

# COMMUNITY

*A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs*



*RAPT ATTENTION* was given this king snake and its handler, Head Naturalist Charles Boyle, by Governor's Youth Program campers who visited Allaire State Park's Nature Center. See story on page 2.

## **Hume Announces Approval of First Funds To Encourage Minority-Owned Businesses**

The New Jersey State Development Corporation last month took action to enable two minority groups to become eligible for federal funds up to \$1 million in the State's first major move to help finance black and minority enterprise.

The corporation, in existence only three months, designated the Black People's Unity Movement (BPUM) in Camden, and the Minority, Economic, Development, Industrial and Cultural Enterprises Inc. (MEDIC) of Newark as community development corporations.

This action opens the door for each local group to obtain up to \$500,000 each from a \$2.5 million fund provided to the State by the federal government to promote black and minority enterprises in both Camden and Newark.

The Camden group plans to help finance black-owned and operated superettes, laundromats, a canning factory, and a major shopping center near a low-income housing project.

The Newark group envisions a black-owned and operated commercial bank, savings and loan association, shopping centers, a printing shop, plastics manufacturing firm and an

electronics company.

Also announced last month was the approval of a \$20,000 loan by the Urban Loan Authority from a \$2 million fund established by the Legislature. It is the first loan approved.

The loan will go to Raymond Freney, 41, of Mount Holly, owner of Raymon's trucking firm. The money will be used to purchase a tractor, a trailer and for working capital.

Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume, who is also chairman of the State Development Corporation and the Urban Loan Authority, said of the grants and loans:

"I pledged we would take prompt action since the meetings in June and we have. In less than six months, the corporation has made its first grants totaling \$1 million."

Senator Alfred D. Schiaffo of Bergen County, one of the chief sponsors of the Urban Loan Authority Act, and Assembly Speaker Barry T. Parker of Burlington County were on hand for ceremonies held at the Community Affairs building to announce the approvals.

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## **State Goes Over 6,000 Unit Mark In Housing Efforts**

The New Jersey Housing Finance Agency (NJHFA) is over the 6,000 unit mark in financing construction and renovation of housing for low- and moderate-income residents.

The agency, which is self-supporting and uses no taxpayers' funds to operate, has recently authorized \$24.3 million more in mortgage loans for three new developments that will provide a total of 1,181 dwelling units. The new housing, approved in August, will be located in the communities of Cape May, Newark and Plainsboro (Middlesex County).

John P. Renna, executive director of the agency, reported the authorizations bring to 6,031 the total units financed by NJHFA since its creation four years ago. NJHFA is a quasi-independent agency within the Community Affairs Department.

The Plainsboro development received a \$13,182,450 mortgage to cover 90 per cent of the costs of constructing 776 garden apartments for moderate-income families. The remainder of the cost will be provided by Lincoln-Plainsboro Company, the local sponsor.

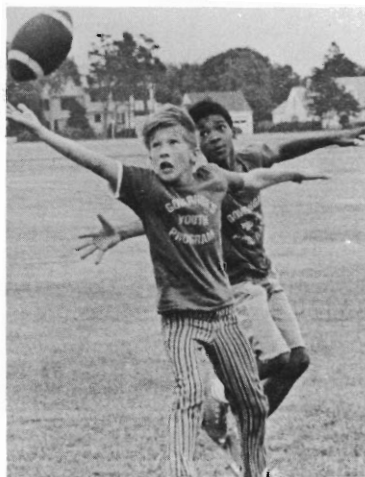
Known as Princeton Meadows, the development will consist of 528 one-bedroom, 96 one-bedroom deluxe, 76 two-bedroom and 76 two-bedroom, two-bath deluxe units, housed in 60 buildings.

The agency also approved a mortgage loan of \$6,370,000 for the construction of a 21-story, 200 unit apartment building near Newark's downtown business district. The loan represents 100 per cent of the total development costs. The sponsor of the Washington Street Apartments development is the St. James AME Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization.

The development includes 40 one-

(CONTINUED on page 6)





## At Sea Girt

One by one the youths slowly filed out from the bus — unsmiling, defiant, manner tense.

As Chief Recruiter Walter Qualls was later to describe it, their attitude was born of a society which forced them to think and act like adults before they could enjoy their childhood. Now this same society asked them to participate in the first Governor's Summer Youth Program.

This paradox confused the boys, ages 10 to 13, and this confusion apparently was the reason for their initial skepticism. Although none of them asked, the main question in their minds was obviously: How can a system we have often distrusted give us a week's vacation at the Jersey shore? What's the angle?

They were to answer their own question seven days later.

*Raising and lowering the flag is part of the daily routine of campers participating in the Governor's Youth Program. Some of their other activities are shown in the photos above.*



Governor William T. Cahill first announced his sponsorship of a summer camp program for 500 disadvantaged boys while reviewing New Jersey National Guardsmen at Camp Drum, N.Y., in early June.

His concern was for boys who do not have an opportunity for a wholesome vacation from city streets. He wanted them to experience a week of camping, field trips, and athletic events. And the Governor pointed out the advantages for the youths and the Guardsmen through a week of such shared experiences.

The timing of his announcement was no accident. The Governor planned to use National Guard facilities at Sea Girt for the program, and have volunteer enlisted Guardsmen serve as counselors. The program was designed to break down the barriers of estrangement between the Guard and youth; to be replaced with mutual understanding.

Each volunteer selected was required to have experience in dealing with young boys. In addition, their two-week tour of counseling would fulfill the annual active duty training requirement of the National Guard.

Hopefully, Cahill noted, the youths would take home with them a new attitude about the National Guard.

"I didn't think it was right for the National Guard in New Jersey to have an image of shooting youngsters down," he said. "They should have an image of lifting youngsters up."

The Governor's staff mobilized and coordinated efforts of five major Departments of State government and enlisted the assistance of several prominent private citizens. This close

cooperation and its success was lauded by Cahill when he visited the camp during its second day of operation.

The Division of Human Resources (NJDEP) in the Department of Community Affairs was responsible for recruitment of boys. Working through local Urban League chapters or Community Action (antipoverty) Agencies, Department Coordinator Walter Qualls began recruiting youths. Each county was assigned a number of youths based on its proportion of disadvantaged families in relation to the overall Statewide total.

Transportation was provided by the New Jersey National Guard to bring the boys to and from the Sea Girt facility.

After checking in and being processed, the boys were divided into four groups called "dens" — wolf, hawk, bear, or fox — and given baseball caps, the color of which identified their den. Two official T-shirts were issued. And for those without extra clothing, sneakers and underwear were issued.

Each "den" was assigned to a barracks with a picture of their "animal" at the entrance. The beds were required to be made each morning, and a team spirit quickly formed which was responsible for high morale and a pride in keeping the barracks neat and clean.

This spirit and pride dominated almost all activities during the week. Athletic contests such as softball, basketball and touch football were fiercely competitive.

"Wolves eat fat bears, chicken hawks and skinny foxes," a sign outside one barracks proclaimed.

All boys received complete physical and dental examinations and had their teeth cleaned. The results of the exams were sent to parents. In addition, classes on personal and oral hygiene, first aid, and drug abuse were held as part of the educational portion of the program.

Field trips played a vital role in the week's training activities. All campers participated in a nature hike at nearby Allaire State Park, took a boat ride, visited the Freehold Raceway, and attended a major league baseball game.



## FOR YOUTH: A SUMMER OF LEARNING

The program, also provided various arts and crafts projects. They made and operated simple radios, painted model masks, and worked on coppercraft.

According to Qualls, the real emphasis of the program was not the activities. It was the relationship between the campers and their Guardsmen counselors. The counselors, whose average age was 24, played, ate, slept, and learned with their campers. They supervised activities, taught and built confidence.

One counselor, ending his two-week tour, said emotionally, "You really become involved with these kids. It's a deep involvement, one where you really give a damn. My hope is that they can now go back to the city and know that there's something better, something to shoot for in life."

Another Guardsman from a North Jersey city observed that despite contact with city kids, he never really understood them until he lived with them for a week. "I know I'll be taking more from here than I've given," he said.

Campers, too, were virtually unanimous in praising the program.

"The counselors ain't nothin' like I expected," said one. "They're really great guys."

"It's terrific," another one commented about the camp. "So many things to do, we're on the move all the time."

A third seemed to sum up the feeling of most. "This is how camp should be," he said, "how I hoped it would be."

As the week ended, and the buses arrived for the trip home, most of the boys' suspicions and distrusts had disappeared. Gone, too, were their defiant walks and tense manner.

Only one thing remained the same — the unsmiling faces. This time, however, there was no hardness, just the sadness of having to leave.

"The single most important answer to the problems of New Jersey lies in . . . our youth," Governor Cahill said.

Five hundred youths proved it this summer.

### In Communities

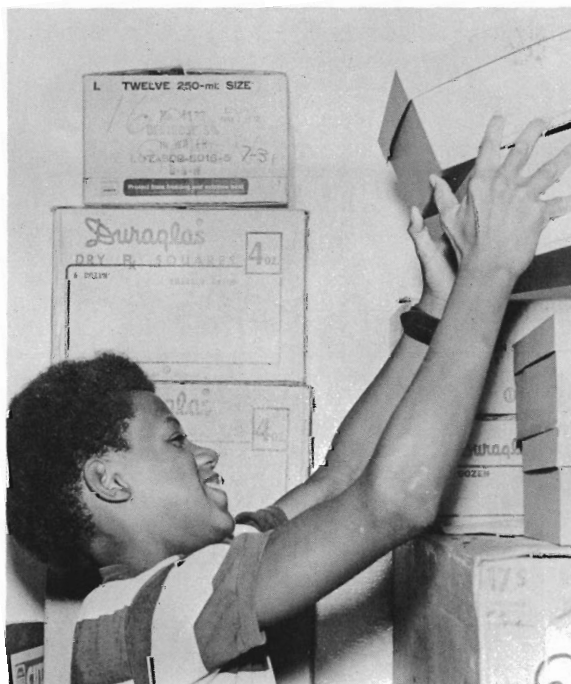


*The Lakehurst Naval Air Test Facility in Ocean County (above) and (below) the Hunterdon County Medical Center (left) and a school library served as work sites for some of the 2,187 disadvantaged youths employed this summer through the Department's Youth Employment Summer Program. The jobs were developed by local community action (antipoverty) agencies. In Ocean County, Ocean Community for Economic Action Now (OCEAN), Inc., and in Hunterdon, Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program, were the sponsors.*

Ocean County



Hunterdon County





## Within Government

Ronald L. Reisner is a third year law student who assumed the role of a "full-fledged" attorney this summer in his job with Monmouth County Legal Services, a federally and State funded agency that provides free legal aid in civil matters to impoverished residents.

For 11 weeks, he gained practically all of the responsibilities of a regular practicing lawyer — from preparing legal paper work to actual court room experiences. Reisner pleaded cases in Monmouth County District Court, advised consumers on purchase contract agreements, settled landlord-tenant disputes, filed motions and corresponded with opposing lawyers.

A resident of West Long Branch, Reisner was able to get this wide-ranging experience through the Department's Interns in Community Service Program, which places talented college and graduate students in summer jobs with local and State governmental and community agencies.

He is one of 205 students participating in this year's intern program which offers young adults challenging work experience in an attempt to attract them to public service careers.

This year's group of interns included 136 undergraduate and 69 graduate students who are residents of 95 New Jersey communities, representing all 21 counties.

They were assigned to jobs in municipal, county and State governments, community action (antipoverty) agencies, Model Cities agencies, local legal services or public defender offices, and in private public-oriented organizations.

For Reisner, the summer was a challenging one. In the course of his internship, he dealt with the entire range of problems handled by the legal services office — from marital to tax matters.

Through his contact with the poor who sought legal assistance, Reisner has come to view legal services "as representing the ideals of our form of justice. It enables poor people to come to lawyers and get representation and advice.

"The courts are the place for social action," he said, "Through them,



Work on an access road in Sparta (Sussex County) is observed by (left to right) William F. Hyland, assistant township manager, J. Peter Braun, township manager, and Steven G. Zimmerman, a Community Affairs intern placed in Sparta for the summer.

disputes can be worked out rationally; the law forms an integral part of social justice. If we close access to the courts, we open access to the streets."

Reisner, 23, who is a student at Duke University Law School sees his summer experience as "invaluable."

"I can't imagine any better training for a young lawyer. It provided me with clinical training I couldn't get from reading a book."

He explained, "An instructor tells you what the law is, but not what procedures to follow — such as where to file a motion, how to prepare it, what court to go to, whom to call, and when to negotiate a case. These skills aren't taught in law school. They come with experience and that's the kind of experience I got this summer."

Steven G. Zimmerman, 21, of Highland Lakes is another intern who found his summer work experience a

rewarding one. He was placed as an administrative assistant to the township manager of Sparta, a rural community of 11,500 in Sussex County.

As part of his duties, Zimmerman prepared a study comparing the long-term costs of roads treated with two different kinds of materials. He found that while the initial outlay is greater for an asphalt road, in the long run, such treatment requires less in maintenance costs than an oil and stone-treated road. These results will be analyzed and used by municipal officials in determining plans for future road paving projects.

Zimmerman also worked in each municipal department trying to assess the operations of government. He felt he was "being involved in the actual workings of government. I learned a lot and I feel that I, in turn, contributed to the township."

Intern Frank Perez also spent the summer in local government, but in highly urbanized Newark. A resident of Newark, he assisted in and observed the operations of social service agencies serving the city's Puerto Rican community.

He said his experiences gave him "a better understanding of how community organizations handle people's problems." He believes that "they do a good job for what they have available to them," but he adds, "they need more money and personnel."

A portion of Perez's time was spent in gathering information on the living conditions and problems of the

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Discussing a legal point are Ronald L. Reisner (left), a summer intern with Monmouth County Legal Services, which serves indigent persons, and Judge George A. Gray of Monmouth County District Court. Reisner, a third-year law student, pleaded several cases before the judge during his internship.





## **Department Recruits Public Employees for 2 Training Projects**

Participants are now being recruited for two separate college-level training programs sponsored by the Department for local and State government employees.

One program, being offered for the first time this fall, will enable the State's 40 housing inspectors and 30 local housing or building inspectors in the Mercer County area to earn an associate degree in applied science while maintaining their full-time jobs.

The other will provide partial tuition rebates to State and local government employees and community workers engaged in full-time community improvement or urban development jobs for successfully completing college courses related to their jobs.

Both training activities are part of a larger Community Development Training Program administered by the Department to update, improve and enlarge the management and technical skills of State, local and county government employees and community workers involved in combating urban problems. It is financed through \$145,000 in federal funds and part of a \$250,000 State-aid training appropriation in the Department's fiscal 1972 budget.

The inspection training project is believed to be the first degree-granting training program for housing inspectors to be offered by any state in the country. It was developed cooperatively by the Community Affairs Department, the City of Trenton's Department of Planning and Development, which first proposed the program, and the Mercer County Community College, which will conduct the program and award the degree.

Designed to combine education and training, the project will offer college credit for academic course study and work experience.

The Department will use a portion of its training funds to finance 80 per cent of the tuition costs for local inspectors; the remainder will be provided by either the housing inspector or his community. The Department will pay all tuition costs for State inspectors from these training funds and from Bureau of Housing Inspection funds.

The Department's Bureau of Housing Inspection, Division of Housing and Urban Renewal, is responsible under State law for registering and inspecting hotels, motels and multiple dwellings of three or more units throughout the State. The new training program will be utilized by the Bureau in upgrading the professional standards of State and local housing inspectors.

The courses for local inspectors will be conducted at Mercer County College's Trenton facilities, while those for State inspectors will be held in the Department of Community Affairs building, 363 West State Street. They will be taught by regular faculty members of the college.

The 18 courses will cover such subject matters as: technical mathematics, drafting, local and state government, ethnic and minority groups, applied mechanics, code interpretation and writing, architectural materials analysis, mechanics of materials, civil design problems, office management, literature and Spanish language.

Under the tuition assistance program, any full-time State or local government employee or community development worker who enrolls in a credit-granting course related to his

job and offered at an accredited institution may apply for partial financial assistance. Upon successful completion of the course (s), the employee will be reimbursed for 80 per cent of the tuition costs, up to a maximum of \$300 a semester.

Under provisions of the federal training grant, individuals employed in the fields of education, fire service, health and law enforcement, including the court system, are not eligible for the program. Any other community development employees, whether professional, technical or administrative, may apply.

Applications for the fall semester, beginning this month, must be received by October 1 and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons interested in obtaining an application for the Tuition Assistance Program should contact Recruitment, Training and Intern Unit, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, P.O. Box 2768, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

## **Cahill Raises Welfare Benefits For Unmarried Senior Citizens**

Unmarried senior citizens on old age assistance will receive a 14 per cent increase in their monthly welfare grants from the State, beginning this month.

The increase, approved by Governor William T. Cahill in August, also benefits blind and disabled persons on public assistance who are single. It was recommended by the Governor's Welfare Advisory Council, which found that flat-grant standards were too low for single adults living alone.

Under the State's flat-grant program, individuals and equal-sized families in similar financial circumstances receive the same fixed monthly welfare allowance to cover their personal, household and shelter costs.

The revision raises this monthly allowance from \$142 to \$162 for single adults living alone. The new payment figure is equal to half of the flat-grant for a four-member family.

Cahill said that federal studies have indicated that the monthly budget requirement for single adults is approximately one-half of that for a family of four because they have many of the same basic living expenses.

In a related matter, Cahill also announced last month that welfare recipients in New Jersey receiving public assistance under programs using matching federal funds — such as old age assistance — will continue to be eligible automatically for federal food stamps.

There had been some concern that the number of recipients eligible for such stamps would be reduced because of changes in U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, which called for individual, rather than household, income tests.

Cahill said, however, that the federal government has decided to revise the new regulations to eliminate the individual income test for welfare cases covered by federally matched programs. These revisions are expected to be enacted in the next three months.

## State Readies Positions on Aging for White House Conference

A 14-member steering committee of the State's delegation to the White House Conference on Aging is developing final policy proposals for presentation to the national Conference scheduled for November.

The proposals, designed to meet the needs of New Jersey's senior citizens, will be based on recommendations adopted at the Governor's Conference on Aging in May and on additional suggestions made since then. They will be formally submitted by New Jersey's 55-member delegation to the White

House Conference, to be held in Washington, D.C. during the week of November 28.

The steering committee will also study ways to solve the problems of the elderly through the application of five methods — planning, training, research and demonstration, government and non-government organization, and facilities, programs and services.

Edward L. Donohue, director of the Department's Office on Aging, said nine major problem areas had been

identified at the Governor's Conference. They are housing, transportation, income, physical and mental health, employment-retirement, retirement roles and activities, spiritual well-being, education and nutrition.

Donohue said separate task forces have been formed in each of the nine areas to work closely with the steering committee in preparing the final proposals. He noted that the full delegation will meet at least once prior to the November conference.

### INTERNS *from page 4*

Spanish-speaking, particularly Puerto Rican, population of Newark. His visits to various local and State government and community agencies revealed that "there are not too many facts or figures on the Puerto Rican available."

Despite these obstacles, Perez produced a report that his supervisor, Newark Deputy Mayor Ramon Aneses, termed a "well-done job." Aneses said the study "will guide us in preparing a proposal to get State and federal funds for the Spanish-Americans who live in Newark."

The Deputy Mayor also praised the intern program. "It gives the students an opportunity to acquire experience by working in and relating to the community, while it enables us to get information we otherwise would not be able to obtain because we simply don't have the staff."

### BUSINESS *from page 1*

The Newark corporation, (MEDIC), in existence since September 1968, is composed of a broad cross section of Newark's minority community. It is considered a master planning agency for the development and growth of the economy in Newark's ghetto.

The Camden group, organized in 1968, either owns or helps administer four enterprises in Camden, including the EDC Container Corporation, a corrugated board box manufacturer.

The State Development Corporation was established to make federal grants and loans available to locally organized nonprofit community corporations for economic development ventures in low-income urban areas.

The Urban Loan Authority was created by the State Legislature 18 months ago to provide financial backing and technical assistance to business ventures in ghetto areas.

### HOUSING *from page 1*

bedroom, 119 two-bedroom and 40 three-bedroom units and superintendent's quarters.

Victorian Towers, in Cape May, received a \$4,825,000 mortgage loan for a 5-1/2-story, 205-unit senior citizens residence. The loan covers 100 per cent of the development costs. The development, sponsored by Housing Development of the Diocese of Camden Inc., a nonprofit Camden corporation, will consist of 85 efficiency units and 120 one-bedroom units. It will be located in the urban renewal area of Cape May that contains the historical Victorian Village restoration area.

Both the Newark and Cape May developments include federal rent subsidies which are aimed at limiting the rents of qualified tenants to 25 per cent of their income.

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