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# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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## Debate on rent control begins again; allegedly new ordinance being considered

By R. R. Faszczewski  
Rumors have reportedly surfaced again in the township that Rent Control, which was defeated in a referendum last November, may again be introduced by Township Council.

That revelation was made by Thomas Winters of 107 Delia Terr. at the Council's April 18 meeting. Mr. Winters, who was one of those who started a petition drive to have the

township's 8% a year rent level put on the ballot, pointed out voters had turned down rent control 2-1.

He said he couldn't see why Clark tenants were complaining about rents in the township when rents went from about \$225 for a one-bedroom apartment in 1972 to about \$302 this year on the average, and Westfield apartments are now priced from \$530 to over \$600 per month and

those in Somerville and other surrounding communities as high as \$450 per month.

The president of the Clark Tenants Assn., Sanford Krasky of 191 Gibson Blvd., replied the tenants were being used as scapegoats in recent newspaper articles.

Mr. Krasky said rent control had only been defeated by 650 votes. Of the total votes cast, he added, only about 1,200 of them were from tenants. Therefore, several thousand homeowners must have supported rent control also.

The tenant leader noted his own rent was to go up by \$120 per month on Wednesday, June 1. He also said the distribution of a potentially-litigious letter the day before the election may have also contributed to the defeat of rent control, adding no homeowners would have to pay over \$1,000 more in taxes a year, whereas rents, since the defeat of rent control, have gone up by that much.

Unlike claims made to help defeat rent control that its elimination would decrease taxes, he said, taxes were going up, not down, this year, adding only the landlords had gained since the defeat of rent control, and some type of stopgap measure was needed.

Another point of the leaders of the petition drive, James E. Kehoe of 45 Wendell Pl., told the councilmen his group had calculated 10 to 11% increases to be justified when the township's rent-leveling law was being considered for amendment, and instead the Governing Body had raised the level from 3% to 8% only. At that time, he said, the petitions first submitted

against rent control had been withdrawn, only to be brought back after Mr. Krasky's group had sued the township about the 8% rent ceiling.

Another member of the tenant group, Herman Kagan, said an article in a local daily newspaper, quoting rents at \$330 a month was wrong, and the rents, in reality, were \$387 a month. He also disputed a statement in the article that tenants don't pay taxes.

Mr. Kagan added Mr. Kehoe had not withdrawn the petitions, but had them ready to go all the time—he was just getting more signatures on them.

Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage also disputed facts in the local daily newspaper account, saying he had no knowledge of any property tax rebate having been given to landlords, and he had also spoken to the tax assessor, who denied making any statements to the daily newspaper saying tenants did not pay taxes.

Mr. Yarusavage also disputed statements made by Mr. Kagan that when Mr. Winters had been a political candidate he had supported rent control, which he said he had never done.

He also cited figures which showed rent control losing 3,900 to 2,000 for the 2-1 margin.

In another matter, Marlene West of 87 Liberty St. urged the councilmen to do something to limit the number of video games per establishment in the township and to control licensing.

Mrs. West estimated at a minimum fee of \$150 per machine and 60 machines in Clark, this would bring in \$9,000 per year in additional revenue.

She added the main reason she was concerned about the video games was because of a recent incident in which 12 to 14 youths from Rahway had come to Clark and chased several children who were playing the games out of a local drugstore and assaulted one of the children in front of the Foodtown in Clark, wrecking his bicycle.

Fourth Ward Councilman John Bodnar replied the ordinance proposed on the video games had been tabled by the Governing Body on the advice of the township attorney based on the fact, similar laws in neighboring communities were being tested in the courts as to their constitutionality.

First Ward Councilman Raymond Krov added the attorney was still looking into a draft of an ordinance which had been drawn up by the Council's legislative committee.

Another resident, Alfred Lordi of 31 Lefferts La., who said his son was the boy whose bicycle was destroyed, said the youths who had allegedly done the attacking had been questioned by police and released, and this should not have happened.

Speaking about an ordinance which had been up for introduction earlier in the evening, which would have changed the township's regulations regarding peddlers, and which was tabled for more information, Anthony Chudek of 23 Charles St. asked the councilmen for a definite commitment as to when they would act on the measure.

Mr. Chudek, who owns a hot dog truck, said even though he was following the present ordinance, which requires trucks of the type he owns to move at certain intervals after serving a certain amount of customers in residential areas, police had continually told him to move his truck every five minutes while he was serving customers at a baseball game the weekend before.

Councilman Bodnar replied the Governing Body had been prepared to move on the measure on April 18, but as it was written trucks such as Mr. Chudek's

would be banned from residential areas, and limited to three hours in commercial areas.

The councilman added another ordinance, adopted on April 18, calling for rezoning of the school buildings and the land around them from public use to residential presented a problem because most of the customers to be served by the hot dog trucks would be using township baseball fields located on school property.

Another resident, Alice Smith of 34 Holland Dr., complained flooding in her backyard had never been taken care of, despite the fact the councilmen had appropriated the money for it twice.

Mrs. Smith said most of the problem came from the fact there was no curbing on Hayes Ave. or any sewers in the area, and water had to flow all the way into Colonia before it met a sewer.

She added she had given the township a 15-foot easement to do something about the flooding, and had taken back the easement after the township had not done anything about it for two years.

Mayor Yarusavage said the reason the problem hadn't been solved was Mrs. Smith had not lived up to an agreement she had signed with the Township Council at the time the easement was granted.

Councilman Bodnar explained the main reason the flooding problem existed was State St. needed resurfacing and sewers, as did Hayes St. and Holland Dr.

Council President Joseph P. Pozniak, who had inspected the site, said more catch basins were also needed.

Clarkites form new group of taxpayers

In January of this year the Clark Civic and Taxpayers Committee, Inc., became a duly incorporated, non-profit organization in the township of Clark, reports Betty A. Schrock, the group's secretary.

The main goal of the committee, according to Mrs. Schrock, will be to educate, inform and increase public awareness in issues which directly or indirectly affect the taxpayer.

This group will be non-partisan and non-political, engaging only in a discussion of or the pursuit of issues or specific pieces of legislation, she added.

John Schrock, president and trustee; Stella Penzak, vice president and trustee; Marion Stunger, treasurer; Mrs. Schrock, secretary, and Theodore Stunger, trustee, all long-time residents of Clark, are the group's newly-elected officers, the group president noted.

The organization's first venture will be to vigorously urge the taxpayers of Clark to ask their Township Council representatives to substantially reduce the school budget, which was given "thumbs down" on election day, she explained.

The group feels that the usual token reduction given in past years is an insult to the electorate, especially in view of the tremendous cost of our economy. Many of the school administrators' blamed budget increases, a fuel cost, or inflation, or cost of living or interest rates. These have all gone down. The number of teachers, the number of schools and enrollment have, too, all gone down. In view of this, Clark Civic and Taxpayers Committee, Inc., feels anything less than a substantial cut in the budget would be a direct affront to the taxpayers of Clark, the group's secretary declared.

On April 21, the Council and the Clark Board of Education held a joint meeting at the Board of Education Building on Schneider Rd., Clark, for the purpose of deciding on the amount of the budget will be reduced. This action will have a direct effect on the taxes paid in Clark. The organization further suggested taxpayers support their representative in this request for the appropriate reduction, she concluded.



ILLUMINATION OF WISDOM - During the induction ceremony for the National Honor Society at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, shown, left to right, are: Dr. Barbara MacConnell, the moderator; Peggi Abramson and Ann Marie Zwiobel of Rahway; Sister Regina Martin, the principal; Deborah Zyra of Clark and Lucy Valvano of Rahway.

### Board may appeal cut in budget

The Clark Board of Education may appeal a decision, made after an April 21 meeting between it and the Township Council, to cut the 1983-1984 school budget by \$425,000, reports a Board spokesman.

Board and Council members met last week to discuss changes to be made in the tab, after its defeat at the polls in the April 12 school election.

Voters turned down the budget, which would have meant a tax levy of exactly \$4,548,720 for current expense and \$150,000 for capital outlay.

Although the Council recommendation, to make the cut, was not to be formalized until a special Governing Body session yesterday, reportedly if the councilmen go along with the cut recommendation the action will be appealed to the state commissioner of education.

Compactor hours set for summer

Today Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage announced starting Tuesday, May 3, the summer schedule for the compactor service will be as follows: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The facilities will be closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The mayor said residents are urged to adhere to the rules and regulations that have been established for the use of the compactor service. All vehicles using the service must have a blue letter "C" sticker on the vehicle window or the user of facilities must show a special permit. The new blue letter "C" may be obtained at the Public Work's Office on the first floor of the Clark Municipal Building during regular business hours Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The mayor stated under the direction of the director of public works, township engineer, L. Stanley Stires, Dept. of Public Works personnel will pick up large household items and chip tree branches larger than four feet and less than 10 feet if appointments are made in advance by telephoning 388-3600.

The facilities will be closed during the Memorial Day weekend from Saturday, May 28, to Monday, May 30, and will re-open on Tuesday, May 31.

## Mrs. Mezzo, Mr. Faria elected to head Board of Education

Last year's Clark Board of Education president, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo, was re-elected to that post on April 19 as the elementary body re-organized.

Chosen as vice president was Thomas Faria.

Last year's vice president, John Fitzpatrick, had been nominated by Board member, James E. Kehoe, for vice president, and he declined to accept the nomination, and Mr. Fitzpatrick then nominated Michael Dudek, who also declined.

Mrs. Mezzo, serving her second term on the elementary Board, has served as chairwoman of the Policy and Communications Committees, and has also been a member of the Public Relations and Transportation and Safety Committees.

Prior to her election to the Board, she had served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Transportation, which reviewed the Board's transportation policy, and on the School Study Committee.

Mr. Faria, the principal of the Sherman School in Roselle Park, holds a master in arts degree in behavioral science from Kean College in Union and a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from the same college.

He chaired the Board's committee on school re-organization this past year, and has also been a manager in the Clark Girls Softball League and a coach in the Clark Girls Basketball League.

Sworn in for her seventh term on the school body was Mrs. Thelma Purdy; while Mr. Kehoe was sworn in for his second term, and F. Donald Paris was sworn in for his first term.

Elected to be delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Assn. was Mr. Dudek, while Marie Soyka was chosen as the alternate.

Named the Board's representative to the New Jersey

School Board's Assn. was Mr. Fitzpatrick, with Mr. Dudek as alternate, and Mrs. Purdy was appointed representative to the Union

County Educational Services Commission with Mr. Dudek as alternate.

Chosen as depositories of Board funds were the Summit and Elizabeth Trust Co., the United Counties Trust Co., Crestmont Federal Savings and Loan, Franklin State Bank, Carter Savings and Loan, Herold Savings Bank and the Columbia Savings and Loan Assn., all of Clark.

Board policies and bylaws were adopted as approved and dated on Jan. 8, 1980, and as amended and supplemented.

Named official newspaper to carry notice and legal advertisements and to be notified of meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act were: The Clark Pa-

triot, The Daily Journal of Elizabeth and The Star Ledger of Newark.

The employment of George W. Amann, certified public accountant, of Amann, Fislser and Co. of Irvington as auditor for the 1983-1984 school year at a maximum annual stipend of \$4,495 was approved, with Mr. Kehoe voting no and Mrs. Mezzo abstaining.

Also approved was the employment of Philip A. Miller as Board secretary/business administrator for the 1983-1984 school year.

Mrs. Eileen Mezzo

Thomas Faria

The Board also unanimously passed a resolution suspending a tenured teacher in the district, Frederick Fischer, without pay as of April 14.

Fischer recently pleaded guilty to sex-abuse charges.

Meanwhile, the Union County Regional High School District No. 1's Board of Education, which governs Arthur L. Johnson Region

al High School in Clark, re-elected Stephen A. Marcinak of Clark as president and Joseph A. Vaughn of Berkeley Heights as vice president.

Seated by the regional body were three incumbents who were re-elected on April 12: Virginia Muskus of Clark, Margaret Hough of Springfield and Harold Donatidson of Berkeley Heights.

FOR THE CONSUMER - Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage presents a proclamation to Mrs. Virginia Apelian, a member of the Union County Consumer Affairs Committee, proclaiming April 24 to 30 as National Consumer Week in Clark.

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