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Hearing continued on Triangle Inn

Noise, underage drinking, drug sales claimed by neighbors

Owner denies tavern is at fault



TARGET OF COMPLAINTS ... Triangle Inn, Monroe and Montgomery Streets, has been under investigation for several months on residents' complaints of disturbances, underage drinking, property damage and drug sales they attribute to bar's patrons. Owner denies charges.

by Pat DiMaggio

Rahway's Municipal Alcohol Beverage Control Board met last week to hear complaints about the Triangle Inn and to investigate if the bar's license should be revoked.

The Triangle Inn, located on the corner of Monroe and Montgomery Streets, has been under investigation for several months. Residents of the neighborhood and community leaders have complained repeatedly of disturbances, underage drinking, loitering, property damage and drug sales which they attribute to patrons of the bar.

The A.B.C. Board met last Wednesday to hear moral activities and nuisance complaints levied against the bar. Several police officers who were to appear before the board were on special assignment and could not attend the meeting. Detective Christopher O'Neil was the only officer who gave testimony on the Police Department's on-going investigation into illegal activities in the Monroe and Montgomery Street area.

Investigations were made in response to citizen and community leader complaints over a six-month period, said O'Neil, and he documented several arrests made for minors entering and exiting the bar. Last summer, an undercover operation resulted in the arrest of 13 people in the area for drug activity. During December and January, police involvement was stepped up and arrests were made on violations of City ordinances, he said.

"Individuals will obtain alcoholic beverages from patrons who purchase it illegally," said O'Neil. "They will stand in front of the tavern and sell drugs. The bar is like a revolving door; we can sit there all night and watch people go in one door and out the other."

Glen Roth, an attorney representing the Triangle Inn, asked Det. O'Neil if he made any arrests for any of the offenses other than underage minors in the bar. He also asked if Det. O'Neil saw any minor drinking inside the bar. The response to both questions was negative.

Wherry said large groups of adults congregate in front of the Triangle Inn and cause problems. "There is a problem in the neighborhood but it's not the fault of the bar. I feel sorry for the residents and I'm not trying to fight them. I'm part of the fight. I want to get these people out, too."

Because testimony was incomplete due to the absence of several other police officers, the hearing was continued and scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 4:30 p.m. at Rahway City Hall.

Schools to get increased state aid

by Pat DiMaggio

At a meeting held last week, Rahway's Board of Education reviewed its 1991-92 budget in preparation for next week's public hearing on the \$27 million spending plan.

The district will receive \$1.2 million in increased state aid for the coming school year under the Quality Education Act formula. The district qualifies for increased state aid because of its status as an urban school district. Foundation aid, which replaces equalization aid, is given to districts who spend less per pupil than the cost established by the state, said Business Administrator Anthony Rocco, Jr.

The district will receive a total of \$1.573 million in foundation aid and a little over \$3 million in special education, bilingual and transportation aid for a 1991-92 total state aid figure of \$4.6 million. The district received a total of \$3.4 million in equalization aid for the 1990-91 school year.

"Rahway, as a foundation aid district, will receive significant aid," said Rocco. "It will probably cover a good part of our new expenses."

Although the \$27 million proposed budget shows an increase of \$2.5 million over the current year's spending plan, the amount to be raised by taxes increased by only \$742,753 due to the increased state aid.

The budget falls \$51 under the 8.6 percent budget cap imposed by the state.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Intermediate School.

Flushing program to start Sunday

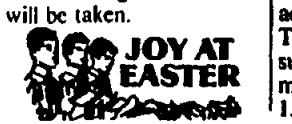
The City of Rahway, Division of Water, will start its Spring Hydrant Flushing Program on Sunday, March 31.

It is expected that the flushing procedures will take three weeks. A 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. A tentative schedule of hydrant flushing is posted at City Hall and at the Library.

Board schedules special meeting

A Special Public Meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 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.



CENTRAL JERSEY BAND HONORS ... Roosevelt School students Cindy Gregorio, alto clarinet, and Russell Marchica, tenor saxophone, were recognized by Rahway Board of Education last week with certificates for achievements in Central Jersey Music Educators Region II Band. Cindy, top center, is pictured with parents Mr. & Mrs. Gregorio. Russell, bottom second from left, poses with mother Sharon and father Thomas Marchica, and brothers Daniel and Andrew.



Board honors band students

by Pat DiMaggio

Rahway's Board of Education honored students accepted the retirement resignation of a staff member, approved the date of the senior prom, and bought a bus at its regular meeting held last week.

The board recognized Roosevelt School students Cindy Gregorio, alto clarinet, and Russell Marchica, tenor saxophone, for their achievements in the Central Jersey Music Educators Region II Band.

The retirement/resignation of Michael Tally was accepted, with regrets. Mr. Tally has served as an area supervisor, and his retirement becomes effective July 1.

The Garden Manor, Aberdeen, will be the site for the 1991 senior prom, to be held on Friday, May 17, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The site was also approved for the 1992 senior class prom to be held on May 8, 1992.

The board voted to award a contract to Jersey Bus Sales, Bordenstown, for the purchase of a 19-passenger school bus at a cost of \$23,433, as per their low bid.

An application for program funds in the amount of \$32,337.04 was submitted to the New Jersey State Department of Vocational Education for the Consumer and Home-Making Home Economics Education Program Grant.

The application was made under the auspices of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education and Applied Technology Act. The board also applied for and accepted Bonus Flow-Through Funds in the amount of \$6,570.

A donation in the amount of \$2,500 was accepted from The Rahway Savings Institution towards the cost of the Third Annual Rahway Olympic Day for elementary special education students.

A summer school program for Grades 7-8 was approved for the summer of 1991 at a cost not to exceed \$5,100.

Fourth grader wins prize for 'Nana' essay

by Pat DiMaggio

The special relationship between a Grover Cleveland School Fourth Grader and her "Nana" has resulted in a Third Place finish in a statewide essay contest.

When Monique Cromwell was asked to write about a black senior citizen who enriched her life for a contest sponsored by the Division of Aging, she chose her grandmother Eolynn.

Monique, accompanied by her grandmother, aunt and uncle, read her prize-winning essay to members of Rahway's Board of Education at a meeting held last week. Monique spoke of the special bond between her grandmother and herself and paid tribute to the woman who taught her to believe in herself and don't let anything stop me.

Following is Monique's prize-winning essay: "My Nana is the greatest. Nana is a child could ever have. She is always there when I need her. I remember when I was five and I was learning how to ride my bike and I fell. My Nana

would say to try again and don't stop. She encouraged me until I learned. "My Nana is like another mom because she took care of me when my mom died. I was so sad and worried. I started to ask questions that my Nana couldn't explain. She said that my mom was very sick and that she had cancer and that God had to take her away. When I would think about it, I remembered what Nana said and I would understand a little better."

"My Nana also told me how her father had died when she was little. She felt sad too, but she learned how to be brave. Nana tried to show me that she went through something like I was going through. This helped me to feel better too. "Nana always listens to what my troubles and worries are. One time I was worried about the California Achievement Test. I was worried because I did not know my Math or English that well. Nana said study real hard — don't give up and pray to God and you will get through



I REMEMBER NANA ... Monique Cromwell, fourth grader, won Third Place in a statewide essay contest by state Division on Aging by writing about her grandmother. Cromwell, left, her grandmother, Lawrence and Eolynn, accompanied her to Rahway Board of Education meeting last week.

Kennedy announces citywide cleanup

Mayor Jim Kennedy has announced that the city will kick off its anti-litter program on Earth Day, Sunday, April 21.

Civic groups and organizations throughout the entire city are being invited to participate in the week-long cleanup program (Saturday, April 20, through Friday, April 26).

Any group or "neighborhood" interested that has not already registered to participate in the program should call the Mayor's Office at 381-8000.