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Layoff notices to 17 stand Proposed city budget includes no raises

by Pat DiMaggio
Seventeen layoff notices remain in effect under Rahway's \$22.9 million fiscal year budget introduced at a special meeting held on Aug. 1. The 1991-92 spending plan, to run from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992, also includes no increases for salaries or wages for any City department, which could have "later consequences" when the City negotiates labor contracts, according to Business Administrator Peter Pelissier.

The budget will pass along a \$15 increase on a house assessed at \$150,000 for municipal government purposes. The tax rate will rise from \$2.67 to \$2.68 per \$100 of assessed value, with the 1-point increase attributed to the local budget. The budget remains \$931,186 over a 4.5-percent cap, the increase allowed by the state. Previously, the City removed \$985,000 in police and fire pension costs from this budget into next year's budget to reduce a cap overage of \$1.8 million.

Layoff notices remain in effect for three clerical workers, two positions in the finance office, one assessor, one engineer and three firefighters. Personnel rolls will also be reduced through the retirement of gen. engineer, one fire chief, one deputy fire chief and the possible retirement of four police officers in February. Informal discussions with Rahway's FMBA Local 33 have led to the possibility of retaining the three firefighter positions. Pelissier said the FMBA has volunteered to give back holiday time in order to keep its rolls active. If the plan is accepted, the cost savings would amount to \$32,000, which would enable three firefighters to remain on the payroll until November.

The Superior Officers Association also volunteered to consider the give-back at an additional cost savings of \$4,200, said Pelissier. "I have to commend the officers of the FMBA," noted Pelissier. "They came up with a plan to stand up for their co-workers." The Police Department will also be affected by the tight budget. Currently, the

Police Department maintains 70 officers, down from a full complement of 74. Four officers retire in February, the department will be lowered to a total of 66 officers. However, Pelissier noted that the administration has authorized the police chief to hire those officers to bring the department up to 70 by February.

The budget was introduced on a vote of five in favor, with Republican Council members Michael Esposito, Katherine Fulcomer and William Wenzel opposed. Councilman Alex Shipley abstained.

Amendments to the budget are to be considered at the public hearing scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall. The state deadline for adoption of the budget is Sept. 1.

proposed a silver object concealed a brown paper bag, which they also believed to be a gun.

Police said the victims turned over a total of \$48 in cash to the suspects, who then fled in a waiting van parked on Capobianco Plaza and driven by a third suspect.

According to police, Officers Joseph Malrajo and Raymond Balayo stopped a van a short time later at Route 1 and Patterson Street and arrested the three men named above.

Police said no guns were recovered, but a black bag wrench and a silver-colored ratchet were found in the van.



OFFICIALS TOURING ARTS CENTER. From left, City Business Administrator Peter Pelissier, Union County Arts Center President Tom Connell, Council members William Wenzel, James Jones Jr., Nancy Saliga, Alex Shipley, Chester Holmes, Sal Mione and Katherine Fulcomer, and City Clerk Jean Kuc.

Arts Center seeks continued support

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Municipal Council was invited to meet at the Union County Arts Center (UCAC) last week to watch a film on old movie palaces and view a slide show on recent renovations to the City's center for performing arts.

"The Arts Center plays a significant role in downtown Rahway," said Alan Gardiner, the UCAC's first vice president. "This theatre is an anchor for this section of town. It is an important factor for the City of Rahway."

Gardiner said the purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the council with the UCAC and "what it can do for the City and the region."

Rahway Landmarks President Tom Connell noted that the theatre drew more than 15,000 people into the City last year. "Studies have shown that arts centers produce a positive economic effect on revitalization," he said.

"People spend money on shows and dinner and patronize retail establishments producing a ripple effect. The Arts Center is an important part of the City economically."

In a "food for thought document," Gardiner cited several steps the City can take to help the Arts Center, including the continuation of annual financial contributions, the adoption of a resolution supporting the Arts Center as an integral part of the redevelopment of downtown Rahway, granting permission for the Arts Center to locate brochures about the Center in City Hall and other public buildings for distribution purposes, performing Citywide mailings of programs to all residents at the time tax bills are mailed, cleaning the railroad trestle on Irving Street, increasing code enforcement in the area, particularly providing "in-kind" services consisting of office equip-

ment, supplies, stationery, photocopy services and secretarial assistance, and installing directional signs "TO ARTS CENTER" in a half dozen locations in the City.

The Union County Arts Center has also begun a membership drive. The goal for 1991-92 is to maintain a membership of 2,500 individuals. A membership can cost as little as \$15, and for only \$20 more, an individual will be listed as a booster in the UCAC's playbill. Those who join in July and August will be carried for the rest of 1991 free, and the new membership year will begin on January 1, 1992. An individual will receive five months of 1991 and 12 months of 1992 for the price of 12 months.

Those interested in supporting Rahway's center for the performing arts are invited to call Membership Chairman Stan Sawyer at 499-0441.

New recycling plan includes more materials

by Pat DiMaggio
The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted 6-2 to approve the Union County Utilities Authority's recycling plan amendment at a special meeting held last week. The plan expands recyclable materials and proposes three new facilities to handle mixed waste, bulky waste and household special waste.

The recycling plan amendment proposes an increase in the county's rate of recycling from the current 44 percent to 60 percent by 1996 by increasing the list of recyclable items to include the following: Two-liter plastic soda bottles, tin cans, cloudy milk containers and colored detergent bottles, mixed paper, household corrugated cardboard, used motor oil, household appliances and consumer and vehicle batteries.

Municipalities will be able to choose how they would like to operate their recycling program. Residents will be able to dispose of recyclables either through curbside pickup services or at special drop-off locations.

As of January 1, 1993, yard waste will no longer be accepted at disposal facilities. Backyard composting will be encouraged, and municipalities will provide yard waste management services for those residents who cannot manage their waste onsite.

Effective dates for separating and recycling waste are as follows: • Immediately — corrugated cardboard, glass containers, newspaper, aluminum cans, office paper, leaves, vehicle batteries and used motor oil. • January 1, 1992 — ferrous cans, mixed paper, plastic soda bottles, cloudy milk containers and colored detergent bottles, grass and brush, wood, asphalt roof shingles, tarpaper, fiberglass insulation used in roofs and all other asphaltic materials generated in roof removal, construction or reconstruction.

• July 1, 1993 — consumer batteries. • July 1, 1994 — appliances. A licensed mixed-waste processing facility will be identified or established and begin operation by Spring 1994.

Mixed-waste items include wood, food wraps and packaging materials, foam cups, plastic vegetable oil containers and shampoo bottles, plastic soda bottles, milk containers, corrugated cardboard, paper, electronics equipment, tires, sheetrock, household special waste, pesticides and pool chemicals. This facility will become operational by Summer 1993.

A collection and shipping facility for household special waste will be identified or established to accept, segregate and recycle or properly dispose of household special wastes such as household cleaners, drain openers, paints, thinners, preservatives, used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, herbicides, pesticides and pool chemicals. This facility will become operational by Summer 1993.

The amended recycling plan will be evaluated over the five-year period of implementation, and new programs will be proposed as needed, according to the Authority.

Two Elizabeth men and a Rahway man, all in their 30s, were arrested July 30 and charged with robbing three people at the Capobianco Plaza parking lot, police said.

Earl Ayler, 34, and James Dixon, 35, both of Elizabeth, and Walter Mason, 34, of Adams Street, Rahway, were charged with strongarm robbery and were being held on \$25,000 bail, according to police.

Mayor moves his store downtown

by Pat DiMaggio
Kennedy Jewelers will move from its St. Georges Avenue location back downtown in a show of support for the proposed redevelopment of the City's business district. Jim Kennedy, owner of the jewelry store and the City's mayor, moved into his new showroom on Monday.

Kennedy moved his East Cherry Street store to St. Georges Avenue four years ago. He said the move was necessary because of insurance restrictions on his former store, an attached frame building which was constructed in 1840.

Kennedy's move also coincides with the Chamber of Commerce's redevelopment plan for the downtown business district. "I believe downtown is going to prosper in a relatively short time," said the mayor. He also cited a "tremendous cut" in the overhead for his new location, a masonry, freestanding building located at Main and Lewis Streets.

The Chamber of Commerce has developed a plan for the downtown area, including enticing outlet type stores into relocating to some of the larger, currently empty buildings. The plan also calls for increased housing over retail establishments and the construction of a 60-to-80 unit apartment building in the Dock Street area.

The first step to the plan, said the mayor, is marketing the vacant land located behind City Hall. A deal with Hartz Mountain Industries to construct a corporate center fell through early this year, and the City continues to look for a major developer for the site.

Tammy Wynette fundraiser set

by Pat DiMaggio
The Union County Arts Center will host Tammy Wynette on Saturday, Oct. 12, in a fundraiser for the Stephen Lutak family. All proceeds from the show will be turned over to a trust fund to help pay the medical bills of the Rahway youngster, who remains in a Chicago hospital recovering from a liver transplant.

Stephen and his parents, Diane and Joseph Lutak, remain at the University of Chicago Medical Center where the 2 1/2-year-old's condition has been upgraded to serious but stable, according to family friend Richard Kress of Clark.

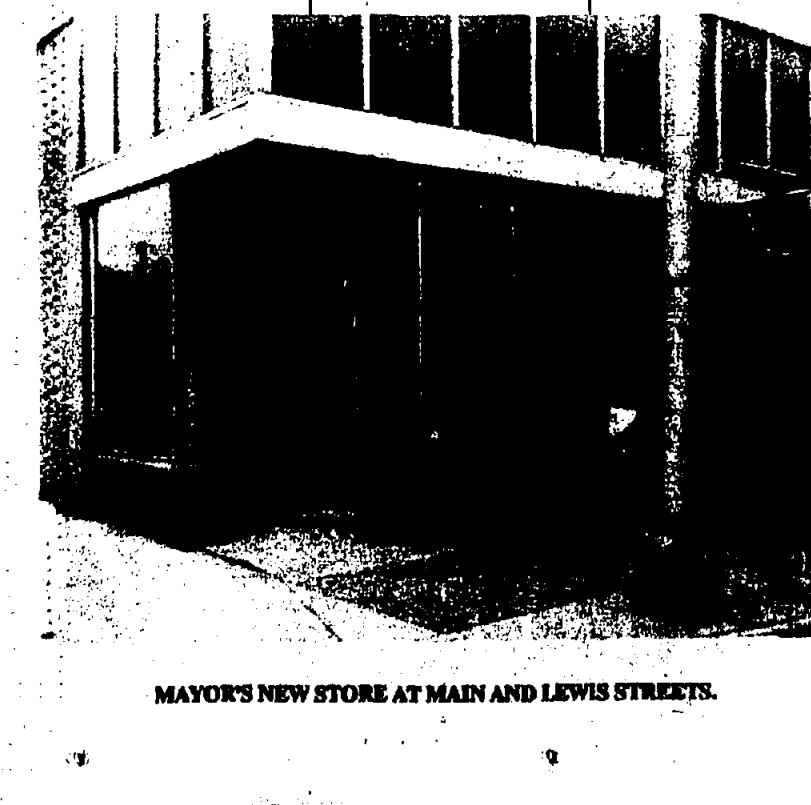
The Lambert Street resident was diagnosed with biliary atresia, a fatal liver disease, when he was six days old. He was rushed to Chicago at the end of June when a liver donor was found and underwent surgery.

Unfortunately, complications developed and a search for another donor proceeded immediately. His uncle, Frank Lutak, was found to be a "perfect match" and donated 20 per-

cent of his liver in another operation. Two weeks ago, Stephen was taken off anti-rejection drugs when he developed a yeast infection. Doctors then began antibiotic treatment. On Monday, tests showed 13 days without a positive culture for the yeast infection, said Kress, and Stephen was started again on mild anti-rejection drugs.

Although Stephen is very weak, he is beginning to smile and talk a little more each day, said Kress. The family's medical bills have soared to over \$1 million, and it is unknown how much will be picked up by insurance.

Tickets for the Tammy Wynette benefit performance will be on sale at the Union County Arts Center box office on Thursday, Aug. 15. For those who have been following the Lutak family story in The Rahway News Record and The Clark Patriot, this is an opportunity to show community support while enjoying first class entertainment in the historically restored center for performing arts. For information call (908) 499-8226.



MAYOR'S NEW STORE AT MAIN AND LEWIS STREETS.



CONGRATULATIONS ON JIM WELLS' re-election to the State Assembly. Congressman resident Ed. Wilson, and Mayor Jim Kennedy at 4th of July Boyds Plaza.