

Group home foes may hire attorney

By R.R. Faszczewski

Opposition to a group home for the developmentally disabled, proposed to be opened by the Union County Assn. of Retarded Persons in a house at 279 Oak Ridge Rd., has apparently become more vocal and organized than originally thought, with residents in the area signing a petition against it and possibly hiring an attorney to challenge the state law which would enable the facility to open, reports the councilman from the area.

According to First Ward Councilman Raymond Krov, in whose district the proposed facility is located, he has received many telephone calls about the home both from residents of the area and those outside the area—most of them, opposed to the home.

Councilman Krov also told The Clark Patriot a resolution was expected to be introduced at last night's Township Council meeting opposing the home—the resolution came about as a result of the petitions, he said.

However, the First Ward representative, who is also the president of the Governing Body, said Township Attorney Stanley Fink researched the state law dealing with the homes and that law specifically says a group home for six or less developmentally disabled persons or those who are victims of domestic violence must be treated as a single-family residence as far as zoning regulations are concerned.

Local zoning bodies have no control over the homes under present state law, however.

The councilman said he has not had any input about what effect the home would have on property values other than a very general study given to him by the association.

A spokeswoman for the association, who asked not to be identified, told The Clark Patriot the group would try to meet zoning regulations although it was licensed directly by the Division for the Developmentally Disabled in the New Jersey Dept. of Human Services.

She added the Clark home could be occupied a few months after the group closes on its projected December and after minor renovations are made to meet state licensing requirements.

The spokeswoman said she has received no telephone calls opposing the Oak Ridge Rd. home and she hopes local opposition will not be a hindrance to closing on the home by December.

The association has five other homes in the county and will not open any other homes in Clark beyond the Oak Ridge Rd. facility, she noted.

Six people in their late 20's or 30's would be housed in the Clark home, the director for the association, Betty McGhee, reported at the beginning of this month.

A meeting will be held by the association tonight at the Charles H. Brewer School as the group can show a film on the homes and their residents. The group's director has said there have been no pro-

blems with neighborhood protests since it moved into the first of its homes in the county.

The Township of Union has challenged the state law which prevents municipal governments from keeping group homes of less than six residents out of residential neighborhoods.

A binding purchase agreement has been signed by the Assn. for Retarded Persons for the Oak Ridge Rd. house, and funding approval was received from the state in August.

The group reportedly agreed to pay \$168,000 for the Clark house, which has eight rooms, a kitchen and a half bath.

Five residents of the township home would be transferred from a training

program on the grounds of the John E. Runnels Hospital in Berkeley Heights. A sixth resident would be brought in from elsewhere in the county.

Reportedly the house would have 24-hour supervision with two employees during the day and one at night and would require minor renovations to provide a second access and added fire alarms.

It would be provided with one van to transport residents who would work outside the home.

An attorney for the association, Neil Cohen, was quoted as saying the developmentally disabled could include victims of muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy.

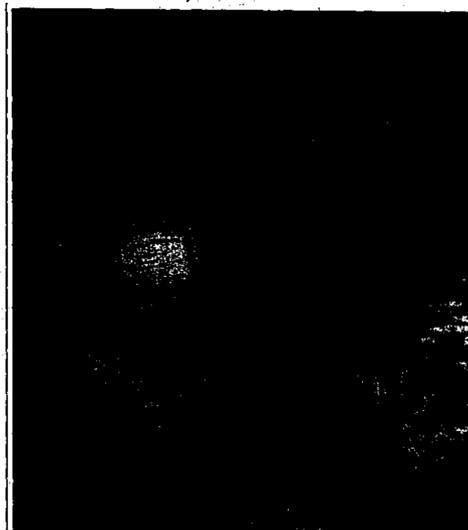
The township space is "adequately needed," the association director said a few weeks ago, particularly

for residents who currently live at the group's First Step house on the Runnels Hospital grounds, because of county plans to sell that property.

Association officials are reportedly planning an open house for Clark residents to see the home and get acquainted with its residents.

The controversy in Union came about when the Volunteers of America and Our House, Inc. both proposed group homes in that community.

Residents of Trotting Rd., Union, one of the sites for the proposed homes, complained to that township's officials about inadequate parking facilities on the small street which, they said, would be made even worse by visitors to the residence of the group home.



JUNIORS HONOR GRANDPARENTS... The General Federation of Women's Clubs' Rahway Area Junior Women's Club honored Mr. and Mrs. Henry Petersen, one of the couples chosen to be honored at the Pride in Clark Day held on Sept. 8. Mrs. And Townsby, club president, presented Henry and Jean Petersen with a plant and certificate citing their 53 years of residence in Clark. Elaine Hamilton, Mrs. Lynda Volker and Mrs. Teri Herbst, club members, also attended.

Adult school offers broad course menu

A spokesman for the Union County Regional Adult School at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark announced the fall term offerings. The term will start the week of Oct. 7.

New courses being offered this term are Introduction to Word Processing using the Bank Street Writer word processor on an Apple IIe microcomputer; Computer Programming II; Auto Emissions, Improving Committed Relationships, Dealing with Fears and Phobias, Speechcraft, Self Beautification, Cake Decorating II, Food Processing, Microwave Cooking, Dancing III and Beginning Astrology II.

The business course offerings include Beginning Typing, Typing Workshop, Stenograph I and II, Basic Word Processing (five classes), Bookkeeping and Accounting I, Computer Programming I and II, and Introduction to Word Processing.

Vocational and technical courses include Basic Antique Clock Repair, Electricity for the Homeowner, Advanced Auto Mechanics I and II, Auto Emissions and Amateur Radio.

Language courses include Spanish I and II, Italian I and II and German I and II. In the special interest group will be Assertive Training, Improving Committed Relationships, Dealing with Fears and Phobias, Yoga, SAT Review, English, SAT Review, Mathematics, Speechcraft and Tax Advantaged Investments.

Included in the health and recreation group will be Active Slingastics, Self Beautification, A New You, Volleyball (co-educational), and Advanood, Helping

Retarded group to hold Clark meeting

The Assn. of Retarded Citizens will conduct a meeting today at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria room of the Clark Municipal Building at 332 Westfield Ave. (Brewer School).

The purpose is to give an introduction and explain the purpose of the organization, its plan to assist retarded citizens and its proposed establishment of a home in Clark.

For additional information or a brochure please telephone John Hutchinson at 376-6300 or William Miskowitz at 388-6817.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, NOV. 5, GENERAL ELECTION AND THOSE ISSUES TO COMMENT ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES.

The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on THURSDAY, OCT. 31.

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 THURSDAY, OCT. 24 AT 5 P.M.

FURTHERMORE, ALL CANDIDATES OR THOSE WRITING ABOUT ELECTION CONTROVERSIES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF PAGE SUBMISSIONS. TYPED

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY

Clark's own hometown newspaper, The Clark Patriot, is 20 years young this year and the paper plans to celebrate in real style.

We are looking for stories, photographs, proclamations or historical pieces about the newspaper and the township and we are asking our readers to help make this a banner year for the only newspaper Clark can really call its own.

A special anniversary edition will be published in October.

If you have any contributions please send them to: ANNIVERSARY ISSUE, EDITOR, THE CLARK PATRIOT, POST OFFICE BOX 1061, RAHWAY, N.J. 07065 or drop them off at the office at 219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

The Tiger Moth



Tiger Moth recalls 'old days' for Clark

Some Clark residents can probably remember when Kurt Hofschneider and Paul Jordan re-constructed the DeHaviland Tiger Moth 82A N-39 DH in the little building on Raritan Rd. next to Charlie Kelly's Tavern.

The Tiger Moth came to life in 1939 and was used to train the pilots of the Royal Air Force who flew the famous Spitfire during the Battle of Britain. After its training days were over in England it was sold to the Belgian Air Force, which used it from 1945 to 1950 as a training aircraft.

Later dismantled and put into storage, it was bought by Mr. Hofschneider and Mr. Jordan and shipped to

the United States in a 20-foot container. After three years and eight months of work in the garage at Raritan Rd., the "Moth" was put back into flying condition.

Since that time it has won three national championships and 56 grand championships and has appeared on the "Wide World of Sports" three times.

In commemoration of the movie, "King Kong's," 50th anniversary it flew over the Empire State Building. It also flew in the 1976 fall ships celebration and for the opening of the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum in New York Harbor.

Among the celebrities

who have flown in this Tiger Moth are Arthur Godfrey, of radio and television; Cliff Robertson, the movie star; Jim Jensen, the CBS News broadcaster; and Maj. "Pappy" Grey Boyington of the Black Sheep Squadron VMF 214 of World War II fame.

A flight of the aircraft in honor of "Pride-in-Clark Day" on Sept. 8 was sponsored by John L. Ruddy Post No. 7363—of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose commander, William Hofschneider, supplied the details of this story to The Clark Patriot in conjunction with Veterans of Foreign Wars historian, R.H. Tims.



HELPING THE CAUSE... Webelos Scouts from Den No. 2 from Clark ran a game booth at the "Pride in Clark Day" on Sept. 8. That post is to be self supporting in their activities this year. The scouts, shown, left to right, are: Chris Korb, Barry Weisner (den chief), Billy D'Ardenzo, Devante Elliott (den leader), Roy Pitt, John Fleckner, Chad Elliott, Richard Jacobs, and Bobby D'Ardenzo. Not shown is Nicky Boubshart.