

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	49	47	1.5
Wed.	48	36	.26
Thurs.	44	30	0
Fri.	51	30	0
Sat.	50	26	0
Sun.	55	33	0
Mon.	56	41	0

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Polls open until 9 p.m. tonight.

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Fire Department, Town Reach Accord

BY HAL STOKES
The Potsdam Town Board and the Potsdam Volunteer Fire Department have reached a compromise agreement on their 1982 contract, ending a threat to withdraw protection from residents living outside the village.

In the arrangement, the township will not donate more than \$15,000 already budgeted, but maintenance workers in the township's highway department will provide routine service on the department's trucks, according to Town Supervisor Leslie Cook.

Fire Chief Donald Saber said of the agreement Monday, "We're pretty well pleased." He could not estimate how much money the town's services would save for the fire department.

The compromise was reached at a Saturday afternoon meeting attended

by three fire department representatives and all members of the Potsdam Town Board.

Prior to that meeting, fire department officials said they could not accept the \$15,000 contract offered by the township. Their announcement two weeks ago jeopardized fire protection for residents living near Potsdam but outside the incorporated village limits. Without a contract, it was possible that the fire department would not respond to calls outside the village — effectively leaving firefighting duties to other volunteer companies that are five or six miles away.

But Saber, at the time, said the department was anxious to negotiate with the town council.

On Monday, the fire chief commented: "They gave a little and we

gave a little." Although he had earlier said the department needed about \$25,000 from the township, he explained that under the present arrangement "at least we can keep things up to par."

At a press conference two weeks ago, Saber said that vehicle maintenance would cost the department \$12,000 next year.

Under the agreement worked out Saturday, town mechanics would provide basic maintenance to the trucks — such as changing oil, filters, lubrication, etc. Any specialized work on the firefighting equipment, such as the pumps, would be done by qualified mechanics, Saber said.

The contract amount of \$15,000 is an increase of \$3,000 from what the fire department received from the township in 1981.



ELECTION DAY — Election inspectors were out before dawn Nov. 3, manning the polls throughout St. Lawrence County. Shown here are the women who were tending to the machine in Potsdam's District 1, where one of the most exciting legislative races in the county would come to a head between incumbent Rosemary Sanford and Francis Healey. Shown from left are: Elizabeth Weeks, June Duryea, Bernice Grant, and Joan Reasoner. The District 1 polling place is in a new location this year, at Jim Dalton's Pontiac-AMC dealership at the corner of Maple Street and Clarkson Avenue. (Hal Stokes photo)

Robar's Taxi Must Close

BY BETSY BAKER
A long distance transportation scheme that failed has led to the failure of a local business, according to the firm's attorney.

Robar's Taxi, long an institution in Potsdam, "will not open for business" tomorrow, according to David Demarest, attorney for the firm.

Demarest said the firm will go out of business as of 6 a.m. Nov. 4, but he added that no decision has yet been made on whether or not Robar's will file for bankruptcy, and he added that the decision was a "very difficult" one for the owners.

The decision to close was "precipitated by the advice Robar's got from their consultant," Demarest said, adding, "I don't know what the village is going to do for service."

The firm has recently been implicated in a failed long distance transportation scheme that left students from Potsdam and Clarkson College stranded in various parts of the state after the October vacation break.

Robar's owners, Ed Robar and Frances Conrad, said the scheme was the effort of Robert Londraville, whose consulting firm, Citadel Enterprises, had worked for the taxi firm.

Robar's fired Londraville's firm on Oct. 13, saying that Londraville had begun the van operation without their knowledge or consent.

Demarest said that despite the firm's closing, Robar's will "still be making every attempt to pay back students and their creditors." Robar's believe they now have a complete list of students who are owed money, Demarest said.

An estimated 50 to 100 students had arranged for round trip rides through the long distance van operation; the students paid for the round trip in advance, but some were transported only one way and some got no ride at all.

In a letter to the editor in this week's Courier, Robar's announced their intent to refund the students' money, and asked students who are owed money to contact the taxi firm.

It is not known where the money collected for the round trip in advance has been said by the money and Londraville has been unavailable for comment.

Some students have reportedly sought their money through small claims court in the village; one student reportedly has been seeking others to join him in a class action suit to recover the money owed.

While no criminal or civil charges have yet been filed by either Robar's or Londraville, Demarest said Robar's "will be making every effort to determine liability" in the matter.

Investigators from the State Department of Transportation also became involved, spending several days in Potsdam interviewing students, Robar's owners and others.

The investigators said the kind of long distance operation apparently planned would have required a permit from the DOT. They said their report in the matter will go to DOT attorneys in Albany who will determine whether or not to bring charges.

Peggy Cashman Leads Co. Legal Secretaries

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Legal Secretaries Association has elected officers for the 1982 year as follows:

President — Mrs. Peggy Cashman, Chief Clerk of the Supreme and County Courts for Canton.

Vice President — Mrs. Margaret (Maggie) Kirkby, Secretary for Attorney Sanders D. Heller, of Gouverneur.

Secretary-Treasurer — Ms. Bonnie Reed — Court Clerk for the Village of Gouverneur.

Superintendent's Day: New Ideas And A Better Report Card System

BY BILL SHORT
Friday was a day off for the students of the Potsdam Central schools, but not for the teachers, administrators and non-teaching staff. It was superintendent's day, a day devoted to planning and coordination in all areas of the district.

"In general what we did was tie up the loose ends in the curriculum area...the English, science, math, physical education, remedial and social studies staffs had district-wide meetings to evaluate K-12 programs," said Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Daniels.

Daniels continued, saying that teachers in the different buildings and grades rarely get an opportunity to compare notes and exchange ideas other than with teachers of the same grade level or in the same school building. The day-long work session provided that opportunity.

The teachers were not the only members of the staff to put in a day of conferences. According to Daniels, the non-teaching staffs, such as the bus drivers, the cafeteria workers and the custodial staff, also had planning

sessions. The program of the day was, as Superintendent Daniels put it, "completely internal," meaning that all the work sessions and meetings were structured around the curricula and programs of the Potsdam Central district.

New Grade Reporting System
In the area of the high school, a new grade reporting system was discussed. Contrary to current trends, the grading system has been updated by moving away from computerization. The major problem with the computer-generated report cards was that it took, in general, from three to six weeks for the report cards to come back to the school from the computer.

Under the new system, the teachers will report the grades on the last day of the reporting term, and two days later the report cards will be ready for distribution. Said high school principal Wilford LeForestier, "The more efficient system should lead to better community relations and to better service for the kids."

Parent-Teacher Night
One new program already planned

because of the increased efficiency is a Parent-Teacher night, planned by LeForestier and the Parent-Teacher Organization. On the evening of the day the report cards are to be distributed, parents of high school students will be able to meet with high school teachers to discuss academic advancement and achievements. Said LeForestier, "We could never do that under the old system, because we never knew when the cards would come back. This should make the monitoring of academic advances much easier."

The new system will mean more work on the part of the clerical staff, since they will now have to type all the grade information onto the report cards, but the teachers will actually not be doing any more work than when they were providing grade input for the computer. Another change is that parents and students will no longer have to wonder about when reports cards will be out, or if the grades are correct. This is one case in which the more simple the system, the more advanced it is.

Rehabbed Houses Go 'On The Block'

Two village houses rehabilitated with federal Community Development funds will be offered for sale this week and CD director Robert Juravich says he is hopeful that buyers will be found for the houses, the first to be completed for sale.

One house, at 54 Pine St., is to be sold at a minimum bid of \$32,000; the other, at 29 Larnard St., has a minimum bid price of \$30,000.

Both houses may be seen at an open house this Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

While the rehabilitation program has renovated several owner-occupied homes in the past few years, an outright sale like this is something new.

The properties were acquired with CD monies as part of an ongoing housing rehabilitation program within the West Market Street rehab district. While some houses acquired by the program have been demolished to create building lots, the Pine and Larnard Street houses were felt to be salvageable, Juravich said.

Work began on the houses in June,

with labor provided by the youths employed in the village's hydroelectric redevelopment project.

The young workers, all CETA-eligible, earned minimum wage on the project, while learning various aspects of the building trade under qualified supervisors.

According to Juergen Dully, who heads the youth employment project, working on the houses was a "learn as you go" experience for the youths. Supervisors devised training manuals for the youths and also used printed instructions from products ordered for the project, Dully said.

Because the workers' salaries were covered under another federal program, CD expenses for the rehab projects were lower than if labor costs had been included.

Design work for the houses was done by the village CD office. Both houses needed extensive work; Juravich said the Larnard Street house had to be gutted to "just the

four walls" and reconstructed inside. The cost of materials for the Larnard Street house totaled nearly \$20,000, Juravich said.

Both houses are near completion, but some work, such as installation of carpeting, some painting and other finish work remains. Juravich said that a prospective buyer may negotiate with the CD office to complete some of that work himself.

Prospective buyers must meet certain qualifications, according to guidelines developed by the CD office. Preference will be given to lower income buyers and to those who intend to occupy the houses themselves rather than rent to others.

Monies from the sale of the properties will go back into the housing rehab program, according to Juravich. The Pine and Larnard Street houses are the first to be offered for sale, and Juravich said he is hopeful that other properties may also be renovated and sold.

Norwood Policeman's House Threatened In Arson Attempt

NORWOOD — What first sounded like an unfounded threat took on far more serious dimensions over the Halloween weekend when a part-time policeman's home and vehicles were threatened in an arson attempt, according to Norwood Police Chief James Lahey.

Lahey said Tuesday morning that he believes a police patrol early Sunday morning interrupted someone who was trying to ignite a truck owned by Daniel Peacock, the head of Norwood's Public Works department and a part-time village police officer, in front of Peacock's residence.

"If the truck would have gone, the house would have gone," Lahey said. That same evening another part-time Norwood officer named in the threat, Joe Ramie, was victimized by vandals who did at least \$125 worth of damage to his private car. Lahey said, "About three months ago, someone did nearly \$900 worth of damage to that same car by smashing all the windows, Lahey said.

The vandalism to the car was not terribly surprising on Halloween night, Lahey admitted, but the threat to the Peacock house is another matter altogether. The police chief said he is following some "strong leads" in the case.

He said he is considering it a matter of attempted arson, following an investigation by St. Lawrence County fire investigators Ted Collier and Augie Weiss.

Lahey said the Halloween night story unfolded as follows: about 10 p.m. Saturday, he was told by an informant who said that "someone was going to get Ramie and Peacock, and he'd be surprised if they'd make it through the night."

Usually, Lahey continued, the officers "don't pay much attention" to such remarks, but after finding Ramie's car covered with paint, dye and eggs, they became more wary.

It was about 12:50 a.m. Sunday when the village patrol, including Peacock, cruised by Peacock's house at 19 Bernard Ave. and possibly interrupted someone trying to start the fire.

Peacock said it appeared as if someone had punctured a plastic 20-gallon reserve tank on the truck. Upon further inspection, the officers found

that someone had lighted a book of matches next to the gasoline spill, but it looked like "they had stomped it out" when they were scared away.

Lahey believes the suspect ran behind Peacock's house and cut through to Park Street.

Peacock's family was home asleep at the time.

Despite the informant's word, however, Lahey said he did not believe the vandalism to Ramie's car was done by the same suspect.

Peacock has received several "aggravated harassment calls" within the last two weeks, the police chief said.

It is not the first time that threats have been made to Norwood officers. About two years ago, when Ramie was police chief, his house was firebombed. An investigation into that incident is still continuing.

For the present, the Norwood police are continuing their probe of the Halloween incident as well. They have not called for the assistance of other police agencies, Lahey said, but he added, "We're being very careful."

Norwood Mayor Arrested Tuesday

Norwood's mayor, Willard Smith, was arrested at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 3 and charged with aggravated harassment, according to police.

Smith, 34, Norwood, was charged with having made harassing telephone calls to a woman in Potsdam, according to Sgt. Dominic Germano of the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, one of the arresting officers.

Smith pleaded guilty upon his arraignment before Town Justice Shirley Harris, Sgt. Germano said, and was released in his own recognizance pending a Dec. 3 sentencing.

The incidents were reportedly related to private matters and did not entail Smith's duties as mayor.

Smith, upon learning that information was being drawn up for his arrest, turned himself in at the Potsdam Police Station. Sgt. Malcolm MacGregor also participated in the arrest.

Naturalization Proceeding Tomorrow Proud To Be U.S. Citizens

BY CAROL FARLEY
Student Intern

Nestled in the residential area of Drumlin Drive is the elegant home of Dr. Benjamin Avila and his wife, Esmeralda of Philippine descent, the Avilas, along with their three children, have been members of Potsdam's community for nine years. Tomorrow at 9:30 a.m., they become United States citizens.

Pride shone in the eyes of the urologist as he discussed it. "We have had to wait a long time." The Avilas were granted their permanent resident visa in 1976, which had special meaning to them because it was the Bicentennial.

"Becoming a citizen gives me a feeling of independence," said Dr. Avila.

In 1963, the Avila's left their home in Manila on the Philippine Islands and traveled across the Pacific to New York City. Dr. Avila began his internship on urology at Coney Island Hospital while his wife, a biochemist, worked at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City.

"America has so much to offer, especially for the children," said the doctor, "it is the most democratic country in the world."

The Avila children, Ben Jr., 15; Benilda, 12; and Bernadette, 4, are American citizens by birth. Their pictures adorn the wood-paneled walls of the Avila home. Both Ben Jr. and Benilda have received numerous awards for scholastic achievements, and like their parents, hope to pursue a career in medicine.

Dr. Avila gazed at an aquarium which hummed softly in the corner of the attractive living room. "Switching alliance," he said thoughtfully, "shouldn't be made bitter. You can never lose the love of your mother country, but like marriage, you must be able to separate yourself, you must leave your parents."

"We are so happy that we found Potsdam," Mrs. Avila exclaimed. Excitement was displayed in her face as she explained how she had spent many hours studying the Bill of Rights and the Constitution "in case I had to know all the dates and amendments!"

Mrs. Avila is a member of the Women's Medical Auxiliary and the Potsdam Hospital Guild. She spends her days taking care of the home, visiting neighbors, and is enrolled in a computer science course at the A.A. Kingston Middle School. "The people here are so nice, we are very happy."

"While the Philippines are Westernized to a great extent in the cities, I have enjoyed becoming Westernized here," said Dr. Avila as he fondly patted the bar downstairs in the family room. Benilda looked up from the table where she and Bernadette played quietly, to smile at her parents. "There is so much more to offer the children," said Mrs. Avila.

Four-year-old Bernadette is learning Spanish, music, art, and general skills in her day care school. She has become an avid learner of sign language.

Dr. Avila has two brothers who also live in the United States. One is a citizen already, the other will be applying for citizenship in the near future. An immigrant must reside in the country as a permanent resident for five years before citizenship is granted.

The Avilas return to the Philippines every two years to visit friends and relatives, "but we are always anxious to return to the United States."

The couple plans to have a small cocktail party with close friends in celebration of their citizenship. "Everyone has been so good to us, we are so lucky." But the Avilas didn't have to clarify this point, their smiles said it all.



HOUSE FOR SALE — This two story, two bedroom home at 29 Larnard St. has been renovated under the village's federally funded housing rehabilitation program. It will be offered for sale at a minimum bid of \$30,000. The house may be seen at an open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. (Betsy Baker photo)