

Council votes to fight group home law

By R.R. Faszczewski
The Township Council, by a vote of 6-1 on Sept. 18 added its voice to those opposed to the location of a group home for the developmentally disabled in a house at 279 Oak Ridge Rd.

In a resolution introduced by First Ward Democratic Councilman Raymond Krov the Governing Body instructed Director of Law Stanley Fink to take the necessary steps to stop the home, on which the closing is set for the end of this year, because it would not be a single-family residence; the zoning classification into which the Oak Ridge area falls; it might lower property values and it could jeopardize the safety of residents in the area.

The only member of the Council to vote against the measure was Third Ward

Republican representative, Ruth DeLuca.

A move by Councilwoman DeLuca to table the measure until the Governing Body members could get more information on the proposed home at a meeting held on Sept. 19 at the Charles H. Brewer School by the Assn. of Retarded Citizens, the group proposing to run the facility, was defeated with her vote being the only one in favor of it.

The Council Chambers was filled to capacity for the Sept. 18 session, with many people speaking on both sides of the issue.

One resident, Theresa Ward of 60 Wheatstear Rd., quoting from a letter sent to occupants of residences in the area of the proposed home, asked which members of the Council and the administration knew of the proposed

facility before the letter was sent.

She added residents of the area should not continue to pay the highest taxes to be deprived of their civil rights. She said Clark should stick together or it would perish together.

According to state law group homes for six or less developmentally disabled people or victims of domestic violence do not have to receive approval by local zoning or planning bodies before being established in a community.

He added, however, he had severe objections to backing off from the issue and would be inclined to join in a suit challenging the state law allowing the homes without community approval, but the Council would have to come, up

with the money to take such action.

The Township of Union is looking into legal action against the state because two homes have been proposed for that community and it believes the community has the right to have its voice heard before such a facility is put in.

Burt Michael, the president of the association and a homeowner in Westfield, said there are thousands of group homes in the county, including ones in Westfield, Roselle and Fanwood, and there is no evidence property values drop when the homes come in.

Mr. Michael's added the group has been operating the homes for 15 years, the residents work and are not dangerous, the homes are

staffed 24 hours a day by professionals and there is probably better maintenance of the group homes than a regular residence because they must meet state standards.

Calling it a moral issue, the association president said society owed the retarded a chance to become a part of normal community life.

Pointing out his daughter who has Downs Syndrome has made tremendous progress because of the association.

He added within the next 20 years there will be 200 new group homes in the state.

A resident of Laurel La., Ann Clark, said the retarded belong at home with their families.



FOR JOB WELL DONE... Displaying the awards presented to Clark Post No. 328 at the state American Legion Convention, shown, left to right, are Ted Lambach, historian; Donald McArdle, membership chairman; Comm. John Specht, and Joseph Rybak, public relations chairman.



LENDING HELPING HAND... Harold Mauhbeck, front row left, Union and Middlesex County Area No. 5 co-ordinator for the Special Olympics, holds a \$1,200 check donated by Clark Post No. 328 American Legion members at their regular meeting. Members of the Special Olympics committee of Post No. 328, with Mr. Mauhbeck, are: William Cox, Financial secretary, front row; Comm. John Specht, Joseph Rybak, chairman, and Don McArdle and Ted Lambach, co-chairmen, back row.

Council again votes against rest area closing

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, NOV. 5, GENERAL ELECTION AND THOSE WISHING 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

AND TRIPLE SPACED PER WEEK. DURING THE CAMPAIGN, in order to give candidates a chance to respond to any charges made by opponents NO CHARGES WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, OCT. 17 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OCT. 24 EDITION.

EACH PIECE OF ELECTION-RELATED COPY SUBMITTED MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROPERLY NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT. THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PAPERS' OFFICES.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NOT EXCEPTION TO THE DEADLINES. IN THE CASE OF AN ELECTION CANCELLATION, THE EDITOR WILL DECIDE WHICH DEADLINES TO IMPOSE AND WHICH MATERIAL TO USE.

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DeLuca voted for the proposal.

According to Democratic Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel he had contacted both a State Police sergeant and a detective who had told him the area was already patrolled 12 times on a 24-hour shift, the debris was already being cleared and closing the area would not help the situation.

The proposal, made by Fourth Ward Republican Councilman Brian Toal and seconded by Democratic Councilman-at-Large Bernard Hayden, would have requested a closing of the rest area, which has allegedly been a pickup area for homosexual activities and other undesirable behavior for a maximum of 90 days until foliage is cleared so state Police can get a clear view of the area from the parkway.

However, only Councilmen Toal and Hayden and Third Ward Republican Councilwoman Ruth

DeLuca voted for the proposal.

The Governing Body earlier in the meeting had unanimously voted to urge the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to join Clark in requesting the traffic study.

Back on the subject of the rest area, Democratic Councilman-at-Large Joseph Pozniak said officials in Trenton had said they wanted to improve rest areas in New Jersey to the level of those in Pennsylvania and other states and not close them.

He added he was satisfied work was progressing on the Madison Hill area.

The Council also voted 4-3 to authorize Business Administrator Joseph Monaco to obtain quotes for the performance of four test borings at the potential firehouse site near the first aid squad headquarters on Raritan Rd.

Councilmen Pozniak and Krov were joined by Second Ward Democratic Councilman William Caruso in opposing the move.

Councilman Pozniak said he was against the expenditure of \$300,000 for a new fire substation at a site too close to the Little

League field, the first aid squad and the Middlesex Water Co. reservoir and a site which has so much traffic congestion already.

Councilman Hayden replied he had talked with Little League and first aid squad officials and they were not against the building on the proposed site.

He also pointed out the Master Plan had designated the site and it would out response time for the department.

Councilman Krov said he was not yet convinced the \$300,000 would be a good investment at this time for the First and Fourth Wards.

Councilman Caruso said he favored a referendum to ask the taxpayers if they should fund a third fire station.

An ordinance which would have increased the fees for building inspection was tabled unanimously after it was pointed out by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Volpe sections of the ordinance pertaining to smoke detectors might be duplicating fees charges in another ordinance, which deals with fire inspection.

Clark legion wins laurels from state

Seven delegates from Clark Post No. 328 returned from the American Legion convention in Wildwood with honors in four categories.

Clark post commander, John Specht, accepted the awards from department commander, John Hein, department membership chairman and Americanism chairman.

The plaques presented were as follows: In membership for their 21st consecutive year over the 409 in membership, Combined Activities Award for outstanding achievement in Americanism, membership, rehabilitation and youth activities, the Department of New Jersey Publicity Award for outstanding public relations in the name of the American Legion and a certificate for 105 percent in membership for the 1984-1985 year.

1,731 delegates and alternates from Union County filled the convention hall in Wildwood for three consecutive days. Newly-elected National Comm. Dale Renaud of Iowa arrived on Thursday, visited with as many county delegations as possible and spoke to the delegates on Friday morning in a packed house.

A memorial service was held for 1,100 New Jersey American Legion members who passed away during the 1984-1985 year.

A plea was made to the delegates from the Passaic County chairman to open their hearts to the victims of their recent fire in Passaic. A disaster fund is being formed and all legionnaires were asked to take the message back to all members of each post.

remain in effect will take top priority in his new leadership role.

James H. Hall of Hopewell Valley post No. 339, was elected national executive committee man, upstaging incumbent, Warren R. Davies of Roselle Park Post No. 60.

Patriot mail

now of Brewer
The Clark Patriot makes mail pickups at the Clark Municipal Building on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Since the municipal government has moved its offices to the former Charles H. Brewer School on Westfield Ave. across the street from the former municipal building, a mail slot has been provided for the newspaper at that facility.

THE THREE CLARK PATRIOT PICKUPS OF ANY MATERIALS TO GO INTO THE NEWSPAPER OR ANY COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE STAFF OF THE PAPER WILL BE MADE AT BREWER SCHOOL ONLY. THERE WILL BE NO MORE PICKUPS AT THE CLARK POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN THE FORMER MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

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.

Squad Auxiliary to hold dance

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad will hold a Disc Jockey Dance on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 9 p.m. at the Clark squad house at 795 Raritan Rd. Tickets are \$7.50 per person. Beer, sodas and potato chips will be provided. Bring your own booze.

For information please telephone Mrs. Josephine Quinn at 382-2822 or Mrs. Bobbie Brown at 382-9348.



Elton Axelson gets degree

A township student, Elton Axelson of 18 Whittier Rd., received a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver on Saturday, June 8.

SCHOOL'S OPEN

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Two Clark residents have enrolled at the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Conn. for the fall semester.

Dayna Lewin of 269 Willow Way is majoring in fashion merchandising, and Alyssa Lubin of 78 Rutgers Rd. is enrolled in the basic studies program.

Both students are June graduates of Arthur Johnson Regional High School in Clark.

