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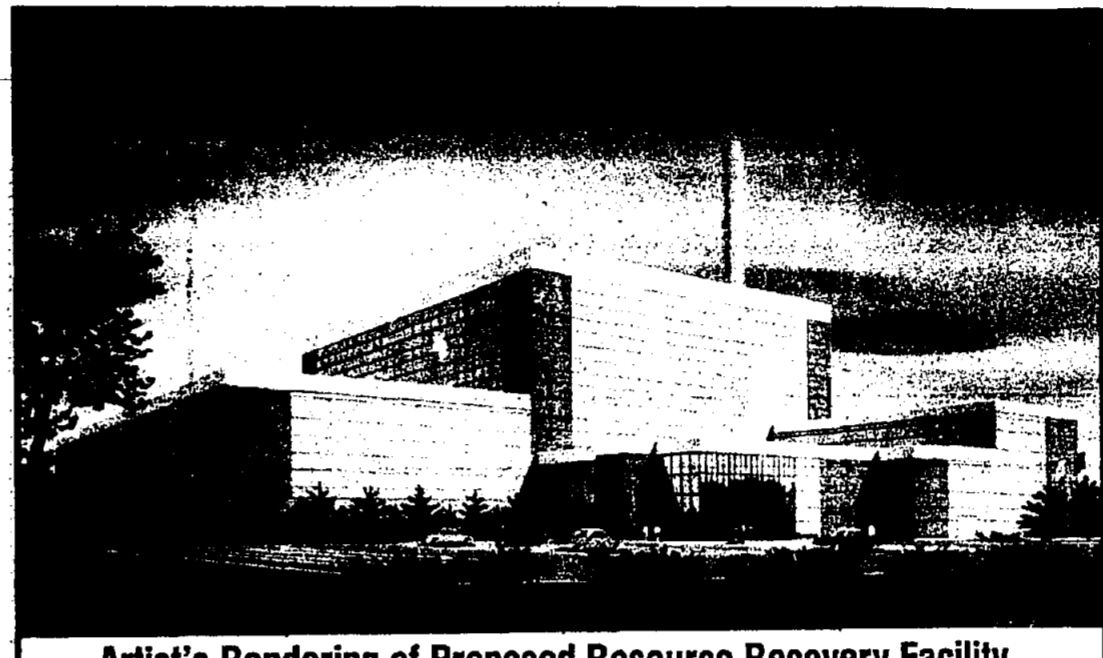
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Artist's Rendering of Proposed Resource Recovery Facility

Hartz drops Rahway project Kennedy blames 'weak agreement' by Martin

by Pat DiMaggio
Hartz Mountain Industries, Inc. has pulled out of the Rahway Corporate Center Project, saying the window of opportunity has been lost.
Mayor Jim Kennedy announced that Hartz has pulled out of an agreement with the City for a mixed-use development to be constructed behind City Hall. Plans called for 120,000 square feet of office space, 90,000 feet of retail space with an anchor supermarket, a 150-room hotel and an eight-screen movie theatre. Development of the site was expected to infuse new life into the City's downtown business district.
"The agreement was not strong on the City holding Hartz into development," he said. "Hartz was given an extension in September with the belief that the authority would lift the ban. Two hours before it was lifted, Hartz pulled its application. Instead of pushing for performance, the previous administration stalled."
New developers will be solicited, said the mayor. "Prime developing time was between 1984 and 1987 when New Jersey experienced the greatest increase in commercial and retail growth," he said. "But it's still workable. Those developers are now sitting with their retained earnings in a position to develop when they can get reasonable costs on construction. The key words in development are location, location, location." Kennedy said the site will become even more valuable when a new exit is constructed during the realignment of Route 1.

Landfills kill, Ogden Martin says 'Incineration versus recycling not the issue'

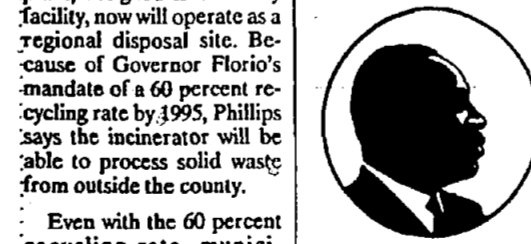
by Pat DiMaggio
A representative from Ogden Martin Systems of Union, Inc. said people are confused over the issue of incineration. John Phillips, marketing vice president for Ogden Martin, said the issue is not incineration versus recycling but incineration versus landfilling.
"The real issue is how to best manage the waste stream," noted Phillips. "This community needs a safe and cost effective disposal method for the waste they can't recycle."
Ogden Martin Systems of Union, Inc. has contracted to build a solid-waste disposal facility in Rahway's Fourth Ward. The facility will be located on a 22-acre site on Route 1 and will burn 140 tons of garbage per day. The Union County Utilities Authority will own the facility and Ogden Martin will design, engineer, construct, start-up, operate and maintain the waste-to-energy plant. A construction price of \$155 million has been guaranteed through March.
John Phillips said the facility will provide a long-term solution to solid waste disposal, a clean and reliable source of energy, state-of-the-art pollution control and extensive environmental monitoring.
The resource recovery plant, designed as a county facility, now will operate as a regional disposal site. Because of Governor Florio's mandate of a 60 percent recycling rate by 1995, Phillips says the incinerator will be able to process solid waste from outside the county.
Even with the 60 percent recycling rate, municipalities will still have to develop methods of disposal for their solid waste. Incineration offers a safe, cost-effective alternative to landfills, noted Phillips. "This will be a safer means of handling waste disposal than landfills," he said. "Shipping our solid waste out-of-state is expensive and polluting to the soil and to ground water."
The biggest issue over the proposed incinerator is the question of dioxins emission and the disposal of ash, a by-product of mass-burn incineration. Members of the Concerned Citizens for the Environment, a Rahway based group vehemently opposed to incineration, have spoken extensively to City and county officials and residents about the health dangers of dioxins.
Phillips said resource recovery facilities often emit less dioxins than are found in ambient air and, in some locations, actually improve the surrounding air quality. "There is always immediate emotional concern about emissions," he noted. "In most cases, people are misinformed about toxics. It's time to stop scaring people. We have to deal with real concerns and stop perpetuating fears. We know exactly what this facility will emit. It will provide non-polluting, risk-free solid waste disposal."
According to an Ogden Martin report, waste-to-energy plants do not exceed Federal government exposure levels of dioxins and, in fact, emit levels lower than those from many common manufacturing processes. The report stated that dioxins produced as a by-product of combustion are minimized through pollution control devices that remove 99.9 percent of molecules.
"That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," said Bob Carson, a member of the Concerned Citizens for the Environment. "Scientific papers have shown the opposite, that dioxins are produced in incinerators. In Europe, incinerators have been shut down because of the excess production of dioxins. Women have been warned not to breast-feed their babies because their milk is toxic. To say that incinerators actually remove dioxins from the air is irresponsible."
Ash is the solid residue produced from the combustion of fuels. Phillips said that ash is not hazardous and not toxic. "A number of states have already ruled that ash is not toxic," he noted. "Environmentally, ash is less of a threat than raw waste dumped into landfills."
"Samples of ash have shown levels of cadmium, chromium and lead," said Carson, quoting from the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, 1989. "You don't know which batch of ash is toxic until it is tested, one may have a low level of toxic material and the next may have a high level. Ash will go into landfills or monofills and none of them last forever, the ash will eventually get into the water supply."
The differences of opinion on dioxins and ash have caused a rift in Rahway and in surrounding communities. People who do not live near the proposed incinerator site are generally in agreement with the project and say they hope to save tax dollars on solid waste disposal costs. Some residents, especially those in the Fourth Ward, and environmental activists continue to speak out against incineration citing health and safety concerns.
John Phillips said Ogden Martin is aware of both the opposition and support for the facility and thinks it is important "to educate" people on Ogden Martin and incineration.
"We must establish our reputation directly with the community," said Phillips. "We are an environmental company first and we guard that reputation. We have a lot of people to account to from the community to regulatory agencies. It's time to deal with real issues and not with misinformation. We need a better educational program in the community. We have to become more involved to assure people that this facility will be operated properly. As a corporate citizen, we have a major responsibility to encourage interaction with the community."

Pelissier approved as administrator

by Pat DiMaggio
After a two-hour delay, Rahway's Municipal Council approved the appointment of a new business administrator whose first order of business will be "to put time into the budget."
At a special meeting held last week, the council met in executive session for two hours to hash out differences over the appointment. Upon its return, the council agreed to hire Peter Pelissier on a vote of five in favor, with Councilmembers Katherine Fulcoer, Dennis Hemenway, Alex Shipley and William Waucek opposed.
Pelissier said he will reside outside Rahway for a one-year period, was also approved on a vote of five to four with Councilmembers Fulcoer, Hemenway, Shipley and Waucek opposed.
Pelissier, who presently resides in Basking Ridge, has been employed as the town administrator for Boonton from 1988 and as Passaic's administrator from 1980 to 1988. He has also served as the president and owner of the Corporation of Garden State Kennels since 1983. Mayor Jim Kennedy says he does not see a conflict of interest in the appointment of a business administrator who is also a principal in the firm contracted by the City for animal warden services. Kennedy said if a conflict of interest is found, he would move to cancel the City's contract with Garden State Kennels, but said other options for services may not be available.
The new business administrator also worked as a health education teacher in Westfield and as a special education teacher for Union County Educational Services. He was a member of the Marine Corps from 1969 to 1980 and attained the rank of captain.
Pelissier holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University, a Master's Degree in Education from Springfield College in Massachusetts and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Bridgeport.
"Peter's military background breeds discipline and he is skilled in labor negotiations," said Mayor Kennedy. "And his personality is a big plus."
Pelissier said he will begin to look for a home in Rahway within the next few months. "Today's economic conditions are not conducive to moving, but I will make the attempt," he said.

Council nixes Mayor's utilities choices

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Municipal Council failed to confirm two mayoral appointments to the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) at a special meeting held last week.
Under a Host Agreement between the City, the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the UCUA, Rahway may designate two members to sit on the authority with one to serve as an officer. Mayor Jim Kennedy submitted the names of William Wolf and Councilman Chester Holmes to the council for confirmation.
Councilman James Jones, Jr. said he voted for Councilman Holmes because he was the choice of the mayor. "But I am anti-incineration and will not vote for a second member who is pro-incineration," he noted.
"When I talk to Chester, I feel that he listens," explained Councilman Sal Mione, who has publicly stated his views against incineration. "When someone listens, there is the chance he will understand why your views are so important. I feel his willingness to listen will be an asset."
"I would like to be considered as a messenger and not the person who put this project into motion," explained Holmes. "I would like to be considered as a person who sits on the authority with the best interests of the City at heart."
The mayor said there is some disagreement about the importance of council confirmation on mayoral appointments and that Holmes, who presently serves as the treasurer to the authority, will continue in the position.
The council also approved the appointment of Paul Seiffrank to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on a vote of 6-3. Councilmembers Espinosa, Fulcoer, Hemenway and Shipley voted in favor, while Waucek and Waucek were opposed.
Resolutions confirming the appointments of Dennis Hemenway to the Zoning Board and William Wolf to the Board of Chosen Freeholders were also approved.
Resolutions confirming the appointments of Paul Seiffrank to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on a vote of 6-3, Councilmembers Espinosa, Fulcoer, Hemenway and Shipley voted in favor, while Waucek and Waucek were opposed.



King memorial funds sought

The Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Memorial Committee is presently working on plans to memorialize Dr. King in a manner in which all may take pride. Donations are being sought to help erect the monument itself in a citywide effort to accomplish this memorial.

Rahway AARP lists 1991 trip schedule

AARP Chapter 607 of Rahway is presenting dinner at the Center, 1306 Esterbrook Ave., Rahway, on March 14; Dinner and Variety Show in Monticello, NY, on April 30; and trip to Ellis Island, followed by dinner, on May 20.
The Chapter will take a Smoky Mountain Tour of Gatlinburg, TN, in July, including a Dinner-Show at the Dixie Stampede, visits to Dolly Parton's Dollywood and a Cherokee Indian Reservation, and an evening show by the Cherokees, "Onto These Hills."
Trips are open to Non-Members as well as Members.
For information on the day trips call 381-9369 or 388-9078. On the trip to the Smokey Mountains, call 388-0202 or 388-9078.
Because of the popularity of the trips and reasonable costs, reservations are expected to be sold quickly.

Kennedy on cable talk show March 20

Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy will appear on Suburban Cablevision's TV-3 program, "Downtown: A Talk With You Mayor," on Wednesday, March 20, at 8 p.m.
"Downtown," a live call-in show with host Rich Leonard, allows viewers to call in with their questions and Kennedy an opportunity to discuss issues of concern affecting Rahway residents.
The call-in phone number is 636-5333.
The program with Mayor Kennedy will be repeated on TV-3 Sunday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Special meeting on school budget

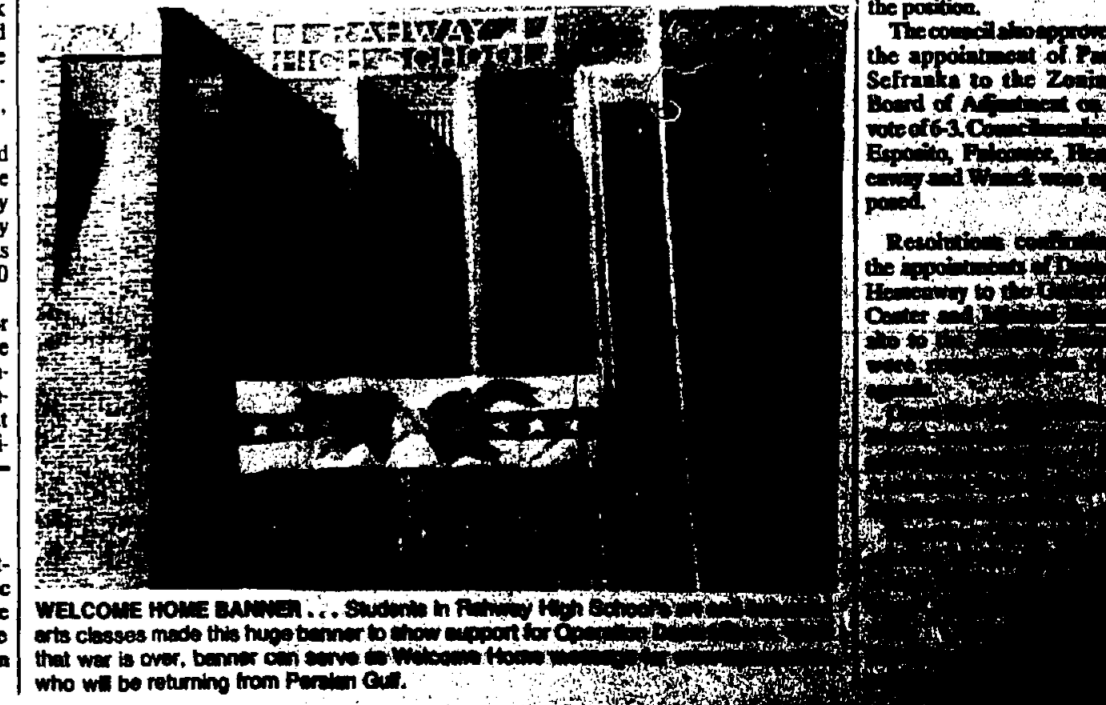
A Special Public Meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Intermediate School Auditorium.
The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a public hearing and to adopt the 1991-92 budget to be presented to the voters on April 30.

Cops hunt gunman in city slaying

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway police are investigating the murder of a man who was shot and killed in a downtown parking lot early Saturday morning.
According to reports, police were detailed to a parking lot located at the rear of 21 Poplar St. to investigate a report of a person being shot. At approximately 1:30 a.m. they discovered the body of a black male lying on the ground with a gunshot wound. The victim has since been identified as David Colvin, 32, of Rahway.
Medics and the First Aid Squad responded, and the victim was immediately transported to University Hospital. The victim was pronounced dead at 2:30 a.m. by Dr. Tortella.
Police are looking for anyone who witnessed the shooting. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Paul Mee at 388-5600, ext. 445. Residents are also urged to call the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1553. A reward is being offered to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for the shooting death of the victim. All information will be kept confidential.

Board schedules budget meeting

A special public meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Louis R. Rizzo Board Meeting Room at the Intermediate School.
The purpose of this meeting will be to review the 1991-92 Proposed School Budget. No action will be taken.



WELCOME HOME BANNER... Students in Rahway High School arts classes made the huge banner to show support for Overseas Servicemen. The banner will be returned from Persian Gulf.