

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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## Residents overwhelmingly oppose Gypsum site office plans at hearing

By R.R. Faszczewski  
The Township Council was told Jan. 31 if even an informal vote were to be taken of Clark residents about 90% of them would be opposed to the construction of a six-story office building on Walnut Ave.

An 11-acre tract owned by the United States Gypsum Co. has been conditionally sold to Cali Associates of Cranford, pending Council's approval of a zoning change of the property from industrial to commercial development.

The Governing Body held an informal hearing on

Jan. 31 to determine public sentiment, following a recommendation to the councilmen by the Planning Board that the councilmen approve the zone change.

However, residents crowded into the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to voice their opposition to the proposal.

Jerome Goll of 109 Thomas Dr., was the one to make the estimate of the 90% turnout if the proposal was to be voted on by residents.

Mr. Goll added the public had not been informed of

the cost of services the township would be required to provide to the new structure.

He said a six-story building would be too hard to fight a fire in for the township's volunteer fire department, and Clark sewer system, which is already overburdened, could not stand anymore volume.

The Thomas Dr. resident added the township is already overbuilt with industrial properties, regardless of the tax rates the new structure would bring in.

He concluded Clark is a single-family-home community, and it should stay that way.

Another resident, Ed Bradley of 95 New York Ave., said many children play in the area and the increased traffic which would be caused by the office building would be hazardous to them.

His sentiments were echoed by Paul Hatzel of 49 Florence Dr., who wanted to know how parents would be able to get their children to Valley Road School, only a few blocks from the site, without the installation of a new traffic light in the area.

Drainage problems were a major concern of Mrs. Helen Rokosny of Hutchinson St.

She also said even though the plans now call for only the six-story office building, the owners of the property might bring in more buildings later, such as what happened at the site of the present Bradless store on Central Ave. when Prudential Insurance Co. and other businesses were brought in.

The Hutchinson St. resident feared the property's owners could not assure tenants for the future, and, she added, there are too many vacant buildings in the township now.

Elsa Worm of 31 Gibson

Blvd. said when she moved in 30 years ago Clark was a family community, and residents had pictured growth with beauty.

Even with a four-story building, she added, the buildings' owners would only be taxed on the floors they occupied, possibly leaving up to three additional floors they wouldn't be taxed for.

Miss Worm also was concerned about rumors of the office building would create the need for another Garden State Parkway entrance in Clark. She noted what the township needed was an exit out of the township to get rid of the traffic, not more traffic.

Saying a six-story building would effect property values adversely, Gary Decker of 149 Walnut Ave. said the traffic problem was so bad now cars lined up both sides of Walnut Ave. and down Raritan Rd. during rush hours, and the proposed building would only add to the volume.

Another resident, William Kelleman of 78 King St., said the traffic to

the parkway was too congested now, and an engineer hired by the firm proposing the zone change could make traffic and sewer volume estimates look good just to satisfy the people who were paying his fee.

Mr. Kelleman cited traffic studies projecting traffic volume before the Ramada Inn was built in Clark, which did not take into account, he said, the fact most of the cars using the hotel have only one person in them.

He also said no traffic study could justify the zone change.

While he said he realized the councilmen were under a lot of pressure to bring new rates into the township, Thomas Winters of 107 Delia Terr. said 900 cars as proposed, were too much for the township.

Mr. Winters said with a little research the township could condemn the property, and put up a sorely-needed senior citizens' housing complex with the help of federal funds.

Howard Horn of 44 Florence Dr. noted at a previous planning Board hearing U.S. Gypsum had

been mute about the possibility of putting up another building which would increase truck traffic.

He added even though the office building would only be used from 9 to 5 it

would still create traffic problems at other times, and urged the gypsum firm if it had other expansion plans to use some of the older factory buildings no longer in use in Clark.

Dr. Frank D. Papandrea, the pastor of Union County Baptist Church in Clark, said the township should push for another entrance to the parkway around Inman Ave.

He said he opposed the building unless there was a change in the traffic pattern in the township, and another parkway entrance ramp near the present one would not solve it.

### Johnson coaches named for spring

A number of coaches and advisors for Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark were appointed or re-appointed by the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs the Clark school, on Feb. 1.

Named as head baseball coach at a stipend of \$1,843 was Larry Sturchio; assistant baseball coaches at \$1,223 each, Tony Falzone and Steve Petruzzelli; head track coaches, Ralph Johnson and Robert Kowalski, \$2,284 each; assistant track coaches, Joseph Hubert and Denis Borai, \$1,366 each; head lacrosse coach, Steve Cicotelli, \$1,843; assistant lacrosse coaches, Steve Shofhi and Mark Ziminski, \$1,223 each; head softball coach, Betty Linaberry, \$1,843; volleyball coach, Dean Klutowski, \$1,321; golf coach, Jack Maikos, \$813; head tennis coach, Robert Nadasky, \$1,321; spring intramurals coach, Arlene Blaumeiser, \$1,062; music director for the musical, Evelyn Bleeke, \$1,191 and junior class advisor, Judith Rothwell, \$281.

The Board also changed the date of the public hearing on its 1983-1984 tentative budget from Tuesday, March 1, to Tuesday, March 15, between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the Instructional Media Center at Gov. Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights.

Board members also announced the budget will be on file in the Office of the Board Secretary at Jonathon Dayton Regional High School in Springfield from Friday, March 4, to March 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on days when the school is in session.

The names of the Rgt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Flusk, the pastor at St. Agnes R.C. Church in Clark, and The Rev. Edward Eiert of Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church in Mountainside were added to those on the district's Family Life Education Committee, which is reviewing the district's family life curriculum, and will report to

the Board by Sunday, May 15.

Board members also gave their approval for 18 students, from Johnson and David Brearley Regional High School in Kenilworth, and their chaperones, Jack Ford, distributive education instructor at the township school, and John Siano, distributive education instructor at Brearley, to participate in the distributive education competition at Great Gorge from Monday to Wednesday, March 14 to 16.

Approval was also given for Rosalyn Warner, a Johnson student selected as a member of the All-Eastern Chorus, to participate in the All-Eastern Music Conference in Boston from Wednesday to Saturday, Feb. 23 to 26.

The Clark Soccer Club was given permission to use the township school's football practice field from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, March 20, April 10, 17 and 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and June 5.



**CURTAIN TIME**...Cast members for Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School's production of "Godspell" include, left to right, Scott Lieb, Robert MacAvoy, David Sosidka and Michael Sosidka; back row, Robin Austraeger, Lisa Halper, Susan Britman, Debbie Shandler and Natalie Williams. Tickets for productions from Thursday to Saturday, March 10 to 12, can be obtained at the door or by telephoning Mr. Vogel or Mrs. Bleeke at the high school.

### Council to discuss budget requests

**Editor's Note:** The following schedule of departmental hearings on the 1983 Clark municipal budget was reported to The Clark Patriot by Township Clerk Edward R. Padusniak.

Saturday, Feb. 12  
-9:30 a.m., Township Council's deliberations on budget requests.  
-Lunch  
-1:15 p.m., Council's

deliberations on budget requests.  
Sunday, Feb. 13  
-10 a.m., Council's deliberations on budget requests.

Saturday, Feb. 26  
-10 a.m. Council's deliberations on budget requests.

Sunday, Feb. 27  
-10 a.m., finalization of budget with township auditor and township clerk.

**SILVER JUBILEE** - The members of the Clark Estates Womens Club recently celebrated the group's 25th anniversary with a dinner at the home of Catherine McCutcheon. Charter members, shown, left to right, are: Seated, Vernice Greb, Janice DiGeorgio and Catherine McCutcheon; standing, Alice Fuchs, Reggie Wick, Virginia Black, Alice Schicho and Dorothy Long.

### Alcoholism to be topic of seminar

The Union County Council on Alcoholism executive director, Teresa C. McGeary, announced an awareness seminar, "Black Alcoholism," on Friday, Feb. 11.

The seminar will be held at the Alexian Brothers Hospital's Grassman Hall at 665 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, with registration and coffee at 8:45 a.m.

Robert Vanlieu, a counselor at the Newark Detoxification Center, will discuss "Alcohol, the Disease."

There will be a registration fee of \$5, and C.A.C. certification and re-certification credits are pending. For further information, please telephone the council at 233-8810.



**PAINTING THEIR ROOTS** - The students at the Charles H. Brewer School in Clark have artistically demonstrated pride in their heritage by preparing posters reflecting their "roots." "Artists," shown, left to right, are: Thomas Cooper, Charles Lyrlis and Angela Delnevo, who are among the Brewer students participating in a television ethnic poster contest, under the direction of their art teacher, Mrs. Marguerite Bailey. The winning entries will be shown on television.

### Republican Club to meet

The Clark Republican Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 17th at the Franklin State Bank on Raritan Rd., Clark.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. Standing Committees will be assigned.

### Softball loop extends signups

The Clark Girls' Softball League will hold a late registration for those children who did not know of previous registrations.

The place will be the Charles H. Brewer School

**TASTE OF THE PAST** - Fifth-grade students at Clark's Carl H. Kumpf School taste some colonial food. Seen sampling shoe-fly pie and apple pandowdy, standing, left to right, are: Nicole Barr, Brian Freese, Jennifer Hudak, Joseph Ruffolo, Lorraine Fischer and Robin Deissler; seated at the table, Karen Rostek, Kenneth Gospioto, Michele Davidson and Lori Lombardi.

cafeteria on Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and \$10 for other children in the same family. The fee is \$15 per child,