

RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY
1175 S. CEDROS AVE.
RAHWAY, N.J. 07065

RAHWAY News Record

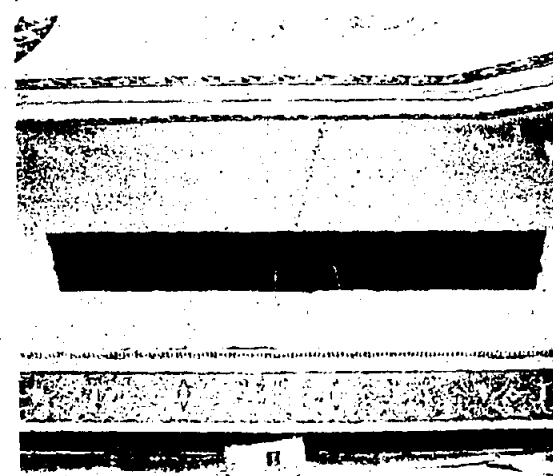
New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

VOL. 168 NO. 31

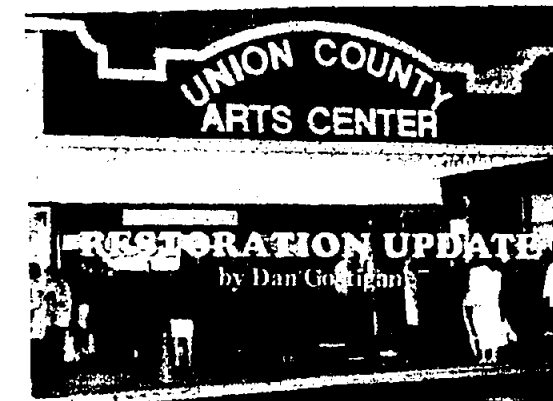
RAHWAY, N.J., THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1990

USPS 454-160

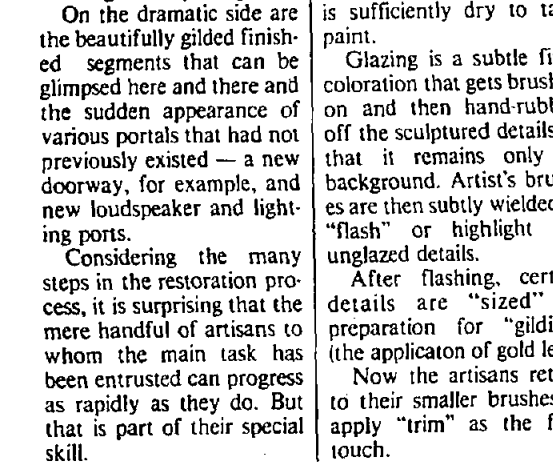
25 CENTS



NEW OPENING... One of two new lighting ports, each about 12 feet wide, that have been cut in the back of the central "cove" area at the highest point of the auditorium ceiling. These will be framed and neatly finished and equipped with modern lighting apparatus.



FINAL TOUCH... Professional painter-decorator AJ Thielens doing a trim job around one of the auditorium ceiling's many sculptured details.



GLAZE & RUB... That's the procedure for getting final colorization behind the raised ornamental detail, as demonstrated here by painter Joe Sullivan.

Hartnett defends city salary

*Cites smaller cities that pay their administrators more
Says 'Fulcomer's credibility is zero'*

City Administrator Joseph Hartnett has defended attacks against his salary by Republican mayoral candidate James Fulcomer. Hartnett said Fulcomer's charge (in hearing notice distributed by the mayoral candidate) that no town in Rahway's size or smaller pays its administrator "even close" to what Rahway does is "an outright lie, once again showing that Fulcomer doesn't base his public statements on facts or research; he just makes things up to suit his purposes. Fulcomer's credibility is zero, and he should not be believed by the public," Hartnett said.

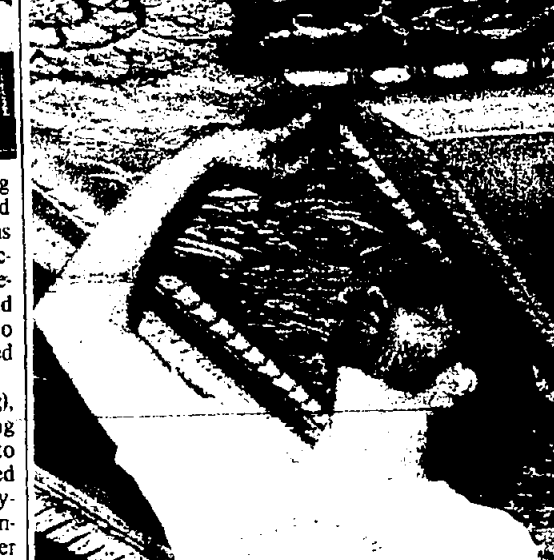
"No matter what people think of me or the job I'm doing," the City Administrator noted, "they should insist that people in public office tell the truth."

Hartnett pointed out that his current compensation is based on an in-depth job comparison review by the Mayor and City Council in early 1987. "Today, I started calling some of the other towns which were part of that study and discovered that for the first three towns smaller than Rahway the average salary paid to the town administrator was higher than Rahway," Hartnett commented. "Once again," he said, "Jim Fulcomer has been shown to be untruthful."

The administrator noted that his compensation from all sources from the City of Rahway totals \$88,516. "This is not out-of-line at all for what top municipal administrators with my seniority are paid now-



Heavy Steps, Team Planning (3rd in a series)
With each passing week, the visible progress of the Union County Arts Center restoration is both subtle and dramatic. On the subtle side, for example, is the gradual emergence of color and detail on walls previously showing only the white and beige monotone of the priming and enameling steps that had followed washing and repairing.



Many Steps, Team Planning (3rd in a series)
With each passing week, the visible progress of the Union County Arts Center restoration is both subtle and dramatic. On the subtle side, for example, is the gradual emergence of color and detail on walls previously showing only the white and beige monotone of the priming and enameling steps that had followed washing and repairing.

GLAZE & RUB... That's the procedure for getting final colorization behind the raised ornamental detail, as demonstrated here by painter Joe Sullivan.

Hartnett defends city salary

*Cites smaller cities that pay their administrators more
Says 'Fulcomer's credibility is zero'*

City Administrator Joseph Hartnett has defended attacks against his salary by Republican mayoral candidate James Fulcomer. Hartnett said Fulcomer's charge (in hearing notice distributed by the mayoral candidate) that no town in Rahway's size or smaller pays its administrator "even close" to what Rahway does is "an outright lie, once again showing that Fulcomer doesn't base his public statements on facts or research; he just makes things up to suit his purposes. Fulcomer's credibility is zero, and he should not be believed by the public," Hartnett said.

"No matter what people think of me or the job I'm doing," the City Administrator noted, "they should insist that people in public office tell the truth."

Hartnett pointed out that his current compensation is based on an in-depth job comparison review by the Mayor and City Council in early 1987. "Today, I started calling some of the other towns which were part of that study and discovered that for the first three towns smaller than Rahway the average salary paid to the town administrator was higher than Rahway," Hartnett commented. "Once again," he said, "Jim Fulcomer has been shown to be untruthful."

The administrator noted that his compensation from all sources from the City of Rahway totals \$88,516. "This is not out-of-line at all for what top municipal administrators with my seniority are paid now-

Citizens protest escalating taxes

*Addona shouted down by irate crowd;
Republicans ask for \$1 million cut
Budget approved 5-3 along party lines*

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's annual shouting, screaming, booing match-up between residents concerned with escalating taxes and council members trying to explain procedure erupted Tuesday night with the adoption of the 1990 Municipal budget.

More than 200 irate residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns over tax increases. Most of the people were unaware of the procedures of the public hearing on the amended budget and final adoption of the Municipal spending plan and voiced their displeasure over a wide range of topics including City spending, Board of Education salaries, poor water quality, stolen cars and street repair.

When informed by Council President Vincent Addona that the City had no control over Board of Education spending, the crowd shouted his explanations down. Even some residents who rambled in their remarks were asked to sit down by the more vocal members of the audience.

Adoption of the City's budget draws the largest crowd compared with most monthly council meetings in which salaries, contracts and expenditures are approved. These regular meetings usually draw as little as one or two residents. Many public hearings are closed without input because no one shows up to speak. Introduction of the 1990 budget drew only a handful of people.

Rahway's \$20.1 million budget shows an increase of 7 percent in municipal taxes, compared with an increase of 17 percent in County taxes and 10 percent in school taxes, according to Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett. The adopted budget will result in an increase of 6 points or an additional \$88.4 year in taxes for municipal purposes on a house assessed at \$147,000.

"I don't know the details of the budget, I just know that people are hurting," said Eileen Sooy of E. Milton Avenue. "Where do you expect people to get this kind of tax money. If you keep raising our taxes, we won't be able to live in our own houses."

"I've seen politicians come and I've seen politicians go," said Lester Tyrel, E. Grand Avenue. "President Bush said, 'read my lips, no new taxes.' We are saying to you, 'read our lips, don't run again for office if you are considering raising our taxes.' We have to live within our means; why can't this town live within its means?"

James Fulcomer, the only mayoral candidate to speak at the meeting, asked the council to consider reducing the budget before they voted on it. "High taxes are forcing record numbers of people to sell their homes below their assessed value," he said. "People on fixed incomes can't afford these taxes. This budget must be cut by at least \$1 million."

Republican Councilmember Michael Esposito introduced an amendment to the budget cutting positions and reducing salaries. Esposito said his amendment would reduce the budget by \$1 million by cutting council and mayoral salaries for the remainder of the year, cutting Board of Adjustment and Planning Board salaries, reducing Department of Law salaries, cutting the salary of the City's judge by one-half and by reducing and eliminating various other positions.

As the amendment was being discussed by the council, several members of the audience heckled the council and called for an immediate vote. The amendment was defeated on a vote of three Republicans in favor, five Democrats opposed.

Three hours after the start of the meeting, Council President Vincent Addona called for a roll-call vote on adoption of the budget, which was passed on a vote of five Democrats in favor and three Republicans opposed. Councilman James Cadogan was absent.

Fulcomer vows to clean up parks, encourage more youth participation in city recreation programs

Rahway Mayor candidate James J. Fulcomer recently said that one of his early acts as mayor would be to appoint a special citizens committee to review constructively Rahway's youth recreation program to recommend ways in which it can be improved for the benefit of the youth of Rahway.

"I believe that what helps youth helps Rahway and that, next to education, sports and other recreational programs play an important role in developing good traits in the youth of our community. A comprehensive review of the scope of services offered the youth can help to correct any inadequacies that may exist in our current programs and can lead to improvements," said Mayor candidate Fulcomer.

The Republican mayoral candidate said that he would appoint representatives of all interested groups to the committee and would expect a report within six months so that appropriate actions can be taken early in his administration.

Mayor candidate Fulcomer said that he would have the mayor's office become more involved in encouraging more youths to do their very best in school and to encourage more young people to become involved in organized recreational activities. He added that this also helps in the efforts to decrease the number of youths who get in trouble with the law.

As part of his youth program, the Republican-Mayoral candidate said that he would make sure that the city parks are better maintained and that he would urge the county to improve its parks in Rahway.

Fulcomer who is running with Council candidates Ann Rooney, Thomas Cusumano, and Richard Lindemann, has served the public as a freeholder, councilman, first chairman of the Union County Utilities Authority, and a housing authority commissioner in addition to holding membership on various governmental advisory boards and on the Rahway Planning Board.

Board of Ed, teachers at impasse on new contract

Last contract ended June 30; negotiations continue

By Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Board of Education and members of the Rahway Education Association have yet to reach an agreement for a new contract, although hopes are still alive for a settlement before the start of school in September.

Ronald Dolce, president of the Rahway Education Association (REA), said the two sides are currently at an impasse and that the N. J. Education Association has filed with the Public Employees Relations Commission for a mediator.

The REA is the bargaining unit for 330 employees of the district including teachers and certified staff, custodians, maintenance personnel and clerical staff, not including confidential secretaries.

Under the REA's present contract starting salaries for teaching staff members include \$24,770 for a Bachelor of Arts degree, \$25,000 for a BA plus 30 credits, \$25,625 for a Master of Arts degree and \$26,075 for a Masters plus 30 credit, according to Dolce. Top salaries attained after 16 years in the district include \$44,058 for a Bachelor of Arts degree, \$44,888 for a BA with 30 credits, \$46,928 for a Master of Arts degree and \$50,023 for a Masters plus 30 credits.

"It's been only in the past few years that teachers have gotten the money they really deserve to get," said Dolce. "Unlike industry, teachers work overtime, but the dollar amount stays the same. The only incentive we have is to get another degree."

Members of the REA just ended a three-year contract on June 30 in which they received increases of 8.95 percent in the 1st year, 9.25 percent in the 2nd year and 9.35 percent in their final year. While negotiations continue for a new contract, neither side will discuss percentage increases.

"Unfortunately, the cost of education is the highest percentage on our tax bills," said Dolce. "A large portion of the Board of Education's budget goes towards salaries, but the REA covers 330 members. That's a lot of people being paid."

"I hope this is settled soon," Dolce added. "We would like to start the new year on a positive note. It is difficult to go into school without a contract."

ANNUAL FULCOMER SUMMIT
The site is Rahway Public Library, 1175 S. Cedros Ave., Rahway, N.J. 07065. The event will be held on Thursday, Aug. 9 (rain date), and the start time is 7:15. Free will be provided at 7:15. Free will be provided at 7:15.