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Clark Patriot

CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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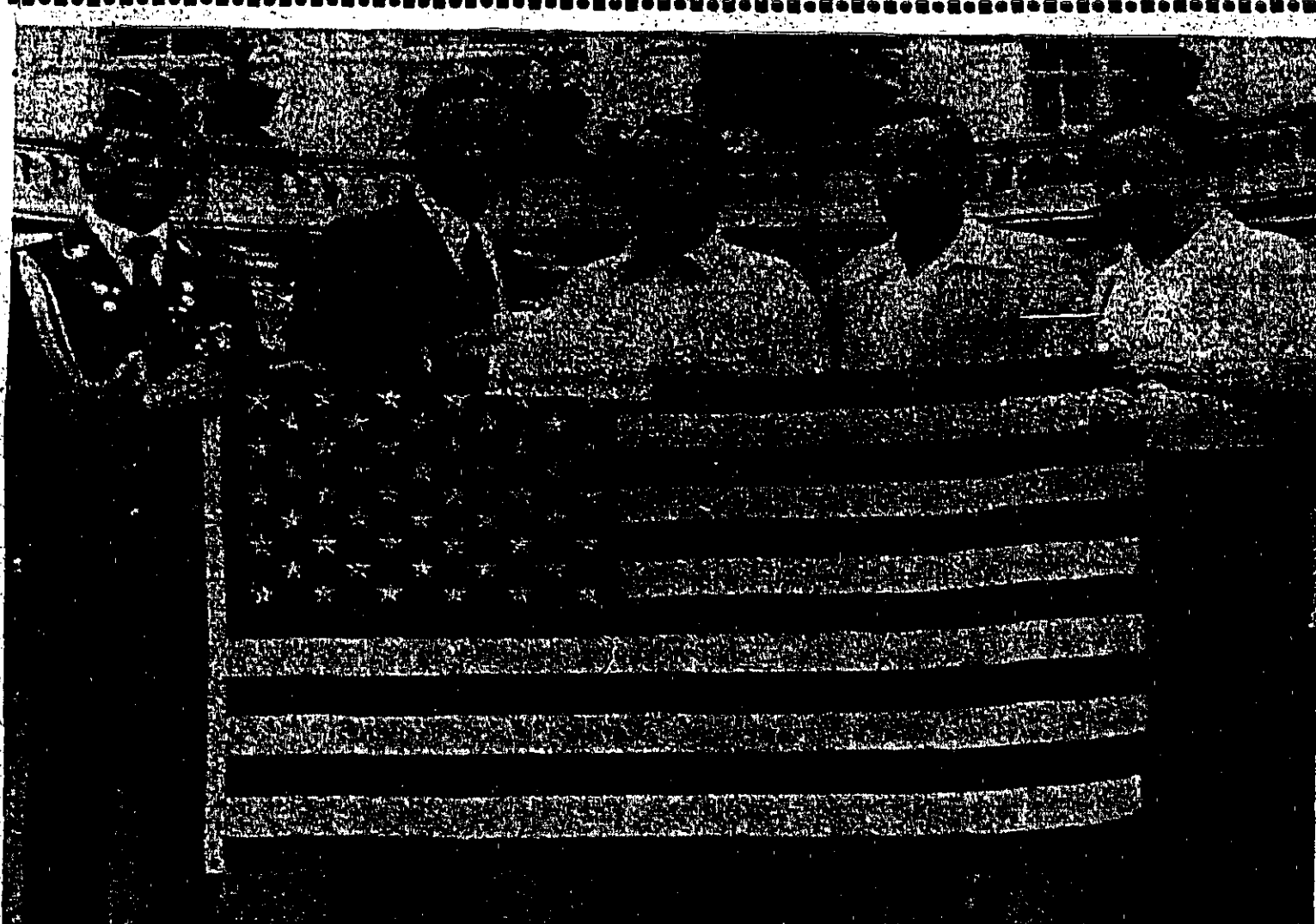
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FOR SERVICE RENDERED - Rep. Joseph G. Minish, left, receives a commemorative coin from Linda M. Janiw, of Maplewood, the executive secretary of the New Jersey State Steuben Day Parade Committee, at the 25th Annual Dinner Dance held at the Town and Campus Restaurant in Union. Rep. Minish was cited for his legislative record with special recognition of his sup-

port of senior citizens, veterans' immigration, the \$1,200 exemption for all federal income taxpayers and his fight against cancer and diabetes. Joining in the presentation, left to right, are: Halsey T. Burke, the chairman, Hans J. Ludscheidt, of Clark, the chairman emeritus and Albrecht Maier, of Clark, the co-chairman.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER - Rep. Matthew J. Rinaldi, whose district includes Clark, second from left, presents a flag flown over the United States Capitol to Karl Moanning, center, the president of a youth band from Oelde, West Germany, which performed on the Capitol steps and in Clark, as guests of the Deutscher

Club of Clark. Looking on are the band director Robert Wiesmann, left; Roland Schaller, second from right; and Horst Stabenow, right. Mr. Schaller and Mr. Stabenow, who are officers of the Deutscher Club, traveled to Washington for the flag-presentation ceremony. The Capitol is in the background.



ARTIST - Michael Riccio, the winner of the Clark Art Assn. Visual Art Award presented to him at the Annual Awards Recognition Program at Arthur L. Johnson Regional Regional High School in Clark, is

shown with his art work, which was on display at the Clark Public Library. The 1982 graduate of Johnson will be entering the Pratt Institute to continue his art education in the fall.

Regional teachers say: 'No contract--no work'

For the first time in history the 300 teachers of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, have taken a "no contract--no work" position, reports Evelyn McGill, the president of Local No. 3419 of the American Federation of Teachers, which represents the regional educators.

The resolution was passed nearly unanimously at a special meeting of the district's teachers on June 21 at the Knights of Columbus in Springfield. Mrs. McGill added.

The local, which won bargaining rights for teachers in the four regional high schools in a secret-ballot election last December, has been in negotiations with the Board of Education since February, and is now in mediation.

Prior to taking the strike vote, the teachers heard a report on the status of negotiations from Mrs. McGill, an English teacher at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield.

"We had hoped we could bring you a contract package today," she told the

teachers, "but the Board's attitude made that impossible. Even after three sessions with the mediator, the Board is still stonewalling."

"Today's strike vote is the first step in letting the Board know where we all stand," the union leader added. "It's significant all the district's teachers are standing together."

After the strike vote was taken, a federation staff representative, John Fallon, briefed the teachers on the federation's plans for the summer.

"We have scheduled two more sessions with the Board and the mediator," Mr. Fallon said.

be explained, "and we'll be reporting to you during the summer. We plan at least two meetings over the summer to report to you and, like this meeting, they'll be open to all teachers, not just federation members."

Plans are underway to set up a crisis headquarters and a telephone hotline for the staff at the four district schools: Jonathan Dayton, Gov. Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights, Johnson and David Bearley Regional High School in Kenilworth.

"You'll hear from us," Mr. Fallon said.

Committees are being established to deal with such matters as fund raising, community relations, financial assistance and labor liaison.

"I hope we have a settlement by Tuesday, Sept. 7," said Mrs. McGill, "but in any event we'll be ready!"

Summer playgrounds add spice: See Inside

Board rejects kindergarten full time

A proposal to begin a pilot full-time kindergarten program at the township's Valley Road School, utilizing one full-time teacher and serving 20 students, was defeated June 29 by a 5-3 vote of the Clark Board of Education.

Board members who voted against the proposal said they wanted to see the full-time kindergarten placed in all the township's schools at the same time, not just in one school, and the defeat of this year's school budget in April prevented that.

One of those voting in the negative, Mrs. Marie Soyka, said she would rather hold off on the full-time kindergarten until next year rather than see it as a pilot program this year, so the Board could go according to the wishes of township residents who voted against the 1982-1983 school tax.

The township's superintendent of schools, Dr. John T. Farnella, however, noted the program is intended to give youngsters a chance to take advantage of advanced preparation, something the half-day program now in effect has not been able to do.

Most of the approximately 25 members of the public who crowded into the Board's meeting room disagreed with a proposal for a proposal lottery method to select the 20 students to be included in the class.

Replying to the complaints, Dr. Farnella said any children picked at random who would not benefit from the program would be weeded out.

He cited successful programs in Union and Springfield and one which has become "a vital asset to the school system" in Rahway over the last 10 years.

An attempt was made by Board member, Edward Dreyfus, to amend the proposal to include three schools in the program.

He called the lottery process "inimminently unfair" however, because, he said, it might select only the slowest or fastest learners.

The Dreyfus proposal to include the program in three schools was defeated also.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT - Sheryl Gorman, 9, a student of the Chapman Academy of Gymnastics and a resident of Clark, shows off backflips on the pommel horse at the recent Clark Folk Festival. (Please see a story inside.)

Tenants withdraw suit on rent-control law

By R. R. Paszczewski

A lawsuit filed earlier this year by the Clark Tenants Assn. in Superior Court alleging Township Council may have violated the state's Sunshine Law when holding meetings prior to the adoption of the amended rent-control ordinance in Clark on Dec. 14 of last year has been withdrawn by the tenant group.

Although Sheldon Siegel, the attorney for the tenant group, told The Clark Patriot the suit had been withdrawn, he said he could make no further comment beyond that.

Mr. Siegel also said reports in a local daily newspaper he had made any other comments besides confirming the withdrawal of the court case were not accurate.

Under the amended ordinance, adopted in December, township landlords are allowed to increase rents 7 to 8% a year, depending on whether they provide utilities or not.

The attorney for the township, Joseph J. Triari, told The Clark Patriot the case had been withdrawn without prejudice, meaning it could not be pursued further.

Mr. Triari added, he thought the reason for the withdrawal was the tenants' group believed it could not prove the allegations made in the case.

Interviewed last March by The Clark Patriot, when the case was still in the discovery or fact-seeking stage, the township attorney had said there had been no illegal meetings, both tenants and landlords had been given equal access to the facts, and any meeting conducted by the Council's committee to study rent control could not have been a violation of the Sunshine or Open Public Meetings Law, since the committee had only consisted of three of the seven members of the Governing Body.

The law only calls for a public meeting when a majority of the members of a public body are involved.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the rent-control panel, Councilman-at-Large George A. Sangiuliano, said he would have preferred to see the case go to trial so many of the allegations made by the tenants' group could have been disproved.

Councilman Sangiuliano said he was glad to see the action ended, however, since it had brought "a cloud over my head and over the heads of other Council members."

He explained he understood depositions taken in the case had, on the basis of rumor alone, alleged some councilmen had profited from the passage of the rent law, and these allegations had never been proven to be based on

first-hand information.

As for his own attempt a few months ago to introduce an ordinance repealing the rent-control law, the councilman said he probably would not attempt to do that again in the near future, even though he believed fears of landlords could cause taxes to go up for homeowners in the township still remain.

One of the leaders of a petition drive to force the Governing Body to repeal the law or place the question on a November referendum, James E. Kehoe, said he also understood the tenant case was based on allegations and hearsay, and added the issue of rent control had split up the community.

Mr. Kehoe noted his group was to meet on July 7 to collect its petitions and count signatures. He believed 2,500 signatures were needed to bring the petition before Council, but expected to collect between 3,000 and 4,000.

If the petition is brought before the councilmen they will have 60 days to act on repeal or the question will automatically be put on a referendum, Mr. Kehoe pointed out.

Although he believed the results of any referendum would be binding, he wasn't positive this would be the case.

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