

## Chapple Seeks Reelection To Put Experience To Use

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This interview concludes a series of four in which the Courier and Freeman has taken a look at each of the candidates for village trustee in Potsdam. Election Day is March 20.

**BY BETSY BAKER**  
Trustee John Chapple says he is seeking re-election to that post in the Village of Potsdam in order to "put to good use" the experience he has gained over the past two years.  
For example, Chapple says, "It takes time to become familiar with village finances. Also, there are projects started or planned—I'd like to serve a couple more years in the hope that some of those projects will be completed."  
High on Chapple's list of priorities for projects is the renovation of the village's hydroelectric plant, located in the water treatment plant on Raymond Street.  
Hydropower is "cheap, clean, safe and renewable," according to Chapple. "And," he adds, "it runs by every day."  
Chapple does not share his running mate Paul Clafey's opposition to the hydro project. "Trustees don't always agree, nor do economists and engineers," Chapple says.  
Chapple says he has heard "enthusiasm" for the hydro project from a

"number of engineers who see it as straightforward and economically feasible." The pay-back period (the length of time necessary for the village to recover its investment in the project) also "appears very reasonable," according to Chapple.  
Full implementation of the presently proposed hydroelectric project would involve the use of ozone for water treatment and the production of hydrogen for sale, as well as the generation of electricity.  
The project, which would depend on federal and state grants and a share of costs from the village "would be a first in this country," Chapple says.  
Another of Chapple's interests is the creation of a bicycle and jogging path within the village. Plans for such a path are in the preliminary stages, he says. The village is working with recreation director Steve Yanoulkos on the project.  
The tentative route for the path would begin at Ives Park, follow Bay Street to Pierpoint Avenue, go past Maxcy Hall on the campus of SUNY Potsdam, and follow out Main Street back into the village, a total distance of about 2.5 miles.  
Funds for the path would come primarily from the state, Chapple says, with CETA crews providing much of the labor.

Chapple says his interest in the path grew out of a survey he conducted shortly after his election to the trustee's post in 1977. The majority of those village residents who responded to the survey expressed an interest in the creation of a bike-jogging path, Chapple says.  
Chapple says he also seeks to maintain and improve "the existing good relationships between the village and the two colleges."  
**Depot Stance**  
Each of the candidates interviewed thus far has expressed an opinion on the issue of the Potsdam Depot and its imminent destruction to make way for the relief route. Chapple is no exception.  
It would be unfortunate if the Depot became a major campaign issue," Chapple said, "compared to the magnitude of other things."  
"If I was forced to make a choice between the Relief Route, which many people favor, and saving the Depot, which everyone seems to favor, including myself, I'd have to choose the Relief Route," Chapple continued.  
Even if the Relief Route could be moved to avoid the Depot, the tavern would be "virtually inaccessible" after the road's completion, Chapple says.  
The only other alternative, according to Chapple, would be to move the building, which would cost, he says, some \$160,000.  
The general business climate in Potsdam is good, according to Chapple. Statements to the contrary are "simply



JOHN CHAPPLE

long-existing problems which we inherited, and which can only be solved with careful planning and careful financing. A check with some local insurance agencies has revealed that existence of storm sewers, or lack of them, does not affect insurance rates for homeowners, as was charged by Republicans. Because of the extremely high cost involved in such a project, all aspects of this problem will have to be carefully considered.  
"The charge by the opposition that village employees are hindered by fear of losing their jobs for 'political' reasons simply has no basis in fact. Regarding finances, they refer to robbing Peter to pay Paul and transferring monies from fund to fund to cover operating deficits; again, we demand specifics. Where and when was this done? The financial books are open to the public and may be

consulted whenever desired. Our board has made it a practice for several months now to be available each Tuesday during lunch for questions from the public on anything, on an informal basis. We hope people will use this opportunity to make their concerns known to us.  
"In closing, we want to say that we found a confusing contrast between candidate Schwenke's statement that he favors the Relief Route and feels 'the Depot has to go', while the position paper issued by him, with Mrs. Senf, speaks against 'building a road where a bridge would suffice', and seems to indicate that the Relief Route is not a priority. There's no confusion on our position on this; we want to help make the route a reality, because we feel that is what the majority of the people of Potsdam want."

Chapple notes that projects such as Potsdam's housing rehabilitation program, which uses federal funds, "actually benefit the entire community."  
The program means that the property value of nearby homes is increased, along with the property value of homes actually being rehabilitated, according to Chapple.  
Chapple characterizes as "inappropriate" recent charges that the present all-Democrat administration operates as a "rubber stamp" board.  
"The village board is not a 'rubber stamp,'" Chapple said. "We have not voted unanimously on a great many things."  
Chapple and his family have lived in Potsdam since 1965. He is presently employed as Vice-Provost, Dean of Admissions at Clarkson College, with responsibilities for admissions, financial aids, career planning, and placement, the office of the registrar and the student development center. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Syracuse University and also has post-masters credits from that school.  
Chapple resides at 60 Elm St., with his wife Helen, who is director of news services at Clarkson. The couple has five children: Jack, an honor graduate of Syracuse University; Jeanne, a sophomore at Cornell; Joe, a freshman at SUNY Potsdam; Paul, a student at A.A. Kingston Middle School and Clare, a student at the Research and Demonstration Center.

## Democrats Take Exception To Republican Position Paper

The Democrat candidates for Potsdam village offices have taken exception to a number of points that their Republican rivals have made public.  
The Republicans trustee candidates Eleanor Senf and Ray Schwenke, made their comments in a position statement published in last week's issue of the Courier and Freeman.  
In reply to the position paper appearing in the Feb. 13 paper, Democrat candidates for re-election Mayor Ruth Garner and trustees John Chapple and Paul Clafey have made the following comments:  
"First: the Republican candidates claim that this administration has maintained one-party control by appointing 'like-minded' Democrats to vacancies on the Board.' They should

be now be aware of the fact that no member of the present board is there by appointment—all have been elected by the voters of Potsdam. Appointments to the several boards and committees assisting the village board, where vacancies occurred, have been made in such a way as to provide geographical and political breadth of view.  
"Next, we would like to hear candidates Senf and Schwenke give specific instances of what they call 'general unwillingness to even consider opposing

perspectives with resulting waste, inefficiency, and mismanagement on all levels of village government.' Where did this occur and under what circumstances? We want specifics here—not rhetoric! It is very easy to make a slipshod accusation like that; now let them back it up with facts.  
"They also commented that the present administration has been working since 1975 on the water problem—very interesting, but we want to point out that the present ad-

ministration did not even come into office until April, 1977. Since that time this administration has done a great deal to correct the water problems. This is one of our first priorities, because over the long years of Republican control here, the regrettable conditions were allowed to persist, and one of our campaign promises concerned the need for solving the problems associated with the 50-year-old water plant. The final design contract has been awarded for a new water treatment facility, and the new million-gallon water storage tank located on Clarkson Hill is near completion.  
"We agree that 'inadequate storm and sanitary sewer systems continue to vex property owners.' However, the blame for these inadequate systems can hardly be placed on our doorstep, since they are

long-existing problems which we inherited, and which can only be solved with careful planning and careful financing. A check with some local insurance agencies has revealed that existence of storm sewers, or lack of them, does not affect insurance rates for homeowners, as was charged by Republicans. Because of the extremely high cost involved in such a project, all aspects of this problem will have to be carefully considered.  
"The charge by the opposition that village employees are hindered by fear of losing their jobs for 'political' reasons simply has no basis in fact. Regarding finances, they refer to robbing Peter to pay Paul and transferring monies from fund to fund to cover operating deficits; again, we demand specifics. Where and when was this done? The financial books are open to the public and may be

consulted whenever desired. Our board has made it a practice for several months now to be available each Tuesday during lunch for questions from the public on anything, on an informal basis. We hope people will use this opportunity to make their concerns known to us.  
"In closing, we want to say that we found a confusing contrast between candidate Schwenke's statement that he favors the Relief Route and feels 'the Depot has to go', while the position paper issued by him, with Mrs. Senf, speaks against 'building a road where a bridge would suffice', and seems to indicate that the Relief Route is not a priority. There's no confusion on our position on this; we want to help make the route a reality, because we feel that is what the majority of the people of Potsdam want."

## Bus Service Expanded

According to Anthony Kilcoyne, St. Lawrence County Legislator from District 4, county bus routes and schedules for the Towns of Brasher, Lawrence and Hopkinton have been finalized.  
The service will operate on Tuesdays and provide access to Potsdam for residents of Fort Jackson, Nicholville and Hopkinton. On Thursdays, vehicles will operate from both Potsdam and Massena serving residents of Lawrenceville, North Lawrence, Brasher Falls, Winthrop, Brasher Center and Brasher Iron Works. These vehicles will link in Brasher Falls and provide service into both Massena and Potsdam.  
The bus will service different communities each day of the week, beginning on Monday in Ogdensburg, Tuesday in Canton, Wednesday in Gouverneur, Thursday in Potsdam and Friday in Massena. To arrange a ride, phone the number in your area at least one day in advance. The fares for a one way ride are 50 cents for less than five miles, 75 cents for 5-15 miles and over 15 miles, \$1.

Potsdam Town Constable Wendall Johnston says that his run-in with a driver at the Potsdam Plaza parking lot Monday will not deter him from continuing his duties.  
"I spent 22 years in the Army, so it doesn't bother me too much," he said Tuesday morning when contacted by telephone.  
Johnston was hit by a car and pushed about 65 feet after he tried to give a driver a parking ticket for being in a fire lane. The incident occurred about 7:25 p.m., according to state police.  
The driver, Robert Gilbo, 28, of Route 3 Potsdam, was in St. Lawrence County Jail Tuesday morning. No bail has been set and he is awaiting grand jury action, according to State Police. He is charged with first degree reckless endangerment and leaving the scene of an accident, troopers said.  
Johnston, who lives at Racquette Acres, was treated at the Canton-Potsdam Hospital for bruises to the legs and was released. The bruises aren't so bad, according to Johnston, but he did say that the incident "had me a little shook up."  
The constable, whose duties include enforcing parking regulations at the Potsdam Plaza shopping center, said that he approached the Gilbo vehicle while it was located in the fire lane. He said he

asked Gilbo to move the car from the fire lane, but the driver reportedly refused, saying that he was not parked.  
Johnston stated that he then told Gilbo that he would give him a ticket, and he moved to the front of the car to copy down the license number. At that point, Johnston said, a woman came out of one of the stores and got into the Gilbo car.  
As Johnston tells it, the driver then told him to get out of the way or he would be run down. And, he said the man proceeded to drive into him and push him across the lot. He said that he did not fall down, and he estimated that the car might have been going about five miles per hour.  
State Police later apprehended Gilbo. He was arraigned before Potsdam Town Justice Shirley Harris and placed in St. Lawrence County Jail.  
As town constable, Johnston is authorized by the Potsdam Town Board to patrol at the Potsdam Plaza lot to see that cars do not park in the fire lane there. He works about 30 hours per month at the task, and issues \$5 parking tickets when he has to. But generally, he said, when there is someone in the car, "we give them the opportunity to move the car."

There is at least one point of agreement between Republican Village Trustee candidate Ray Schwenke and Democrat incumbents John Chapple and Paul Clafey: they all say the voters should be given a choice.  
But the two Democrats disagree with some other things and they have issued a joint statement as a reply to Schwenke. Schwenke aired some of his views in an interview published in last week's Courier and Freeman.  
Their prepared statement follows:  
"We do agree with Mr. Schwenke on one point at least—the voters should have a choice, and this statement is an effort to give the voters information necessary in making that choice wisely. Having agreed on that, we want to say that we do not agree with him in his assertion that a one-party village board is automatically bad; the quality of any board depends on the integrity and expertise of those who comprise that board. We challenge him to point out instances where the present board has been 'speaking only one view,' as he puts

it. Those Potsdam residents who have made it a practice to attend board meetings regularly can attest to the fact that the present board represents a broad range of ideas, concerns, and experiences, resulting in the presentation of varying viewpoints for contrast and consideration. Party affiliation is no guarantee that a board member bearing it will automatically be the best choice—the basic question is that of experience and integrity.  
"As for Mr. Schwenke's questions regarding village finances, ('Are we fiscally sound? Is the budget in the red? I don't know.) we can assure him that the village books are open to the public and available for inspection at any time. The village is solvent and in good fiscal condition. He quotes former Mayor Hayes as saying that the village operation in his administration was financed by village revenues, not federal funds; how then does Mr. Hayes (or Mr. Schwenke) explain the fact that the final budget prepared by the Hayes administration contained \$30,000

in anti-recession funds to be used for salaries and not projects?  
"Mr. Schwenke feels that publicity about village finances has been lacking; we do not agree. We have made a conscientious effort to keep the public informed. A few glances at recent issues of the local paper will indicate that village finances are openly discussed and procedures determined with no attempt at concealment. His comments that efforts to attract a name motel to Urban Renewal Parcel 3 should be aggressive rather than 'sitting back waiting for something to happen' show little appreciation and less awareness of the amount of time and effort devoted to finding a developer for that parcel.  
"We feel that our first term as board members has been productive and that we have served the village conscientiously. We are glad that Mr. Schwenke raised the points he did, and we are most willing to discuss these and other issues with the voters of the village. We welcome your interest and your questions."

## Six Periods Out School Staff Cuts Discussed

**BY NEIL THOMPSON**  
What started as a progress report on the feasibility of a seven-period day turned into a discussion of the possibility of staff cuts at last Tuesday's Potsdam Central School Board meeting.  
High School Principal Rene Bouchard had been telling the board of the hassles a six-period day would cause with about 70 students who may attend classes at Seaway Area Technology Center (BOCES) in Norwood when the subject of teaching position cuts came up.  
Carlos Gutierrez, superintendent of schools, said the increased number of students attending classes outside the district could lead to a "tremendous reduction in local school staff."  
Gutierrez did not speculate on just how many staff positions could be cut for the 1979-80 school year.  
But looming in the background is the fact that a grievance by the Potsdam Teachers' Association contesting Gutierrez's right to cut up to 11 staff positions next year has been denied.  
No action was taken regarding staff cuts.  
Meanwhile, in his report, Bouchard told the board that while a six-period day is out, a seven-period day is still possible.  
He said reducing the present eight instructional periods to six would cause "tremendous conflicts" in schedules for students taking classes at the Norwood Technology Center. Students take courses there through Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) programs.  
The schedule conflict arises because BOCES classes are set up around an eight-period day. Slashing the number of periods in a day to six would therefore mean a schedule problem for BOCES students.  
Part of Bouchard's report was delayed because results of a study made

through BOCES computer services had not been received.  
In other matters, the board accepted the resignation of board member Harold Alpert.  
In a letter to the board, Alpert said he was resigning because of pressing personal and business commitments. Alpert had been a board member for 12 years.  
Board members will now seek candidates to fill his unexpired term. The term expires in June.  
Also at the meeting, tenure was granted to eight teachers. Andrea Cooper, Rena Caruso, Joan Edzwald, Jane Jones, John Minney, Betsy Murray, Susan Stacy and Deborah Twyman were all granted tenure.  
The board also agreed that June 12 and 13 would be the days for the annual budget vote and school board election.  
Board members debated about the best time to hold the annual budget vote and election.  
Paul Merritt, board member, disagreed with a proposal by George Davis, who had suggested the vote be held later in June to give board members more time to figure an appropriate budget.  
"We're condemned both ways," Merritt said, in reference to advocates of holding the vote in May.  
In other business, the board accepted resignations from Robert Robinson, math teacher, and Hollie Robinson, English teacher, both at the A.A. Kingston Middle School.  
The board also accepted resignations from Francis Wickwire, bus mechanic, and Laurie Sienkiewicz, telephone operator.  
Douglas McClure was appointed communications teacher in the Middle School and Marjorie Joan Lomba was appointed part-time reading teacher in the Lawrence Avenue Elementary School.

## College Gift Cuts Truck Cost

A \$10,000 donation from Clarkson College has reduced the amount to be paid by the Village of Potsdam for its new 85 ft. ladder fire truck.  
At Monday night's meeting of the village board the trustees approved a resolution authorizing the village treasurer to change to the general fund from obligations authorized \$10,000 of the more than \$95,000 cost of the fire truck. The change reflects the amount of the Clarkson gift.  
Mayor Ruth Garner noted that Clarkson College had in the past made voluntary tax payments on two pieces of property owned by the college and located in the village. Clarkson has elected to stop that practice, according to Garner, and intends instead to make periodic contributions to the village.  
Trustee John Chapple told the trustees that he has written to the federal Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to suggest that Canton and Potsdam be included as part of a potential regional carrier system for Air North. CAB is presently considering such a proposal involving the cities of Watertown and Ogdensburg and the Village of Massena. Chapple is a member of the village airport commission.  
The trustees voted to reduce a capital project previously authorized for the civic center by \$14,000. That amount, which was part of monies set aside for the renovation of the civic center, was to have been funded by federal anti-recession money. The anti-recession program was terminated in September 1978.  
In response to a question from village resident Chris Gulick, Mayor Garner said that plans to build ramps to allow handicapped persons access to the building would not be affected by the loss of funds. "There are other funds for that purpose," Garner said.



**FIREMAN HONORED**—Potsdam Volunteer Firemen held their annual dinner and ladies night Feb. 17 at the Elks Club. Honored as "Fireman of the Year" was Mike Jerome, shown holding the trophy. From left are fire chief Steve Davis, Pauline Jerome, Mike Jerome and Karen Mearkley. (Pete Baker photo).