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Blizzard dumps Education Board elections

By R. R. Faszczewski
Because of Tuesday's hazardous weather conditions, the area's Board of Education Elections which had started at 2 p.m. were cancelled by Gov. Thomas Kean. Along with school board elections in other areas of the state.

The chief clerk of the Union County Board of Elections, Arthur H. Wendland, told The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot Gov. Kean ordered all voting places closed and machines impounded at 2:30 p.m. and rescheduled the balloting for next Tuesday, April 13, between 2 and 4 p.m.

According to Mr. Wendland, an official determination had not been made as to whether or not the voters cast before the governor's declaration would be counted and those casting them allowed to vote again or not next week.

He said a ruling was being awaited from the office of the state attorney general.

For the Rahway-Clark area, the elections affected are for three three-year seats on the Board which governs Rahway's elementary and secondary schools and for local tax levies to support current expense and capital-outlay budgets for 1982-1983, for three three-year seats on the Clark elementary Board and for a local current expense levy in support of next year's budget for the elementary schools, and for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 local tax levy for current expense and capital outlay.

While the Clark elementary Board governs the township's four elementary schools, Frank K. Henly, Carl H. Kumpf, Charles H. Brewer and Valley Road, the regional body is in charge of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark.

There is no Clark seat open on the regional school board this year.

The six candidates vying for the three seats in Clark are Mrs. Anita Altman of 11 Rutgers Rd., Michael J. Dudek of 66 Kenneth Pl., John A. Fitzpatrick of 51 Coldevin Rd., Kenneth J. Lynch of 21 Alice Ln., Barbara A. Pisano of 26 Whittier Rd. and Mrs. Marie Soyka of 6 Elm St.

Mrs. Altman has charged too many children in Clark need a mathematics tutor soon after they enter high school in the township.

Although conceding good education is not cheap, she says a great deal of money is being wasted in the Clark schools. It is not necessary, according to the hopeful, to have "relentless escalation of taxpayers' hard-earned money in order to have quality education."

The homemaker and substitute teacher noted the attitude of the Clark school system, and many members of the Board of Education, is none who is not part of the establishment can make a valid criticism of the schools. She called this a misunderstanding of the workings of the democratic process.

Mr. Dudek, a member of the Board for the past six years, believes the children in the elementary schools in Clark are receiving an excellent education.

The incumbent said he realizes we are living in a difficult time of inflation, and it is extremely important our dollar spent for education receives its full value.

The second of the three incumbents seeking re-election, Mr. Fitzpatrick, said at a recent candidates forum while closing another of the township's schools, as proposed by all the candidates, was inevitable, given the current downward trend in enrollment, he would not commit himself to any of the district consolidation plans proposed last fall until the cost of such plans is investigated.

Recently, Mr. Lynch stated, "It is the responsibility of every Clark resident to come out and vote on the school budget. No budget should be passed or defeated by only a handful of people."

He added \$300,000 was raised by tax levies on Clark's taxpayers to replace a short fall of state aid, and, when state funding was restored, the present Board of Education refused to reimburse the residents of Clark.

Another of the three newcomers, Mrs. Pisano, feels there are ways to fight the cost of education without eliminating any programs from the children's schedule.



SHOW AND TELL - Students in Ben Quattrebaum and Paula Burhardt's special education classes at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark saw a puppet show performed by Nancy Klein, Mary Ann Malloy and Judith Gardner from the Elizabeth Area Puppet Theatre. The program was arranged by Germane Trabert, the speech therapist at Johnson in conjunction with the classroom teachers. The plays, 'Jack in the Bean Stalk' and 'Rumpelstiltskin', were used as part of the speech and language program for the classes. They were analyzed for vocabulary, sentence structure and story sequence. The performance was video taped, and will be replayed to the students to stimulate expressive language.



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

Budget may face further delays

By R. R. Faszczewski
State-mandated changes, which forced the Township Council on March 29 to introduce an amendment to its 1982 municipal budget, delayed the adoption of the budget to at least April 15.

Also, according to the township auditor, Frank Suplee, legislation now pending on the state level concerning the placing of gross receipts and other taxes in the budget may cause the Governing Body to amend the tab further.

However, the changes so far have not affected the tax-rate increase which is expected to result from the budget.

According to Mr. Suplee, Clark residents will incur a combined tax-rate hike of eight points to \$4.32 on every \$100 of assessed value.

However, since, at press time, the will of the voters as to whether they wanted to pass or vote down the local and regional school budgets was not known, the above figure was only an estimate, according to the auditor.

Also entering the picture will be the county tax rate, which also was not known at press time.

The budget for this year totals \$4,787,679, up from \$4,322,919.70.

As of this time, the only figure which is known, the municipal tax rate, is \$5 an 11-point hike over 1981.

If the present estimates of county and school tax rates hold, according to Mr. Suplee, the budget increases will mean an overall boost of about \$40 a year on a home assessed at \$40,000.

The other tax rates, which are only estimates at this time, are an increase of 7% for the county to 90% per \$100 of assessed valuation, local school taxes, up three cents to \$1.68 and the tax imposed by the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 because Clark youngsters attend Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in the township, down 13% to \$1.19.

Because of the amendment, which would change the way various funds are distributed within and outside the state "CAPS" limit on spending increases, the originally-proposed salaries and wages account for business administration would go from \$81,078 to \$84,453.

Other figures which would become higher because of the "CAPS" changes include: Salaries and wages for the construction official's office, \$18,077 to \$19,077; salaries and wages for the director of revenue and finance's office, \$25,730 to \$25,820; tax assessment, salaries and wages, \$29,264 to \$31,264; New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System, 0 to \$558.45; storm drainage and sanitary sewers under capital improvements excluded from the "CAPS," \$15,000 to \$29,470.80 and programs offset by revenues excluded from the "CAPS," \$16,000 to \$30,470.

Mr. Suplee again emphasized that the amendment was strictly an internal changing of figures mandated by the state, and would have absolutely no effect on the tax rate.

Assemblywoman Ogden named to arts task force

Appointed as the State Assembly's representative on the Arts Task Force of the National Conference of State Legislatures was Assemblywoman Maureen B. Ogden, who represents Clark. She replaces the Secretary of State Jane Burgio, a former member of the Assembly.

"I am looking forward to the exchange of ideas with representatives of other

states on the promotion of the arts, and to report on exciting projects underway elsewhere," said Assemblywoman Ogden. "In these difficult economic times, public funding for the arts is being cut, increasing the challenge of promoting the arts throughout the country. State governments can play a role through legislation that encourages donations, education, protection

of consumer and artists' rights and historic preservation."

Mrs. Ogden is a former trustee of the Paper Mill Playhouse and the Millburn Public Library. As the mayor of Millburn Township she was active in promoting historical preservation and public art. She is a supporter of the Newark Museum and the New Jersey State Opera.

Also entering the picture

mission policy not to release any information on whether or not an investigation is taking place until such time as the agency has sufficient data from a member of the public or its own investigation to determine there may be grounds for issuing an opinion or calling for corrective action, Mr. Weiner added.

It was reported last week that Edward Musik, the president of the Clark Education Assn. last year, had said he had been questioned by a state investigator, and had been required to disclose financial records on 1981 Board of Education election contributions made by the educators' union.

The Clark Patriot could not reach Mr. Musik before press time to confirm or deny the reports, which were published in a local daily newspaper.

Although the township education group had issued a press release to The Clark Patriot last year supporting the school budget, advertisements in the issues of the newspaper at the time the press release was issued did not specifically address the issue of the school budget.

The advertisements did, however, indicate in darker lettering the names of those candidates who had issued answers to a community questionnaire circulated by the Clark Education Assn. and in less-dark type those candidates who had chosen not to respond.

The press release issued last March to The Clark Patriot did point out the number of teachers in Clark had been reduced from 113 to 81 for several years prior, and it had stated "increased" mandated "costs" could have reached such a point that, in order to cut the budget more, teacher cut backs may have been forthcoming.

Reportedly, Mr. Musik has denied his union was aware of the requirements of the election law, and he was upset if his association may have done something wrong or illegal.

All the candidates supporting the budget were elected last year, although

the budget itself went down to defeat, and a controversy has raged in the township for over a year about an agreement between Township Council and the school body about the application of state minimum aid to the 1982-1983 school budget.

One of the candidates for the Board this year also had complained about a booster book sent home with students to solicit advertisements last year.

That candidate had found fault with the booklet because it contained advertisements endorsing candidates for the Board last year.

JOYOUS
EASTER
SUNDAY



BEST-SELLER LIST - The Valley Road Parent-Teacher Assn. of Clark held its Annual Book Fair from March 15 to 19. A large selection of books was made available to the children, as well as their parents, under the supervision of various volunteer mothers. The event was chaired by Mrs. Phyllis Lucariello. Third-grade students are shown browsing.

Ministerial association plans Easter Sunrise Service

An Easter Sunrise Service will be sponsored by the Rahway Ministerial Assn. at the Vanderhoven Chapel on the grounds of the Hazelwood Cemetery, located on W. Lake Ave., Rahway, reports The Rev. Michael McKay, the pastor of The First United Methodist Church of Rahway.

The services are scheduled to begin at 6:30 o'clock

on Easter morning, Sunday, April 11. The chapel will be open at 6 a.m. for personal meditation and prayer.

The service will be led by The Rev. McKay. He will preach a sermon entitled, "He Is Risen."

Music for the service will be provided by Mrs. Lillian Stevens of Rahway. Parking will be available on the grounds of the cemetery, and direction will be provided.

A free-will offering will be received to be used by the ministerial association. All persons from Rahway and the surrounding areas may attend.

For more information on other Easter and Holy Week services, please see the inside of today's Rahway News-Record and Clark Patriot.