

# Zappia's 99th Breaks Taylor's College Mark

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KEVIN ZAPPIA

## This Week's Weather

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Wed.	9	-12	tr, sn
Thurs.	15	3	1.2 sn
Fri.	3	-16	0
Sat.	-3	-24	0
Sun.	-5	-25	0
Mon.	10	-28	0
Tues.	-9	-12	0

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## Village To Buy UR Parcels

Two Urban Renewal parcels will be sold to the Village of Potsdam following action taken by the Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency at its meeting Monday night.

The parcels, number 8, between Munson and Elm Streets, and number 11, between Beal and Waverly Streets, will be developed by the village for use as public parking lots. Appraised price for parcel 8 is \$30,540; appraised price for parcel 11, is \$27,300.

The agency went into executive session to discuss litigation.

Following the agency meeting, a second public hearing on financial closeout of the Urban Renewal project was held.

At that meeting, agency Executive Director Robert Juravich told the trustees and two village residents that the Village can expect further reinvestment of previously disallowed Urban Renewal costs as a result of action by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Juravich said that he expects written confirmation from HUD that the reinstatement of costs, which stem from a 1975 HUD audit of Urban Renewal Agency practices, will reduce still further the amount which the village must pay back to the agency.

Village resident Greer Cox, 15 Depot St., asked Juravich how many urban renewal parcels are still uncommitted to developers.

According to Juravich, two parcels, one located next to the St. Lawrence County National Bank, the other located off Waverly Street, are still uncommitted. Juravich said the two parcels are designated for commercial development.

## Fire Destroys Home

MADRID - Volunteers from four fire departments battled for over three hours Monday night a blaze that completely destroyed a wood frame home on the Madrid-Raymondville Road in the Town of Madrid.

Sheriff's deputies said that the home was owned by Mrs. Peter Smith and rented to her daughter's family, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Deborah Baxter and their three children, ranging in age from one year to eight years.

Deputies said that a malfunction of a wood-burning furnace in the basement was believed to be the cause of the fire. There was no estimate of the loss available, but it was partially covered by insurance, according to deputies.

The family was home and reportedly smelled smoke when the fire broke out about 6 p.m. They were able to leave the house without any injuries, deputies said.

The first firemen on the scene were able to save some of the family's possessions, according to Deputy Mitchell, who was at the scene.

Firemen from Norfolk, Madrid, Norwood, and Louisville were at the scene.

It was the second fire in that area within three days. On Saturday afternoon, six departments were called to fight a blaze that swept through a two-story, wood-frame house along the River Road in the Town of Norfolk.

Investigating sheriff's deputies said that structure and adjoining workshop were completely destroyed when the fire broke out about 12:30 p.m. Deputies said that the owner, James A. Doran, and a neighbor were in the workshop when flames began shooting from a wall area near a wood stove being used to heat the shop.



DOT 'DOZER'—During ice carnival week, when college students in Potsdam were making ice sculptures for the "11 New York" theme of this year's winter celebration, the employees at the Depot restaurant were busy making the

semblance of a bulldozer. Located next to the Depot, the sculpture gives an idea of what the employees feel about the proposed destruction of the Depot to make way for the Potsdam Relief Route. (Hal Stokes photo).

## Flames Sweep Through Malone Block

MALONE - Possibly the worst fire in Malone's history swept through a block of buildings on Main Street Monday night, destroying nine business establishments and a number of apartments, and leaving several families homeless.

Malone Village Police reported that the blaze, which broke out about 5:50 p.m. Monday, was still burning at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning.

None of the occupants in the buildings were reported injured, but three firefighters did get hurt battling the blaze, according to village police.

Firefighters from 14 departments were called in to the scene, including a snorkel truck from Massena and another snorkel unit from Saranac Lake.

Police said that the cause of the fire had not been determined by Tuesday morning but that it was certain that the fire had begun in a fabric store known as Fabriganza.

Also at the scene were units from the village police department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Border Patrol. Some 24 units from the local CB radio club were pressed into service to reroute traffic around the village.

A police spokesman said that the first firefighting units on the scene discovered that the fire had begun in the fabric store, which had just closed. They began to train their hoses on the blaze when there was an explosion that blew the windows out of the store, according to police. From there, the flames spread up and out to the buildings on either side of the store, they said. Police said that the firemen reported that the only firewalls between the old buildings were air spaces that were open at the top.

One fireman received a concussion when he fell down a set of stairs. Another received flash burns from a flare, and a third suffered a frozen hand, according to police.

The fire swept the block between Washington and Clay streets. It was one of the few old sections of the downtown left in the village. There have been six major fires in Malone since 1968, police said.

Businesses destroyed in the blaze

CANTON - Nearly 20 letters in support of a \$30,000 contract with the St. Lawrence County Police Executive Council were not enough to sway the board of legislators Monday night, as the proposal went down to a 15-5 defeat.

Contributing to rejection of the contract were the uncertain future of CETA funding for public service employees, and concern that SPEC could eventually become a second county police agency.

The \$30,000 asked of the county was to have been supplemented with \$5,000 from municipalities to enable SPEC to continue grant activities, and the para-police program. The funds would have paid for administrative expenses, with the program expected to be self-supporting within a year.

Legislators who supported the SPEC contract were Donald Smith, Louisville; Charles Cooke, Gouverneur; Bill Healey, Potsdam; Ernest LaBaff, Potsdam; and Nicholas Viskovich, Massena.

Continuation of the para-police program, which is funded with CETA monies, but administered through SPEC, dominated discussion of the proposal, although Scott Varden, coordinator of the para-police program and a member of SPEC and the traffic safety board, told the board that SPEC's work also involves writing grants for police departments, municipalities, and safety agencies.

And since continuation of the para-

police program is dependent upon CETA funds, Employment and Training Director Carlton Doane was asked how many positions the department will be able to fill this year.

Funding Uncertain Doane explained that the para-police were provided to police departments through a Title VI project which is now running out and cannot be renewed. In the future, the officers would be placed with departments through individual slots.

But Doane said that how many slots would be available is not yet known, since CETA has not determined how much money it will have for the slots.

Town of Oswegatchie legislator Donald Livingston attempted to get Doane to state whether or not CETA could run the para-police program on its own. But the CETA head commented that "I don't feel CETA should be a total part of this conversation" since SPEC's activities extend beyond the para-police program.

Livingston then asked if municipalities could apply for para-police slots of their own. Doane said that they could, but that the services would not be the same. For example, under the Title VI program, municipalities shared para-police for special events, such as the Gouverneur Fair and the Ogdensburg Seaway Festival.

Lt. Clinton Matott, president of SPEC, warned the board that it would be difficult for individual police agencies to

## Police Chief King Is Suspended

BY HAL STOKES

Potsdam Police Chief Don King has been suspended from his job for two weeks without pay, an action that he says he will contest.

King, contacted Tuesday morning at his home, said that he would be talking to Civil Service authorities to contest the suspension that was ordered Friday by Village Administrator Sanford Dewey.

The suspension became effective Monday.

Dewey refused to explain the reasons for King's suspension, but King said that the action revolved around the issue of time that he had taken off from work.

According to King, the village suspended him because they said he did not properly notify them when he took some 30 days off work after suffering a recent knee injury. He reportedly did not injure the knee while on duty.

Also, King said that the village administrator said he was not properly notified when King took "a couple of vacation days" recently.

Regarding the sick time and the knee injury, King said that he gave notification through "the system we always used in the past." He explained that he called the police station to give notification that he was taking the time off.

Regarding the vacation time, King said of the village, "They like to be notified 24 hours ahead of time." He stated, "If I had known that was the way they wanted it, I would have done it."

King said he learned of the suspension through a letter he received Friday.

Dewey said Monday night that he would not explain why he suspended King. Dewey referred to two sections of

the Public Officers' Law that gave him the right to withhold the information.

The first was that disclosure would deprive King of his right to "impartial adjudication," in case the police chief wished to contest the action.

The second was that disclosure would "constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

Dewey at first was reluctant to discuss the matter at all, saying only that there had been a suspension and claiming that it was a personnel matter and hence not a public issue.

Mayor Ruth Garner, contacted about the issue, had no comment on Monday afternoon.

While Chief King, is suspended, Lt. Clinton Matott is in charge of the police department.

## Burger King Plans To Open In Potsdam

Plans for a Burger King restaurant in the Village of Potsdam are expected to be under discussion this month at meetings of the Village Planning Board and the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.

According to Bruce Remely, engineer in charge of the project, Carrolls Development Corp. of Syracuse plans to remodel and enlarge the former Carrolls restaurant, located on outer Market Street at May Road.

Plans call for the removal of part of the left side of the building to create a drive-through window, and also the construction of an addition to the right rear portion of the building to create extra dining area, Remely said.

Remely said that work on the 80-seat, contemporary-style restaurant could begin by March 5, with opening set for May 10.

In order for work to begin, Carrolls Development Corp. must be granted a special permit by the zoning board of appeals, under section 30.14 C-3 of the village's zoning regulations. A hearing on that special permit has been set for 7 p.m. Feb. 28 in the civic center board room.

Site plan review by the planning board is also necessary. The planning board is expected to meet on the matter on Feb. 22.

Remely said he plans to be in Potsdam this week to discuss the project with local officials. He said he also plans to be present at the planning board and zoning board of appeals meetings later in the month.

Late last fall the Carrolls restaurant site briefly housed the now-defunct Dill Pickle restaurant.

The Dill Pickle subsequently folded and the owner of the business, Gary Cornwall of Ontario, Canada, reportedly left the country with a number of outstanding debts.

Items from the Dill Pickle stores in both Potsdam and Massena were auctioned off Saturday at Sheriff's Department auction in Canton. Unofficial figures said that the auction brought in \$7,000, perhaps the only creditor that will benefit from the auction is Frosted Foods Sales Corp. of Malone, the firm that first filed a judgment against the Dill Pickle. They filed for an amount just under \$12,000.

## Democrats Charge County Budget Not Legal, Collins Mised Public

BY MARY EGGERT

CANTON - Three months after its adoption, the 1979 county budget remains a source of controversy, with Democrats charging that the document violates county law, and that the administrative assistant misled the public in his explanation of the \$3.4 million in unappropriated funds left over from 1978.

At Monday night's meeting of the county legislature, Potsdam legislator Betty Bradley announced that since the chairman of the board, and the administrative assistant, failed to produce a statement explaining what went wrong with the 1979 budget, Democrats looked into the matter on their own, and found that "the budget is not legal."

The former clerk of the board, Democratic committee chairperson June O'Neill, went a bit further, and stated that county law requires that the tentative budget include, among other

things, the amount of surplus available, and the tax reserve total.

Since the public did not have that information available during the hearing on the budget, it was "deprived of due process," Mrs. O'Neill charged.

Meanwhile, Potsdam legislator Bill Healey called upon Administrative Assistant William Collins to "correct" a statement attributed to Collins that the funds left over from 1978 were earmarked for a county jail, solid waste management system, and real property tax revaluation.

In response to the charges, Collins maintained that while the budget is "technically and absolutely correct," he erred in not telling the board of the need to add \$150,000 to the tax levy soon enough.

The budget has sparked debate at every meeting of the board since the document was first adopted in November, because the county real property tax has increased, while

legislators were expecting taxes to either stay at the 1978 level, or decrease from that year's levy.

Audit and Control Letter What happened was that Collins informed the board, when the budget was adopted, that the state Department of Audit and Control requires that the tax reserve, used to cover delinquent taxes, be added onto the tax levy. The county's \$150,000 tax reserve could not, he said, be included in the budget as an appropriation.

"The \$150,000 could not be a budgetary item," the administrative assistant maintained last night, "it could not be part of the budget."

He then read the letter he received from audit and control, which stated that the reserve "will be added to the taxes for budgetary purposes...they will not be included as an appropriation as in prior years...and the account number is eliminated."

"I can tell you for certain that there is

absolutely no error in that budget pertaining to the \$150,000," Collins insisted, adding that 1979's tax levy is "totally and completely correct."

"The error is not in the budget. The error is in not bringing to the attention of this board in time" the need to add the \$150,000 to the tax levy, thus giving the board the opportunity to reduce the contingency fund, and keep 1979 taxes at last year's level.

With regard to Healey's criticism, the administrative assistant said he had told a press conference about the need for funds for a solid waste management system, county jail, and revaluation, in order to dispel the impression that the county had "money sitting here getting moldy."

Mrs. O'Neill had last month charged that the county has a \$3.4 million surplus, which, she pointed out at the time, is more than that left over from 1977, although taxes from this year have surpassed the 1978 level.

Collins responded to Mrs. O'Neill's claims by calling a press conference, during which he explained that the \$3.4 million is needed for the three projects. He said at that time that the county essentially has no surplus, as the former clerk of the board had contended.

Surplus Not Discussed Monday night, Healey objected to a published account of the press conference, which reported Collins as saying that the unappropriated funds have been "earmarked" for the three projects. The Potsdam legislator, a Democrat, contended that the legislature has the sole authority to appropriate monies.

Furthermore, Healey said he did not recall the unappropriated cash ever being discussed during budget preparation. He also doubted whether the legislature will need to appropriate funds for the projects Collins mentioned in this fiscal year.

Since the board was unaware of the

amount of unappropriated funds, and expected a tax decrease all during budget preparation, "I think, Mr. Collins, that you should correct that statement," Healey maintained.

Collins replied that he is well aware of the fact that he lacks the authority to appropriate monies. And he claimed to have never said that the unappropriated cash was "earmarked."

Reminding the board that the county treasurer has yet to complete his report for 1978, the administrative assistant remarked that he called the press conference "because I felt the public was being misled" by Mrs. O'Neill's statements. "What may have looked like money sitting here getting moldy, was actually money that the county would have to use."

The latest round in the budget controversy was touched off when a representative of Potsdam Area Taxpayers, Richard Sanford, presented a resolution to the board.