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25 CENTS

## City financial consultant alleges 'illegal overcommitment' by previous administration

Says financial mess could adversely affect city service



by Pat DiMaggio  
Rahway's financial consultant has said that the City overextended itself on \$560,000 worth of bills to be paid in 1991 including solid-waste collection costs and utility operating expenses.

### Prayer vigils at city churches

The Rahway Clergy Association has decided to schedule weekly Prayer Vigils for Peace for the duration of the war in the Middle East. They will be similar to the one held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Jan. 14, the 10th anniversary of the Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait.



CALL HER 'DOC'... Ms. Jeanne D. Parker of Rahway has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at Teacher's College, Columbia University in New York. Her dissertation, "The African-American Student Experience in the Independent School," was presented orally to a dissertation committee of four Columbia professors. She received a masters degree in reading from Tufts University, Medford, MA in 1973, and was awarded a masters degree from Columbia in May, 1988. She will participate in the Columbia University commencement exercises scheduled for the coming May. She is currently employed as the Assistant Principal at the Nisaneau School for gifted and talented students in Montclair.

in the month, said he has yet to determine if there is a deficit in the budget, but stated that the 1990 spending plan has been illegally "overcommitted."

A deficit budget operates when bills are paid by monies anticipated in revenues. An overcommitted budget results when more money is spent than appropriated. Corwick said the City overextended itself on \$560,000 worth of bills to be paid in 1991 including solid-waste collection costs and utility operating expenses.

Corwick also explained that \$6.5 million in vouchers assigned by previous Mayor Dan Martin and former Acting Business Administrator Tom Connell remain unsigned by Mayor Jim Kennedy. "There may have been sufficient funds available,"

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## MERCK NUMERO UNO ... again!!!!

P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Rahway's Merck & Co., Inc., commented on Merck's being named "America's Most Admired Corporation" for the 5th straight year in a Fortune magazine survey of 8,000 industry analysts, outside board members and top executives. Dr. Vagelos tied the honor into the year-long celebration of Merck's 100 years as an American business, saying —

"To be named 'America's Most Admired Corporation' would be noteworthy any day, but the new Fortune magazine survey is especially significant because it marks the 1st time a company has been so recognized for five years in a row. As we begin Merck's Centennial celebration, we are grateful for this tribute to all employees."

Mayor Jim Kennedy agreed, saying the 1st step is to identify the problem and to find a way to keep it from happening again. "We have to hold the line on taxes, but it is difficult to walk into a poor financial system that has been operating for a long period of time."

## Pray for the swift completion of our mission in the Gulf



## Martin responds to charges he illegally overspent '90 budget

Calls Kennedy, Corwick statements 'slandrous'

Former Rahway Mayor Daniel L. Martin has issued a statement responding to charges by the city's current mayor, James Kennedy, and consultant Marvin Corwick, that Martin's administration "illegally overspent the City's 1990 budget."

"These statements," Martin said, "are not only outrageous and false, but they are slanderous to me and to the administrators, financial staffers, and department heads, past and present, who have rendered honest, honorable service to the people of Rahway."

"Additionally," Martin stated, "in trying to slander my administration, Kennedy and Corwick have hurt Rahway's image and created a disincentive to invest in the community."

Martin noted that all municipal budgets must be approved by Trenton and are subject to annual independent audits. "I had 20 budgets approved by Trenton," Martin said, "and also never had any auditor criticize any practice of my administration as improper. I also had this occur four times before and after election years, and recently had a separate in-depth State audit report conclude that my administration was well-managed financially."

"In short," Martin said, "my administration neither overspent nor overcommitted any municipal budget either last year or in any of the 19 years before that." "If nothing else, for 20 years we provided honest government to the community," he stated.

"In recent years, Rahway, like so many other local governments, has been fighting deficits and unanticipated expenses," Martin said, "but we managed to meet these challenges without placing the blame elsewhere." He noted that Union County has announced a \$12 million deficit and

Newark a \$30 million deficit, with smaller towns like Metuchen, Sayreville, Bridgewater and Vernon all reporting similar problems in recent days.

"I find it regrettable," the former chief executive commented, "that our new mayor believes he will enhance his own stature by trying to tarnish the reputations of others. A preferable course of action would be to build a reputation through positive actions and achievements."

The former mayor also declared that "the taxpayers ought to question why they are paying Mr. Corwick \$75 an hour to conduct a political witch hunt, which is obviously what he is doing."

Martin concluded by saying, "Kennedy is free to criticize my administration for anything he likes, but he should not try to paint my administration and the good people who served in it as

## County determined to proceed with Rahway incinerator

Welsh: 'We should all be gratified'



James Connelly Welsh

Union County Freeholders Chairman James Welsh has announced that the county has reached an important milestone in the permitting process required by the Solid Waste Management Act in order to begin construction of the county's resource recovery facility.

"We've received a major signal from the Board of Public Utilities," he said. "They have no objection to the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) scheduling a hearing, as required by law, on the contract with Ogden Martin, the company proposed to actually build the facility."

"Right now we're looking at a rejected date for the hearing of February 14," explained Welsh. "At that time, members of the public will be given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments."

Once the hearing is held, a transcript will be sent to all Churches, groups and organizations known to the group currently serving on the committee, asked for a representative to service on the committee. "If your group or organization did not receive a letter," said a

for financing in early May and finally break ground by mid-May of this year," said Welsh.

"Of particular importance to me, is the fact that we have been able to get those at the state level to recognize what the building of our own resource recovery plant means to Union County's taxpayers in terms of significant tax relief. As a result of aggressively communicating this to the state by myself and other Freeholders, including Freeholder Santagata, County Manager Ann Baran and staff, it is apparent that the tempo has been stepped up," noted Welsh.

"Of pivotal importance to Union County reaching this step in the process, particularly in light of the gubernatorial moratorium, has been that the Utilities Authority has in place a well functioning outside recycling collection program that we will be expanding," explained Welsh. "We will be providing the Board of Public Utilities with an updated recycling and source reduction plan designed to reach the goals of the Governor's Solid Waste Emergency Task Force prior to the hearing."

The UCUA met on Jan. 24 to amend the contract with Ogden Martin, extending it through the end of 1991 at a \$155 million construction price effective through March 31 of this year. The new amount represents a 3% annual increase from the previous contract, based on inflation.

"When BPU approval of the Ogden Martin contract is received, it will mean the completion of the biggest single step remaining in the process," said Chairman Welsh, adding "I am very pleased that the state has recognized the importance of Union County's need to move ahead on resource recovery. This will help reduce and stabilize the cost of solid waste disposal to Union County taxpayers over the next 20 years, and for that, we should all be gratified."

**Incineration discussion**  
There will be a meeting of the Concerned Citizens for the Environment at the Rahway Public Library at 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31. The public is invited to attend. Among issues to be discussed are alternatives to incineration.

**King Memorial Committee seeks representatives**  
On Thursday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m., The Dr. M. L. King Memorial Committee will meet in the Emergency Management Room in the Basement of the Rahway City Hall for its next organizational meeting. Letters have been mailed to all Churches, groups and organizations known to the group currently serving on the committee, asked for a representative to service on the committee. "If your group or organization did not receive a letter," said a

spokesperson, "you are asked to attend. The group would consider your input to be vital to the success of this undertaking."

John J. Robertson, Chairman, said "the committee is to be composed of all levels of society, from the young and old people city-wide. May we count on you?" Only citizens of Rahway will be considered for committee membership. For more information, call 374-9771 or write to the committee, c/o Rahway Public Library, 1175 St. George Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065.



Dan Martin

disbursed when 20 years of state and federal records are proved otherwise. By such tactics, Kennedy only lowers himself, as well as the image of the community."

## Seakowsky hole in one could gain him big prize

City Clerk Basil Seakowsky of Rahway recently scored a hole-in-one at the Len Municipal Golf Course in Totum River and entered the 30th Annual Drambuie Rusty Nail Hole-In-One Sweepstakes. Both he and Jerry Nardella, the golf pro who validated the entry, are eligible to win this year's grand prize in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary: a one-week trip for two to Scotland, VIP tour of the Drambuie Liqueur Co. Ltd. and \$1,000 cash.

## Board of Ed. nominating petitions available

Filing deadline: Feb. 7

Nominating Petitions for membership on the Rahway Board of Education are currently available in the Rahway Board of Education offices in the Intermediate School. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Candidates for Board membership must have the following qualifications: (1) U.S. citizen, (2) at least 18 years of age, (3) able to read and write, (4) resident of the municipality for at least two years preceding the date of election, (5) registered voter. Petitions must be filed with the Board Secretary on or before 4 p.m., Thursday, February 7. Detailed information on the ballot are available on the annual election form.

The deadline for filing and the drawing of names for the Board of Education will be on the ballot are available on the annual election form.

April 2, 1991. The drawing of names for the Board of Education will be on the ballot are available on the annual election form.

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FORGET SPORTS & POLITICS, PROCEED DIRECTLY TO PAGE 2