

## Council to state: Beef up rest area patrols

By R.R. Faszczewski  
After turning down an amendment to a resolution which would have asked the state to close the Madison Hill Rest Area near Clark Exit No. 135 of the Garden State Parkway, Township Council voted Monday to urge the New Jersey Dept. of Transportation to more closely police the area, including removing the brush, "which interferes with a clear view of the activities at the site."

The rest area became a center of controversy recently when a state trooper charged a person had solicited him for homosexual purposes, and reports came out of the rest area allegedly being used as a rendezvous for homosexuals.

Fourth Ward Republican Councilman Brian Toal, who introduced the resolution calling for the closing of the rest area if the stop in police patrols did not solve the problem, said the residents in his ward were outraged at the lewdness and other activities which go on at the site.

Councilman Toal said the area should be defoliated first, then closed if other alternatives didn't work. He added he hoped his resolution would help obtain 24-hour police protection for the area.

He was joined by Democratic Councilmen at Large Bernard Hayden and Third Ward Republican Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca in voting for his resolution.

However, the four other councilmen, all Democrats, voted against the Toal resolution.

An attempt to table the resolution until it was reworded to delete any reference to closing the rest

area was made by Democratic Councilman at Large Joseph A. Pozniak, but it was turned down, with only Councilman Pozniak and two other Democrats, Second Ward Councilman William Caruso and Councilman at Large Fred Eckel, voting for it.

Councilman Pozniak said the rest area could be made into a nice family picnic area and a place of rest for those driving north from the New Jersey shore if the brush was cleared out and picnic tables and other facilities were added.

Both Councilmen Pozniak and Eckel said the problem with the area was the state department of transportation and the state police were not doing their jobs in patrolling it.

However, Councilman Hayden said the area was frequented by undesirables and he was 100 percent for closing it down.

He added there was a rest area with a gasoline station two miles before the Madison Hill area and this was the second time the township had had problems with the area and it had had no luck in getting the proper police protection.

Replying to a resident of Tudor Dr., Liseal Krehan, who said Clark residents have backyards and didn't need to make use of the Madison Hill area, Councilman Eckel said closing the rest area was like putting locks on homes — those who want to get in and the locks only kept the good people inside without protecting them from intruders.

Township Clerk Edward R. Padusniak told the Governing Body a proposal had been made several years ago to cut State St. all the way through to

Madison Hill Rd. to provide access to the parkway. Mr. Padusniak said this might help solve the problem.

However, after the meeting Councilman Eckel told The Clark Patriot if such a proposal was reactivated he would fight it "tooth and nail" because it would cut off the way through which thieves get away easier if they robbed homes in that area.

The Madison Hill Rest Area resolution, asking for more police protection with no mention of the closing of the area, was passed by a 5-2 vote, with only Councilmen Hayden and Toal voting against it.

Members of the Governing Body also voted to authorize the tax collector to refund \$33,915.94 to the owners of the Briarwood Apartments on Lake Ave.

First Ward Councilman and Council President Raymond Krov explained since the apartments had been converted to condominiums the owners of the individual apartments would now be responsible for their own taxes and the owners of the complex would now be responsible for the taxes on individual apartments.

The Council also introduced an ordinance to bond \$365,000 for a five-year improvement program in the township.

Councilman Krov explained some streets would be re-surfaced each year under the program.

Councilman Hayden, the liaison to the fire department, added there was an amendment to the capital budget before the Planning Board to provide money for the new fire substation and that is why the bonding

measure had been dropped from the originally \$550,000 proposal.

The councilmen also introduced, a \$90,000 ordinance for the purchase of a new fire utility truck.

Responding to a question from Mayor George Nucera, Councilman Hayden said the \$90,000 would be enough to purchase the truck.

Also introduced were ordinances: —To renew the township's agreement with Union County so it could renew its application for Federal Community Development funds.

—Setting a fee of \$25 for smoke detector inspection and fees for storage tanks and placing them under the

newly-adopted uniform construction code.

—Making Florence Dr. one way off Walnut Ave. with an exit near the parkway.

The Governing Body adopted the following ordinances: —Increasing certain fees for enforcement under the uniform construction code.

—Making the fee for bicycle licenses \$1.

—Establishing the position of building maintenance worker-electrician at a maximum salary of \$14,000 per year.

—Updating the township fire code in accordance with a state mandate which says there must be a fire prevention board in each municipality by Monday, Aug. 19 of this year.

## Corneal transplant lets woman see things differently

A story in a local newspaper led to Celia Berkman of Clark having the vision in her left eye restored — something she had been told was not possible.

Celia's eye problem started on a Sunday evening six years ago. While entertaining guests she noticed her left eye was slightly irritated. Thinking it was nothing more than a scratch she went to sleep that night only to wake up Monday morning in severe pain.

She immediately went to her ophthalmologist, who diagnosed conjunctivitis (more commonly known as "pink eye"), prescribed an antibiotic and sent her home.

By Thursday the pain in the Clark woman's left eye was unbearable, and it had become red and swollen shut. Celia returned to the doctor's office. This time her condition was diagnosed as herpes zoster, better known as "shingles."

Herpes zoster is caused by the virus that invades the body during an out-

break of chicken pox. The virus remains dormant in most people. But, as some people get older, the virus will surface again in fragile areas of the body such as the eyes and skin of the head, neck or trunk.

Cortisone drops were prescribed to bring the condition under control, but the infection had caused corneal scarring and a cataract to form. The vision in her left eye became progressively worse, until she could see with her right eye only.

"Things became very difficult for me to do," said the 69-year-old grandmother. "Two of my favorite things, reading and knitting, started to become real chores. I read when I could, and I began to knit simple stitches instead of the detailed ones I had mastered."

Over the years Celia sought the advice of several doctors about having the vision in her left eye restored, only to have her hopes dashed. Learning of cataract-surgery and corneal transplants, she recent-

ly decided to visit a specialist in New York. He informed her that while he could remove the cataract the eye still would not focus properly because the cornea would remain clouded. A corneal transplant, he said, would have a poor prognosis and recommended no therapy.

Then while leafing through the "Jewish News" one afternoon, Celia saw an article on Dr. Theodore Peri, who had just moved his practice from California to West Orange. Noting Dr. Peri was a specialist in corneal surgery, including corneal transplants and radial keratotomy and feeling she had nothing to lose Celia made an appointment to see him.

Dr. Peri concurred with the diagnosis of herpes zoster and recommended surgery to restore her eyesight. The doctor, who has done well over 300 transplants, felt the odds of a successful operation were very high.

"I was really quite surprised Dr. Peri could help

me. I'd just about given up hope," she said. "Of course I was still apprehensive about the operation, what with previously having been told the operation would be useless. However, Dr. Peri followed up his consultation by sending me a complete, written description of everything he'd explained. I had time to read it over and really understand what would happen and what to expect. I didn't feel pushed."

Celia decided to undergo the operation. That was seven months ago. Vision in Celia's left eye is now 20/25, better than her undamaged right eye, and about 99 percent perfect.

According to Dr. Peri, director of the Metropolitan Institute for Corneal and Refractive Surgery in West Orange, Celia's recovery has been excellent.

"Celia's operation was a little more complicated than a normal corneal transplant. It involved three procedures all in one operation," says the doctor. "The cataract had to be removed, an artificial lens implanted to

replace the cataractous lens that was removed and then a donor cornea transplanted."

The operation was performed under general anesthesia at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, which recently initiated a corneal surgery program. A circular section of the cornea was removed with an extremely sharp, smooth blade called a trephine.

After Dr. Peri removed the diseased cornea, the cataract, which is actually the opacified and cloudy lens of the eye, was removed and replaced with a plastic, artificial lens implant.

When the artificial lens was in place Dr. Peri removed a circular section of the cornea from a "donor" eye and sutured it onto Celia's eye with sutures half the thickness of a human hair. When she awakened Celia could see again.

Says Celia, "I did not require bandages after the operation and there was no pain. Immediately following the operation I applied eye drops quite frequently to

fight post-operative infection. And, because I underwent a complex three-step procedure, I still apply eye drops twice a day. Other than that, I feel and see like I did six years ago."

Celia, who worked for 20 years as a secretary to the board of chosen freeholders in Essex County and is currently secretary of the Clark Tennis Assn., says she tries to keep active. Getting her eyesight back has allowed her to do just that.

"I used to depend on my daughter to drive me around to visit friends and shop," she said. "Now I drive to my daughter's house to visit her. I've started going back to the library again, and I'm planning a trip to Florida as well. Unfortunately, my knitting skills did not return with my eyesight. Six years is a long time, and you can lose your touch. I haven't given up hope, though."

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**THE JOY OF HELPING OTHERS...** Brownie troop 1580 from Henry School in Clark recently donated stuffed animals for a collection to be distributed to homes of retarded citizens. This collection is made possible by the Hand in Hand festival, which is held every year for handicapped adults and children alike.



**CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON...** Members of the Pru-Bache team in the Clark Babe Ruth Baseball League, which recently won the World Series. Bottom row: Tom Gull, Ed Cozzi, Ed Webb, Joe Gungorowski, Bill Shackleton and Keith Nunez; top row, coach Don Banasiak, Gerard Bryson, Rob Banasiak, Doug Chinchar, Tom Kuznitz, Jim Bodnar, Brian Power, Roger Bernidell, Pat Grady and Manager Bob Banasiak.

## Pru-Bache wins World Series

Pru-Bache, which dominated Clark Babe Ruth Baseball all season long, had no trouble in winning its second championship in the last three years.

Pru-Bache swept Fritz Sales in two games, 9-3 and 13-6.

The first game had winning pitcher, Doug Chinchar, strike out seven batters while giving up seven hits. Chinchar helped his own cause by going 2 for 3. Rob Banasiak picked up two runs batted in while going 3 for 4 with two doubles. Jim Bodnar broke out with three runs batted in.

Collecting two of the seven hits off Chinchar was Fritz Sales' Scott Latawiec, who enjoyed a fine world series.

Chincuran tripled to clear the bases and tie the game. Pru-Bache took a 4-3 lead when Chincur stole home in the third. Pru-Bache took the lead for good in the third inning when it scored seven runs. Banasiak homered, bringing in three runs, while going 3 for 4 totaling six runs batted in for the day.

Bodnar also homered in third, collecting two runs batted in. Bodnar just missed a second homer when Klurman tripled to clear the bases and tie the game.

Chinchar was also hot, going 4 for 5. The winning pitcher was Gerard Bryson, who gave up only four hits. Bryson was also 2 for 4, as was Power.

Steve Gonich and Ron Russo each tripled for Fritz Sales.

Pru-Bache and Fritz Sales will now be honored at the league's annual awards dinner in October.

## Township needs help of citizens

Mayor George G. Nucera requests citizens of Clark to volunteer to serve as members of the department of shade trees.

These persons will be responsible for investigating and evaluating complaints about trees within the township. Those interested need not have experience in the field as they will be trained by C. Willys Cass, the director.

Also, the township department of senior citizen affairs is in need of a part-time nutritionist who will be needed several hours weekly.

Those interested in any of these positions should telephone township

