact Rahway's planned resource recovery facility final approval for which has already been granted by the DEP.

Further action will probably have to await the report of a special task force the Governor will begin to assemble within the next two weeks. Meanwhile a total moratorium appears to be in effect.

## Wanted the flip side of the news?

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## Williams memorialized

by Pat DiMaggio  
Harvey Williams, a former councilman who passed away on December 23, 1989, was memorialized by City officials and by a resolution commending his political career from the Union County Utilities Authority at a meeting held last week.

Williams served as a member of Rahway's Municipal Council from 1981 to 1988. He was also a charter representative for Rahway to the Union County Utilities Authority and a representative to the Union County Community Development Committee.

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## Mayor on TV

Mayor Dan Martin's guest spot on Suburban Cablevision - TV 3's "DOWNTOWN" a talk show - will be first aired yesterday, will be repeated on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Martin is joined on the show by Mayor Paul Werkmeister of Linden, Mayor Ralph Milner of Hillside and Berkeley Heights Mayor Daniel W. Seib, Jr.

## Rahway H.S. 'Queen' picked as finalist

Cathy Savard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Savard of Rahway, has been selected a finalist for New Jersey's 10th annual Homecoming Queen selection to be held May 5 and 6 at the Mt. Laurel Hilton in Mount Laurel. She is the Rahway High School Homecoming Queen.

New Jersey's homecoming queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense-paid trip to compete with queens from the other states for America's Homecoming Queen in July in Honolulu. America's Homecoming Queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense-paid educational trip to Europe.

The 1981-1989 alumni queens from the State of N.J. will be invited to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Homecoming Queen contest.



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