

## Renovating — for themselves

## City planners feel right at home

By BRADLEY GRAHAM  
Staff Writer

Trenton's Planning and Development staff is accustomed to renovating dilapidated buildings. Every month, armed with saws, hammers, screwdrivers and paint brushes, they polish off a handful of them for auction.

But this week, as the crew turns to sprucing up 20 Capitol Place, there is a different, more enthusiastic attitude. The place they are rebuilding is for them.

Though they lost all they had —

their drafting boards and drawings, their models and memos — in the great fire that claimed the Civic Center yesterday, they have found in their new headquarters a project around which to rally.

"The policy will be for each department to take care of its individual problems (due to the fire)," Development Director John Clarke told his staff yesterday. "You better get to like this place because it's home from now on."

It wasn't easy, at first to see it as home. When the staff arrived the doors were locked and the keys, they

soon learned, had been lost in the blaze. So they battered down a back door to get in.

What they found wasn't pretty. The wooden floors bore great humps from warping, inches of dust coated most surfaces, and the plumbing and electricity were not functioning properly.

## Their very own

But at least it was to be their own, and not every planning department is given an old two-story college (Mercer County Community) classroom building to redecorate. Besides, it was better than Cadwalader Park's Ellarslie House — the former Monkey House — which had been the administration's first choice as relocation headquarters for the department.

In a first-floor room, where a tag marked "chemistry" leftover from days gone by still clung to the door, Clarke convened a meeting of his chief aides. They gathered around a blueprint of the building, and Clarke assigned offices, prescribed air conditioners and began to fret over requisition forms.

Not long afterward, someone taped a yellow note to a door on the second floor, staking the room for the Division of Traffic and Transportation. It had once been the Radio Isotope Laboratory.

In another old classroom, someone

had scribbled on the blackboard. "Welcome to City Hall West." Yes, the place was beginning to feel like home.

## Ordering tools

Doris Spindler, normally an accounting clerk in the Bureau of Property Management, sat at a desk wiped clean of cobwebs taking orders for tools: four hammers, two sets of screwdrivers, six stepladders, cans of putty, putty knives, window panes, paint remover, 7/8" chisels, hack saws, pipe wrenches. To her left were already stacked boxes of sponges, bottles of Ivory, cartons of Tide, and a dozen buckets.

By the day's end, the department had ordered \$500 worth of cleaning supplies. Soon the job of scrubbing the building would begin, Clarke said, then the chipping of paint, repainting, stopping the leaks in the roof, repairing the plumbing, rewiring, installing phones.

Despite the talk of moving to more permanent office locations, and possibly into a new office building to replace the Civic Center, Clarke said he expects to stay at 20 Capitol Place for two or three years. For \$30,000 to \$40,000, he bet, his staff could make the place work. He had his eye, he said, on a portion of the \$100,000 the City Council approved recently for Civic Center renovations.



Staff photo by Martin D'Arcy  
Trenton's Development Director John Clarke gets the feel of his new office at 20 Capitol Place after his department was left homeless by Civic Center fire.

## Lawnmower safety will cost consumers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumers Union says its lawnmower safety proposals might add \$40 to the price-tag of the cheapest mowers but eventually could prevent tens of thousands of serious injuries annually.

The CU standard was scheduled to be submitted today to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which had agreed to pay up to \$181,000 for development of the technical package.

The proposal would require all mowers to have a "deadman control" stopping the blade when the operator lets go of the handle, improved shielding from blades and thrown objects, better protection against burns and electric shock, lower noise levels and improved stability and braking of riding mowers.

Over-all prices for mowers would go up \$270 million to \$380 million the first year if the standard is approved, said Consumers Union, a nonprofit research organization. The average \$125 walk-behind mower would cost \$40 more, and the average \$880 riding mower would go up \$112

in price, the organization said.

But eight years later, after all old mowers had been replaced, the standard could be expected to prevent an estimated 120,000 injuries and several deaths annually, consumers Union said.

Preventing 75 percent of mower injuries could save consumers between \$48 million and \$775 million a year, Consumers Union said.

The most common lawn mower injuries result from blade contact, thrown rocks and wires, burns, electric shock, or riding mowers which overturn.

The safety commission, which rejected the industry's offer to develop a proposed safety standard without charge, has estimated that mowers injure about 190,000 Americans each year.

The Consumers Union proposal will be sent to the agency's staff for further study. The five commissioners can reject, modify or accept it.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute representing about 70 lawnmower manufacturers has said that the Consumer Union proposal could put as many as 25 companies out of business.

A Stanford Research Institute study of Consumers Union's third draft of the standard, which was modified before being submitted in its final form, estimated that mower prices would be boosted \$520 million the first year. The study said that would increase the price of a \$100 gasoline-powered rotary mower to as high as \$186.

## Teacher assault case is heard

Hamilton Township Municipal Judge Barry Kline has reserved his decision in a case involving an alleged assault upon a Reynolds Junior High School student by a teacher.

Attorney William Greenberg, representing the teacher, John Neylan, and attorney Laurence Tomar made their summaries before Judge Kline yesterday.

In his summary, Greenberg contended that his client had only grabbed Frank Romano, 15, the student, by his lapels to bring him into his office after the student had allegedly been fighting.

Romano had claimed the teacher jumped on his back and choked him.

Tomar said he did not know when the judge would hand down his decision.

## Fugitive British politician due home

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — John Stonehouse, the fugitive member of the British House of Commons, and his secretary left for London today with a Scotland Yard escort.

Both were scheduled to be arraigned at Bow Street Court tomorrow. Stonehouse on 21 counts of fraud, forgery and theft, and his secretary, Sheila Buckley, on five charges related to stolen checks.

The departure after a long battle against extradition was delayed further by a series of mishaps.

The convoy of police cars was

## Scouts name lake for Kiwanis

COLUMBIA — Lake Kiwanis at the Yard's Creek Boy Scout Reservation here was officially dedicated yesterday evening, as members of the Trenton Kiwanis Club and Boy Scout officials looked on.

The dedication was part of ceremonies to recognize the Kiwanis Club "for its tangible financial support

provided to the George Washington Council, Boys Scouts of America, over a period of years," according to Stephen A. Maurer, president of the Trenton Kiwanis Club.

Approximately 30 members of the Trenton Kiwanis Club attended the ceremony, during which Maurer dedicated the lake and a plaque was unveiled.

Maurer also presented a \$1,000 check as part of the money that the Kiwanis Club is donating to the Boy Scouts. The members of the Trenton Kiwanis Club then joined the 230 Scouts and 60 leaders and staff members for dinner in the mess hall.

The Kiwanis Club will add another \$5,000 over a period of years, according to Maurer. Thus far the Kiwanis Club has raised \$7,000 through its gourmet club, bake sales, theater parties, and other fund-raising events.

The money is used principally for equipment at the camp. Maurer said, "Over the years the George Washington Council and the Trenton Kiwanis

of towns and cities.

In this comparison East Windsor Regional students were slightly below their group of towns and cities, scoring approximately one to five percentage points under the group averages on various tests.

This group was selected on the basis of seven variables consisting of: educational background of people in the district, per capita income of the district, prestige of male occupations, mobility of population, unemployment rate, degree of urbanization and population density.

## 10 groups

The three most important variables were educational background, per capita income and prestige of male occupation. There were 10 comparison groups and East Windsor regional was in the second highest (along with Hopewell Valley Regional and

Cranbury Township).

"This is a high educational, high prestige, high income grouping," said Doris Prater, district test coordinator for the school district.

Prater also released a list of the other 49 school districts East Windsor was compared against and pointed out that on the average they spent

\$1,290 per pupil while East Windsor spent only \$1,230. She stressed that the East Windsor Regional's test scores were "only slightly below," the test scores for the group of towns.

"We are doing pretty well considering we spend less money than many of these towns," she said.

## House votes to allow separate gym classes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government regulations banning separate physical education classes for boys and girls may go into effect despite a House vote to drop them.

The House voted narrowly Wednesday to allow separate gym classes, but it is unlikely Congress will conclude action on the measure before the Monday effective date for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare rules, meaning at least temporary enactment. And a veto threatens.

The 212-211 House vote came on an amendment to a \$7.9 billion bill for government aid to education during the 15 months that began July 1. The amendment also would allow single sex organizations such as honorary societies.

The Senate previously has refused to adopt a similar amendment and the bill stalled in a House-Senate conference. The conferees turned the problem back to the separate chambers for resolution.

The House reaffirmed its support

for the bill as presented previously. The Senate has yet to vote on the returned bill.

The bill may well be vetoed anyway, since it is more than \$1.5 billion over President Ford's budget request.

Rep. Bob Casey, D-Tex., author of the amendment said that all it does is tell HEW that "you cannot compel . . . a school to integrate by sex its physical education classes."

"The amendment does not stop a school from integrating its physical education classes if it wants to, but it stops somebody from saying you've got to," Casey said.

The biggest items in the basic bill are \$2.4 billion in federal aid for elementary and secondary education; \$2.4 billion for higher education; \$669 million for occupational, vocational and adult education, and \$660 million for special assistance in areas considered to be impacted by concentrations of federal military or civilian workers.

## Scaled-down version

## New park plan for bicen unveiled

By J. STRYKER MEYER  
Staff Writer

HARTS CORNER — The Department of Environmental Protection yesterday released its minimal development plan for Washington Crossing State Park, a temporary measure that will be used to accommodate Bicentennial visitors.

The proposal will be discussed at a public hearing July 22 at the Hopewell Township municipal building. An earlier DEP plan for the park, revealed in May, drew such fierce reaction from township officials that it was withdrawn.

The plan calls for an "interpreta-

tive center," which is a temporary building housing a concession stand and the famous 1921 George Harding mural of George Washington crossing the Delaware. The center will also offer information about the history of the park and surrounding area. It will be located east of Sullivan's Grove in an open field.

Travel in the park will be limited, according to the new plan. The present entrances from Route 29 and the Route 546 and 29 intersection will be closed.

The present roads in the park will be shortened considerably. All roads

west of Sullivan's Grove will be closed and the easternmost entrance to the park will also be closed.

Preliminary development of the park for the Bicentennial will be concentrated in the southwest corner of the park. Secondary development plans call for relocation of present Sullivan's Grove picnic facilities to an area west of the open air theatre.

Camping facilities for 25 to 50 families is programmed for the Phillip's Farm. The plan calls for sanitation facilities, but does not mention what kind, or whether or not the DEP plans to install its own sanitation waste station.

## Hopewell Twp. master plan draws fire

HARTS CORNER — A new preliminary master plan for Hopewell Township drew 125 residents to last night's public unveiling of it.

Some township farmers complained that they thought the planning board had wasted its money and time preparing the plan and they couldn't understand why the township "just didn't use the old master plan" of 1971.

Planning board attorney William Baggitt said law required the township to revise its master plan.

When asked if the master plan could be brought up to public referendum, Baggitt said no.

William Kamper, chairman of the planning board, said the planning board would probably revise the master plan every five years, due to the constant social-economic changes within the township.

One farmer, who asked not to be named, said, "This master plan is a sham. What's going to happen to Hopewell Township? I fear the days of this community being rural are doomed, and this plan is the first big step in that direction."

After the meeting, Hopewell Township Mayor Michael Arcieri said the township committee has been approaching growth in the township

very carefully, and only after all environmental, water and sewage concerns have been examined.

The preliminary master plan stresses that major development is only possible after a water system and sewers are installed in the township — the plan calls for all development to occur in the southern and central parts of Hopewell Township.

In this area, for the first time in township history, the plan called for three separate sections of cluster housing. However, township officials have stressed that this type of development will be planned with open spaces, businesses and will have traffic routed around them.

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