

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	37	34	.04
Wed.	44	35	0
Thurs.	55	36	.01
Fri.	65	43	.25
Sat.	63	32	.19
Sun.	46	31	.02
Mon.	56	39	.02

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Two mayors will run again. See stories this week.

VOL. 130 NO. 36 COURIER & FREEMAN, (USPS 1354-6000) POTSDAM, N.Y.—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1982 24 PAGES 25 CENTS

Augsbury Corporation Files Under Chapter 11

OGDENSBURG — The financially troubled Augsbury Corporation asked the federal bankruptcy courts for protection from its creditors Monday in Utica's Northern District Court, under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws.

That move should prevent any layoffs in the company and allow the firm to service its oil and gas customers on a "business as usual basis," company officials said.

The filing by the Augsbury Corporation will not directly affect the Augsbury Organization, the parent company, its Halco shipping division or the financially ailing Watertown Village, Madison Barracks and other real estate operations.

The Augsbury Corporation, a separate division, which filed for protection, is a wholesale and retail distributor of petroleum products, currently serving Central, Western, Northern and Eastern New York, as well as Northern Vermont.

The Syracuse firm of Menter, Ruden and Trivelpiece, assisted by the New York-Washington based firm of Tweed, Hadley and McCoy, filed the papers before U.S. Northern District Judge Justin Mahoney. Francis Musselman of Oak Point, a partner in the New York firm, is reportedly part of the legal team working on the legal case.

What It Means
Under federal bankruptcy laws, the company's request for protection means that Trefoil Capital Corporation of Philadelphia, which finances the company's operations, and

wholesale petroleum suppliers, will not be able to collect on \$20.4 million in debts, or to immediately try to foreclose on the company's \$32.7 million in assets which court papers show the company currently has on hand.

Those assets include several petroleum terminals, 44 gas stations and minimarts, 19 retail heating divisions, all located in Northern New York and Vermont. The asset figure listed in court papers was established by the corporation.

The company filed court papers Monday in Northern District Court in Utica. That provides immediate relief from creditors who must now stop any proceedings to collect on their debts.

Reorganization Plan
Klm Lefebvre, Estate Administrator for the federal bankruptcy court, said the company has 120 days to file a reorganization plan with the court showing how the company officials intend to pay off part or all of the company's debts.

Lefebvre said he could not comment on individual cases before the court such as the Augsbury Corporation's filings, but could discuss Chapter 11 proceedings in general.

Lefebvre emphasized that there is a large distinction under federal laws between Chapter 7, Chapter 11 and Chapter 13 proceedings. Individuals file under Chapter 13.

Corporations can choose between filing under Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 provisions.

Under Chapter 7, a company is saying it has no hopes to ever remain in

business. It asks the court to take over and a trustee immediately begins arranging the liquidation of the company's assets to pay off creditors.

But the Augsbury Corporation did not file under Chapter 7, which means company officials, for now, believe they can pull together a plan to stay in business and pay off their debts.

Noble: Can Stay In Business
Robert A. Noble, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, said the company believes it can stay in

business. "Naturally, we regret that conditions within the industry and the economy have resulted in this reorganization," Noble says. "We are, however, confident that this is the best course of action for the corporation and the people with whom it does business, because a successful reorganization will enable us to maintain, if not enhance, our position as a major petroleum distributor."
"We do not expect the reorganiza-

tion to involve any major change in our marketing and operations, but primarily to result in a financial restructuring," Noble said.
Noble said the decision resulted from substantial losses last winter due to the declining price of oil on the world market.

Those losses led the company to restructure its management, eliminating numerous top and lower level management positions. It was only the latest of several major

management upheavals over the past five years which has seen shufflings of corporate positions and two moves of the company's headquarters, first from Ogdensburg to Glens Falls, and then from Glens Falls to Syracuse.

In recent years, the corporation has attempted to fill the void left by the withdrawals of three major petroleum companies, Shell, Gulf and Texaco, which pulled out of the area after gasoline was deregulated.

continued on page 5

Civil Service Workers Plan Picketing Over Layoffs

CANTON — St. Lawrence County's Civil Service workers plan to picket the county office building next Monday to protest 22 layoffs they say will occur next January.

Employees will be using their coffee breaks, lunch breaks and some may take a day off to hold an informational picket to protest the legislature's budget cuts.

"It's perfectly legal," said Chuck McGeary, a Syracuse-based CSEA union official.

McGeary said the county plans to lay off six homemakers, 10 caseworkers in Social Services, two

deputies, two data processors, a typist and a motor vehicle clerk.

"What good does it do to lay off 22 people?" McGeary asked. "Monday we plan to be out in full force. We want to let them know that we're not too happy. We want to tell them our side of the story."

"We want to fill the chamber at Monday night's meeting," he said. McGeary said he had heard "rumors" that legislators had agreed last week to try to save off most of the layoffs by reshuffling budget items to keep staff on the payroll.

"But from past experience we take these things with a grain of salt," he said.

McGeary said the layoffs don't make sense during a time of economic recession. "This is a time when the caseload is at its highest," he said. "They're cutting services."

"We're getting near Christmas and these people don't know whether they're going to have a job," he said. "We're not talking high salary people."

McGeary said the local union contacted him last week, asking for assistance.

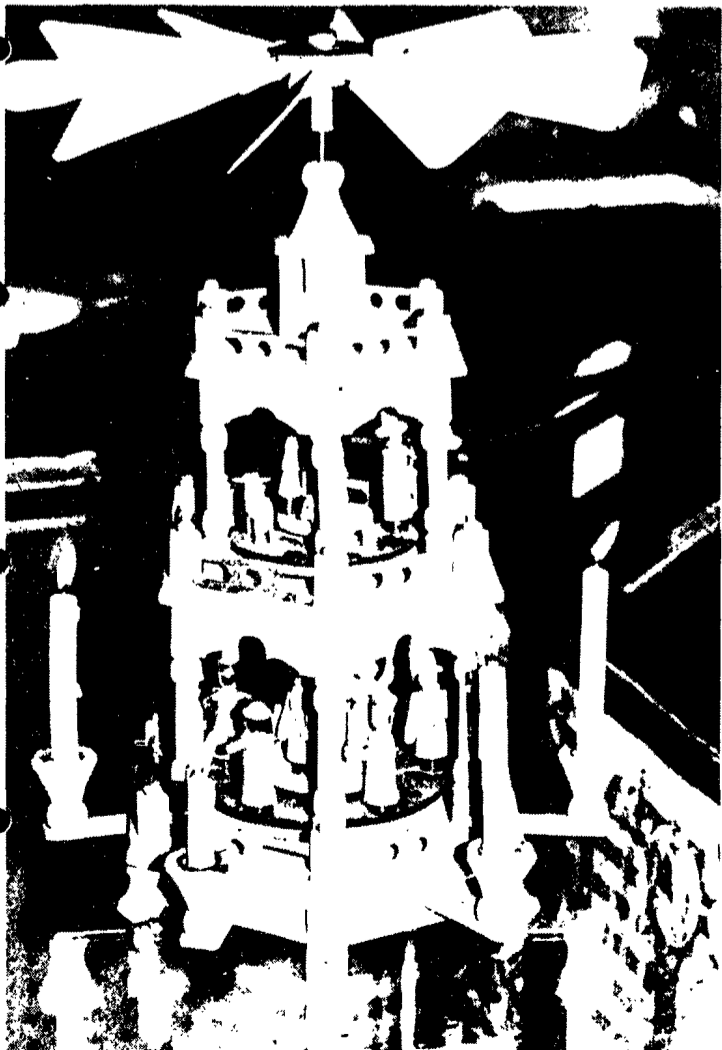
"Under the Taylor law, we're hamstringing as far as any job actions we can take," he said. "But we have the right to have an informational picket. It's perfectly legal."

Ruth Davis Receives Commission As Postmaster

WEST STOCKHOLM — Mrs. Ruth Davis, West Stockholm, has received her commission as Postmaster of the West Stockholm Post Office.

She was appointed July 10, 1982, after serving as officer in charge since May 30, following the retirement of former Postmaster Mrs. Viola Tracy.

Mrs. Davis received her commission from Warren Johnson, Postmaster of the Watertown Post Office.



CANDLE POWER — The candle flame heats the air, causing the fan to turn and the figures to move. This Christmas decoration, carved from wood, may be seen at the Potsdam Museum this holiday season. (Betsy Baker photo)

Baby Boy Couldn't Wait To Be Born

CANTON — Even a Canton Police and Sheriff's Deputies escort couldn't help Neil Cheney and his wife Mary of Hannawa Falls beat the stork early this morning (Tuesday).

Their baby son was born in Flackville as the couple raced to A. Barton Hepburn Hospital in Ogdensburg.

"She had the baby all by herself," a Sheriff's deputy said this morning. "Everyone was okay."

Deputies said Canton police stopped Cheney this morning when his car was observed driving at a high rate of speed. But after he told them his wife was about to give birth, village police, joined by deputies, provided a police escort on Rt. 68 on the road to Ogdensburg.

But police say the stork was too fast for them.
"We tried," a deputy said.

Pennock To Run Again

Potsdam Mayor James W. Pennock, stating that he would like to finish the job that he set out to do, declared officially that he would like to run for another term of office — if he receives the nomination of his party.

Pennock made the statement during Monday night's Potsdam Village Board meeting.

Pennock, a Democrat, defeated Republican George Jeffers in the 1981 mayoral election. There has been no indication of who might oppose Pennock from his own or from the Republican party.

Laundry A Dirty Deal?

The construction of the village's new water treatment plant may turn out to be a dirty deal for Potsdam College students, as they face a possible quadrupling of the cost of washing their clothes on campus because of the tripling of water rates throughout the village.

However, Shawn Tooley, Student Government Association president, stated Monday that he doubts that the college administration's proposal to raise prices on campus washing machines from 25 cents to 75 cents will become a reality.

"I seriously doubt if that proposal will go through," Tooley stated.

There will be an open forum on the issue on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. The FACES Board of Directors will meet Dec. 10 to decide on the proposed increase, submitted by Student Educational and Administrative Services.

According to Tooley, the issue is not one of money, but of the college's responsibility to conserve water. Tooley stated that the problem is further heightened by off-campus students and Clarkson College students who come on campus to do their laundry because it is so inexpensive.

The administration's proposal to close the gap in the price between on and off campus washers was one way to discourage unauthorized people from using the college's washers. Tooley will be working on alternatives which he hopes will be less of a burden on students living on campus.

"The administration was just trying to bring the problem to the forefront with their proposal," Tooley said. "And they succeeded."

Potsdam College reportedly consumes 25 percent of the village's water supply. College officials could not be reached for comment before press time.

Village Christmas Tree To Be Lighted Dec. 9

The annual lighting of the Potsdam Village Christmas tree will take place on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. Promptly at 7 p.m. Mayor James W. Pennock will turn on the lights on the tree which is located in the parking lot of the Civic Center. This is also the memory tree of the Potsdam Business and Professional Woman's Club.



SOUND OF MUSIC — Mark and Robbe Hewey, Back Hannawa Road, watch entranced as Peg McLennan produces the sounds of Christmas on her harp. The boys, with their mother Joan, were among those who attended

the opening of the Potsdam Museum's Christmas exhibit "The Joys of Christmas Past" on Sunday afternoon. (Betsy Baker photo)

Will Run Again

Controversial Mayor Smith In The Race

BY JIM MURPHY

NORWOOD — With a promise to put money back into the pockets of village residents, Norwood's often controversial village mayor, Willard Smith, officially opened the 1983 campaign by announcing his candidacy for reelection.

The announcement, which came from his home Monday evening, was not unexpected, since Smith had been hinting for weeks that he would seek another term of office. Nor was the campaign rhetoric included in his declaration of candidacy unfamiliar, for it contained much the same positions the mayor has consistently held for the last two years — a return to basics.

"If we must sacrifice a village program, or cut corners on a non-essential program to keep tax money in the individual's pocket...then so be it," Smith said in a statement released Monday night.

Smith added that every tax dollar spent must be re-examined in the light of today's difficult financial straits.

Smith's fight to cut taxes has caused him problems in the past, particularly over the issue of the village's new fire truck. Smith claims his fight saved the taxpayers a minimum of \$60,000,

but it took well over a year of often bitter fighting before the issue was resolved. How much his stand against the fire department, or any of the continuous string of minor controversies which seem to surround village politics may well determine his success at the polls in March.

"You have to admit, there's nothing 'hush-hush' about my administration," Smith stated. "My record speaks for itself — loudly."

In an election that Smith expects to center on "special interests," the mayor stated that he will run as an independent candidate. In 1981, Smith ran as a Republican, but quickly alienated his party by running on an unofficial ticket with independent candidate Sam Rodriguez. He was charged with disloyalty to the party, although those charges were later dropped in the interests of party unity.

In that election, he backed Rodriguez instead of Republican candidate Timothy Murray, whom he called too inexperienced. Murray lost by 26 votes in his bid for a trustee position. Smith himself won by only one vote over Democrat incumbent Joe Hopsicker.

This year, it's still anyone's guess who might run for mayor against

Smith. Trustee Virgil Trombley, who is the Democratic Party chairman for the village, stated that many people have approached him to run, but he has yet to make a decision.

"I have some interest," Trombley said, "but it's still too early."

Trombley added that his party probably won't even meet to discuss possible candidates until January. "I don't think that it's anything pressing," he said.

Republican Trustee Mark Tjho is also considering a run for mayor. But like Trombley, he feels that it's still too early to make any decision.

Fireman Tim Donahue and a multitude of others have also been rumored to be mayoral candidates, but those rumors have yet to be confirmed.

Beside the office of mayor, two trustee positions, currently held by Trombley and Jim Tyler will also be decided in the March elections.

Another Version?

Trustees Scuttle 'Games' Law

Pac-Man coin poppers, video game enthusiasts and tavern owners in the village can breathe a collective sigh of relief as the Potsdam Village Board unanimously rejected their own proposal to license and assess a \$100 fee on every coin-operated mechanical amusement device in the village, during Monday night's board meeting.

Stating "I'm not satisfied with the proposal as it stands now," Mayor James W. Pennock joined trustees Joseph Calpari, Paul Claffey and Richard Murphy in voting against the proposed amendment to local law. Trustee Barbara Lenhart was absent from the meeting.

The mayor and Village Administrator Victor Bortnick, however, both declined to comment whether another, more acceptable version of the same law is currently being worked out.

The proposed local law to assess a \$50 fee on both operators and distributors of the video games came under a great deal of fire from tavern owners, vending companies and the management of the village's only video arcade for being both unfair and illegal. The amendment had been proposed by the village board as a way of safeguarding children and generating

revenue for the village. Another part of the proposed amendment, to charge \$50 for each live performance where liquor is sold under a liquor license, also drew fire from those places which provide live entertainment. The charge for live entertainment will remain at \$10 per day of performance.

The village board also acted on a request by Marie Brietenbach, executive director of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce to provide help in bringing power for decorations to a 30-foot Christmas tree to be erected for the holidays.

The fate of the tree, donated by the Lions Club, was uncertain because the chamber didn't have sufficient funds to pay for the necessary power hook-up.

Although the village has no money appropriated for out-of-pocket expenditures, the spirit of Christmas prevailed as the board decided to pay what was necessary to bring power to the site on Main Street, and provide the labor to raise the tree. Everything else had been donated by area businesses or paid for by the chamber.

The Christmas tree is but one of many projects that the chamber is

engaged in for the beautification of the downtown area for the holidays.

After executive session, the village board approved two applications for assistance from the Downtown Improvement Program Community Development project. Mahlon T. Clements of 16-18 Market St. had his request for \$44,000 approved, as did Ronald Cote of 1 Market St., who had asked for \$12,000.

Rotary Plans Spaghetti Feed

The Potsdam Rotary Club will hold its seventh annual spaghetti dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Potsdam High School cafeteria.

The fund raising event to benefit community service projects will offer spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, beverage and dessert for \$3.50 for adults and \$2 for children under 12.