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# News Record

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25 CENTS

## Layoff notices given 17 city workers

### Pelissier cites state aid uncertainty

#### Kennedy combining police, fire departments

by Pat DiMaggio  
Mayor Jim Kennedy has announced plans to restructure Rahway's Police and Fire Departments, with the appointment of a public safety director.

Under the mayor's plan, the positions of chief of police and fire chief will be abolished. Also, administrative positions in the Fire Department will be shifted upon the retirement of Chief James Heller in August. The administrative per-

sonnel of the Fire Department presently consists of one chief, four deputy chiefs, two battalion chiefs, 10 captains and four lieutenants. Under the mayor's reorganization plan, the chief will be replaced by a public safety director. There will be five deputy chiefs, with four serving as shift commanders, no battalion chiefs, 12 captains and no lieutenants. With a public safety director, all police and fire calls will be routed through one number, said Kennedy. His

number one candidate for director remains current Police Chief Barry Henderson. Citing "efficiency and cost savings," Kennedy said the reorganization plan will be implemented in August. "In the 1990s, we are seeing a trend toward public safety departments to coordinate over-all efforts," explained the mayor. "We are streamlining government."

The mayor said the plan will save the City between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

by Pat DiMaggio  
Citing "economics," Business Administrator Peter Pelissier sent layoff notices to 17 City employees last week in anticipation of introducing the City's Fiscal Year budget in July.

Eight notices have been sent to the Fire Department, four to the Police Department, two to the Division of

Engineering, two to the Department of Revenue and Finance, and one to the Tax Assessor's office.

Rahway has not yet received notification of state aid figures. Based on the amount of monies the City receives, some layoff notices may be rescinded, said Pelissier.

Also, the state Division of

Local Government Services has not yet released technical information regarding the City's budget cap regulation, explained Pelissier.

The cap determines how much the City is allowed to increase its operating budget. Rahway received \$1.1 million in state aid last year, including \$500,000 in Sup-

plemental Safe Neighborhood funds and \$110,000 in Revitalization Aid.

For the current fiscal year, the City has applied for \$3 million in Municipal Revitalization Aid, formerly called Distressed Cities Aid. The City is in line to receive \$1 million through the Quality Education Act for tax relief and \$659,000 in

densely-populated municipal funding.

Pelissier said that Police Department layoffs may be avoided because of upcoming recruitments. "Any layoff in public safety departments impact the public," said the business administrator. "Both departments are extremely conscientious and dedicated. It

is unfortunate for any layoffs to occur. We hope the reorganization of the Fire Department will help offset any impact."

The municipal budget must be introduced by July 25, but since the state has not yet provided the necessary information to formulate spending plans, the date may be extended.

#### Council seeks state aid for RR stations

by Pat DiMaggio  
Citing "years of neglect," Rahway's Municipal Council voted to appeal to the governor for help in alleviating unsafe conditions at the City's railroad stations. At a meeting held last week, the Council approved a resolution asking for state intervention in forcing the Commissioner of Transportation to make the rehabilitation of railroad property a number one priority.

According to the strongly-worded resolution, the City has had to endure years of neglect by Amtrak and New Jersey Transit in maintenance of the railroad stations, trestles and viaducts. The present conditions have resulted in an "eyesore" as well as an unsanitary and unsafe environment for users of the station located in the

City's central business district.

In February 1990, after meetings with high ranking officials, Councilman Alex Shipley announced that N.J. Transit would begin renovations on the Rahway's railroad station in the spring. Unfortunately, plans for improvements did not materialize. "We had a good case for repairs," explained Shipley, who chaired a council committee for the rehabilitation of railroad property. "Rahway has two very busy stations. We gave them a wish-list. We requested major repairs to trestles and to the stations. Once it came time to budget, I'm sure they ran into trouble."

N.J. Transit changed directors and we just fell through the cracks."

#### 'Debutantes' take title

The "Debutantes," the Rahway Recreation Department dance twirl team, has

captured its second state title at the New Jersey Twirling Association State Championships, held in Bloomfield, with a total of 47 teams competing.

The "Debutantes" won the Small Dance Twirl Team and took Second in the Large Dance Twirl Team Division. The "Debutantes" were represented by Betsy Hennessy, Kym Antrosiglio, Michele Sauer, Cindy Gregorio, Amanda Gregorio and Cathy Gamsiro.

The "Debutantes" are part of the Rahway Recreation Department Baton Twirling program, under supervision of Glenyssha Jurado.

N.J. Transit did install a new staircase to the downtown station and made repairs to the Irving and Cherry St. staircase. But other plans to renovate the North Rahway Station, located next to Merck & Company, waned. The City now believes that only a direct appeal to the governor can force the transit agency into action.

The resolution asks Governor Florio to instruct the State of New Jersey budget to effectively repair and maintain the station, trestles and viaducts located in the central business district. Failure of the state and railroads to take immediate action will result in a legal suit instituted by the City.

#### Rahway NAACP family barbecue

The Rahway NAACP Branch will hold its Second Annual Family Barbecue on Saturday, June 29, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 537 E. Hazelwood Ave., Rahway (Masonic Home Picnic Grounds).

Rain date is July 13. For more information, call 815-9438, 499-9312 or 381-7605.

#### \*\*\*\*\* No pickup on July 4

There will be NO garbage pickup on Thursday, July 4. Garbage will be collected on your next regularly-scheduled pickup day.

#### \*\*\*\*\* Summer physicals to be held Tuesday

Summer Sports physicals will be held on Tuesday, July 2, in the Field House at Veterans Field, Central Avenue, Rahway, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Any student of Rahway Intermediate School and Rahway High School who is interested in playing Fall Sports is invited.

Permission slips, which are available in the Main Office of Rahway High School and Intermediate School, must be filled out in order to obtain a physical.

#### Rahway student Dartmouth grad

Michael Garcia, a Dartmouth senior from Rahway, was among more than 1,000 students receiving Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) degrees during commencement exercises at Dartmouth College recently.

Garcia, son of Sandalo and Angela Garcia of Rahway, majored in Spanish.

#### Pribush suspension upheld by board

by Pat DiMaggio  
The suspension of the City's comptroller has been upheld by the state Local Finance Board. Last week, the board voted 6-0 to sustain a state official's decision to allow the suspension of Chief Financial Officer Roger Pribush without pay.

Last month, Barry Skokowski, director of the Division of Local Government Services, allowed Rahway to suspend Pribush after a complaint was filed by Business Administrator Peter Pelissier charging the CEO with "numerous viola-

tions of both City ordinances and state law." The Local Finance Board voted to uphold Skokowski's decision to allow the suspension.

The City is trying to have Pribush permanently removed from his tenured position. A hearing on the complaint and the suspension will be scheduled before the Office of Administrative Law.

The complaint against Pribush stemmed from the discovery of overexpenditures of \$642,000 in the municipal budget and \$125,000 in the water utility

budget. The overexpenditures were discovered by financial consultant Marvin Corwick, hired in January by Mayor Jim Kennedy to go over the City's books. In his report on the state of the City's finances, Corwick charged the previous administration with paying bills with unappropriated monies. As comptroller, Pribush should be held accountable, according to the complaint filed against him.

Corwick has since been hired on a temporary basis to serve as the City's chief financial officer.

#### Officers complete accident course

Officers David Satkowski of the Clark Police Department and Anthony Apice of the Rahway Police Department have recently completed an Advanced Traffic Accident Investigation course, sponsored by

the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety.

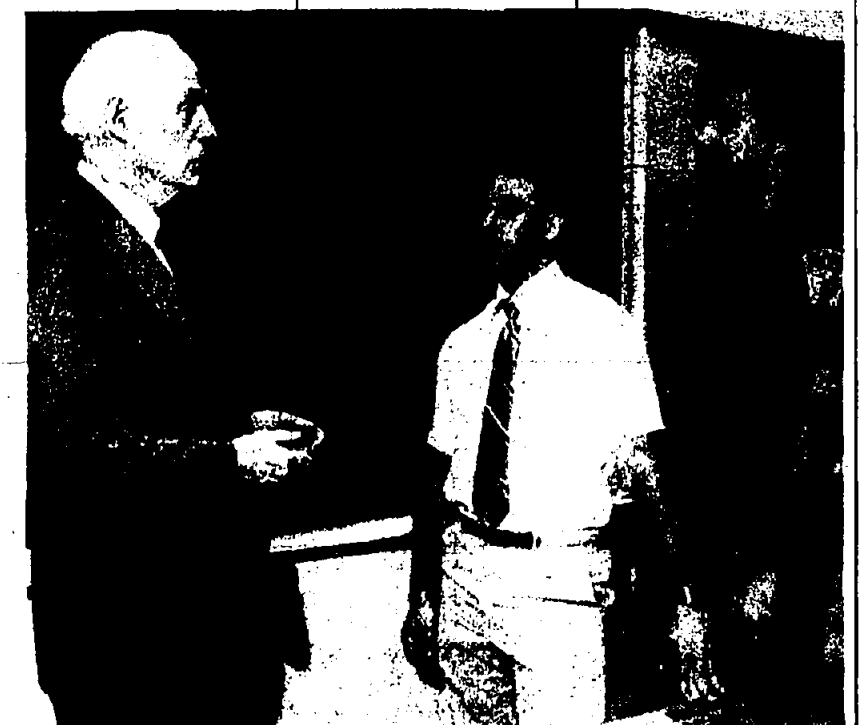
The officers are now considered experts in the highly technical field of traffic accident investigation. Complex calculations required a

firm grasp of the physics involved in reconstructing accident damages. The officers can also offer expert testimony in accident litigation.

"AAA believes strongly in the lifesaving value of the traffic accident investigation courses we sponsor," said Matthew J. Derham, President of the Florham Park-based club. "Local communities benefit greatly from the expertise these officers bring home."

Participants in the advanced course learn to recognize, interpret and prepare physical evidence for use in accident reconstruction, and to calculate speed estimates from skid marks, rolls, vaults, falls and scuffmarks. They're adept at analyzing vehicle damage to determine vehicle movements and the forces involved in a collision, including light and tire condition before the accident. Officers Satkowski and Apice also received training in interviewing techniques and the psychological factors considered in determining accident causes and evasive techniques.

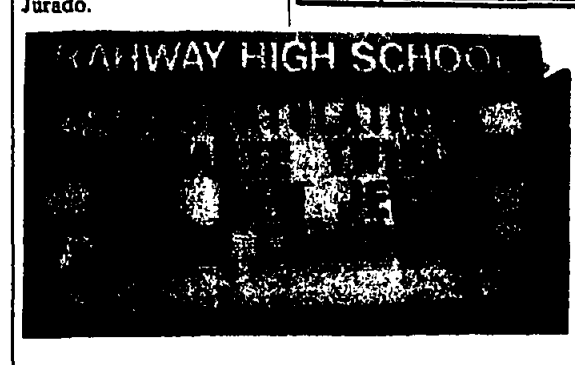
Determining why and how an accident happened is often a very difficult and complex task, especially if witness descriptions differ from the initial picture of the accident scene.



COMPLEX ACCIDENT CALCULATIONS... Matthew J. Derham, President of New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety, left, discusses complex calculations involved in determining accident speed estimates with Officers Anthony Apice, center, of Rahway Police Department and David Satkowski of Clark Police Department. Officers Apice and Satkowski recently completed Advanced Accident Investigation course sponsored by Florham Park-based automobile club.



RAHWAY RAILROAD STATION IN BETTER DAYS  
(Photo compliments of Ray Eggen)



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SPELLING BEE STINGERS... Third Graders of Rahway Intermediate School recently won the annual Spelling Bee. Words were taken from the social studies curriculum. Happy winners pictured from left to right: Hanson, Elise Rosenfield, Nicole Miller and Cuthbertson. Trophies, donated by Roosevelt PTA.