

Toll hikes proposal revamped

\$7B plan now reduces operating budget, includes discounts. **B6**

Calling for tighter rules

Report notes risks of disaster in North Jersey. **B6**

Charges reduced over boy left in car

Accused woman now faces county jail time, fines



Lebovits

By JOHN PETRICK
Staff Writer

Prosecutors downgraded charges Tuesday against a Passaic woman charged with child endangerment after leaving a 2-year-old boy in a hot car for hours in July.

Meira Lebovits, 33, now faces a charge of creating a hazardous condition, a disorderly persons offense.

The case has been sent to Passaic Municipal Court to be heard at a date yet to be scheduled.

The charge carries up to six months in county jail and fines. Lebovits could have faced state prison had prosecutors referred the case to a grand jury.

Lebovits pleaded not guilty to criminal endangerment of a child when arraigned in Clifton Municipal Court following her arrest last summer.

Lebovits, a mother of seven, was helping watch the boy while his parents were away. Police said she accidentally left him in the third row of

her SUV while transporting several children in a carpool.

She discovered the boy four hours later when she went to a store in Clifton. She rushed the unconscious boy into the store, where customers performed CPR until emergency responders arrived.

He was treated at St. Joseph's Re-

gional Medical Center in Paterson for dehydration, hyperthermia and a fever of 102.6 degrees.

Prosecutors said Tuesday that the child, who has not been publicly identified, has made a full recovery.

Please see **CHARGES**, B6



Photos by TARIQ ZEHAWI/Staff Photographer

Clifton DPW's Daniel Gurcak, above, sorts recyclables into a truck. Clifton sorts recycling so that the city can get more money from quality recyclables such as clear glass, which is worth more than brown or green glass.

ENVIRONMENT

Raking in the green

North Jersey towns profit from sale of recyclables

By JAMES YOO, SARAH SCHILLACI
and DEENA YELLIN
Staff Writers

For many North Jersey communities, "going green" now includes earning some extra green as the sale of recyclables has benefited from rising prices in raw materials.

That added cash is helping offset the costs of recycling operations and equipment. But in some communities, the revenue has grown large enough to provide a touch of tax relief.

"There's a premium on recyclables today, and with the economy and everything else, there's always the potential there," said Pompton Lakes Borough Administrator Vito Gadaleta.

Pompton Lakes' revenue rose 29 percent, to \$72,500, for the first eight months of 2008 when compared with all of 2007, Gadaleta said.

Wayne has received \$215,500 this year, and officials in Clifton expect to



collect more than \$500,000 in 2008 — almost doubling 2005 revenue and nearly equaling the about \$534,000 brought in by assessing one tax point.

In fact, for the owner of a home assessed at the 2007 averages in Clifton,

Pompton Lakes and Wayne, recycling revenues this year would translate into a savings of \$8.74, \$16.69 and \$9.20, respectively.

Reflecting on the wild swings in material prices as investors flocked to

commodities, Al DuBois, Clifton's recycling coordinator, said: "We were very lucky. The past five years, we had excellent revenues."

Prices continue to fluctuate although they remain high overall, DuBois said, and it depends on who wants to buy the materials.

"Some of these markets can take a little dip," he said. "We're hoping to get more than last year or better."

Most of the goods, he said, were being bought by companies in Asia — "There's more demand over there," he said.

"It's market-driven," agrees Westwood Borough Administrator Robert Hoffmann, who said his Bergen County borough averages about \$3,000 monthly in recycling funds and will collect \$36,000 for the year. "Right now, metal and copper are up. Paper and cardboard fluctuate. And then glass has been kind of flat."

Please see **RECYCLING**, B6

"The fact that there is more income from the sale of recycling is relieving some of the budgetary pressure on local municipalities."

MARYELLEN LYONS,
Hawthorne's recycling coordinator

Cell-phone company wins tower battle

Township plans to appeal Superior Court decision

By HEATHER APPEL
Staff Writer

LITTLE FALLS — A state Superior Court judge has ruled in favor of Omnipoint Communications in its controversial efforts to build two cell-phone towers on private sites.

For more than two years, community activists and township officials have been fighting the company's plans to build cell

towers in the parking lot of the Great Notch Fire Station on Long Hill Road and at a former laundry on East Main Street.

Opponents argued the 90- to 150-foot towers could lower property values, might present health risks, and would interfere with redevelopment of the laundry site. The township crafted an ordinance in 2006 stating that cell phone companies must

first evaluate available municipally owned sites before pursuing a project on private property.

Last week, Superior Court Judge Anthony Graziano ruled that the ordinance was not valid because the town had not followed correct procedures, according to Council President Paul Huggins. The court viewed the ordinance as a zoning measure that would affect neighboring towns, said Huggins, which meant the township would have been required to

notify those towns before implementing the rule.

Huggins said the council plans to appeal the case and will turn to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities for assistance. He said the case is important because it could set a precedent for many small towns facing similar concerns.

Omnipoint, which does business as T-Mobile, sued Fair Lawn in June for the

Please see **TOWER**, B2

HISTORY

The other unknown candidate for V.P.

Paterson man rose from obscurity to reach D.C.

By JAY LEVIN
Staff Writer

Most of America asked, "Sarah who?" when John McCain chose Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate.

In 1896, the refrain was, "Garret who?" Garret Augustus Hobart, the pride of Paterson and a man little known outside New Jersey, attended the 1896 Republican National Convention as a delegate and ended up on the ticket with William McKinley. So who was Garret Hobart?

Hobart was born June 3, 1844, in Long Branch. After graduating at the top of his class at Rutgers, he studied law in Paterson. He was elected a judge in the Silk City in 1868. Three years later, he was appointed city counsel.

Elected to the state Assembly, he rose quickly to speaker, and moved up to the state Senate, which chose him as Senate president in 1881.

A wealthy lawyer, Hobart had opportunities to become a U.S. senator but wasn't eager to give up a comfortable life in Paterson. For more than a decade, he was chairman of the state Republican Committee.

At the 1896 convention, Hobart emerged as the surprise vice presidential nominee to run alongside McKinley, the former governor of Ohio. Hobart was chosen on the strength of his experience as a corporate lawyer.

In the general election, McKinley and Hobart handily defeated the Democratic ticket of William Jennings Bryan and Arthur Sewall.

Hobart became a close confidant and friend of McKinley and was widely respected.

The vice president developed heart problems and died in Paterson on Nov. 21, 1899. McKinley, four Supreme Court justices, eight Cabinet members and many members of Congress attended his funeral at Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Paterson.

Had Hobart survived, it is likely that he — and not Theodore Roosevelt — would have ascended to the presidency upon McKinley's assassination in 1901.



FILE PHOTO

A statue of Garret Hobart stands in front of Paterson City Hall. Hobart was elected vice president in 1896.