

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 17 NO. 10

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1983

USPS 115-760

20 CENTS

Board adopts contingency plan; Brewer School to close next year

By R.R. Faszczewski
A contingency plan for the re-organization of the township's school system for the 1983-1984 school year was adopted Monday night by a 6-3 vote of the Board of Education.

Under the plan, Charles H. Brewer School will be closed, and Valley Road and Frank K. Hehny Schools will serve kindergarten-to-fifth-grade students with Carl H. Kumpf School being the township's "middle school" for those in sixth to eighth grades.

The chairman of the ad-hoc Board committee appointed on Feb. 22 to look

into the contingency plan, Thomas Faria, said both Board members and parents were concerned about the effect on class size if Brewer were kept open. He added it was estimated there could be from 14 to 27 students in each class in Brewer.

Another concern voiced by parents, according to Mr. Faria, was whether, if Brewer was kept open, could they be assured their children would continue at that school until they were ready to enter the middle school.

The committee chairman said there was no assurance of that or that Brewer would remain open for four

more years.

He explained the contingency plan made him feel more comfortable and secure than the original re-organization plan, approved last fall.

Under that plan Kumpf would still have been the middle school, but Brewer

would have served kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes, as well as first to fifth graders, and Valley Road and Hehny would have served kindergartners to fifth graders.

Mr. Faria noted under the contingency plan, with

three classes at each grade level, the school system could spread the influx of new students around, and programs such as art and physical education could be maintained at pretty much the same level as they are now.

As for savings in money

and staff, Mr. Faria said the move would delete one principal position, one principal-intern position and four sevenths of a nurse position in addition to a few teaching positions. The projected savings would be \$143,000, with the addition of one bus route bringing

the actual savings down to \$133,000.

He said, however, if the Board decided to go into full kindergarten or pre-kindergarten program later the closing of Brewer might cause a shortage of space, and the Board would have to re-consider its plan at that time.

In any event, Mr. Faria added, the building would not be completely closed since it would be leased to the Union County Education Services Commission, and its recreation areas would be used by the community.

Although James E. Kehoe, another member of the Ad-Hoc committee, said he agreed with the basic concept of re-organization, he favored keeping Brewer open for at least another year.

Mr. Kehoe said this would create long-range stability because the pupils

populations in Hehny and Kumpf would eventually get as low as 300, and the Board might be faced with a deficit later.

He added the budget for 1983-1984, which was set for adoption on Tuesday night, backs up the original re-organization plan, the contingency plan would have negligible savings, and the fact the budget was based on the original plan and would have to be changed would cause problems with getting the community to vote for it.

Board president, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo, said she had received two petitions in addition to those already received in support of the contingency plan, and a letter of support from one parent.

However, Board member, Edward Dreyfus, saw "no compelling need" to close Brewer. He said the Board didn't know the dura-

tion of the originally-proposed re-organization plan, and the instability talked about by those supporting the contingency plan had been brought about by what he called an error by the Board in not knowing new students entering the fourth grade at Kumpf last year would bring the size of one class up to 29.

He also said the singleton classes at Kumpf at the present time did not cause any instability, and he could not see why this would cause instability at Brewer.

The third Board member to vote against the contingency plan, Michael Dudek, said he could not see any financial savings in closing Brewer for 1983-1984, and favored keeping the school open for at least another year.

Based on pure management, according to Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella, the administration could make either plan work.

However, he added, the contingency plan would keep the Valley Road district lines exactly as they are now, and the eight empty classrooms at Hehny could be filled by students coming from the six classes at Brewer.

The superintendent added, however, good programming needs were essential, and demanded essentially the same staffing as the system has at the present, whereas the original re-organization plan would have made significant changes in district lines and program.

He also said the school district would make sure the excellent gymnasium, fields and other facilities at Brewer were fully utilized for community groups and possibly senior citizen programs or the Board's administration offices.

The tenant which rents the building would also have access to other facilities in the school besides the classrooms it wishes to rent, he concluded.

Legion post joins birthday celebration

Members of Clark Post No. 328 of the American Legion are joining with millions of their fellow members throughout the nation in celebrating the Legion's 64th birthday this month.

The American Legion was founded March 15 to 17, 1919 at a meeting in Paris attended by representatives of the various outfits of the American Expeditionary Force of World War I.

The organization has since opened its ranks to veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The American Legion has a membership of approximately 2,600,000 war veterans belonging to nearly 16,000 posts throughout the United States and in many parts of the free world.

In Clark, during the

three-day celebration the Post will have an open house for township residents. Commander William Wirth is asking all veterans of Clark who do not belong to the American Legion to take advantage of this opportunity and visit the post. Members will be present to explain all of the programs and services the post provides.

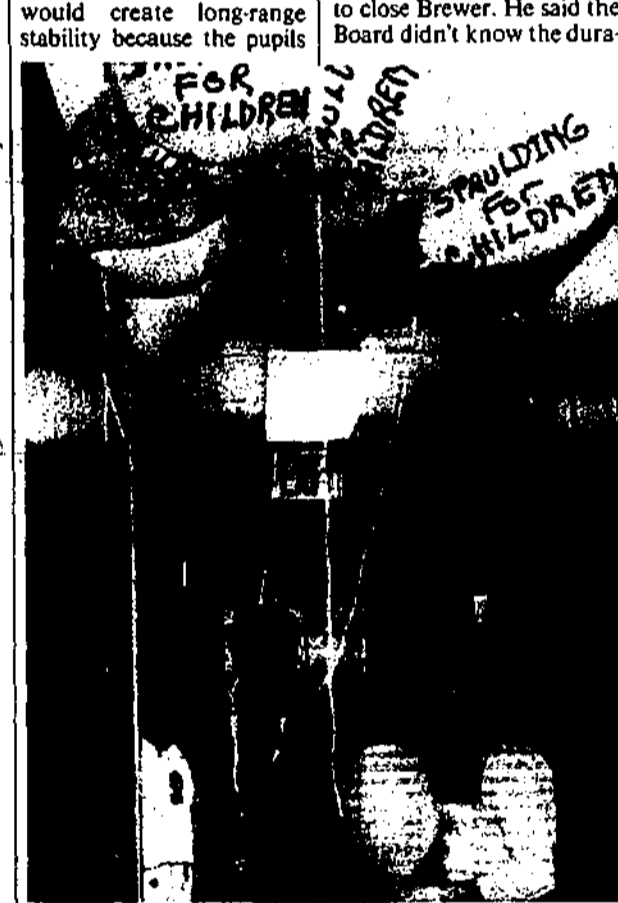
The 64th anniversary will be highlighted with the 25th consecutive St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the Clark post. Profits from this affair will benefit the Special Olympics Program.

As part of its preparation for the anniversary observance, Post No. 328, for its 19th consecutive year, has reached a 1983 membership of 366 - an all-time high, reports Joseph Rybak, publicity chairman.



KNOWING OUR PRESIDENTS - The six finalists of the "Know the Presidents Contest" being conducted by Walter Boright, rear, center, at the Charles H. Brewer School in Clark are shown after entering the finals. These students are the grade-level winners who will be competing against each other in an assembly for the school-wide championship. This event will be the culminating activity in the contest which requires the

students not only recite at 40 presidents, but also answer specific questions about them and their accomplishments. It is sponsored by Mr. Boright's "America, My Heritage" class in honor of Presidents' Day. The winners, left to right, are: Back row, Gina Faria, Kelly Richter, and Jennifer Malloy; front row, Mark Bongiovanni, Richard Jaruczyk and Sean Smith.



READY TO FLY - Preparing the balloons for the Spaulding for Children Walk-A-Thon to be held Sunday, April 17, are: left to right, Joey, Phyllis and Heidi Gold of Clark. The balloons and brightly-colored neon vests, which were sewn and contributed by the Junior Women's Club of Westfield, will be used as safety aids.

Ten file for School Board posts

By R. R. Faszczewski
A total of 10 candidates, three times the number of seats open, has filed to run for the Clark Board of Education in the Tuesday, April 12, Election.

Long-time Board member, Mrs. Thelma Purdy of 27 Grand St., was joined by the two other incumbents, Edward Raslowsky of 18 Ridge Rd., and James E.

Kehoe of 45 Wendell Pl in filing for election.

Mr. Raslowsky was appointed to the Board last year to fill the seat vacated by Peter Cummskey, who left the school body because of business commitments, and Mr. Kehoe was first elected to the education body three years ago.

Several candidates who have run before for the

Board also filed this time. They are: Barbara Pisano of 26 Whittier Rd., John J. Dillon of 1020 Lake Ave., Anita W. Altman of 11 Rutgers Rd., John Schroeck of 56 Hutchinson St. and James J. Hamilton, Jr. of 16 William St.

Two newcomers also filed: S. Donald Paris of 9 Deerwood Dr. and Toby D'Ambola of 39 Linda La.

In the race for the Clark seat on the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, long-time Board member, Virginia Muskus of 53 Conger Way, will face Mr. Kehoe, who filed for seats on both the elementary and high school boards.

There are two other seats open in the multi-community regional Board, one in Springfield, incumbent, Margaret B. Hough, is unopposed. The same is the case in Berkeley Heights, where incumbent, Harold E. Donaldson, faces no opposition.

Amended the 1983 temporary budget to add \$16,831 from a state Office of Highway Safety Project grant for the enforcement of laws against drunk driving, and added \$4,000 to the overtime account for the Bureau of Roads to bring the total in that account to \$9,000.

Transferred a total of \$1,950 among various accounts in the 1982 budget.

Approved raffle licenses

for St. Agnes Church, the Union County Chapter of the Alumnae Assn. of St. Elizabeth College and the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth.

INSIDE: RAY'S ROUND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, APRIL 12, BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS.

The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on Thursday, April 7.

All biographies and/or pictures of the candidates which they would like to appear in the advance issues should be in the hands of the editor at 219 Central Ave., Rahway, N. J. 07065 NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 31.

Any charges to be made against opponents must be in the hands of the editor NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, so they may be answered in the advance issues.

FURTHERMORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF-PAGE NEWS RELEASES-TYPED AND TRIPLE SPACED-PER WEEK DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DEADLINES, except in the case of an election cancellation, in which event the editor will have complete discretion as to which deadlines to propose and his usual discretion as to which material to be used.

ALL RELEASES MUST FOLLOW THE AFFIDAVIT RULES PUBLISHED EACH WEEK IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

School land may be zoned residential

By R. R. Faszczewski
An ordinance which would change the zoning of land around Clark's public schools from public use to residential use like the other property surrounding it was introduced Feb. 22 by the Township Council.

The schools or school property affected would be the Frank K. Hehny School, the Carl H. Kumpf School, Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, the Charles H. Brewer School,

the Valley Road School and vacant land near it and the Board of Education's administration offices on Schindler Rd.

Also introduced was an ordinance making official the installation of the new traffic signal on Broadway and Liberty St.

The public hearings and possible final adoptions of the above measures will be held on Monday, March 21, at 8 p.m.

In other action, the Governing Body:

- Authorized the installation of a street light at the Clark Emergency Squad building premises at 795 Raritan Rd. and a 250-watt, high-pressure sodium light at 564 Raritan Rd.
- Okayed the deduction of Federal Credit Union contributions from the paychecks of township employees who request it.
- Approved the seventh payment of \$267.15 to Sto-

ch Engineers of Florham Park for their work on the Liberty St. and Broadway traffic signal.

- Authorized the director of revenue and finance to advance \$943.32 from the current funds of the township to the Clark Swimming Pool Utility to enable the municipal pool to meet its final electric bill for 1982. The funds are to be reimbursed to the township from the utility out of its 1983 budget.

- Okayed the termination of the probationary employment of Ann Yersevich as a member of the Clark Volunteer Fire Dept. for failure to successfully complete the probationary training program.
- Approved the payment of \$1,083.51 to Caesars Boardwalk Regency Hotel-Casino in Atlantic City for expenses incurred by township officials at the 1982 League of Municipalities Convention.

- Amended the 1983 temporary budget to add \$16,831 from a state Office of Highway Safety Project grant for the enforcement of laws against drunk driving, and added \$4,000 to the overtime account for the Bureau of Roads to bring the total in that account to \$9,000.
- Transferred a total of \$1,950 among various accounts in the 1982 budget.
- Approved raffle licenses

for St. Agnes Church, the Union County Chapter of the Alumnae Assn. of St. Elizabeth College and the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth.

Brewer School cites scholars and athletes as No. 1: See Inside