

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	41	30	0
Wed.	41	22	0
Thurs.	53	28	.12 rn
Fri.	70	51	.34 rn
Sat.	49	26	.04 r
Sun.	42	18	0
Mon.	36	21	.4 sn

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Temperatures flare at Village Board meeting. See story this week.

VOL. 130 NO. 33

COURIER & FREEMAN, (USPS 1354-6000) POTSDAM, N.Y. — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1982

24 PAGES

25 CENTS

O'Neil Declared Winner

CANTON — "I'm old enough to remember the night of the Truman and Dewey presidential election," Republican Assemblyman John G.A. O'Neil said. "I remember going to bed that night being happy that my candidate, Thomas Dewey, had won the election."

O'Neil was talking to reporters Monday night, shortly after the absentee ballots showed that he had won the race for the 112 Assembly district.

Two weeks ago, O'Neil's supporters went to bed believing that his rival, Democratic challenger Paul Finnegan, had won the election by a razor sharp margin of 120 votes.

But in the days that followed as absentee ballots were counted, Finnegan's lead slipped, and finally reversed with O'Neil winning Monday night with 122 votes.

"I'm going to make sure the North Country isn't forgotten," O'Neil promised. "Once again I'm going to be in the minority in the Assembly, but part of the North Country majority team. We're going to keep the majority honest."

"I've been relatively calm these past weeks," O'Neil said. "I took a vacation Friday. We did some shopping in Albany."

O'Neil said he was glad that on election night he had refused to concede the election, telling reporters at the time that there were too many absentee ballots left over for him to accept losing.

"My father has been saying a lot of rosaries," he said. "It does feel good."

Blaze And Burn?

"There were a lot of reasons the election was so close," O'Neil said. "Like the blaze and burn tactics of my opponent with his advertising campaign."

"There were the massive efforts by the boys from Brooklyn," Finnegan said, citing the "massive inundation of mailings" sent out by the Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee.

"We were working with volunteers," O'Neil said. "They had professionals. Plus they had a phone bank for several months which certainly contributed to the results."

O'Neil also repeated his criticisms that Finnegan's campaign had "misrepresented" his stands on issues, such as an attack by Finnegan's radio advertising which claimed that O'Neil had voted against the generic drug law.

St. Lawrence County Republican Chairman Ella Mae Phillips said she too was pleased by the final results.

"I've been living here," she said as she left the board of elections Monday night after the ballots had been counted. "There were a lot of sleepless nights," she said. "But I'm glad. We put in a lot of hard work."

"It feels great to get everything finalized," Mrs. O'Neil said afterwards. "It's nice to know what direction we're going in."

Finnegan Concedes, But Says He May Be Back

BY JIM REAGEN

CANTON — Democratic Assembly candidate Paul Finnegan conceded the election to his rival Monday, but refused to rule out a possible 1984 election bid.

"It's far too early to answer that question," Finnegan said at a press conference. "But I will say — I am not a quitter. I'll leave it up to you to interpret that."

Finnegan appeared at the press conference in good spirits, saying that there was nothing he would have changed in his election campaign against Republican John G.A. O'Neil.

"Well, there are 123 people I wish had voted for me, but other than that there isn't anything I would have done differently," Finnegan said. "I owe my success to the people. I'm extremely proud of them."

"I haven't decided what I'm going to do," Finnegan said. "As of 5 o'clock today I fully expected to be the Assemblyman from the 112th. I haven't got any plans yet."

Finnegan said that he and area Democrats could be proud of the campaign they ran, predicting that other Democrats would be encouraged knowing that a Democrat can make major inroads against a Republican in heavily Republican St. Lawrence County.

"We don't have to be ashamed," Finnegan said. "We don't have to hide our head. We ran a successful campaign."

Fought The Odds

St. Lawrence County Democratic Chairman June O'Neill said after the results were counted that she was proud of the campaign she had waged.

She said the Democrats had fought the "odds" and the heavy Republican enrollment. "We'll just work harder next time."

"We aren't down yet," Mrs. O'Neill said. "I'm encouraged that a lot of people out there know that they can pull the lever for the best candidate."

Tom Matthews, one of Finnegan's campaign aides, said Finnegan had not run against Republican John O'Neil.

"Paul wasn't running against Mr. O'Neil," Matthews said. "He ran against Doug Barclay. He ran against Bob McEwen. He ran against Bob Nortz, and Andy Casale, and Ron Stafford, and NYSUT, and CSEA. That's quite a group to run against by yourself."

"It was quite a feat," Matthews said.

"I have no hard feelings," Finnegan said about the many Republican officials who attacked him during the closing days of the campaign. "They did their loyal partisan duty. If they believed what they were saying, I wish them all the best."

"They came on strong," he said. "They did their best."

Finnegan also disputed his opponent's accusations that he had run a "dirty campaign."

"I stand by everything I said during the campaign," he said, telling reporters to look at the "record" to see whether the charges he made were true.

Finnegan pointed to the heavy Republican enrollment in the county and the number of major Republican office holders in the area, saying that he felt he had run a strong campaign.

Too Early To Talk About '84

"Do I feel I'm damaged goods?" Finnegan said, when asked whether he thought his two losing bids would rule him out as a viable candidate in 1984. "To classify me or those people who worked for me as losers, I think is a real disservice. It's too early to talk about 1984."

"An awful lot of things could change," Finnegan said. "But I can say this. You're probably going to have Paul Finnegan to kick around for a long time."

Finnegan told reporters that he wanted to leave them with a moment he had picked up in Madrid. He placed a campaign button on the table, and left the room. The "Elect Finnegan" button had been marked by one of his supporters, saying "84?"

Robert White, Jr. Named To Fire Post

Robert White, Jr., of West Stockholm has been named deputy fire coordinator for District 3, according to Patrick Ver Schneider, county emergency services director.

Ver Schneider said that White, who is presently chief of the West Stockholm Volunteer Fire Department, replaces former Potsdam resident Sanford D. Dewey in the deputy coordinator's post. Dewey is now retired and living in Florida.

District 3 includes West Stockholm, Potsdam, Hannawa Falls, West Potsdam and Racquette River.

Fun Run Nets \$305

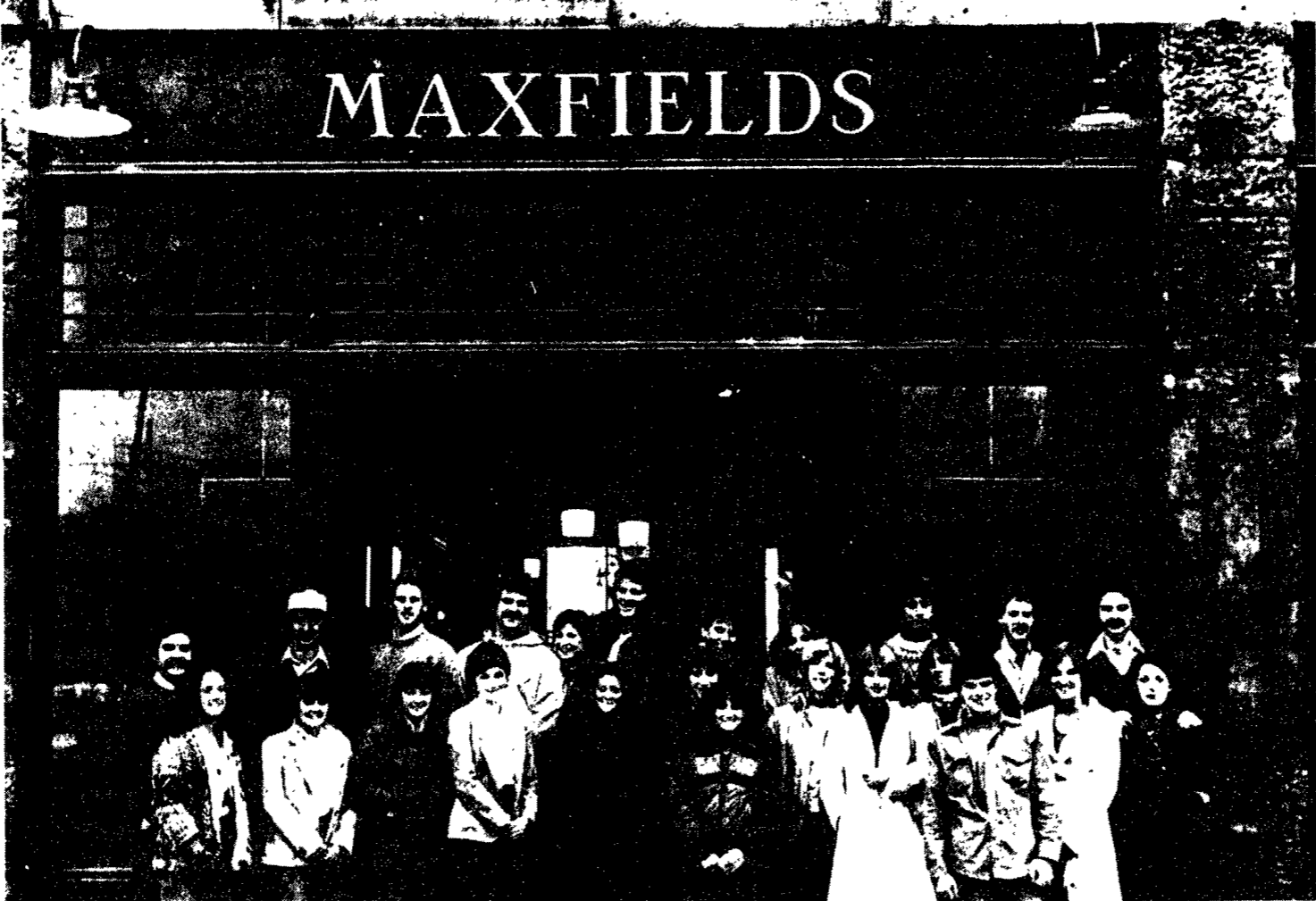
The recent fun run benefit race sponsored by Beta Tau fraternity, and related fundraising activities netted a total of \$305 for UNICEF.

The ten kilometer race was held on Oct. 31. First place went to Carl Childs with a time of 34 min. 32 sec. A total of 37 runners participated in the charity race.

Dr. James Robertson of Clarkson College had announced prior to the race that he would pay ten cents for each minute he was beaten by the field. Only nine runners were able to beat him so he donated ten cents for each minute he beat the field.

Alger's Pub donated \$150, which represented ten percent of an evening's till.

Following the race, The Whiskey One held a party and donated two kegs of beer for the runners and organizers.



GRAND OPENING — Larry Hazen, owner of Maxfield's, and his staff are shown above as they prepare for Thursday's opening. The Potsdam sandstone landmark, located on Market Street, has been undergoing restoration for almost a year. (Jared Thayer photo)

Maxfield's Opens As Improvements Continue

BY JARED THAYER AND BETSY BAKER

Last January, in the snow and cold of a Potsdam winter, the late Bobby Sharlow and Isle of You owner Larry Hazen put a roof on the Cox building and stabilized the structure.

The restoration of the gutted sandstone building, destroyed by fire in August 1980, into a unique restaurant had begun.

This Thursday, the restaurant, Maxfield's, will open for business.

Hazen said this week that many people had helped throughout the restoration project, but he said that Sharlow, who died earlier this year, was a firm and a great carpenter, and was instrumental in getting the project going.

The front facade work was scheduled early. Most of the work was done by the owner's cousin Roger Hazen, a builder from Hannawa Falls. The upper windows in the facade were done by Gleason's Woodworking of Colton.

The floor was removed from the third story and placed on the ground floor. "Red Dog" had the job of laying the maple floor and bringing the white ash wainscoting down from the third story and placing it on the walls of the ground level. Many of the lighting fixtures are originally from the third floor.

Entering the bar room one sees a striking 24-foot bar with an oak base and mahogany top. The bar was located in Brooklyn, and it apparently pre-dates the Prohibition era.

The original steam heat has been retained as have the radiators. They add to the turn-of-the-century atmosphere that is contrasted by contemporary art work on the walls.

The restaurant will be able to serve 100 diners from the modern kitchen on the lower level. Featured will be baby back ribs (which will be called Ray Bartholomew), according to chef Ray Bartholomew, who was formerly employed by Pine Tree Point in Alexandria Bay) quiche, luncheon items, salads and homemade desserts. Reservations will not be taken.

Private parties may be scheduled by calling 265-3796.

Federal Funding

Maxfield's is one of several downtown construction projects to be financed in part with federal funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The projects, in various stages of completion, involve renovations to Eugene Earle Jeweler, Barstow's Furniture, the Clements building, where a second story will be added, the Arlington and Cox buildings, the Hewitt building, and new construction at 26-28 Market St., The Marketplace.

In all, the projects total about \$900,000 in construction costs, according to Robert Juravich, director of the village's federal Community Development program.

Juravich said about \$120,000 in CD funds has been committed to the various projects to date, along with some \$160,000 in federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds and the balance in private financing, bank financing, tenant financing and Small Business Administration loans.

And he noted that UDAG or CD funds loaned to business people are repaid to the CD program locally, enabling the financing of additional projects in the future.

The Market Street renovations are part of a downtown improvement program designed to revitalize the downtown area, restore buildings damaged by fire and preserve the historic nature of downtown Potsdam.

During the first year of the program

efforts were concentrated on the Market Street block from Main to Elm streets. That area has been expanded for the second year to include the block from Elm to Depot Street on the west side and from Elm Street to the Town House Restaurant on the east side, Juravich said.

Technical Aid

While the bulk of the renovation projects have involved actual construction work, technical assistance for businesses in the downtown target area is also available through the Syracuse preservation architecture firm of Crawford and Stearns.

Juravich said that re-design of business signs for all tenants in the Arlington building has been in progress and he noted that assistance with signs is available to downtown business people through architect Randy Crawford.

Eight-Foot Door Highlights Dispute

A dispute between a village resident and Village Building Inspector Herbert Crump over the issuing of a building permit erupted at Monday night's meeting of the Potsdam Village Board.

It was a dispute which started out lightly enough with an eight foot door carried into the board room for evidence, but before it was over Village Attorney Stephen had threatened the resident, Charles Gerrish, with legal action for what Easter called "inflammatory and untrue statements made by Gerrish, the former owner and operator of Gerrish's Emporium on Market Street."

Charles and Eileen Gerrish came to ask the trustees to "just get Herb off my back and let me get back to work."

Crump had, according to Gerrish, stopped work on his property on Market Street because he had failed to get a building permit.

Gerrish had brought along the door to point out what he said he felt were ridiculous requests made by the building inspector. While a Nov. 9 memorandum from Crump to Eileen Gerrish did say that the new back door was to be eight feet, six inches tall, Crump later admitted that the document contained a typographical error and should have read six feet, eight inches.

Gerrish also complained that the door should not have to open out. When Trustee Barbara Lenhart stated that doors should open out, it was pointed out that even the back door of the village offices did not conform to that rule.

Gerrish maintained that since he was only making renovations within the existing structure and not making any structural changes to the building, a building permit was not needed.

While Gerrish accused Crump of harassing him, Village Attorney, Stephen Easter, stated Tuesday that the building inspector might actually have been doing him a favor.

Easter stated that Crump was entirely within his rights to force Gerrish to make the entire building, and not just the new construction of several offices, conform to the village and state building code.

The village of Potsdam voluntarily adopted New York State's building code in 1964.

Easter cited personality problems as the major stumbling block in the case.

However Easter himself was angered over remarks made by Gerrish that the village attorney had not followed proper channels when his own building was being remodeled.

Easter denied that he had done anything wrong and threatened legal action for what he termed inflammatory and untrue statements.

After about an hour of debate, an exasperated Mayor James W. Pennock asked: "Why don't you just get a permit, for heaven's sake?"

with the proposed amendments, many of those who spoke questioned the necessity of enacting the local law, if the intent of the village is, as stated, to protect the youth of the community by keeping them off the streets late at night.

It was pointed out that bars and taverns already have existing restrictions on allowing young people into their place of business. In addition, both Daniel Hayes, representing Potsdam College's Auxiliary Services, and Joseph Sarnoff, representing that college's Student Union, reiterated that minors are not allowed to use any of the college's amusement games, nor are they even allowed in the building where they are kept.

"We feel that other measures are available to restrict the use of games," Hayes said.

Steven Hardy, part-owner of A.S. Hardy Vending Services questioned the need for the law in the first place.

"This isn't really a matter for the village board," Hardy said. "It up to the parents to decide if there is a problem."

Hardy pointed out what he called the tremendous expense of buying, maintaining and moving around a video game.

Marie Breitenbach, representing Potsdam's Chamber of Commerce did not speak out against the proposal, stating that the chamber had not had an opportunity to gather a consensus of opinion. She did ask the village board to give the matter more thought.

Band Fee Also Attacked

Many of those in attendance also questioned the five-fold increase in charges for live performances where liquor is sold or consumed under a liquor license. Many people stated that such an increase would hurt only those people who were trying to offer something culturally to the community.

Ellen Rocco, representing WSLU public radio, pointed out that much of the local music which appears on that station is recorded in bars with the cooperation of tavern owners. "To put a fee on top of that will make it impossible for us to do our jobs," Rocco told the board.

Speakers 'Not Amused'

BY JIM MURPHY

Tavern owners, vendors, arcade operators and business leaders are clearly not amused by the Potsdam Village Board's proposed amendments to the village's municipal code dealing with amusements.

Over 50 people, many from the village's business community, turned out en masse for Monday's public hearing on the village's proposal to license amusement devices and charge more for live performances in taverns. Those who spoke charged that the village, through the proposed regulation, would deal a staggering blow to the community's economy for relatively little gain.

The trustees, at the previous board meeting, had proposed a yearly fee of \$100 on every coin-operated mechanical amusement device in the village. The distributor would pay \$50 for each game it provides, while the operator, in whose place of business any such machine is placed, would also be required to pay \$50.

The proposed amendment to local law also increased the charge for any live performance where liquor is sold to \$50 for each performance — up from the \$10 charge in the existing local law.

Jacob Welsh called the proposals "arbitrary and capricious" and added that it would be a great detriment to downtown businesses. "Why \$50?" Welsh asked. "It could be \$5, it could be \$500."

Bryon Hughes, attorney for A.S. Hardy Vending Services, called the village's plan without basis and therefore invalid. Hughes cited several precedents which he stated proved that what the village was proposing couldn't be done under the law.

One such precedent was a 1946 opinion from the New York State Comptroller's office which stated that "neither a town nor a village is authorized to license pinball machines, juke boxes or shuffleboard games."

"In short and sweet, we don't think you have any basis for the enactment of such a law," Hughes said. His remarks drew applause from the packed house.

Village attorney, Stephen Easter, called the precedents cited by Hughes, "uncertain at best" and added that he felt that the comptroller's opinion was outdated because the situation has changed significantly.

Bill Graham, assistant attorney for the New York State Comptroller's office stated Tuesday that he didn't believe that the 1946 opinion was still valid. Graham stated that provisions of the municipal home rule law, enacted since that 1946 opinion, gives villages broader powers to enact local laws.

Question Need

Besides the legal questions involved

with the proposed amendments, many of those who spoke questioned the necessity of enacting the local law, if the intent of the village is, as stated, to protect the youth of the community by keeping them off the streets late at night.

It was pointed out that bars and taverns already have existing restrictions on allowing young people into their place of business. In addition, both Daniel Hayes, representing Potsdam College's Auxiliary Services, and Joseph Sarnoff, representing that college's Student Union, reiterated that minors are not allowed to use any of the college's amusement games, nor are they even allowed in the building where they are kept.

"We feel that other measures are available to restrict the use of games," Hayes said.

Steven Hardy, part-owner of A.S. Hardy Vending Services questioned the need for the law in the first place.

"This isn't really a matter for the village board," Hardy said. "It up to the parents to decide if there is a problem."

Hardy pointed out what he called the tremendous expense of buying, maintaining and moving around a video game.

Marie Breitenbach, representing Potsdam's Chamber of Commerce did not speak out against the proposal, stating that the chamber had not had an opportunity to gather a consensus of opinion. She did ask the village board to give the matter more thought.

Band Fee Also Attacked

Many of those in attendance also questioned the five-fold increase in charges for live performances where liquor is sold or consumed under a liquor license. Many people stated that such an increase would hurt only those people who were trying to offer something culturally to the community.

Ellen Rocco, representing WSLU public radio, pointed out that much of the local music which appears on that station is recorded in bars with the cooperation of tavern owners. "To put a fee on top of that will make it impossible for us to do our jobs," Rocco told the board.

Finnegan Eyed For Cuomo Slot?

CANTON — Democratic Assembly candidate Paul Finnegan is being considered for a position in Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo's administration, influential Democrats say.

But Finnegan has not received an official offer and has not said whether he is interested in a position. Finnegan says he has not made up his mind on what he will do after losing a closely contested assembly race against Republican Assemblyman John G.A. O'Neil.

Finnegan also could take a position as a staff aide in Albany for a Democratic legislator or for Democratic Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink.

Blood Drive Set

The Clarkson Ranger organization will hold its annual blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Nov. 17 and 18 in the Potsdam Presbyterian Church, corner of Elm Street and Lawrence Avenue.

For more information call Clarkson College Army ROTC at 265-2180 or 265-7705.