Government moves to homes, other offices

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By JIM EAST

Government continues to govern.

State lawmakers, county officials and city employees were setting up makeshift operations in their homes and spare offices today, the second day without the use of the downtown Binghamton government complex.

"I guess if people want to see me I'll invite them to my home," state Assemblyman James W. McCabe Sr., D-Johnson City, said today.

"We don't have any PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) here," said McCabe, referring to the toxic chemical spread by a fire in the government complex yesterday morning.

Another official was reminding people about a different type of appointment.

Binghamton City Court Judge Matthew J. Vitanza said that if suspects can't come to the judge today, the judge will go to the suspects.

Vitanza said last night that even though City Court is closed today and tomorrow, he is still available to police for arraignments.

"I'll have to see if there is someplace else that I can hold court," said Vitanza. "Otherwise I'll have to go down to the police station to arraign anyone that has been arrested."

Vitanza said appearances would be rescheduled for people who were supposed to be in court today.

An appearance ticket was issued last night to a woman charged with driving while intoxicated, but police made no other arrests. Det. Capt. Paul A. DiNardo said that any felony suspects arrested today would be arraigned at Vitanza's home at 17 Mozart St., Binghamton.

State Assemblyman James R. Tallon, D-Binghamton, and Broome County Executive Carl S. Young were out of town yesterday and today, so their schedules were not interrupted.

State Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson, R-Binghamton, was able to use his law office in the Security Mutual Building.

Although the Broome County Office Building is closed, the Office for the Aging is trying to carry on business as usual, Margaret Shield, aging services coordinator, said.

Monday is a holiday for county workers and Office for the Aging is trying to provide transportation and shopping service as scheduled, said Shield.

The Office for Aging will be operating out of the Action for Older Persons headquarters. Officals can be contacted by calling 722-1251.

Yesterday, Arlene Mathias, 35 Pine St., Binghamton, used her home to run the shopping service that helps 60 elderly people get around to stores, Shield said.

Those people needing to do business with the state Department of Motor Vehicles can use the Endwell office of the county-run department.

The county Consumer Affairs Bureau is closed today, but people with consumer problems or who are seeking advice can call Thomas M. Jablonowski at his home, 64 Margaret St., 797-0929, he said.

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