

COMMUNITY

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



The Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission in two recent actions has prohibited garbage dumping in 500 acres of the Kingsland-Sawmill marsh area. The area supports a variety of animal and plant life, including the Blue-Winged Teal shown above.

Meadowlands Commission Bans Dumping In Tidal Wetlands and Salt Marsh Areas

The Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission has denied an application of the Municipal Sanitary Landfill Authority, a private solid waste disposal firm, to operate sanitary landfills on a total of 900 acres of meadowlands on different sites in the Kearny portion of the Meadowlands District.

Included in the denied acreage are about 300 acres of a larger tract that conservationists consider the last sizeable salt marsh in the North Jersey region and which the Meadowlands Commission seeks to retain as a natural wildlife preserve, and some 200 acres of vital tidal wetlands connected to the marsh. Also denied was the "Keegan site," a 400-acre tract bordering residential areas of Kearny.

At the same time, the Commission allowed the Authority to complete its garbage landfill operations on 420 acres which have already been partially or completely covered by garbage. This acreage is located on scattered sites in the southwestern portion of

the Meadowlands District, also in Kearny.

Edmund T. Hume, commission chairman, said both actions were adopted at the Commission's regular monthly meeting, held in June, and were in keeping with new solid waste disposal regulations adopted by the Meadowlands Commission at the same meeting. Hume said the new regulations represent the "first step in the Commission's plan to terminate sanitary landfill within the Hackensack Meadowlands District and to provide modern facilities for the disposal and treatment of solid waste."

The regulations, which become final after public hearings to be held this summer, limit solid waste disposal to those sites already used for that purpose and rule out the use of new lands for garbage disposal. Under State law, the Meadowlands Commission is required to provide for the disposal of some 26,000 tons a week

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Department Funds 2,817 Summer Jobs For Poverty Youths

A total of 2,817 disadvantaged youths began work this month in local governments and antipoverty agencies throughout the State through a Youth Employment Summer Program financed by the Department.

The youths, aged 14 to 21, have been assigned to a variety of community service jobs with 23 community action (antipoverty) agencies, three municipal governments, two boards of education and a housing authority. The jobs were developed in response to local needs by the 29 sponsoring agencies, which also recruited the youths in accordance with income guidelines set by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume said the Youth Employment Summer Program is financed through \$1,258,469 in State-aid appropriations in the Department's 1971-72 fiscal year budget. He said the State funds would supplement the U.S. Labor Department's Neighborhood Youth Corps summer employment program, which is expected to provide jobs for 10,100 disadvantaged New Jersey youths this summer.

Hume said the combined federal and State total of nearly 13,000 summer jobs for disadvantaged youths represents "the largest number of employment opportunities to be offered in New Jersey in any summer since the State program began in 1968."

Last year, the Department awarded grants totaling more than \$1.215 million to finance some 2,709 summer jobs, which supplemented 8,633 Neighborhood Youth Corps positions.

The youths work 26 hours a week for a nine-week period, which began July 1 and ends August 31. They

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State Approves "Bill of Rights" for Migrant Farm Laborers

Governor William T. Cahill has signed into law four major migrant labor reform bills he termed a "bill of rights for the migrant worker."

The signings were part of overall advances in behalf of migrant laborers in May.

The other significant development came in the New Jersey Supreme Court's ruling that farmers could not prevent government officials from visiting migrant laborers at work camps.

The need for the new legislation was originally stated in a migrant "Bill of Rights" proposed in August, 1970, by the Camden Regional Legal Services' Farm Worker Division. The four bills were drafted by the Office of the State Attorney General, with the assistance of the Department's Office of Legal Services.

The four new laws will:

► Require that crew leaders of migrant laborers register with the State and that any unregistered crew leader cannot be hired.

► Require that migrant day haul farm laborers earn at least the \$1.50 an hour State minimum wage.

► Authorize the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry to hire Spanish language interpreters to aid migrant laborers.

► Require that farm operators provide potable water and sanitary facilities near the fields where migrant laborers work. This law becomes effective September 5. The other three laws are effective immediately.

Cahill noted that the new laws were supported by farm groups and associations. He said the four laws would "take care of steps that ought to be corrected to improve the life of migrant laborers."

The new laws are an outgrowth of Cahill's recommendations in his first annual message to the Legislature, in which he said:

"It is incumbent upon the State, which benefits from the seasonal labors of migrant workers, to insure that they are provided with decent living and working conditions."

The Governor had also asked for legislation for reasonable visitation privileges to migrant farm workers. That visitation, however, is virtually assured in light of the State Supreme Court decision of May 11 in *State of New Jersey v. Shack*.

In this case, a legal services attorney and an antipoverty worker had visited a migrant labor camp to perform their duties. They were arrested for trespassing when they refused to leave, and later fined \$50.

The Camden Regional Legal Services, joined by the State Office of Legal Services, appealed the convictions to the Supreme Court, which held in a decision written by Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub, that:

"Under our State law, the ownership of real property does not include the right to bar access to governmental

services available to migrant workers and hence there was no trespass within the meaning of the . . . statute."

Chief Justice Weintraub wrote: "The migrant worker must be allowed to receive visitors there of his own choice, so long as there is no behavior hurtful to others, and members of the press may not be denied reasonable access to workers who do not object to seeing them."

The Chief Justice said, "We see no legitimate need for a right in the farmer to deny the worker the opportunity for aid available from federal, state, or local services, or from recognized charitable groups seeking to assist him. Hence representatives of these agencies and organizations may enter upon the premises to seek out the worker at his living quarters."

Carl F. Bianchi, director of the Office of Legal Services, said the legislative package, together with the *New Jersey v. Shack* case, represent "one of the most comprehensive attempts in a State to deal with migrant farm labor problems."

13 Development Communities Share Health Planning Grant

Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume last month announced approval of a \$108,000 health services planning grant to assist 13 communities participating in the Department's Community Development Program.

Hume said the grant would be awarded to the New Jersey Regional Medical Program, a non-profit quasi-governmental agency financed through federal funds. The agency will use the funds to employ four urban health coordinators to plan and organize comprehensive health care programs and manpower resources for the participating communities.

Municipalities which will receive health planning assistance under the grant are: Bridgeton, Camden, Cape May, Long Branch, Orange, Asbury Park, and the North Hudson Council of Mayors, an intermunicipal council which includes: Union City, North Bergen, West New York, Weehawken, Secaucus, Guttenberg and Kearny.

The health coordinators will be used by the municipalities on a rotating basis and will function as members of their local Community Development staffs. Under the present plan, for example, one coordinator may serve two or three municipalities at the same time.

The 13 municipalities are participants in the Department's Community Development Program, which provides State financial and technical assistance to communities not selected or eligible for selection in the federal Model Cities program. It utilizes the same criteria of its federal counterpart, including the documentation of critical neighborhood needs, citizen participation and comprehensive planning.

The New Jersey Regional Medical Program, established in 1967, functions as a "clearinghouse" for physicians, hospitals and health agencies. It provides information and assistance on new medical knowledge and the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Cahill Promises To "Seek Effective Solutions" to Elderly Needs

Governor William T. Cahill told more than 1,500 older New Jerseyans at the Governor's Conference on Aging in late May that his administration is committed to "seek effective and efficient solutions" to "improving and enhancing the quality of life for our older citizens."

The Governor was the principal speaker at the one-day conference, held in Trenton on May 26. It was the final step in New Jersey's preparation for the White House Conference on Aging, to be conducted in Washington, D.C. during the week of November 28.

Also addressing conference participants were Community Affairs Com-

missioner Edmund T. Hume and Edward L. Donohue, director of the Department's Division on Aging.

"The recommendations being discussed today at this conference are evidence of our concern and commitment to improving and enhancing the quality of life for our older citizens," the Governor said. "Their well-being and their problems are as important as those affecting any other segment of society.

"We must seek effective and efficient solutions. The debt owed to our older citizens is great. They were the doers of yesterday and it is on the accomplishments of their stewardship that we are building for tomorrow."

205 Interns Begin Public Service Jobs

A total of 205 college and graduate students are working in public and community agencies throughout the State this summer through the Department's fifth annual Interns in Community Service program.

The 11-week program, which began June 14 and runs until August 27, places students in challenging positions with State, local and county governments and nonprofit and public-oriented organizations in an effort to attract them to public service careers.

Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume noted that, "In keeping with the Department's commitment to enlarge and improve services to local governments, 30 more interns than last year have been assigned to positions with municipal and county governments."

"It is my hope that all of the interns will gain invaluable, practical job experiences that will give them a fuller understanding of the workings of government," Hume said, "In that way, we seek to motivate them to enter some kind of public service career when they complete their schooling."

The interns, selected from among 1,800 applicants, have been assigned to jobs in 55 communities as follows: 74 in 39 municipalities, 14 in 10 county governments, 41 in State

government agencies, 18 in 9 community action (antipoverty) agencies, 4 in 2 model cities agencies, 34 in 17 local legal services or public defender offices, and 20 in private public-oriented organizations.

Hume said the interns work a regular 40-hour, five-day week, earning salaries based on the standard Civil Service pay scale for student assistants, ranging from \$2.00 an hour for college freshmen to \$3.25 an hour for graduate students. The salaries are paid by the Community Affairs Department through State appropriations.

The Intern Program is one of a number of programs, administered by the Department's Bureau of Local Management Services.

Mrs. Christine R. Crews, director of the program, said that this year's group of interns includes 136 undergraduate and 69 graduate students who are majoring in a wide variety of subjects at colleges in New Jersey and outside the State. They are residents of 95 New Jersey communities, representing all 21 counties.

Mrs. Crews said the interns work under the direction of regular supervisors selected by the respective intern-employing agencies, with the concurrence of the Community Affairs Department.

Cahill said the proposed reorganization of the Division on Aging would "strengthen and expand — not lessen — the services to our older citizens." He said, "There will be no sacrifice of the programs needed to provide our senior citizens with better living conditions and it will improve the State's ability to meet these pressing needs."

Under the proposal, the Division on Aging will be reconstituted as a separate and distinct Office on Aging within the Bureau of Program Development of a new Division of Human Resources. There would be no loss of either personnel or funds.

"Instead of treating our older citizens as separate and apart from the rest of society, this reorganization will not only retain their identity but provide a greater flexibility in developing information, referral services and programs for our senior citizens," Cahill explained. "It will integrate their needs with the overall plans of the State."

The Governor added that federal funds available to New Jersey under the Older Americans Act of 1965 "will not be sacrificed." He said the new Division would become the recipient of these funds.

Commissioner Hume said the Department would continue to serve the pressing needs of older residents and expressed the hope that the upcoming White House Conference on Aging would serve to spur federal and state recognition of these needs.

"If this Conference today and the national meeting in Washington in November do nothing more than rescue us from the welter of diverse opinions, proposals, bills and resolutions that confront the Congress," Hume said, "we will have gone far towards evolving a policy to which all of us can give our wholehearted support."

In addition to adopting recommendations in nine categories to be presented at the White House Conference, participants also heard the Governor announce the names of New Jersey's 55 delegates and 55 alternates to that Conference.

Department Issues Accounting, Financial Manual to Grantees

New guidelines and sample forms to simplify record keeping for present and future recipients of Departmental grants are included in a new administrative handbook released this month.

Vote Could Qualify More Older People For Tax Deductions

New Jersey voters will decide in the upcoming November election whether the State's senior citizen property tax deductions should be extended to eligible elderly homeowners who receive retirement, disability or pension benefits other than Social Security payments.

The question will be on the ballot as a public referendum that would authorize the State Legislature to amend the State Constitution to broaden the coverage of the current law, which provides certain low-income elderly homeowners with a maximum property tax deduction of \$160 a year. The referendum has the support of the Community Affairs Department's Division on Aging.

Under existing law, any homeowner at least 65 years of age who has been a New Jersey resident for three years and has an annual income combined with that of his or her spouse of up to \$5,000, excluding Social Security benefits, is eligible. The proposed referendum would authorize otherwise eligible older home owners to exclude income received from any federal pension, disability or retirement system in determining whether the \$5,000 income ceiling has been reached.

The measure is designed to assist retired elderly homeowners who do not receive Social Security payments but do receive benefits or pensions from other sources. At present, many older persons in this situation cannot qualify for the deductions.

If the referendum is approved, enabling legislation would then have to be introduced and adopted by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor William. T. Cahill. The added exclusion, if it became law, would not be effective until the 1972 calendar year at the earliest.

The new handbook, "Accounting and Financial Manual for Grantees," was prepared by the Department's Division of Administration. It covers four major areas — the grant, the accounting system, the budget and the unexpended fund balance — in simple terms to reduce unnecessary complications about the grants.

Frederick A. Schenck, director of administration, said, "This manual is aimed at providing complete information on our requirements.

"We have made every effort to simplify the present grant system by designing new forms for easier record keeping and to avoid unnecessary complications."

The manual defines grants and grant agreements. It explains the payment of grant funds, outlines financial reporting requirements, and lists accounting guidelines.

The manual spells out the adopted

standard budget cost allocations in all financial planning and budget preparation. It explains the transactions of the seven major cost categories under a grant: personnel, consultants and contract services, travel, space costs and rentals, consumable supplies, rental or purchase of equipment and other costs.

It breaks down these seven categories, explaining the requirements for allowable budgeting, and listing where State funds can and cannot be spent with a Departmental grant.

The booklet also explains the "unexpended fund balance" of the grant, including the provision that no unexpended fund balance shall be used without the express written approval of the Department.

The manual has been distributed only to present and prospective grant recipients. Copies are not available to the general public.

Community Affairs Appointments Made

Governor William T. Cahill has named David A. Werblin, former president of the New York Jets football team, to a four-year term as chairman of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. The State Senate confirmed the appointment June 14.

The seven-member Authority, which is located within the Department of Community Affairs, is responsible for the development of a massive sports complex in a small portion of the Hackensack Meadowlands area, which covers nearly 20,000 acres in Bergen and Hudson counties.

Werblin, 61, serves as director of the New Jersey National Bank in Trenton. He is also secretary and director of the Monmouth Park Jockey Club in Oceanport. Werblin said he would dispose of his interests in the club to eliminate any possible conflict with his duties as a member of the Authority, which will build and operate a proposed race track.

The Authority consists of three ex-officio members and four public members. With Werblin's confirmation, only one public seat remains to

be filled to complete the Authority.

At the same session, Cahill submitted the name of Mrs. Dorothy B. Mery of Rutherford for confirmation by the Senate as the first director of the Department's Division of Women. The Division is empowered to study the needs of women, recommend programs and serve as an informational clearinghouse. The Division is not yet operational.

Mrs. Mery serves as assistant to the vice president for finance of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In addition, the Senate on April 15 confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Peter Sammartino of Rutherford to the ninth and last remaining vacancy on the State Commission on Women. The Commission directs the activities of the Women's Division.

Mrs. Sammartino is currently the Dean of Admissions at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In a related matter, the Senate on May 6 confirmed the reappointment of William D. McDowell to a five-year term on the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, a quasi-independent agency of the Department.

Community Affairs' Fiscal 1972 Budget Totals \$42 Million

Governor William T. Cahill last month signed into law the appropriations bill for the State's 1971-72 fiscal year budget, which provides a total of \$41,647,592 for the Department of Community Affairs.

Of the amount appropriated to the Department, \$37,210,506 or about 89 per cent will be returned to New Jersey communities in the form of grants or loans. The aid will be provided through 15 different assistance programs in the areas of housing and community development, human resources and local government management services.

The remainder of the total appropriation will be used for operations, including the administration of State-aid programs, and for interest due on the \$12.5 million State housing assistance bonds of 1968.

The total 1972 fiscal year budget represents a \$12.5 million increase over the 1971 fiscal year budget which totaled \$29,118,159. This increase is primarily due to the \$13 million increase in the appropriation for Urban Aid, which totals \$25 million for the 1972 fiscal year. (See story at right.)

Only one new State-aid program, to be funded through a \$108,000 appropriation, was added to the budget. Under this program, County Offices on Aging no longer receiving federal funds can qualify for up to one-half their annual costs of operation.

New Jersey currently has such offices in 14 counties. They serve as central information and referral sources for the State's senior citizens. Seven of the 14 offices will be eligible for State-aid funds in this fiscal year.

Other State-aid appropriations to the Department were as follows: Project Day Care 100, \$1,049,400; economic opportunity programs, \$1,000,000; training programs, \$250,000; Youth Employment program, \$1,444,600; Model Cities-Community Development Assistance, \$2,163,600; internship program, \$281,312; Revolving Housing Development and Demonstration Grant

1971-72 URBAN AID FUNDS

| MUNICIPALITY | AMOUNT |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Asbury Park | \$ 227,124 |
| Atlantic City | 610,291 |
| Bayonne | 118,433 |
| Bridgeton | 242,283 |
| Camden | 2,230,650 |
| East Orange | 934,376 |
| Elizabeth* | 890,336 |
| Hoboken | 711,104 |
| Irvington | 256,802 |
| Jersey City | 3,861,861 |
| Lakewood | 175,686 |
| Long Branch | 275,965 |
| Millville | 106,842 |
| Neptune Township | 158,806 |
| Newark | 7,435,889 |
| New Brunswick | 290,771 |
| Orange | 379,313 |
| Passaic | 403,005 |
| Paterson | 1,768,299 |
| Perth Amboy | 240,099 |
| Plainfield | 304,559 |
| Trenton** | 1,925,785 |
| Union City | 662,999 |
| Vineland | 254,580 |
| TOTAL | \$24,465,858 |

* Includes extra appropriation of \$465,859 to equal 1970 allocation.

** Trenton will receive an additional \$500,000 appropriation for services rendered State buildings and employees.

Fund, \$3,200,000; Urban Renewal Assistance, \$800,000; Code Enforcement and Housing Inspection, \$912,300; Relocation and Downpayment Assistance, \$485,000; Municipal Staff Interchange Assistance, \$18,000; Continuing Planning Assistance Program, \$136,000; and Neighborhood Education Centers, \$362,294.

In addition, the Department expects to receive about \$8 million in federal aid grants to fund a number

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New Urban Aid Law Totals \$25 Million For 24 Localities

The 1971-72 Urban Aid program will provide \$24.5 million to 24 New Jersey municipalities — twice the amount of money and four times the number of municipalities participating in 1970-71.

In the program's two previous years of existence, only the State's six largest cities — Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Camden, Trenton and Paterson — had been eligible to share in the \$12 million appropriation.

This year, new requirements will enable an additional 18 municipalities to qualify for the program under a new, broad-based formula. See listing at left.

In addition, a key provision of the 1971-72 Urban Aid program gives municipalities the authority to spend their funds for whatever purpose they determine necessary. There are no prior reviews or approvals by the State.

Under the new formula, a community is eligible for funds if it has: a population exceeding 15,000; Aid to Dependent Children recipients exceeding 350; publicly financed housing; a municipal equalized tax rate exceeding the State rate; and a municipal equalized valuation per capita less than the State equalized valuation per capita.

The amount of funds which eligible municipalities receive is based on an additional formula which considers three categories, Aid to Dependent Children, equalized tax rate and equalized valuation per capita.

Of the six cities which have previously participated in the program, all but Elizabeth would receive an increase over the 1971 allotment. Elizabeth would be entitled to only \$424,477 under the new formula, but a provision in the 1972 program will give the city an additional \$466,000 so that no municipality will receive less than it got in 1971.

A companion bill will give Trenton an extra \$500,000 for the special municipal services it renders State buildings and employees.

MEADOWLANDS from page 1

of solid waste in the District.

Of the 900 denied acres, Hume said, a total of 500 comprise tidal wetlands bordering a mile-long strip on both sides of the western spur of the New Jersey Turnpike in Kearny. This acreage includes about 300 acres in the Kingsland-Sawmill Marsh Conservation area, a natural salt marsh that has been designated by the Commission for preservation as a plant and wildlife sanctuary.

The remaining 400 of the denied 900 acres are located in the south-western corner of the District in Kearny. This acreage is known locally as the "Keegan site."

"Today's action, coupled with the

Commission's denial on April 6 of an application to open a landfill site on 440 acres of adjoining land in Lyndhurst, and the adoption of the new temporary regulations, saves from garbage disposal the entire Sawmill-Kingsland Marsh Conservation area," Hume explained. "It also preserves an additional 400 acres of tidally connected wetlands."

The Kingsland-Sawmill marsh, which is larger than Central Park, is highly prized by the Commission and by conservationists and ecologists. Despite its current polluted environ-

ment, the marsh supports a variety of plant and animal life, including more than 200 species of birds and serves as a buffer against tidal flooding and is a natural water purification system.

"Our staff has persevered for more than a year against very determined and skillful opposition to keep alive what may be the most essential goal of the Commission's proposed master plan — the preservation of the natural value of the Kingsland-Sawmill marsh," said Hume. "The Commission intends to stand fast against any future attempts to encroach on this vital natural resource."

YOUTH from page 1

earn \$1.60 an hour.

"Through this youth employment program, the Department of Community Affairs provides meaningful and practical jobs on the local level that give these talented young people invaluable opportunities to help improve their own communities in a number of areas," Hume explained.

"The jobs offer more than just a chance to earn some needed summer income, although that is one of the important results of the program. They are geared to motivate and stimulate these young men and women to pursue career-oriented vocational and educational goals."

Hume said the program provides counseling and supportive services "directed towards the improvement of the educational, vocational and personal development" of the participants. For example, he said, local community services in the areas of

health and welfare will be made available to all enrollees.

Also, Hume said, the sponsoring agencies will arrange for field trips, cultural events and other special activities.

The 29 local sponsors include 23 community action (antipoverty) agencies serving all 21 counties, boards of education in Camden and Paterson, the Cities of Newark and Woodbridge, and two municipal agencies in Jersey City.

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of State or locally operated programs, including, the Morrow Association on Correction, the State Development Corporation, day care, comprehensive planning, economic opportunity, aging, training, and community service and continuing education.

Reynolds Appointed State Housing Aide

Governor William T. Cahill has named Charles F. Reynolds Jr., a vice president of the Prudential Insurance Co., as the State's housing coordinator.

Reynolds, 52, who will serve for six months, will study the field of housing, coordinate New Jersey's housing programs and recommend solutions to the housing problem. He will be working in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs, which is responsible for most of the State's housing programs.

Reynolds served as head of Prudential's real estate investment office in Washington before becoming vice president of real estate investment.

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