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# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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## Ray of hope: Burglaries drop by 55%

By R. R. Faszczewski  
A 55% decrease in forcible burglaries, from 64 cases in 1982 to 29 cases last year, was one of the highlights of the 1983 annual report of the Clark Police Dept., released recently to The Clark Patriot by Police Chief Anthony T. Smar.

According to the report of Chief Smar to Public Safety Director Robert G. Taylor, "The decrease in burglaries is most welcome news which we attribute, in part, to the diligence of our patrol, the daily hope checks, our crime prevention unit and an enlightened public whose members report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods."

Efforts will continue to expand Neighborhood Watch areas. The public safety officers added, "An enlightened public acting as the eyes and ears of its neighborhood is still the most effective way of deterring crime."

Also cited were the fact larcenies decreased 24% last year—from 282 cases to 216 and assaults were down 34%—from 71 cases to 47. Arrests of adults, including drunk drivers and those driving while their licenses were suspended, rose 9% during 1983 from

464 to 508. Juvenile arrests went down approximately 40% in 1983, when 89 arrests were recorded compared to 166 in 1982. According to the report, "There is an urgent need for filling the second position in the youth aid bureau and can only handle so many cases."

The safety official added, "There is an urgent need for filling the second position in the youth aid bureau, which has been vacant for some time." Among statistics cited was the fact last year police personnel responded to 12,681 calls for service throughout the township.

Quoting the report, "This clearly justifies the need for adequate manpower and equipment in order to serve our residents and public at large on a 24-hour-a-day basis throughout the year. The safety of our residents, as well as the safety of our police personnel, must be given adequate consideration when addressing budgetary priorities. In certain our mayor and Council are fully aware of the importance of this subject."

On a brighter note, the report cites the fact for two years in a row the township was awarded another drunk-driving enforcement grant last January, amounting to \$16,331, from the New Jersey State Office of Highway Safety.

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## Mr. Faria, Mr. Fitzpatrick head Education Board

The man who served as the vice president of the Clark Board of Education last year and who was only incumbent re-elected in the April 3 School Board balloting, Thomas Faria, was chosen on April 10 to head the local education body for 1984.

Mr. Faria, employed as the principal of the Sherman School in Roselle Park, is starting his second three-year stint on the Clark Board. He is a 15-year resident of the township. A graduate of the Newark school system, he earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and a master of arts degree in administration from Kean College of New Jersey in Union.

The vote was 5-4 in favor of Mr. Faria, who was supported by John A. Fitzpatrick, F. Donald Paris, Helma Parry, Marie Soyka and himself. Newly sworn-in Board member, John R. Selinger, also nominated Mich

ael Dudek for president, but Mr. Dudek was voted down 5-4, receiving support only from Mrs. Schaeffer, Mrs. Kelly, newly sworn-in Board member, John Dillon, and himself. John Fitzpatrick was chosen as the vice president. He received his six-year term on the education body. He received his bachelor of science degree in industrial management from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and attended Kean and Montclair State colleges for additional credits leading to a certificate in secondary education.

Named as official newspapers were The Clark Patriot, The Daily Journal of Elizabeth and The Star Ledger. Although George W. Amann of Amann, Fidler and Co. of Irvington was hired as the auditor for the 1984-1985 school year, it was agreed a committee of

the Board would look into the possibility of hiring a new auditor. Mrs. Schaeffer, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Soyka, was supported by the same people who supported Mr. Faria. Mr. Kelson was also nominated this time by Mr. Dillon but he received support only from the four members who had supported Mr. Dudek for president. The local delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Assn. was Mr. Dudek, with Mrs. Soyka as the alternate.

Mrs. Soyka will be the delegate to the Union County School Boards Assn. with Mr. Fitzpatrick as the alternate and Mrs. Parry will be the delegate to the Union County Educational Services Commission. A change was made by the Board in the way it will conduct its meetings starting with the first one in May. Under an amendment introduced by Mr. Kelson and adopted, the first meeting of each month will be a caucus or agenda-setting session which will be open to the public and only the second meeting of each month will be a meeting where action is taken.

Prior to this both sessions had been used for taking action. Although a resolution on the naming of depositories for school system money was tabled, it was decided to continue with the present depositories until action is taken on naming new ones. Board members also authorized the signing of checks drawn on the accounts of the school body by the school body president, the treasurer of school monies and the Board secretary and readopted the by-laws and policies as they now stand.

Passed unanimously was a motion by which the Board agreed to place copies of each Board meeting agenda in the Clark Public Library on the Friday before each meeting for the benefit of the public.

## Historians focus on oral history

The Clark Historical Society will meet on Wednesday, April 25, at 8 p.m. at the Clark Library at 303 Westfield Ave., Clark.

Giles Wright of the New Jersey Historical Commission will speak on "Uses of Oral History in Writing Local Histories."

Mr. Wright has been with the historical commission since 1979. He is currently a doctoral candidate in comparative history at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

The lecture will focus on the use of oral history in writing local history, the relevance of oral history and how to conduct an oral history interview. He will read excerpts from personal testimony and will bring tapes to illustrate good and bad interviews.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL



## Library offers grace period

Clark library director, Grace O'Connor, is asking borrowers to return the hundreds of books overdue at the Clark Public Library during "Return the Books Week."



COMMUNICATING WITH COMPUTER - Carl H. Kumpf School of Clark sixth graders, Dana Mariano, sealed, and Colin Wills, await further instructions from the mathematics teacher, Mrs. Elaine Zomeckis, as they commence their individualized work on the computer.



SHINING LIKE GOLD - The Girl Scouts of Clark County, New Jersey, presented the Gold Award to four Clark-Wireless Girl Scouts at a recent Cadette Government Day. Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarravidge is shown, left, with left to right, Gold Award recipients, Catherine Cullen, Linda Camesa, Theresa Dobbins and Denise Cuffin, Assemblywoman Marleen Ogden, who represents Clark, and Township Council President Fred Eckel.



STANDING OVATION - Seven-year-old Frank Tarzo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tarzo of Clark, recently completed in the New Jersey State Accordion Contest and took first place in all three divisions which he entered. Frank Tarzo won for the best nine-year-old solo, the polka nine-year-old solo and the best nine-year-old duet. His duet partner was Angela Buoscio.

