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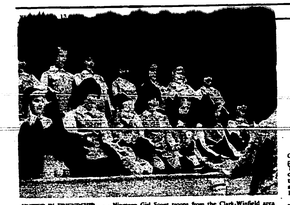
Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1980 USPS 115-760 20 CENTS



UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP . . . Nineteen Girl Scout troops from the Clark-Winfield area presented their interpretation of the Girl Scout Promise and Laws by performing skits, songs or choral readings for family, friends and the township's honorary Girl Scout, Edward Ayers, the guest of honor during the Annual Thinking Day/Birthday Week Commemoration at Clark's Frank K. Hehnly School on March 8. Members of Clark Brownie Troop No. 1425 are shown singing about service to God. Conducting is Mrs. Virginia Green, troop leader. (Please see other photographs on page 3)

BUDGET DEFEATED TWO TO ONE

Taxpayer Coalition captures two of three School Board seats

By R. R. Fauscarowski

Candidates backed by the Clark Taxpayers Coalition pulled an unusual upset in Tuesday's Board of Education election, as two of their three candidates won seats on the township board.

The only incumbent to win re-election was Board president, Mrs. Thelma Purdy, who won her ninth three-year term with a total of 591 votes, with the highest total cast in Valley Road School with 250, the next highest in Charles St. Brewer with 152, identical totals of 117 each in Carl H. Kumpf and Frank K. Hehnly Schools and five absentee ballots.

Coming in the line was James E. Kehoe of 63 Westdell Pl., the president of the taxpayers group. He won a total of 536 votes, with 262 cast at Valley Road, 141 at Brewer, 66 at Hehnly and 64 at Kumpf and three in absentee ballots.

Coming in third with 504 votes was Peter Cummiskey of 1507 Franklin St. He polled 245 at Valley Road, 132 at Brewer, 66 at Kumpf and 60 at Hehnly, with four absentee ballots.

Board vice president, Raymond B. Kerr, came in fourth with 497 votes. He polled 157 at Valley Road, 129 at Hehnly, 115 at Brewer and 92 at Kumpf with three absentee ballots.

Next in line was Thomas Farris of 46 Jamaica Ave. He had a total of 477, with 231 at Valley Road, 113 at Brewer, 77 at Kumpf and 52 at Hehnly and four absentee ballots.

The third incumbent, Mrs. Madeline Brittain, received 452 total votes, with 179 from Valley Road, 102 from Hehnly, 90 from Brewer and 83 from Kumpf and three absentee ballots.

Coming in seventh was the Taxpayers Coalition candidate, Justin John Schrock of 56 Hutchinson Place, who received 446 votes, with 192 coming from Valley Road, 126 from Brewer, 52 from Kumpf, 30 from Hehnly and three from absentee ballots.

The last finisher was Miss Gail M. Jersey of 439 Westfield Ave. She totaled 281 votes, with 104 from Valley Road, 79 from Brewer, 49 from Kumpf, 45 from Hehnly and one absentee ballot.

The $4,249,258 budget to be raised by taxes for current expense was defeated by an almost TWO-TO-ONE margin, going down to defeat, Valley Road cast 542 no votes to 146 in favor, with Brewer coming in with 179 yes and 79 no, Kumpf with 115 yes and 84 no and Hehnly with 103 yes and 83 no. Absentee ballots tallied eight against and four in favor.

The regional current expense budget passed in the entire district with 2,138

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Regional Board proposes parking restriction at Johnson

A proposed ordinance to permit the Clark Police to ticket cars unlawfully parked on property at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in the township was approved by the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education on March 18.

Under the proposal parking would be prohibited in the driveways on adjacent streets, parking areas, curbs or curbed sidewalks and curbing and areas commonly used for traffic and in all internal driveways or maneuvering aisles between lined or striped parking areas.

"Parking would be permitted in striped parking spaces located between the northern curbline of the driveway in front of the school, except for spaces reserved for school administration personnel, from 7 a. m. to 4 p. m. when schools are in session and in designated visitor parking spaces displaying numbers for vehicles with stickers issued by the school administration from 7 a. m. to 4 p.m. on school days.

—Auto vehicle Road violation would be subject to towing at the cost of the owner and its owner would be bonded, under the provisions of state law, to a maximum penalty of $50 or minimum imprisonment for 15 days or both.

The ordinance must be approved by the township attorney and directed to tenant vehicles before becoming law.

* * *

In other action, the Board:

—Gave its approval for eight Johnson students, Diane Carvajal, Lisa Magnotti, Theresa Gioia, Lynn Rutledge, Rhonda Boette, Robin Gorabitski, Linda Franciotti and Maryann Alegani and Mrs. Irene Kaiser, a business education teacher, to participate in a Leadership Conference in Cherry Hill on Thursday and Friday, April 17 and 18.

—Approved a workshop for 45 teachers to participate in a workday on April 25 to specialize for students into a more normal classroom setting. Three two - hour sessions will be held at Johnson with each session running from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

—Approved hiring of a teacher aide to the Hygiene at Adult Learning Center at $3.50 an hour for 10 hours of on-the-job training and $5 an hour thereafter for a total stipend for to exceed $800.

—Approved the participation of a special education student from Clark in the Special Needs Assessment Program at the Union County Vocational Center in Scotch Plains and at the township school at $250 per semester.

—Gave its permission for a special education student from Clark to be placed at Bonnie Brae School in Hillsboro at $7,640 for the current school year and $10 per day for transportation.

—Hired an assistant softball coach for this school year at Johnson at a $940 stipend.

—Hired two instructors for the Independent Living Skills Program sponsored by the Union County Advancement of the Mentally Handicapped from 6:30 to 8 p. m. for 13 consecutive Wednesdays beginning March 26 and ending June 25, except for April 9, Independent Living Skills Program will be held by the Clark American Legion Baseball League on Sundays from June 1 to Aug. 10 and from noon to 6 p. m., and the use of the Johnson soccer field by the Clark Soccer Club and the Clark Little League Sports Club on alternate Sundays from March 23 to June 29 from noon to 6 p. m.

Administration to cut school softball slate

The administration of the township public schools was given Board of Education approval March 18 to eliminate two games it decides upon from the softball schedule of the Carl H. Kumpf School.

Sixteen games are now played and Johnson Wentzel voted to drop the number to 14.

The 1980 application for approval of the softball schedule was submitted to the State Dept. of Education's Division of School Programs Branch of Curriculum, thanks to Board approval.

Bowling matches for March 20 and today between Kumpf and Brewer Schools at Clark Lanes also were okayed by the school body.

Reimbursements for attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops were approved for the following staff members: Mrs. Gloria Nieves, John Tomasovich, Miss Claire Lyons, Mrs. Ann Kowalczyk, Mrs. Barbara Pachsky, Mrs. Ann Isasso and Mrs. Dolores Downs.

A badminto match between Kumpf and Brewer was approved for Friday, April 25, at Kumpf, as was one for Tuesday, April 29, at Brewer.

The 1979-1980 baseball schedules and softball schedules for Kumpf and Brewer were also approved.

A 1979-1980 lacrosse schedule for Kumpf was given the stamp of approval.

Eight recorded sports officials were hired for the 1979-1980 school year.

Approved were a spring and a fall advanced study grant for an "internship in Administration" at Kean College in Union was given to staff member, Kenith Davidson.

The grants will amount to $110.40 for each of the two terms this year.

Added to the 1979-1980 substitute lists were the names of two teachers, a van-driver aide and three custodian matrons.

The Board went into closed executive session to discuss the Abraham Clark school property.

The Board is involved in litigation over the sale of the closed school to the Polish Cultural Foundation of Irvington.

A group of residents in the area surrounding the property is seeking to stop the sale of the school to trans ant conducted property.

A court hearing on the matter is expected to come up in Superior Court on Thursday or Friday, April 24 or 25.

See special factor section of church news on pages 10, 11

Soccer site hearing set

The township is planning to build a soccer field this year at the Burtell Pl. recreation area. Application has been made for part of the cost to be borne by the state Green Acres Program.

The field will be located to the west of the existing recreational facilities at the Burtell facility. The existing parking area will be enlarged as part of the project.

A public hearing on this project will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, in the Council Chambers of the Clark Municipal Building on Westfield Ave., Clark. The hearing will be conducted by Mayor Bernard G. Tarravarge.

Members of Council, the township engineer and director of recreation will also be on hand to answer questions. Plans for the proposed improvement will be available for inspection.

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF . . . Next month has been proclaimed "Dr. Robinson Museum Fund Drive Month" in Clark by Mayor Bernard G. Tarravarge. Members of the Clark Historical Society, assisted by a committee of interested citizens, will call on township organizations, businesses and professional office workers to help fund the continuing restoration and furnishing of the museum at 593 Madison Hill Rd., Clark. The mayor is shown, right, presenting the proclamation to Arthur Burr, fund-drive chairman for the society.

Council authorizes survey for Burtell Pl. soccer field

By R.R. Fauscarowski

The Township Council March 17 "took the first step to secure a township soccer field for fall play," according to Second Ward Councilman Bernard R. Hayden, as it voted unanimously to retain Kinney Associates of 177 Livingston Ave., Livingston, to prepare a survey and topographical maps for the construction of a field at the Burtell Pl. Park for a fee of $920.

Other appointments were made to the Clark Community Pool staff for the 1980 season by the Municipal Swimming Pool Utility: Pool director, Richard Passaniti; head pool manager, Edward Jackson; assistant pool manager, Edward Jackson; attorney, Joseph J. Toscani; auditor, Frank Sopher; budget controller, Mrs. Catherine Cheney; purchasing authority, George R. Robinson; treasurer, Stephen Lukman and pool secretary, Mrs. Rose Tomchak.

* * *

In other action, the Council:

—Authorized the payment of $17,443.72 to Onorato Construction, Inc. of 324 Valley Rd., South Orange, for extra construction at the storm-drainage improvement project on the second section of Wendell Pl.

—Approved payment of 12,621.60 to L.J. Costanza, Inc. of 7 Lee Pl., Clifton, for extra work on the Valley Rd. and Westfield Ave. reconstruction.

—Okayed the installation of two fire hydrants in the Gowa Dr. Subdivision by the Elizabethtown Water Co.

—Awarded a contract for $4,142 for a new aluminum hood and tab sprocket to Landscape Equipment, Inc. of 24 Lee Pl., Clifton, bidder.

—Approved the release of retainages of $8,800 to the developer of the Starlite Dr. Subdivision, upon receipt of a cash maintenance bond for one year amounting to $5,500.

—Agreed to the payment of $192.50 to John Pisansky for legal services rendered in the case of Belmonte & Teich versus the Clark Board of Adjustment.

Parking ban proposed at Foodtown, diner

By R.R. Fauscarowski

An ordinance which would regulate parking for safety reasons at the Merit Foodtown on Westfield Ave. and at the Windsor Diner on Raritan Rd. was introduced by the Township Council on March 17.

In addition to setting aside two parking spaces for the handicapped at the food store, it would also prohibit parking at all entrance and exit driveways from Westfield Ave. and from Broadway and at all internal driveways or maneuvering aisles between lined parking spaces.

At the diner parking would be prohibited at all entrance and exit driveways from Raritan Rd.; from Commerce Pl. and from Westfield Ave., at all internal driveways or maneuvering aisles between lined parking spaces and along the entire length of the driveway in front of the diner, curb to curb.

The ordinance will come up for public hearing and possible final adoption on Monday, April 21, at 8 p.m.

After adopting ordinances which permit all appointed officials in the township to receive sick pay amounts too not to accumulate in from year to year, and which give raises to Civil Service personnel, the Council voted to put the measures into effect immediately.

In accordance with the Civil Service salary-ordinance amendments adopted at the meeting, the following employes had their salaries increased. The first listing is the salary retroactive to Jan.

(Continued on page 6)

Museum to hold fund drive

"Dr. Robinson Museum Fund Drive Month" will be next month in Clark.

The museum will be open for guided tours by contact, on request, and on the first Sunday of the month, starting Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 4 p. m. The second floor of the museum features pictures of the restoration process, artifacts found in the foundation, and photographs of early days of Clark.

The Museum Shop, located next to the museum, featuring many handcrafted items, is also open for the same dates and hours.

Contributions to the museum may be mailed to the Clark Historical Society, Clark Library, Clark, N. J. 07066. All donations are tax deductible. For more information you may write Mrs. Arthur Burr, fund drive chairman, 593 Madison Hill Rd., Clark, or telephone 382-8379.

THE WAY IT WAS . . . The Dr. Robinson Museum, located at the 300-year old Robinson Plantation farmhouse at 593 Madison Hill Rd., Clark, is shown before it was restored to its original condition and made a national historic site by the state and federal governments. During next month's fund drive township residents will be seeking donations to make it possible to acquire interior furnishings, several out-buildings, and improved drainage system for the building and an herb garden.

Council adopts municipal budget of $3.9 million

The $3,900,812.45 1980 municipal budget was unanimously adopted by Township Council March 18, with only seven members of the public in attendance to hear the budget presented. No speakers from the audience, according to Mayor Bernard G. Tarravarge, spoke.

According to Comptroller Joseph F. Farrell, Jr. the new budget is up 20 points or $1.72 per $100 of assessed value.

He added, "Ten points are due to the increased school budget on the local level and the other 10 will go to help fund the regional high school system," of which Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in the township is a part.

Of the $3.72 apportionment 38.36 cents will be for the local municipal budget, $1.52 for local schools, 56 cents for the county budget and $1.10 for the regional high school.

The mayor explained these figures will not be completely finalized until Clark receives final figures from the county and the two school districts.

Of the total budget only $1,091,661.85 is to be raised by taxes.

Councilmen have been quick to point out the portion of the total budget raised by local taxation used to run the municipal government has been the same for three years.

When the tab was introduced last month Council-man Farrell explained if a house was assessed at $50,000 its tax bill would have been $1,760 in 1979, while under this year's rate, the bill will be $1,860. The increase will be used to run the two school systems.

He added of the total tax bill of $1,860 for the house assessed at $50,000 about $1,340 will go for the two educational systems. Of that same $1,860, only $190 will be used to provide police, fire, leaf collecting, snow removal and other township services.

Council members explained the local municipal portion of the total budget was down because of a $50,000 decrease in revenue-sharing funds supplied by the federal government and a $41,000 increase in costs mandated by the Railway Valley Sewerage Authority.

Other increases in the 1980 budget over the same items in the 1979 budget are: OSI, $10,000; gasoline, $28,000 and computer service, $24,000.

The total budget reflects the municipal costs, the local and regional school budgets, veterans' exemptions and county costs.

MARCH 1980