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Dollars cited as 'struggle' for 1982

Editor's Note The following is the complete, edited text of the annual address given by Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage during the Township Council reorganization on Jan. 4.

Clark has experienced a year of many difficulties, caused chiefly by financial pressures. Early in 1981, the normal operation of the educational systems of the local and regional school districts were threatened by a cut in state aid funds.

The Municipal Council responded by picking up the slack and raising an extra \$300,000 for each school district with a resulting increase of 20 tax points for 1981. This action caused a dollar drain on many township-planned projects as well as a heavier tax load on the people of Clark. It also caused sacrifices and adjustments which had to be made. There were personnel reductions in the Dept. of Public Works and in the electrical force. However, the township work load did not diminish, nor did the demand for services, and delays in services did occur.

There were some notable achievements, such as the traffic improvements at the intersection of Oak Ridge and Raritan Rds.; the safety modifications at the Clark Shopping Center; the arrival of cable television and the completion and dedication of the Patrolman William Waterson Memorial Soccer Field, built with the help of Green Acre Funds.

1982 will be another year of struggle as we work hard to keep the municipal budget reasonable in tax dollars and workable in needed services and carefully prioritized improvement projects.

We should see the long sought traffic light for Broadway and Liberty St. become a reality, and we will continue our Storm Drainage Abatement Program as well as upgrading our public works equipment and providing a new, humane treatment of animal control.

With the new leadership in Trenton, we hope for relief in the present "cap" budget restriction. To this end, I or my representative will be in Trenton on Monday, Jan. 4, to attend the State Senate meeting to support a pending Senate bill which will increase our present "cap" allowance.

The administration will need the continued help, understanding and cooperation of the Municipal Council and all Clark citizens to get us through the challenges of 1982. I do have faith we can resolve these problems and continue to have our township flourish. So please, all of you, join the team, and work for Clark.

Our first effort will be to ask you to join with me in congratulating our first lady Council president in Clark, Councilwoman Virginia Apelian, and pledge to her and the entire Council our complete support and cooperation for 1982.

A happy and healthy new year to you all!

Mrs. Apelian heads Council

The first woman to hold the post of Township Council president was elected unanimously for the 1982 term when the Governing Body re-organized on Jan. 4.

Chosen for the post was the First Ward Councilwoman Mrs. Virginia Apelian.

On her second go-round on the Council, Mrs. Apelian was appointed councilwoman-at-large in 1976 to fill the post vacated by the death of Mrs. Almarae Kumpf. She was defeated in the ensuing election.

However, she was elected to her first term in the First Ward post in 1978.

In other action, the Governing Body:

Designated The Clark Patriot/Rahway News-Record and The Daily Journal as the official township newspapers for this year.

Appointed Frank E. Supple as the township auditor for the year.

Named Rose Tomchak of 12 Ivy St. and Liz Hudak of 82 Grand St. as members of the Community Pool Advisory Committee for three-year terms.

Appointed Thomas P. Winters of 107 Delia Terr.



Mrs. Virginia Apelian

and Donald Broughton of 67 Armstrong Dr. to four-year terms on the Board of Adjustment, and Franklin Stevens, Jr. of 97 Fairview Rd. as an alternate member of the Board for a two-year term.

Named Second Ward Councilwoman Mrs. Jean Anderson as the Governing Body representative to the Planning Board for this year.

The N.J. Consumer Hotline Number is 648-3295.



RAISE THE CURTAIN - Clark's Valley Road School students were treated to a holiday program by second graders on Dec. 22. The young thespians worked for two weeks practicing their lines and preparing costumes and props. A story line about a family of mice, their holiday mail and visiting friends was spiced with many favorite holiday songs.

Citizen voice urged in budgetary process

This is the time of year when elected local officials are busy formulating annual budgets for their municipalities, counties and school districts.

Citizens who are concerned about how local governments will be spending their tax dollars in 1982 should become interested in the local budget process, suggests a New Jersey Taxpayers Assn. spokesman.

Individuals or organizations which study local spending plans after budget introduction may either request a copy of proposed budgets from the appropriate local officials, possibly subject to a fee, or review the budget and supporting details at a designated place and time in public offices, or they may wait until a summary is published in locally circulated newspapers.

Final budget consideration by elected officials when taxpayers can ask questions about the proposed spending plans takes

place at a required public hearing, which follows budget introduction and appropriate public notice. Special notice of hearings and hearings on proposed use of federal general revenue-sharing funds are also required prior to introduction of municipal and county budgets.

For municipalities the earliest statutory date for budget adoption is Friday, Jan. 29, the latest date is Saturday, March 20. After publication of the budget in an area newspaper at least 10 days before the hearing, at least 28 days must elapse between initial approval and final adoption.

In municipalities where the governing body decides to hold a public referendum to exceed its spending limit, the budget must be introduced and approved by Wednesday, Feb. 3; the budget published by Thursday, Feb. 11; and the referendum held on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

For counties, the latest date for initial approval is

Tuesday, Jan. 26, while the latest date for adoption is Thursday, Feb. 25. There is no law permitting counties to hold a referendum to exceed their spending limits.

The largest proportion of the property tax statewide is expended by school districts. Their budget preparation cycle is different for Type I and Type II school districts.

In the 34 Type I school districts, presentation of the proposed budget to the Board of School Estimates by the Board of Education must occur on or before Tuesday, March 2.

The deadline for both the public hearing and budget adoption by the Board of School Estimates is Thursday, March 18.

In 550 Type II single-municipality and regional districts, which include Rahway and Clark, the last day for budget introduction is also March 2, while publication of the proposed budget and notice of the public hearing on the budget must be at least

Franks introduces bill to ban dog gassing

Legislation prohibiting the use of decompression chambers as a means of putting animals to sleep was introduced on Dec. 30 by Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Clark.

Assemblyman Franks described the use of these chambers as cruel and unnecessary, and noted injections of sodium phenobarbital, widely used elsewhere, is a far more humane method to achieve the same end.

"It is high time we listened to the growing crescendo of protests from

citizens and animal-welfare groups that have focused attention to the problems associated with the continued use of decompression chambers."

"They have brought the situation to my attention, and I believe my bill, A 3769, will solve the problem," he noted.

"I am fully aware that there is a need to put sick or aged animals to sleep, and I have no problem with that fact. Our problem, however, is the method used at some animal shelters

animal-welfare organizations and other animal lovers who deplore the barbarian use of decompression chambers," the assemblyman added.

"The use of decompression chambers," the legislator explained, "involves subjecting already ailing animals to a degree of pressure that is up to 100 times greater than the pressures jet fighter pilots experience."

"These decompression chambers are sometimes loaded with dozens of animals at a time," he added. "This sort of misuse accounts for the so-called cost effectiveness of this method of animal elimination."

"I have read the reports of the Humane Society of the United States, and while I do not consider myself an expert in the field, I am compelled to object to the continued use of decompression chambers for animals euthanasia," the lawmaker noted.

The official said he applauds the efforts of private

There has already been some lessening of the use of decompression chambers, my legislation would put a complete end to their use," he concluded.

Several communities, including Clark, which formerly made use of Kindness Kennels in Rahway to dispose of unwanted animals, have passed resolutions urging The Union County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shelter to abandon the chamber and threatened to cancel their contracts this year.

However, as to the charge many animals are put into the chamber at once, William Budzeika, the manager of the shelter, has denied his facility follows that practice.

He has offered, however, to provide the injection method if the 13 communities which use his facility are willing to pay the bill for a veterinarian to come in and perform that service.



GREECE IN CLARK - Sixth-grade social studies students at the Carl H. Kumpf School in Clark have been learning about ancient Greece. The students have brought in some samples of Greek cooking. Some of the recipes they have tried included Greek cookies and salads. Kim Kolesar, left, and Jennifer Dymkowski sample the food. (Please see another picture inside.)



SENDING HIS GREETINGS - George P. Lock of Edison, a member of the Accounting Dept. at Rahway Hospital, signs the guest card for the hospital's adopted families, as Margaret McCreary of Avon, the assistant head nurse on floor 3-B and Eve Syvertsen of Clark, right, from the Social Services Dept., look on. Each year, members of the hospital family donate money during the holiday season to help a number of needy families. (Please see story inside.)



ON THE MARCH - The chairman of the Board of Lummus Group, Inc., William P. Orr, left, meets with the March of Dimes poster boy for 1982, Alexander Bibby, 3rd, of Cranford at Mr. Orr's office at Lummus Headquarters in Bloomfield to kick off the March of Dimes Campaign for 1982. Mr. Orr will lead thousands of volunteers in the campaign to raise funds for the March of Dimes programs against birth defects for medical care, prevention and education. The boy, nine years old, was born with a birth defect known as "Phocomelia," missing or deformed limbs, but he has been fitted with prostheses and is an active youngster who last spring walked 14 miles in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica with the aid of artificial limbs.