

## Javits at Potsdam Paper Opening: "A Beginning"

The opening of the Potsdam Paper Corporation in Norwood is the beginning, not the end, of a fight to bring businesses back to the county and the state, Sen. Jacob Javits said Monday morning.

His words echoing from the brick walls of the former Nekooza Edwards

### Shots fired in Edwards over work on 765 line

NORWOOD — Robert Sassone, an attorney from Norwood, has filed an oral motion for a stay on clearing operations in the Town of Edwards for the 765 KV transmission line.

Sassone filed his motion after the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) was rebuffed in its attempt to bring a surveying group onto the farm lands of Richard and Janet Gotham early today. Gotham told The Journal that he had received assurances that no work would be done on his property until the Public Service Commission (PSC) could conduct rehearings on the uncertified Edwards-Pitcairn section of the line. Gotham's property is about 2,000 feet from where the uncertified section begins.

According to Gotham, he received a telephone call late Friday afternoon from a Power Authority official telling him to clear his corn field because workers would be arriving early Monday morning.

A Power Authority spokesman denied that Gotham had been given assurances from the Authority. Gotham and a reported three other people used tractors to block the Power Authority from entering his corn field off the Spruce Road.

**Shots Fired**  
The blockage lasted for about two hours. Both protestors and St. Lawrence County Sheriff's deputies confirmed that shots were fired from somewhere in the cornfield. Neither the protestors nor the sheriff's deputies said that they knew who fired the shots.

PASNY left the scene at about 10 a.m. At press time today, both the Gothams and St. Lawrence County planner Richard Grover were in a Power Authority car with John Wing and David Demarest attempting to negotiate. Gotham says he is not opposed to the line but would like it moved so that it does not interfere with his corn field. He had spoken directly to Gov. Hugh Carey during his visit to the county this summer.

Sassone said that he requested a stay of construction from a Public Service Commissioner due to the proximity of the Gotham property to that portion of the 765 KV line which remains uncertified in the Edwards-Pitcairn area. Sassone argued that due to its proximity, any work done on Gotham's farm may subsequently have to be modified or undone when a final route is determined by the PSC for the uncertified portion.

Balancing this against the interest of avoiding bodily harm and preventing physical conflict, Sassone argues, a stay should be granted until the rerouting hearings for the uncertified portion of the line in the Edwards-Pitcairn area are completed and a final route is approved.

The request was filed with PSC Commissioner Anne Mead. Sassone said that he was not aware that this technique had been utilized before, however, he said there is nothing he can find in PSC regulations to prevent it.

At press time, no decision had been rendered by the commissioner. She did however, call Sassone's office to tell him that further checking on the legality of his request is necessary.

### Day care site now changed

Parents of participants are reminded the Potsdam after school day care program is now located in the Research and Demonstration Center (Campus School) Main Street, Potsdam. Care is available for children six through 14, five afternoons a week.

paper mill, Javits told a gathering of several hundred that the struggle to attract business is a cooperative venture between private enterprise and governments, both big and small.

Javits made the remarks at official opening ceremonies of the Potsdam Paper Corporation, which is beginning operations at the paper mill closed by Nekooza Edwards some two years ago. For many of the 135 former employees of the plant, the opening marks the end of two years of unemployment.

The opening was the product of a

year's negotiations between the paper corporation and several forces in the county, Javits said. That avenue of negotiating is "the way for small businesses to go," Javits told reporters prior to reading his prepared remarks.

"So long as you have willing, productive, and cooperative people, and the suitable infrastructure such as roads, then we will bring these businesses back into the state," the senator said.

Javits said that his office had served as a "catalyst" in the negotiations, and

he indicated that governmental assistance is the way to help small private businesses break into the market alongside large industries.

"Small business can't compete with big business unless it becomes united with other small businesses," Javits said.

It is essential that private enterprise remain the major employment factor in the nation, Javits said. "Freedom" exists when the independent worker is also an independent voter, he said.

Javits' remarks were made from a podium set up inside the entrance to the paper mill grounds. Sharing the speakers' platform with the senator were the three partners in the Potsdam Paper Corporation, President Harry N. Walters, Vice-president of Operations W.W. Krueger, and Vice-president of Finance Malcolm Preston.

Others seated with the senator were Joel Merriman, Potsdam Town Supervisor; Ernest LaBaff, Potsdam legislator; Allen Rische, legislature chairman; Potsdam Mayor Ruth Garner; and William Cook, director of the county office of economic development.

Cook said that a key to the success of the deal was a \$1.3 million loan from the federal Economic Development Administration. Javits' office was in-

strumental in obtaining the loan, Cook said. Other important funding came from the Farmers' National Bank, he said. Cook served as master of ceremonies.

Prior to Javits' address, Merriman, LaBaff, and Rische offered brief comments. Following the senator's remarks, corporation president Harry Walters addressed the assembly.

"We intend to be here for a long time," he said of his company's plans. He thanked the Nekooza Edwards cor-

poration for the time and money they spent "mothballing" the paper production facility.

The company's product line will be fine printing papers, industrial specialties, technical papers and packaging papers sold to merchants, brokers and converters.

The number one paper machine is expected to be put into operation between mid-October and early November, followed 30 days later by the second machine.

### Mental health volunteers to canvass

Volunteer workers will go house-to-house in South Colton, Hannawa Falls, West Stockholm, and Norwood during September to collect for mental health. The Mental Health Association has announced.

September is Mental Health Month, and donations will benefit the Mental Health Association in New York.

The association is a citizens' advocacy group working on behalf of the mentally ill.

"Mental and emotional problems are more common than many people think," said Marion Morse, President of the Mental Health Association in New York. "In fact," she said, "one out of every four families is effected by mental

illness."

Because mental and emotional problems are so widespread, and because many people respond better to treatment close to home, the association is working to see that community services become available for all citizens of New York who need them.

"In New York, a large percentage of the population does not have access to community mental health and mental retardation centers," Morse said. She added that one of the main priorities of the association is to make community services available to our citizens while continuing to support and improve psychiatric hospitals.



JAVITS-GARNER — Sen. Jacob Javits confers with Mayor Ruth Garner Monday at mill opening. (Stokes Photo)

### Board approves Pizza Hut

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Potsdam met in special session September 12 to approve Mark IV Family Restaurant Corporation (Pizza Hut) as eligible to purchase and develop Urban Renewal parcel 9-10 in the village. Negotiated purchase price for the property is \$35,500.

According to PURA chairperson Norma Thayer public hearings involving the village planning board, the zoning board appeals, the Village and the agency are required on the matter. Thayer said she hopes construction can begin early in October.

In other business the Board authorized acceptance of a grant for \$1,011,000 from

the Federal Economic Development Administration. The money will be used for the construction of a water storage tower near the Clarkson dorms and other improvements to the water storage and distribution system of the Village.

The Board also approved a resolution proclaiming the week of September 17 through 23 Constitution Week; approved Mayor Ruth Garner's appointment of Shirley Clough to the zoning board of appeals; approved the request of acting Village Justice Mickey Harris to attend a one-day workshop on alcohol-highway safety; approved the request of lieutenant Clinton Matott to attend a workshop on the training and use of K-9 dogs for police departments.

The Board meets next in regular session September 19.

### Hourihan to seek Potsdam justice post in November

St. Lawrence County Conservative Party Chairman Peter Hourihan will be his party's candidate for the post of Town of Potsdam Justice.

Hourihan also has the Republican endorsement.

Hourihan has been a teacher in the Potsdam school system for the past 12 years, teaching commercial law and other business subjects.

He is a member of the Conservative Party State Executive Committee, a member of the Town of Potsdam Planning Board and Chairman of the Town Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a communicant at the Newman Center and a member of Elks Lodge 2074.

Hourihan said that if elected he plans no major changes in the operation of the Town Justice Court. He has indicated that he will seek to expand the activity of the court in civil cases.

The Conservative-Republican has also said that he feels most citizens are not aware of the low-cost simple procedure available for small claims actions. He noted that he is currently preparing a step-by-step list of instructions for filing a small claims suit. This will be available at the Town Offices.

PETER HOURIHAN

### Fund drive launched for teenager

BY VICTORIA LEVITT  
In June, Vicki Johnson was an energetic and healthy new graduate of Potsdam Central School. Like most new graduates, she was thinking of her future. Now she needs the help of people in the community.

Today, Vicki Johnson is an invalid. In mid-August she began suffering from headaches and high blood pressure.

Then her sight began to fail. She went into a coma and spent four days in the intensive care unit at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

What doctors discovered was that she had experienced complete renal failure. Apparently her kidneys are not fully developed and they are unable to function any longer.

The financial burden her illness has created for her family has become increasingly difficult to deal with. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson, have four other children at home, and Johnson's income from his job as a tractor-trailer driver and maintenance person is stretched as far as it can go.

The family has tried to get Medicaid for their daughter, but apparently their income is just high enough to keep them from qualifying. The hospital expenses may be covered by insurance, but Johnson explained that hospital officials have said that the interpretation of coverage is unclear. Vicki will be able to collect disability benefits from Social Security, but processing her claim will

take months.

In the meantime, she must go to Ogdensburg twice a week for dialysis. At first she had to travel to Syracuse for the treatment, and that meant her father had to take time off from his job to drive her there and back for each four-hour treatment. He could then have to work after hours to make up the lost time.

Now that she can go to Ogdensburg, her mother can drive her there and back, but the family finds that the \$55 they must spend for her medication each week is just about more than they can manage, even though her sister, who has a part time job, has been contributing her salary to help pay the extra medical expenses.

Now some people, concerned with the family's plight, have decided to try to raise money to pay for the medication until the social security benefits take effect. A collection drive is being set up with the cooperation of local businesses.

Friends are distributing containers to merchants, asking that members of the community contribute what they can to help the Johnsons in their time of need. "They have to use their grocery money for Vicki's medicine," a relative explained, "and I just hope we can find some way to tide them over."

The collection containers should be distributed within the next few days.



VICKI JOHNSON

### Another wait for speed limit signs

Hannawa Falls residents will have to wait another month for speed limit signs they requested in April, 1977. Town Pierrepont supervisor Orin B. Thomas told the Courier and Freeman the signs will have to be reordered.

Thomas said he was notified by State DOT September 9 that signs previously approved by DOT for Postwood Beach Road (Church Street) are incorrect, since they would read "speed limit 30 m.p.h." DOT said when another speed

limit sign is posted in the same area (in this case the 40 m.p.h. signs along Route 56) the new signs must read "area speed limit 30 m.p.h."

"I'm sorry for those people. I really want to put those signs up," Thomas stated.

Area residents had also petitioned the Town Board for additional signs, to read "Children at Play" and "School Bus Stop" according to Gerri Turiano of Postwood Beach Road.

Thomas stated DOT denied requests

for those signs. He added that a school bus station sign was not needed since a school bus would be visible for "half a mile" on the Postwood Beach Road.

Turiano received a letter from DOT regional traffic engineer Frank A. Beaman in response to residents' questions about "Children at Play" signs. The letter stated that since the New York State manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices makes no provision for a sign indicating children at play it would not be legal for the Town to erect such a sign.

Turiano told the Courier and Freeman residents are still concerned about the lack of speed limit signs. She also stated residents feel school bus station signs are needed because the bus stop, designated by Potsdam Central School District, is close to the edge of the road.

### Response lacking to weatherization program

Residents of St. Lawrence County may be passing up an opportunity they don't know exists, and that is what is worrying Tibor Bockor, the director of St. Lawrence County Community Development Program weatherization project.

Bockor, who directs and supervises the Home Weatherization Project for St. Lawrence County is concerned over the lack of response to the program aimed at helping low-income citizens weatherize their homes to conserve energy.

The weatherization program helps qualified residents with attic insulation, weatherstripping, caulking, reglazing and replacing windows, vapor barrier and also provides advice on energy conservation at no cost.

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc. Weatherization Project gives priority to families who own their own homes on a first-come-first-served basis.

The St. Lawrence County offices are located in Massena, Potsdam, Gouverneur, Canton and Ogdensburg. If you call and you are eligible for the program, they will set up a time to look at your home and determine what kind of weatherization is needed. Once your application is approved they will order the necessary materials (at no charge to you and when received set up a time to complete the work on your home.

Winter is on its way, check your eligibility with your Neighborhood Center and let them help you conserve energy in the forth coming months.

### Power Out During Storm

Electric power was lost for about 40 minutes to the eastern end of the village and the Potsdam State campus during Monday night's thunderstorm.

James Cook, resident manager for Niagara Mohawk, said that a limb from a maple tree was down on Main Street above Cedar Street.

He said a circuit in the Lawrence Avenue substation was tripped about 10:50 p.m. The substation, which services the eastern section of the village, was without power for about 40 minutes, he said.

## Public attitudes must change for BOCES to realize its potential Mason claims

BY ROB TREVEILER  
"Courses at the BOCES Center are planned for all segments of the school population; for the enriched, average and slow learner."

Ann Mason, President of the school board in Potsdam, couldn't agree more with that statement published in a pamphlet for the BOCES program at Northwest Tech in Ogdensburg.

Mason was elected as president this year after four previous years on the board and she has been active in BOCES programs.

She said she feels that the BOCES program has an "excellent potential" to

reveal vocational possibilities to many high school students.

The BOCES program was introduced to make enriched vocational training available to students while still in high school. Mason does feel, however, that the program is not fulfilling its potential due to a number of shortcomings.

The most important factor that is effecting the potential of the BOCES program, Mason feels, is the general attitude toward the BOCES students.

In an April 1977 letter to Wilson Robin, president of the NYSSBA, she writes of "...an attitude that people who use their hands don't have any brains... which

could not be farther from the truth."

She blames this attitude on poor publicizing of the program, a breakdown of communication between the BOCES and state education boards, and the stigma that BOCES students are slow learners.

Another shortcoming in Mason's opinion is that the program can interfere with the scheduling of regular classes for students.

To alleviate this, Mason said she leans towards an idea for more complete training. She points out that the BOCES students attend their training program for approximately two hours a day, five

days a week. She proposes that students go to their vocational training two full days a week and spend the other three days each week attending regular classes at the school.

This proposal is designed to give the BOCES students more complete and intensified training, while allowing more interaction of the students at school.

It would, she claims, also cut transportation costs in half because the students would attend BOCES classes only two days a week instead of five.

Mason said that she feels that a

community committee discussion BOCES program would be of great help towards changing the attitude of the program.

One of the greatest shortcomings of the program, she feels, is the lack of input from the students themselves. A student representative at committee meetings could get the students more interested in their program, in her opinion.

Mason expressed the thought that "The NYSSBA and State Education Department plus individual boards of education must take a strong active leadership role in publicizing,

glorifying, and generally promoting the program."

BOCES offers not only an external high school diploma program, but computer training, nursing, performing arts, an evening program that centers around work in industry and trade unions, plus many more, she said.

Mason feels that the program will not live up to its potential until there is "a definite change in public opinion towards BOCES students and an established communication with the state school board."