

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 19 NO. 7

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1985

USPS 115-760

20 CENTS

Aid sought for Johnson asbestos removal

Under the State School Aid Act for Asbestos, which was approved last year, school districts are allowed to apply for up to 75 percent reimbursement for local expenditures for asbestos abatement projects that took place last year.

In accordance with the law the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, Feb. 5 approved the submission of an application to the state for reimbursement of \$14,800 for an asbestos-removal project at Johnson.

Because of an announcement at the end of January of official state aid figures for non-public school textbooks, non-public school auxiliary services and non-public school handicapped services the Board was called upon to adjust its tentative 1985-1986 budget figures.

Revenues from other state aids went from \$58,000 to \$70,558.

Revenues from federal sources went from \$91,824 to \$79,266.

Appropriations for the federal Chapter No. 1 law dropped by the same amount as stated above.

Appropriations for non-public school textbooks increased from \$1,000 to \$12,408.

Appropriations for non-public school auxiliary services dropped from \$500 to 0.

Appropriations for non-public school handicapped services were boosted from \$500 to \$2,150.

Public school districts are obligated under state and federal law to administer the disbursement of certain types of aid so the equivalent amount of services are provided to non-

public school students in their districts as the services provided to public school students.

Board of Education members also authorized the application for \$14,310 in state funding for vocational training for students enrolled in the class for the emotionally disturbed at Johnson.

Also approved was an application for \$13,359 in state funding for in-service training of staff members at Johnson and at David Brearley Regional High School in Kenilworth, Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield and Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights on mainstreaming special education students in regular classes.

The salary of a custodial supervisor at the Clark school, Oran Bryant, will be adjusted to \$18,270 for the 1983-1984 school year, \$20,100 for the 1984-1985 school year, effective July 1, 1984, and \$22,110 for the 1985-1986 school year, effective on Monday, July 1, of this year, thanks to a Board resolution.

The distributive education instructor at the township school, Jack Ford, was given approval by the education body to participate, along with 12 of his students, in the State Leadership Conference, to be held at the Americana Hotel in Great Gorge from Monday to Wednesday, March 4 to 6.

At the request of John B. Christiano, the director of special services, and on the recommendation of the Child Study Team at the Clark school, School Body members authorized the placement of a classified student from Clark at the Cranford Alternative Program.

Again at Mr. Christiano's request, the Board members okayed the placement of six students from the regional district at the Union County Vocational Center in Scotch Plains for a two-week vocational special-needs assessment.

These students will participate in the special assessment from Monday to Friday, April 15 to 26.

Board authorization was also given for a hospitalized student from Clark to receive an instructional program at the Community Mental Health Center of Rutgers University for about two months.

Mark Ziminski was appointed head lacrosse coach at Arthur L. Johnson at a stipend of \$2,209.

The school body members also named Pellegrino LaSala assistant lacrosse coach at the township school at a stipend of \$1,466.

Appointed assistant boys track coach at the Clark school, at a stipend of \$1,638, was Denis Borai. Named by the school body to be assistant girls track coach, at a stipend of \$1,638, was Stephanie Smith.

Franks assists local taxi firms

A recent incident involving a local taxicab and limousine service prompted action by Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Clark.

Assemblyman Franks explained, "The City of New York wanted to rid its streets of so-called gypsy cabs and recently began to enforce a regulation requiring all taxis and limousines in New York City to be licensed by its Taxi and Limousine Commission."

Many local taxi and limousine companies receive frequent requests to transport area residents to hotels, theatres, restaurants and meetings in New York and to pick them up when they are finished.

"I was notified this practice was occurring, that some local operators were issued summonses even though it was clear they were fully licensed and authorized by proper local authorities in New Jersey," the assemblyman stated.

"These regulations were not meant to stop out-of-city operators, only the gypsy cabs."

"I sent one of my legislative aides, Karin Miller, to a meeting of the taxi and limousine commission in an effort to convince it to change its practices. I am pleased with Mrs. Miller's urging commission has decided New Jersey taxi

drivers will not be issued summonses so long as they have filed an affidavit indicating they do not solicit business within New York City, but are merely taking local residents to and from New York, New Jersey operators will now have to carry a specific letter from the commission exempting them from being cited," he added.

The legislator noted neither local governments nor the state of New Jersey had caused this particular problem. He said he became involved in the issue at the request of one of the local taxi companies which had been victimized by the recently-enacted New York regulation and had sought help from his office.

"I was pleased through the intervention of my office we were able to amicably settle this potentially serious problem," the lawmaker concluded.

DiFrancesco backs aid to families of chronically ill

Legislation establishing a special state fund to assist the families of chronically ill children in paying medical expenses was released on Jan. 28 by the Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Donald T. DiFrancesco, who represents Clark, would establish a special state program, initially funded at \$10 million, to help parents with chronically ill children meet medical expenses if they do not have insurance or once their insurance benefits are exhausted.

Sen. DiFrancesco said, "The department of health estimates there are 4,200 children with chronic illnesses in our state, a quarter of whom could benefit from this legislation. My bill would provide financial assistance to families of these children who have no more medical insurance coverage and face medical bills totalling more than 30 percent of their income."

He added, "We have all heard stories about neighbors and friends raising money to assist the family of a seriously ill child pay for medical costs. However, not all families have someone they can turn to for financial support. Families should not be forced to sell their homes or go into debt to pay for the medical costs needed to keep their children alive."

"The emotional trauma families face when they learn their child is seriously ill is only compounded by the stark reality of the staggering cost of medical treatment. And while the vast majority of families have medical insurance, it often falls short in meeting the child's constant medical needs," the senator added.

"Take the case of a boy named David who was hospitalized five times during the first five years of his life for a rare blood disease. It took four years and more than \$70,000 in medical bills before doctors could determine what was wrong with him. And after that the medical bills continued to mount. One four-month stay in the hospital cost the family more than \$51,000—and this did not include doctors' fees. The physicians did not charge for their services. The father earned less than \$12,000 a year and even though he had medical insurance, the coverage was limited to \$30,000 for each illness," Sen. DiFrancesco said.

The bill would provide financial assistance to pay the medical bills of children suffering from a catastrophic illness, a developmental disability or a mental illness. A special commission would be established to administer the program.

The bill now goes to the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee for review.



WELCOMING PARTY...Newly-appointed Clark Fourth Ward Councilman Brian P. Toal, center, is sworn into office as Third Ward Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca holds the Bible. Looking on, left to right, are Mayor George G. Nucera and Councilman Toal's parents. Councilman Toal was chosen to fill the unexpired term of former Fourth Ward Councilman John Bodnar, who resigned the Township Council because he is now residing in Florham Park. He will serve until November, when he will have to run for election if he wishes to win the one year remaining in Councilman Bodnar's term.

Assembly approves assault by auto as crime

By a vote of 71 to 0 the Assembly Feb. 4 passed legislation, sponsored by Sen. Donald T. DiFrancesco, who represents Clark, which establishes the crime of assault by auto and imposes a maximum jail term of 18 months for this offense if it involves serious injury or six months if the injury is

not serious. The assault-by-auto aspect of the bill, combined with the other provision that toughens the mandatory jail term for death by auto, will give us new weapons in our war to get drunk drivers off our highways.

Under the bill, a driver whose recklessness causes an accident in which a person is seriously injured would face a maximum jail term of 18 months.

The senator explained the new death-by-auto law imposes a three-to-five-year sentence for the offense.

In addition, it contains a stipulation anyone who was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the accident serve a minimum of 120 days in jail or community service before becoming eligible for parole.

The legislator noted "My bill would lengthen the minimum jail term or community-service period to 270 days in these drug-related cases."

"Alcohol continues to be a leading cause of highway fatalities and injuries in our state, the lawmaker said. "Those drivers whose willful disregard for the safety of others results in the injury or death of another deserve to be placed behind bars. Increasing the penalties for this offense, whether someone is killed or injured as a result, should act as a deterrent."

The legislation now goes back to the Senate for the approval of minor amendments made by an Assembly committee.

Regional schools check car emission

The Union County Regional High School District No. 1, in celebration of Vocational Education Week in Union County, has arranged for free automobile emissions and safety inspections for residents of the regional district in its vocational automotive shops.

Instructors and students in automotive mechanics programs at the David Brearley Regional High School in Kenilworth and the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark have set aside today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for these inspections.

Residents of the regional district, from Berkeley Heights, Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside and Springfield, who wish to participate must telephone in advance for an appointment since all inspections will be conducted by appointment only.

Appointments may be made by telephoning Eugene Stryker, automotive instructor at Brearley, at 272-7500 or Ronald Foster, automotive instructor at Johnson, at 382-0910.

Automobile emissions and safety inspections will serve to point out hazards to safe driving and to improve the quality of the environment by assisting in the reduction of automobile pollutants.

Stanley Grossman, regional district vocational director, is in charge of the project.

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Petitions available for regional post

Nominating petitions for candidates for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education must be completed and returned to the Board secretary by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, announced Dr. Donald M. Merachnik, district superintendent.

A two-year term vacancy must be filled by a resident

of Clark. Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 2.

Petition blanks may be obtained from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday to Friday from the office of the Board secretary at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield.

The district serves Berkeley Heights, Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside and Springfield.



HELP ON THE WAY...Former Clark Councilman Peter Campana, right, is sworn into office as a member of the Local Assistance Board as Mayor George G. Nucera holds the Bible. Mr. Campana was recently appointed to a four-year term on the board.

