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Incinerator remains burning issue

Mayor's absence from meeting noted by Shipley

by Pat DiMaggio
Activists jammed City Hall Monday night to urge councilmembers to vote against a resolution supporting Rahway's proposed resource recovery facility. The resolution, placed on the agenda by Councilman James Jones Jr., was an attempt to get "an official read" from the City's governing body, said Jones. Late last week, Union County Utilities Authority

(UCUA) Chairman Angelo Bonnano announced a tentative agreement with the Middlesex County Utilities Authority for what he called a "trash-for-ash" deal. Under terms of the agreement, Middlesex County would send a portion of its garbage to Rahway's incinerator. In exchange, Middlesex would accept the incinerator's ash for disposal at its Edgeboro landfill. The preliminary agree-

ment, approved at "staff level," according to Bonnano, would clear the final hurdle for the trash-to-energy plant to be built on Route 1 by Ogen Martin Systems. The Middlesex County Freeholders were expected to vote on the agreement at a meeting held yesterday. News of the tentative agreement sent anti-incineration activists to Rahway's City Council meeting Monday night to

urge council members to vote against the resolution supporting the facility. Tom Ronney, Concord St., reminded the council of a prior resolution which resulted in litigation by the UCUA. "Didn't we get in trouble last time for something like this?" he asked the council. "My advice is to leave things alone." Last month, the UCUA took the City to court over a previous resolution approved by the council which called for a referendum on the siting of the incinerator in Rahway. On July 10, Superior Court Judge Edward Beglin Jr. ruled the referendum "improper," and said the City could not use a referendum vote for an issue over which it has no jurisdiction.

Jones explained that the resolution supporting the incinerator was an attempt to get "an official read" from the council. "Resource recovery is the biggest issue right now in the City," he said. "We can vote on this resolution, and if we pass it or reject it, it will send an official read to county and state officials." "Stop calling this a resource recovery facility," said Bob Carson, Central Ave. "It is not resource recovery, it is an incinerator and it will burn garbage. Don't use euphemisms." Carson also charged the UCUA with trying to "steal" the incinerator.

"No citizen has had the chance to vote on this project," he continued. "This is a direct negation of the democratic process. Who is running the show? The authority is operating as a front for Ogen Martin. They are stealing our money and stealing our health." Mayor Jim Kennedy did not attend the meeting and Councilman Alex Shipley criticized his absence. "Mayor, if the council votes against this resolution, are you prepared on behalf of the City to help stop this

plant in Rahway?" he asked the mayor's empty chair. "I don't hear an answer," continued Shipley. "I guess we are on our own again with this." The resolution supporting the incinerator was defeated on a vote of six against, Council members Nancy Saliga and Chester Holmes in favor and Councilman Dennis Hennessey absent. Holmes is one of Rahway's two representatives to the UCUA. A second resolution call-

ing for a referendum on the designation of Rahway's members to the UCUA was unanimously approved by the council. The resolution requests that the following question be placed on November's ballot: "When making its designation of a member of the Union County Utilities Authority, should the Mayor and Council of Rahway designate an opponent to the operation of Union County's Resource Recovery Facility as a member of the Union County Utilities Authority?"

National commander visits Rahway Legion post

by Pat DiMaggio
The American Legion's national commander visited Rahway on August 4 to celebrate the largest veterans group in the United States and to commend members of the James E. Mackie Post 499 located on Irving Street.

"We are glad that he chose to come to Union County, and we are elated that he visited our post," said Post 499 Commander Berley Hanna Jr. American Legion National Commander Robert S. Turner was elected during the closing session of the 72nd National Convention of the organization in Indiana on August 30, 1990. A resident of the state of Georgia, Turner is a counselor for the Department of Veterans Service, Claims Division,

and is the third Vietnam era veteran to serve as the Legion's national commander. Turner noted that there are more than 91,000 American Legion members in the state of New Jersey, with a total membership nationwide of more than 3 million. "This is a good service post," said Turner who also recognized the charter members of Post 499. "I share in the pride you have in your local post and in your accomplishments. Thanks for all the work you've done, not only for the American Legion, but also for your city, state and this country of ours."

The American Legion is a service organization dedicated to helping veterans of the Armed Forces and their families, said Hanna.



NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT TURNER, SECOND FROM RIGHT, WITH POST 499 FOUNDER CHARLIE BRAME, POST COMMANDER BERLEY HANNA JR. AND PAST 499 COMMANDER AL SNOWDEN.

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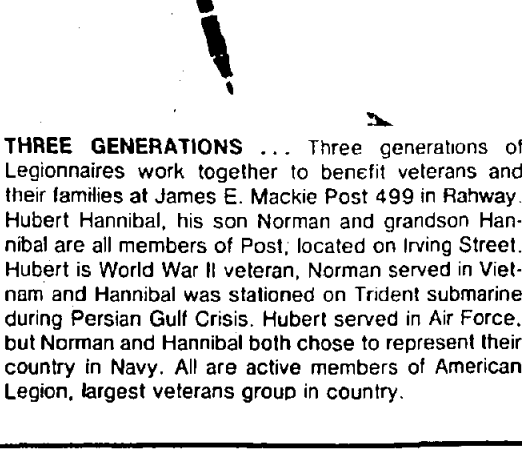


Jason Taylor is recognized

Jason Taylor, who will be a sophomore at Rahway High School in September, has been recognized for academic achievement, and his biography will appear in the special 25th Silver Anniversary Edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Since 1967, Who's Who has been the largest, most respected publication in the nation, recognizing students for their achievements in academics, athletics and extracurricular activities. Only 5 percent of the students from 22,000 high schools in America are honored in Who's Who, said Paul C. Krouse, Publisher.

The Tehama Street resident is the son of James and Wayne Taylor, and the grandson of Beatrice Taylor of Linden.



THREE GENERATIONS...

Three generations of Legionnaires work together to benefit veterans and their families at James E. Mackie Post 499 in Rahway. Hubert Hannibal, his son Norman and grandson Hannibal are all members of Post, located on Irving Street. Hubert is World War II veteran, Norman served in Vietnam and Hannibal was stationed on Trident submarine during Persian Gulf Crisis. Hubert served in Air Force, but Norman and Hannibal both chose to represent their country in Navy. All are active members of American Legion, largest veterans group in country.

Hospital offering Heartsaver course

Rahway Hospital will offer a two-day Basic Life Support (BLS) course on Thursday, Aug. 22, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Hospital's Community Room. A fee of \$30 will be charged. Both sessions must be attended to successfully complete the course. A basic life support instructor will teach the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the adult and pediatric victim in accordance with American Heart Association standards. The instructor will also demonstrate how to assist a choking victim. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 499-6193, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and noon.

City gets state OK to use surplus

by Pat DiMaggio
The City has received approval from the state Local Finance Board to use surplus monies to offset its cap coverage, according to Acting Comptroller Marvin Corwick. The use of 1991-92 surplus monies from the City's transitional year budget will also avert additional layoffs of City employees.

The City's \$22.9 million budget, as introduced on August 1, exceeded the state imposed 4.5 percent cap by \$931,186. With approval from the state, the City can utilize the surplus monies to bring its budget in line for final adoption for the 1991-92 fiscal year. The meeting scheduled for August 29.

Layoffs have become effective for three clerical workers, two positions in the finance office, one assessor and one engineer. Concessions from Rahway's FMEA Local 33 have averted the layoffs of three firefighters. Last-minute approval from the state averted the layoffs of additional personnel, said Corwick. But it will be up to the City's unions to keep employees on the per-

sonnel rolls. "If anything is taken out of the budget, salaries and personnel will be affected," said Corwick. Mayor Jim Kennedy said negotiations are beginning with the FMEA, public works and clerical unions. The 1991-92 budget as introduced contains no provisions for salary increases for any department.

Scholarship winner announced

by Pat DiMaggio
The Vietnam Veterans of North Jersey Chapter 151 recently announced the winners of their 1991 scholarship contest. One \$500 scholarship was awarded to Kerrie Mione, daughter of Rahway Councilman Sal Mione. Kerrie plans to attend Marist College in the fall, majoring in special education.

The scholarship was based on an essay entitled "1991 - Should The United States Reactivate The Draft?" The Vietnam Veterans North Jersey Chapter 151

scholarship is funded by the proceeds from an annual dinner-dance and journal. Following is Kerrie Mione's essay.



Kerrie Mione

Meeting sought with DEP head

The Concerned Citizens of Union County are pushing for a meeting with Environmental Protection Commissioner Scott Weiner. Department of Environmental Protection, and have asked him to follow up with a mutually convenient date, should his schedule permit," Florio wrote.

However, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence to Commissioner Scott Weiner. Department of Environmental Protection, and have asked him to follow up with a mutually convenient date, should his schedule permit," Florio wrote.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Concerned Citizens' legal advisor Lon Caughman, is to find out why the Passaic County incinerator was unnecessary but the Union County incinerator is viewed as necessary and economically prudent, when the Passaic factors which led to the project being cancelled are identical to those in school, churches, hospitals, etc."

Caughman said the group also wants to find out from Weiner how "regions" are defined for purposes of regionalization of incinerators. The Concerned Citizens have met with other officials but none of Cabinet rank before, and Weiner has been active in promoting regionalized incinerators.

"We, as a country, no longer face world wide conflicts. One may even consider the Gulf crisis as a resounding fact against the draft. The draft was not used in the Gulf crisis, and we remained military strong, not because of a draft but because of voluntary service. These services, to prove a point, defeated the drafted armies of the Middle East. "We, as a country, no longer have a Napoleon figure who needs to 'lead' tremendous fighting forces. Our democratic society contains millions of people with

careers and power for success. Our people thank their forefathers for all of the fighting they did to accomplish our freedom. Our people do not concern themselves with being 'Minute Men' - always prepared to do battle. So why should we need a draft?"

"Being a feared world power, our military forces, on ground, in water, air and space, have built a good reputation. It also helps provide an education, jobs and a sense of accomplishment to those who so desire. So many young men and women are turning to the military to form careers and lifestyles. So why should we use the draft?"

"The year 1991 has seen an end to the Cold War, the end of the Iron Curtain, the flow of democracy, and power to the people. It is a time of peace and hope. It is a time when the United States of 1991 should not be in a position of being the leading power in the world, but rather a nation that is a part of the world. It is a time when the United States should be a nation that is a part of the world, not a nation that is a part of the world."

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