

City Hiring Abuses With EEA Charged

THE LIMA NEWS

Local
News

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1972

By GEORGE DUNSTER
News Staff Writer

City council president James Poulston is opposed to the hiring of a public relations director for the administration of city government.

He was referring to the proposal of Mayor Christian Morris that the city hire a "community relations director" in 1973. Such a position is in the mayor's 1973 tax budget estimate, under the mayor's office at an annual salary of \$10,877.

The community relations director would be hired under provisions of the Emergency Employment Act. Salaries of

persons hired under the program are paid 90 per cent by the federal government and 10 per cent by the municipality.

Poulston today also said there has been some abuse of the EEA program by the city administration, particularly in the swelling of its own ranks.

He said he feels the federal program has been used as "an excuse to load up the administration with people."

He would not specify to which positions he was referring. Noting that the concept of the EEA was "good," Poulston remarked, "It has helped to give people jobs, but we need more people on the streets to do work, instead of 'thinkers'."

relief secretary, a construction and maintenance man in forestry and a recreation leader in the recreation department.

There is also provision in this year's budget for a traffic engineer and a security officer for the parks, but those jobs remain open.

Persons also have been hired for the police, fire, water, sewage, street and health departments under the EEA program.

Northside Lions Club Chartered

After four months of organization, the new Lima Northside Lions Club will receive its charter in a presentation ceremony Thursday. The immediate past District 13-A governor of Lions International will award the charter.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the FOPA Hall, 750 W. Robb. Officials from the state organization who will participate in ceremonies include Father Phillip Rapp of Napoleon, the governor at the time the new club was organized, William Hinton of Delphos, the current governor, and Norman Kruzberg, the past district governor.

After one month of preliminary planning the group organized on May 10 with 21 members. At that time they applied for a charter through the district governor and the state secretary of the group. The Kalida Lions Club is acting as sponsoring club for the Northside group.

Of the current 31 members, 11 have transferred from other Lions clubs, while the rest are new members. They have already held their first activity, a smelt fry June 21 to raise money for the administrative fund. Of the 21 members at that time, 18 worked at the event which raised \$600.

The club operates with money in two funds — administrative and activity. While the first goes toward running the club, the second is used for work concerning eyes and sight, assisting blind people, buying eyeglasses, supporting research in eye diseases, and buying pilot dogs.

Through the CARE program, money from the activity fund is also given for building schools in South America. Ohio Lions have built 25 to 30 schools through this program.

The Lions support local groups including midget baseball and football, the Salvation Army, and Boy Scout troops.

Governor Hinton will induct the officers for the new club. They are C. Richard Kriegel, president; Melvin Hubbard, first vice president; William Bassitt, second vice president; Dr. Richard Weber, third vice president; Dave Kruzberg, secretary; and Lawrence Robbins, treasurer.

John J. Tobin Sr. and Richard Brownell will serve as two-year directors; William Fiser and Joseph Fought will be one-year directors; Everett Miller, Tail Twister; Don Davis, assistant Tail Twister, and Amos Place, Lion Tamer.

The group is to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Elks Club.

2 Grants To Assist Lima Police

Approval of two grants totaling \$17,195 for additional police juvenile officer training and continuation of the community relations bureau within the Lima police department, were announced today by Gov. John J. Gilligan.

The grants were awarded by the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development, under the Omnibus Crime Control Act.

Sgt. Donald Stratton, community relations officer of the Lima police department, said the grant for additional training will be used to "send as many officers as we can to as many different schools as we can."

Summer Students Will Show Work At Art Center

Students of art have been hammering jewelry, tying macrame knots, painting and making pottery the past few weeks in classes at the Lima Art Association. The results of their classes will be on exhibit Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the art center, 129 N. Metcalf.

Classes for pre-schoolers to adults have been offered this summer at the Art Association as part of the Lima Area Arts Council's "Eye-Opener '72" program. The exhibit will be comprised of work from 45 students.

They have been offered instruction in weaving, jewelry making, enamel work, ceramics, drawing, painting, macrame and perception experience through the program.

Couple Charges Racial Bias In Suit Against Apartments

Racial discrimination charges have been filed in U.S. District Court in Toledo against the owner and operator of Gatehouse Square apartments near the Lima Mall by a black couple who attempted to rent an apartment there.

As well as racial discrimination charges, the suit also alleges that the policies of the management violate federal antitrust and unfair restraint of trade provisions.

The couple is seeking \$25,000 in damages, a court determination that discrimination and anti-trust violations have occurred and that D. M. Hilliker Inc. be enjoined from further violations.

The clerk of the U.S. District Court said this morning no hearing date has been set for the lawsuit. Neither Hilliker or Mrs. Alexander were available for comment.



BLUFFTON WOMAN INJURED — The driver of this compact car, Enid B. Breidenbach, 66, of Bluffton, was treated at Lima Memorial Hospital Thursday for cuts, bruises and abrasions suffered when her auto collided with another car at East High and North Jackson streets at about 1 p.m. Police identified the driver of the second auto as Samuel D. Blosser, 53, of 601 S. Leonard. He was not injured. (News Photo by Bob Snodgrass)

Sept. 5 First School Day For Lima System's Students

The first day of school for kindergarten through senior students in the Lima city school system will be Sept. 5.

Procedures dealing with the opening of school were approved by the city school board at its Tuesday night meeting.

Student registration will be carried on throughout the summer for kindergarten students, new students to the city and students who have moved to a different school district within the city.

Prior to Aug. 23 kindergarten and new first grade students may be registered at the Educational Center, 515 S. Calumet. After that date registration will be conducted at the individual schools. The buildings are scheduled to be open 1 to 3 p.m. Aug. 30-31 so children can be registered, pay fees and meet their class teachers. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

At the time of registration new students must have a health record with immunizations either completed or in process, birth certificate or hospital certificate and report card or transcript from previous schools.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten, a student must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30. For first grade he must be 6 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration for new students in the first through sixth grades will be held at the individual school buildings after Aug. 23. New junior and senior high school students will be registered in the secondary school offices 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 7-31.

The high school and three junior high school buildings will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting Aug. 22 for students to pick up their schedule cards.

Senior students can pick up their schedules Aug. 22; juniors Aug. 23; sophomores, Aug. 24; freshmen, Aug. 28; eighth graders Aug. 29 and seventh graders Aug. 30.

Orientation for sophomore students and their parents will be at 1 p.m. Aug. 28 in Lima Senior High School. Seventh grade orientation will be at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 30 at the three junior high schools.

The faculty and staff will return to school sooner than the students. All teachers are expected to report to their assigned buildings. Aug. 30. The Lima Education Association will have a luncheon for all new teachers the same day.

The LEA will also sponsor a coffee hour reception Aug. 31 at Lima Senior High School cafeteria. A general meeting of all school employees will be held that day in the high school auditorium.

Named in the suit is D. M. Hilliker Inc., owner and operator of the complex. Hilliker's offices are located in Bellefontaine.

The Thomas' contend in the suit that before, during and after their visits to the complex newspaper ads appeared offering apartments for rent. Since construction, the suit further contends, the 220-unit complex has never had a black resident and a "restricted and segregated condition" exists there because of the acts of the owner-operator.

Directorships Of 2 Centers To Be United

By JOHN STEWARD
News Staff Writer

A funding cut by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is forcing the Lima-Alen County Community Action Commission (CAC) to combine the directorships of its two neighborhood opportunity centers.

The changes will not be made until November, but the CAC board voted Thursday night to give the program evaluation committee authority to rearrange the directorships before the Sept. 1 deadline for submitting the CAC budget to the OEO.

The OEO will have to approve the changes before the money will be allocated.

Combining the directorships is an attempt by the CAC to live with the OEO's \$6,000 cut and not reduce services at the Garfield and Southside Opportunity Centers, according to Robert Tschanz, chairman of the program evaluation committee.

Tschanz revealed the funding cut and suggested the changes during a regular CAC meeting Thursday night.

He said the CAC is "facing a financial crisis because of the funding cut."

Mrs. Georgia Allen is director of the Southside Opportunity Center, and Mrs. Helen Bolden is director of the Garfield Opportunity Center. Both have been directors since October of 1969 and both earn salaries of \$6,924 a year.

Mrs. Allen, who attended Thursday night's meeting, complained about the possibility of having to file another job application with the CAC if she loses her job.

Mrs. Bolden was not present. She filed discrimination charges against the CAC with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission in April in connection with the temporary closing of Garfield because of staff problems. The case is still pending.

Tschanz said he did not know if either director would lose her job or if one would be placed into the dual directorship.

"We're still working on that problem," he said.

OEO funding for the CAC fiscal year beginning Nov. 1 will be \$100,400, funding for 1971-72 was \$106,400 and funding for 1970-71 was \$111,000, according to Tschanz.

Tschanz said the money is used to operate the CAC's credit union, program administration and two opportunity centers. Legal aid, family planning services and the Head Start program are funded separately, according to Tschanz.

He said the credit union and program administration financing had to remain about the same, so the opportunity center financing had to be reduced.

Tschanz's plan for the centers calls for one director who would work with both centers and try to get more community involvement.

Tschanz said the Chicago office of OEO did not offer a reason for cutting the CAC finances during the past two years.

In other action, the CAC board accepted Mrs. Velualea Roehl of Bluffton as the representative of the Bluffton Legislative Education and Action Group (BLEAG) and Daniel Jennings of 1513 S. Main as the representative of Little HUD.

The board also approved a measure giving the Visiting Nurses Association representation on the board. The Association will choose its own representative.

2 Moore's Firms Here May Close

Tentative plans to close Moore's stores at the Lima Mall and Northland Plaza shopping centers were announced Thursday by a company spokesman.

He said the two local outlets "will more than likely close by Aug. 31" unless creditors of the 80-store Newark-based chain can reach agreement Aug. 14 on a method to recover approximately \$3.5 million in debt owed by Moore's.

The creditors, at a meeting Thursday in Columbus, turned down an offer by owner William S. Moore III to pay off the debts under a special provision of the Federal Bankruptcy Act.

Bankruptcy referee Duane Kelleher said attorneys for Moore offered 10 per cent payments to creditors with claims of \$300 or more and 33 per cent payments to those claiming less than \$300. Court records show that Moore has assets of \$4 million and owes \$2.6 million in debts to unsecured creditors and less than \$1 million in debts to secured creditors.

The two Lima stores employ 10 persons. The outlets sell auto parts and accessories, appliances and sporting goods.

Pay, Employee Hikes Shown For Welfare

The salary budget of the county's welfare department has jumped 100 per cent in four years, County Auditor Richard Ditto said today.

But at the same time, the welfare department's total caseload jumped by equal percentages, Mrs. Janis L. Guyton, the head of the welfare department here, said.

Four years ago, the department's salary budget was about \$170,000, Ditto said, while the projected budget for next year calls for \$363,000 in salaries. This figure includes 16 additional staff members hired over the four year period, he added.

In addition, the welfare department has nine other staff members who are paid through the Public Employment Program and their salaries total about \$50,000, Ditto said.

Mrs. Guyton said that in January of 1970, the department handled a total of 1,737 cases. In June of 1972, that figure jumped to a total of 3,166 cases, she said.

Currently the department has 54 regular employees plus the nine PEP employees. Four years ago, the department had a total of 38 employees, he said.

Ditto added that salary rates for the employees are set through the state's civil service office.

Over all, the welfare department has a projected budget of \$1.02 million for next year for general relief and administration. This fund includes employee salaries.

A total of \$232,000 in county money goes to the welfare department, Ditto said. The rest of the budget is made up of state and federal funds.

Planners Okay Elderly Housing; Funds Scarce

By JON STEPLETON
News Staff Writer

Two federally-subsidized apartment projects proposed in the Lima area for the elderly received favorable reviews from the Lima-Alen County Regional Planning Commission Thursday night, but federal funding for both seems unlikely.

Central Towers, planned for the block now occupied by the vacant Central Junior High School building, and Elm Manor, proposed for a site just west of the Sharon Drive-In on West Elm Street Road, were both held to be feasible projects in near-unanimous votes by the 15 members present at the RPC's meeting.

But a recently released U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) study of the Lima area indicates that only 60 to 90 units are needed for the elderly through the funding program known as the 236 housing under which the developers applied.

Together Central Towers, proposed by Oxford Development of Indianapolis, and Elm Manor, proposed by Carl

Gumina of Lorain, total 400 units.

Oxford Development is seeking \$2.7 million in federally-guaranteed low interest loans for Central Towers and Gumina, \$3.8 million for Elm Manor.

RPC director Carl Steffen said it doesn't seem likely both projects will be federally funded considering the HUD findings, but that it is not the province of the RPC to consider this.

The only job of the RPC concerning these projects, he said, is to determine if they are feasible in the area where proposed and to send the RPC's findings to HUD for its consideration in funding the projects.

He added, however, that the RPC is anticipating receipt of two more such project applications for federal funding under the same program.

Paul Weiscup, vice president of Oxford Development, presented the proposal for Central Towers to the RPC. Central Towers had been rejected on May 25 by the RPC because of its location, but Oxford was granted a rehearing Thursday night because it hadn't been notified of the first hearing.

Weiscup said the site of Central Towers was optimal because it is in the central business district — close to churches, businesses and city services.

As previously proposed, he noted, the project would have housed 175 one-bedroom apartments in a six-story building. Recent HUD guidelines change and local requests, however, have changed the concept, he said.

HUD guidelines indicate that no less than 200 units should be built and the RPC requested a provision for parking for two-thirds of the units instead of half as the developer proposed.

As a result of these requests, Weiscup said, Central Towers will have to be 10 or 12 stories to be economically feasible.

He concluded that Lima is fortunate that several projects for the elderly are being proposed because there is a great need for such projects. But "the location of the project built will be determined by HUD," he noted.

The RPC feasibility study committee reported that the

Elm Manor project was unfeasible because of its location next to a drive-in theater, but was overruled in the final vote.

Herb Thomas, local coordinator for the project, called the Sharon Drive-In a minor nuisance if anything. He said the project's location was good from the standpoint of being across the road from a major shopping center, the American Mall, and in a good residential neighborhood.

As proposed Elm Manor would be a 204-unit, 10-story structure. It would be constructed completely of concrete with masonry walls and floors and would have 136 one-bedroom and 68 two-bedroom units.

Federal interest subsidies sought by both developers would allow a charge of lower than market rents to tenants \$5 and older. Rents would be based on a percentage of income and could be reduced below the level made possible by the interest subsidy by direct federal rent supplements for a portion of the units. Market rent for both projects is estimated at about \$175 for one bedroom apartments.

Pepple smiled and complied.

Sundry Claims Ponders Pepple's Back Pay Plea

By PERRY SMITH
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The state's Sundry Claims Board today took under advisement former State Sen. Ross Pepple's claim for \$16,000, plus interest, for two years he never got to serve of a four-year term.

Pepple, once one of the most powerful figures in the state legislature, contends his Lima area constituency elected him for four years and he is entitled to the pay.

In 1966, his own Republican Party reapportioned the legisla-

ture, forcing Pepple to move to Perrysburg and run again in mid-term. He lost the primary to Howard Cook, who still holds the seat.

Pepple, who once ruled over the Senate Education and Finance Committees, said the constitution provided that no public official's salary could be changed during a current term of office.

"You can see the reason for that," he explained. "What if a legislature didn't like a governor, and they decided to cut his salary in two."

"This is the case of a governor doing it to a legislator," Pepple said, referring to former Republican Gov. James A. Rhodes.

Rhodes and former Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe masterminded the 1966 reapportionment that brought about Pepple's predicament.

Pepple, represented by Lima attorney Robert Holleran Mihlbaugh, a prominent Democrat, also cited a Cincinnati court decision that said judges must be paid for the term to which they

are elected, if they are forced out of office in a revamping of judicial district.

Pepple, 77, served 16 years in the Senate and was once a member of the Sundry Claims Board where he filed his claim. He now earns a living in real estate in the Lima area.

During his years in the legislature, Pepple was known as "batting Ross." A master debater, he often crossed swords with fellow lawmakers—regardless of party affiliation.

The current Senate Finance Committee chairman, Robert Shaw, of Columbus, listened to Pepple's plea with a sympathetic ear. "I think he has a hell of a case," said Shaw, a claims board member.

Shaw's sympathies, however, didn't stop him from curbing Pepple's rhetoric when the former senator interrupted one of his comments.

"Ross," said Shaw, "will you shut up and let me finish what I was going to say."

Pepple smiled and complied.