

Last Week's Weather			
	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Wed. 17	2	0	0
Thurs. 12	-5	0	0
Fri. 7	3	1	0
Sat. 12	1	tr	5
Sun. 13	6	tr	5
Mon. 11	7	tr	5
Tues. 16	8	tr	tr

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Winter Carnival week in Potsdam continues.

VOL. 127 NO. 44

COURIER & FREEMAN (USPS 135-460) POTSDAM, N.Y.—TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1980

24 PAGES

25 CENTS

Village Authorizes Study On Treatment Process

BY BETSY BAKER
Water came up again at the regular meeting of the Potsdam Village Board of Trustees Monday night, as the trustees, over the objections of Trustee Paul Claffey, voted to authorize a \$22,450 study of the effectiveness of ozonation as a means of reducing trihalomethane precursor formation in the village's water supply.

Ozonation has been proposed as the means for pre-disinfecting the raw river water in the village's proposed new water treatment plant. According to the consulting firm that is designing the water treatment plant, the process also improves the taste and color of the water.

Rist-Frost Associates of Glens Falls will be conducting the test, but an independent firm will analyze the water samples, village sources said Monday night.

Claffey objected to the test, saying, "Is there anything in this test for other means of treatment?"

He went on to suggest investigating several means of treatment at the same time to see which is most effective.

Trustee Girard Mulherin argued that the Rist-Frost plan for the water treatment plant is "basically a conventional plant" with ozonation added. If the tests should prove that ozonation does not reduce THM precursor formation and does not allow the village to meet federal standards for THMs, then conventional treatment with chlorine as disinfectant and increased sedimentation could be used, Mulherin said.

Mayor Ruth Garner pointed out, in answer to questions from Republican trustee candidate Barbara Lenhart, that when pilot studies of the ozonation process were first performed by Rist-Frost in 1977, there were no THM standards for municipalities the size of Potsdam. Federal standards for THMs were issued in November, 1979.

Cancer-Causing
Trihalomethanes, produced when chlorine is combined with organic materials in water, are known cancer-causing agents. Ozone, proposed to be used as a disinfectant in Potsdam's raw river water, which is high in organics, removes some of the organic materials in the water.

The ozonation issue came up in November, 1979, when a Clarkson engineering professor, Dr. James Edzwald, questioned whether the ozonation process would remove enough organic materials to allow the village to meet federal standards.

Public Hearings
The trustees voted to hold two public hearings this month, both on the adoption of local laws.

The first hearing, at 7 p.m. Feb. 18, is for a law that would permit police officers, peace officers, fire chiefs, the village clerk and the building inspector to issue appearance tickets regarding the enforcement of statutes, local laws codes, rules, regulations affecting public health, welfare and safety.

Mayor Garner said the law would allow fire chiefs to take emergency action at the scene of a fire, for example, and would lessen the delays in enforcement of building codes and zoning regulations and violations.

The second hearing, at 8 p.m. Feb. 18, would establish a Fair Housing Code for the Village of Potsdam.

Village administrator Sanford Dewey stated that he has received word from the New York State Bureau of Audit and Control that village taxpayers pay \$3.06 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for item 3 (machinery) of the Town of Potsdam

highway budget and \$4.96 per \$1,000 for item 4 (snow removal and miscellaneous).

The village has sought exemption from those portions of the town highway budget, and has joined in a class action suit with other villages in the matter.

Dewey said that about one fifth of the state's 550 villages have already been exempted from items 3 and 4 of their town highway budgets.

Relief Route Bidding Thursday

Just at presstime Tuesday, the Courier and Freeman learned from Amy Schlager of the Advisory Council that the chairman of the Advisory Council has ratified a memorandum of agreement that calls for the relocation of the Depot. Ms. Schlager said that the memorandum, signed by officials from the Federal Highway Administration and the State Historic Preservation Office, agrees to relocating the Depot as proposed by the village and state Department of Transportation. That concludes the Advisory Council's part in the matter, she said.

Contacted Tuesday morning, Mayor Garner stated that village officials still have not decided which land parcel will be the new home of the Depot.

In fact, the mayor said it may be necessary to utilize both the Choo-Choo Cafe parcel, owned by Michael Walsh and the Van Ness parcel, owned by John Van Ness to insure that there will be adequate parking for the Depot business.

At an informational meeting held late last year, James Belon, manager of Montgomery Ward's, claimed that the loss of parking to Ward's customers if the Depot were to be relocated to the Van Ness parcel would put Ward's out of business.

Mayor Garner said Tuesday that village officials are considering locating the Depot on the Choo-Choo Cafe parcel and using the Van Ness parcel for parking.

She also said that the number of parking spaces required would depend on the new owner of the Depot and what kind of business is planned for the building. An office would require less space than a bar, the mayor indicated.

The village has no proposals from prospective business people as of yet, the mayor said, noting that the building will go to "whoever makes the best proposal."

Appraisals on the two land parcels are expected to be made "very soon," according to the mayor, who noted that, under the terms of the agreement which she has signed, the village promised to make a land parcel available by June 1.

Vandalism Discovered

Village police reported that there was some vandalism at the Potsdam Central High School last week. A large metal sculpture that had been cemented into the ground on the front lawn of the school was torn down, they said.

Also found at the scene was the top of a gravestone. Police said they were unsure about which cemetery the stone had come from. The inscription on the stone read: "Infant Children of C.H. & M.S. Maltby 1917."



POTSDAM DEMOCRATS — Democrats in the Village of Potsdam caucused last Tuesday night and chose incumbents Norma Thayer, left, and Girard Mulherin, right, to run for re-election as village trustees in the March election. Potsdam's village attorney, Peter Lekki, was selected to run for the office of Village Justice. (Betsy Baker photo)

Thayer, Mulherin To Run

Potsdam Village Democrats are scrambling to beat a Wednesday deadline and select a new candidate for Village Justice after the withdrawal of attorney Peter Lekki as a candidate for that post.

Lekki was chosen as the Democrats' caucus Jan. 29.

Lekki, who maintains a law practice in partnership with attorney Michael Crowe of Canton, declined the nomination on Feb. 4.

Contacted at his Canton law office Lekki noted that criminal law cases make up a large part of his law practice, and he said that after consideration he decided that it is "not very financially feasible to give up my criminal law practice and part of my partner's criminal law practice" to seek the \$8,500 per year Village Justice post.

Lekki presently serves as Potsdam Village Attorney, an appointive post.

Betty Bradley, who is serving on the Democrats' vacancy committee, said Monday that the Democrats intend to name a replacement for Lekki by Wednesday.

Democrats chose two incumbent trustees as their trustee candidates at the Jan. 29 caucus, which was held in the basement of the Civic Center. Village elections are slated for March 18.

Norma Thayer and Girard Mulherin, both of whom are seeking a second term as trustee, were selected by the caucus.

Prior to her first term, Ms. Thayer had served as a trustee for one year, after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Ruth Garner.

Ms. Thayer said Jan. 29 that "the last three years have been exciting, productive and forward looking" for the village. She cited the overall efficiency of the operation of the village, noting

that "an efficient operation is one of the most difficult things to achieve," and that "the results rarely show to the general public."

Mulherin also cited what he termed the Democrats' "three year record of solid accomplishments and significant improvements."

He listed the new ladder fire truck, the addition to the fire station, the computerized water-sewer billing through the village's computer, the new water storage tower, the water line crossing over the Racquette River, sidewalk and paving work and the Urban Renewal Agency's \$313,000 surplus as some of those accomplishments and improvements.

"It's time to start talking about the things the Democrats have done for the Village of Potsdam in the past three years," Mulherin said.

Ms. Thayer, who is seeking a second term as trustee, has been a resident of Potsdam since 1972. She is married and the mother of two sons. Her husband, Robert, is Dean of the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. The Thayers reside at 8 Hillcrest Drive.

In addition to her three years as trustee, Ms. Thayer has served as chairman of the Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency for three years. She is also a past president of the League of Women Voters in Potsdam and a past president of the Campus Club, SUNY Potsdam.

Mulherin, also seeking his second term, has been a resident of Potsdam since 1971. Employed at SUNY Potsdam since 1971, he has been Director of Residence Life at that school since 1975.

Mulherin and his wife, Sylvia, reside at 89 Elm St. with their two children, Jean, 8 and Michael, 4.



NO SNOW — The driver of this sleigh, William Sherburne, needed wheels under his runners to lead the Potsdam Winter Carnival parade Sunday afternoon. The scarcity of snow has caused the college students to cancel their popular ice sculpture projects, but other winter carnival events continue until Saturday this week. (Hal Stokes photo)

Downtown Fire Arson

BY HAL STOKES
It was definitely arson that caused a fire that swept through four businesses and two apartments in the Market Street historic district Jan. 24, Potsdam Police Lt. Clinton Matott said Monday morning.

Matott made the remark as he released the result of an arson investigation made by two experts from the county's Office of Emergency Services.

The report shows that the fire started in the basement of The Isle Of You boutique, one of the stores gutted by the blaze. The investigators reported that the basement of the store was ransacked before the fire began.

Counters were overturned, shelves were ripped off the walls, records were pulled off the shelves, merchandise was in general disarray, according to the four-page report filed by Augie Weiss and Frank Burns, investigators who have training in locating the cause and origin of fires.

"This confirms our earlier suspicions," said Lt. Matott, acting chief of the Potsdam Police Department.

Police launched an arson investigation after reports from three patrolmen who arrived on the scene at 2:55 a.m. the morning of Jan. 24.

According to the patrolmen, holes had been smashed in two glass doors that led to the Thomar's Agency Insurance firm, which shared a common entryway with The Isle Of You.

Passageway Cited
There was a connecting passageway from the insurance agency to the boutique's basement, leading to speculation that persons entered through the insurance office.

According to the report filed by the two investigators, the fire started near a cash register at or above the counter-top level in the basement.

The investigators said the fire may have smoldered in the basement for some time and possibly went out before reigniting and spreading through fishnet material hung on the ceiling of the basement.

The fire then spread up the stairwell to the street level of the store, according to the investigators.

The basement of the store contained records, posters, candles, cards, and "head supplies," or paraphernalia associated with drug use.

Policemen who were first on the scene of the blaze reported finding some of the paraphernalia outside the shattered door of the Thomar's Agency.

Next Step
Lt. Matott said that the next step in the investigation would be to send samples of the charred wood to a state police lab in Albany for inspection. Results might take several weeks, he said.

The fire investigation was conducted on Jan. 26, 28, and 29, according to the report. Investigators Weiss and Burns said that "examination of debris at street level was extremely difficult" because the upper portions of the building were removed by a construction crane in order to extinguish the fire and the remains were coated in heavy ice.

The fire swept through The Isle Of You and the Thomar's Agency in a building owned by Leonard Thomar's and the second floor Focal Point Photography Studio in a building owned by Francis Healey. The Family Shoe Store, located on the first floor of Healey's building, was subjected to heavy smoke and water damage.

\$313,000 UR Surplus Could Aid Fire Victims

Some of the Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency's \$313,000 surplus could be used to help business people and store owners affected by last Thursday's disastrous downtown fire.

That word came Monday from Robert Juravich, director of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs for the village.

Juravich said that he has been talking "a great deal" with HUD officials about aid for the affected businesses, and he indicated that it might be possible to use some of the urban renewal surplus to provide aid to the businesses.

Just what form that aid might take, or how much of the surplus might be used is not known at this time, but Juravich did say that more concrete information might be available from HUD by Thursday of this week.

On Thursday evening (Feb. 7) the village has scheduled a public hearing on amending the village's Small Cities budget to include the \$313,000 surplus, which is to come back to the village in the form of Community Development funds.

Juravich said that information on using some of the surplus to aid those affected by the fire would likely be available at the hearing, which has been set for 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Center board room.

After last week's fire the village had pledged to assist business people and building owners through HUD programs, Historic Preservation programs and by facilitating assistance from the Small Business Administration.

Those types of assistance would still be possible, according to Juravich, based on what the various business people decide to do about relocating or rebuilding at the burned-out location.

Indications last week from some of those affected were that they did intend to re-establish their businesses.

Businesses affected were the Isle of You, Thomar's Agency, the Family Shoe Store and the Focal Point, all of which were destroyed by fire. There was smoke and water damage to Eugene Earle Jewelers, Barstow's Furniture and Snell's TV and Appliance.

Norwood Democrats Choose LaRose, Beattie To Run For Re-election

NORWOOD — Democrats in Norwood have chosen Louis LaRose and Rollin Beattie to run again for two seats on the Norwood Village Board in the March 18 election. Both men are presently incumbents in those posts.

The two were chosen in a party caucus last Thursday night.

There is one Republican running for the village board in the March election. He is Mark Tebo, chosen by the GOP a week ago.

LaRose will be completing his third year in office this March. He has been retired from two years from employment at Reynolds Metals, Massena. He is a service officer in the American Legion and is a member of the Moose Lodge in Massena. On the village board, he has served duties on roads, sidewalks, and parks committees. He lives on Spring Street.

Beattie is completing his fourth year on the board. He resides at 23 Depot Street and has been self-employed in trucking for 20 years. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus. On the village board, he has served duties on roads, sidewalks, and parks committees. He lives on Spring Street.

Restaurant Gets Zoning Approvals
The Potsdam Village Zoning Board of Appeals last Wednesday night approved a special permit and variance request from Chris Fay's Restaurant, Market Street.

The approvals will allow Fay to construct an addition to the front of the restaurant within 28 feet of Market Street. The village's zoning regulations require a 40 foot set back.

The restaurant's bar will be housed in the steel addition, as will a small dance area.

A variance request from Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, 74 Elm St., for a 28 by 40 foot, two story addition to the fraternity house was withdrawn, according to zoning board chairman Robert Lenhart.

Hardware Store Buying Former Grant's Store

The Aubuchon Hardware Company of Westminister, Mass. is in the process of acquiring the former Grant's property in Potsdam, for the location of one of its own stores plus an additional retail tenant, the Courier-Freeman has learned.

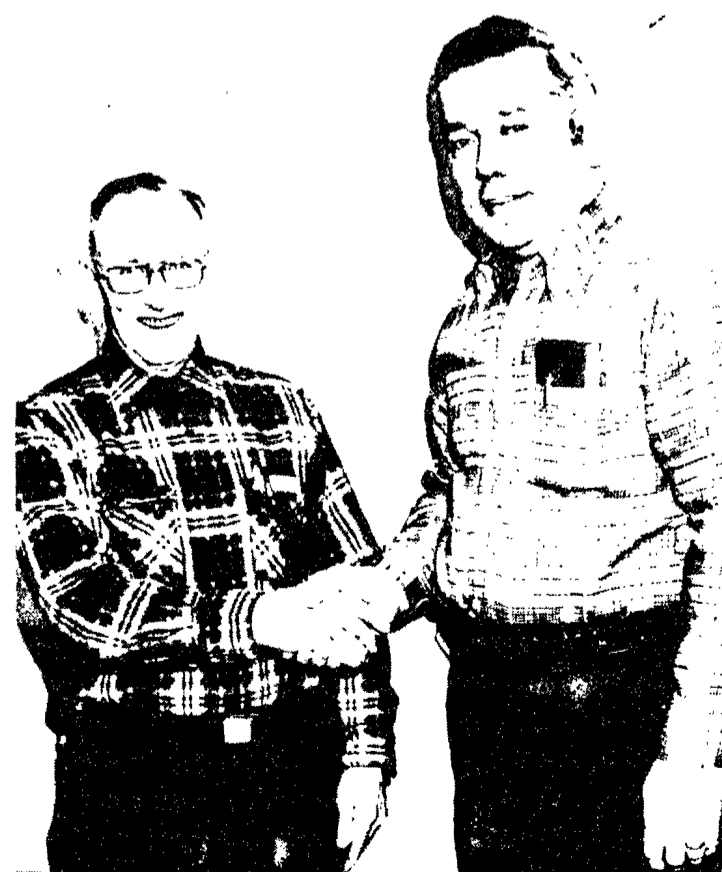
Although a spokesman for the company, Gregory Moran, would not confirm those reports, he did say that the transfer of the property to the Aubuchon company was in the works.

Moran is the assistant development officer for the hardware firm.

If the New England-based company does acquire the property in Potsdam, it would seek a second major retail business to share the location. According to reports, a drug store or another related business might be sought.

Moran said, however, that the purchase had not been completed and that any further speculation on his part as to the future development of the now vacant building would be premature.

The Grant's property has been vacant for several years.



NORWOOD DEMOCRATS — Democrats in the Village of Norwood selected their candidates for village trustees at a party caucus last Thursday night. Chosen were incumbent trustees Louis LaRose, left, and Rollin Beattie, right.