

Aug 26, 1982

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Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 160 No. 34

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1982

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Theater unit asks pledges of \$100

The president of Rahway Landmarks, Inc., the group seeking to acquire the Theater in order to turn it into a county cultural arts center, Robert Balfour, recently sent an appeal to each of the group's members to make a pledge of a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 toward the purchase price of the theater.

According to a letter sent to members, a copy of which was submitted to the Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot, the group must act now "and secure the theater before neglect takes an irreversible toll."

Mr. Balfour went on to point out, as has been reported in recent stories in the local newspapers, there has been a formal resolution of support for the group's efforts from the Rahway City Council and an indication of all-out support at the county level as well.

However, the Landmarks president added, "Now we've stymied. We can't expect the city and county to act further, and we can't

Bus schedules are announced

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following bus schedules for students attending Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark were submitted to The Clark Patriot by Dr. Donald A. Merachnik, the superintendent of schools for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Johnson.

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION
TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1982
Clark to Johnson
Class Time: 9:30 to 11 a.m.
BUS NO. 1
Rte. Nos. 43 and 44
STARTING TIME 9 a.m.
LOCATION
Lake Ave. and Hayes Ave., Boynton Ave. and Picton Pl.
Dakota and Florida Sts.
SCHOOL YEAR 1982-1983
BUS
Rte. No. 44
(Clark)
STOP
1
TIME
7:35 a.m.
LOCATION
Lake and Hayes Aves.
BUS
Rte. No. 43
STOP
1
TIME
7:50 a.m.
LOCATION
Boynton Ave. and Picton Pl.
2:45 P.M. DUES/ISSAL
BUS
Rte. Nos. 43 and 44
STOP
1
TIME
3 p.m.
LOCATION
Boynton Ave. and Picton Pl.
BUS
Rte. Nos. 43 and 44
STOP
2

Clark Lions install McCutcheon
A spokesman for the Clark Lions Club announced the swearing in of the club's president for 1982-1983 George F. McCutcheon. Mr. McCutcheon was sworn in as the president by the Deputy District Governor Harold Woodward and Zone Chairman Norman Bendell.

The new president, a graduate of Rutgers University, is the owner of Apex Agency Realtors on Raritan Rd., Clark, and also a deputy co-ordinator of emergency management for Union County. He has held all offices within the Clark Lions Club since becoming a member in 1977.

Assisting the president are Vice President, Joseph E. Alcock; Jack Gigantino and Charles Grunder; secretary, Anthony Mastroly; financial secretary, Martin Scura, and treasurer, William Miskowitz.

The Clark Lions are in their 25th year of service to the blind and unfortunate of Clark and neighboring communities.



PLAY AT THE PLATE - Lane Freeman, starting catcher for the Clark Wildcats Softball Team, gets ready to make a play during recent tournament action.

Regional to limit pupil transportation

A spokeswoman for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education announced transportation will be discontinued for most of the students from Clark and a half mile from Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School commencing Tuesday, Sept. 7.

This change, according to Dr. Donald Merachnik, superintendent of schools, is due to the need to



READY TO GO - Junior Girl Scouts Jennifer York and Stefanie Novy, and Brownie Kally Peterson are packed for their overnight camping trip. The three scouts from Clark attended Camp Senawik in Franklin Township. Camp Senawik is a Washington Rock Girl Scout Council Day Camp for those in grades one to six.

Regional aide reports on teachers' demands

Last December Union Local No. 3417 of the American Federation of Teachers, won the right to represent the teachers within the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Clark. Negotiations between the Regional Board of Education and the union began in February. Negotiations continued to June when an impasse was declared because of the lack of progress, reports a Board spokesman.

On June 21 the union held a meeting of all teachers, and received authorization for a "no contract, no work" posture if a settlement was not reached by the opening of school. Negotiations, however, have continued in July and August. The last negotiations session took place on Aug. 14. A fact-finder's report has been received, and negotiations are scheduled to resume on Tuesday, Aug. 31. The Board desires to arrive at an equitable contract settlement with the union.

Whether this will be achieved prior to the opening of school or not is uncertain. Even if the contract were not settled by the opening of school, nothing would prevent the teaching staff from maintaining their teaching duties while negotiations continue. It is illegal for teachers to strike according to the laws of the state of New Jersey, the spokesman added.

Although many union demands and Board concerns have been resolved in the collective-bargaining process, there are still significant open issues that

prevent a settlement. These issues have been addressed in the fact-finder's report.

The demands addressed in this report are as follows:

1. A union demand to reduce the work day for guidance counselors, librarians and school nurses. In addition, a maximum of five teaching periods per day is being demanded for contract settlements, the Board has made certain guidance counselors, librarians and school nurses are on duty for a brief period of time after the students leave the buildings so parent conferences, student assistance in the library and emergency aid for our athletes are available.
2. The demand all teachers teach more than five periods per day or 25 periods per week would seriously impair the instructional program of the district. Without the management flexibility to schedule teachers for more than five teaching periods, if needed, the educational programs will be affected and students could be deprived of course opportunities, the official noted.
3. A union demand pertains to "all non-teaching assignments" after school, to be on a voluntary and paid basis only. If this demand were granted, it would mean club activities, attendance at Parent Teacher Assn. meetings and chaperoning of plays, concerts, dances and field trips or other after-school activities would not occur without teachers volunteering for the activity and be



THERE GOES SUMMER - The boys and girls who joined the Clark Public Library's Sweet Summer Reading Club are shown at the closing program on Aug. 6. (Please see a story and other pictures inside.)

ing paid to attend, the spokesman declared.

4. The union has demanded the president of their local be granted a period of time each day, at Board expense, which will be free from school duties, and thereby permit the conduct of union business on school time. In addition, a demand has been made that no employee is to suffer loss of pay or benefits when released from school duties for union business, the official explained.
5. For years the Board has included a professional development and education improvement clause in its contract with teachers. This clause has permitted teachers to enroll in "graduate courses" with the superintendent's approval, in those teaching fields in which the teacher's present or probable assignment will be made. After staff members have taken these courses, the Board has paid 50% of the allowable cost for credits toward the masters degree of 75% for courses toward the sixth year level and doctorate degree. The Board believes in continued professional development of its staff. In fact, staff members are per-

mitted to request reimbursement for up to 21 credits in a school year. However, the union now demands reimbursement be paid at the rate of 75% toward the masters degree and 100% toward the sixth-year level and doctorate degree of allowable cost for all credits. The cost for this item would be far in excess of what the Board has paid in the past and what has been budgeted for this expense, the spokesman noted.

6. In addition to the above, the Board of Education has yet to determine the salary and fringe benefits which should be provided for the teachers. The Board is committed to improving salaries and fringe benefits in accordance with what is equitable in the present economy and affordable to the residents of the district. However, one must consider how the loss of over \$1 million of state aid may impact the Board's ability to grant exceptionally high demands. At the present time the union has demanded improved Blue Cross/Blue Shield and major medical coverage, an updated dental program and prescription plan. In addition, its salary demands amount to an over 20% increase per year. These demands tend to be cost prohibitive and questionable with the present state of the economy, he concluded.

An article on the fact-finder's report including recommendations pertaining to these issues is contained inside today's Clark Patriot.

RAHWAY NEWS RECORD
New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

Theater unit asks pledges of \$100

The president of the Rahway Landmarks Inc. group seeking to acquire the Clark Park site in order to turn it into a county cultural theater center...

He explained, though, the \$100 pledge would be called in only if the group gets the money to acquire the theater...

Four pledges will be made to members, a copy of which was submitted to the Rahway News Record and the Clark Park...

Mr. Barlow went on to point out, as has been reported in recent stories in the local newspapers, there has been a formal resolution of support for the project...

However, the Landmarks Inc. group also pointed out that the city and county are not yet ready to sponsor a dance...

Members of Rahway Post No. 499 of the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary assisted at Monday's dance...

Address were given by the commander of the Department of New Jersey, Margaret M. Malone, and the president of the Department of New Jersey, Mrs. Herbert Dwyer...

Delegates to the Department of New Jersey County Chapter in Waldwood will be assisted by Mrs. Winston Perkins, president...

At an organizational meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 19, the Board of Trustees submitted the names of representatives to its Executive Committee...

The James E. Mackie Post Ladies Auxiliary Annual Dance will be held at 8:00 hours on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the Garden State Art Center...

Discipline code nets some disagreement

By Jean Corneille. The Board of Education approved a student discipline policy for Rahway's secondary schools by a 7-1 vote at its Aug. 16 meeting...

The revised policy makes provisions for classified or handicapped students. According to the policy, those students charged with unacceptable behavior will be treated in accordance with the law...

According to law, prior to the hearing, the student must be notified of the charges and given an opportunity to be heard in person...

He closed the report by stating the board's hope that the policy will be a step toward a more unified and effective discipline code...

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Dance puts Baruka in tune for baseball

The sounds of cheering and the excitement of the game were in the air as the Baruka baseball team celebrated their victory over the Eastern Shore team...

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County college begins first year as unit

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Enroll Now! Fall Semester Union College

Enroll now for the fall semester at Union College. The college offers a wide range of courses in various fields, including business, education, and the arts. Contact us today for more information.

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Hamilton Laundry can make you win

Hamilton Laundry is sponsoring a contest where you can win big prizes. The contest is open to all residents of Rahway and is a great way to win some extra cash.

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Fact-finder asks 9.5% wage rise

A fact-finder is asking for a 9.5% wage increase for the school year. The fact-finder is a committee that was set up to investigate the issue of wages and working conditions for school employees.

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