

Roselle Rams
Clark 12-8:
See Inside

Clark Patriot

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Edward Padusniak ends quarter century as clerk

By R.R. Faszczewski
It was the end of an era for Clark on Monday night. The man who has held the reins of the Township Clerk's Office for 25 years, Edward R. Padusniak, submitted his resignation to Township Council, effective on Monday, June 2, 1986.

Because of his vacation and terminal leave time the clerk will actually leave of office on Friday, Nov. 29 of this year. The longtime township employe thanked his two aides, Catherine Clancy and Charlotte Liotine, for their co-operation and for making "my position as township clerk more fulfilling and satisfying."

He also recommended the Governing Body give sincere consideration to appointing his assistant clerk, Mrs. Clancy, to the top post. Mr. Padusniak thanked the present and past Councils for their "camaraderie, support and integrity in making my 25 years of service so fulfilling and rewarding."

Mrs. Clancy told the councilman Mr. Padusniak's departure "was the end of a scenario." She said he was not a politician and "told it like it is," adding the Council would miss his direction and it should find someone of the integrity of Mr. Padusniak or the taxpayers would be the losers.

All the councilmen wished the clerk well on his retirement. Because of an apparent oversight by township officials or a "quirk" in state law the Clark Volunteer Fire Dept. may have to wait until the temporary budget is approved in January, 1986 before it replaces any equipment which has a life expectancy of less than five years. Fire Chief Howard Payne said when he had asked about setting up an account in his budget for equipment expected to last less than five years such as foam and batteries for some of his equipment Mr. Padusniak had told him certain items had been placed outside the state "cap" limit on municipal spending and placed in the capital improvement budget in order to be in that budget they would have to have a life expectancy of five years or more.

Mayor George Nucera said the Council and administration were told those items had to go outside the "cap" by the township's auditors, Suploc & Clooney. However, the clerk said Mayor Nucera's budget had been submitted to Council with the fire department expenses and other items outside the "cap."

A resident, Robert Volpe of 213 East La., saying the township had "robbed" the department of \$13,000 it needed for equipment, wanted to know what the firemen were to do for foam to fight chemical fires when the foam they had now had to be dumped in December. Mr. Padusniak replied the lack of funds in the budget could not be characterized as stealing but rather an ill-advised move. Council President and First Ward Councilman Raymond Krov said the fire department had originally been allocated all it had asked for and it was just a "quirk" in the law it couldn't get the \$13,000.

Assistant Fire Chief Donald Kelleman of 410 West La. said putting the request for funds in the temporary budget would be using his funds. He added without a specific account he wouldn't have any funds to use for miscellaneous equipment. Asked by Third Ward Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca whether there was a surplus in any account which could be transferred to the fire department, the clerk replied the only way the department could get funds for equipment under five years in expected life before the end of the year was for Chief Payne to relinquish some of the funds in his internal budget.

A 90-day moratorium on all rent increases in the township was requested by Felice Saecher Schneider, the president of the Clark Tenant Assn. The tenant group president said rents were spiraling at about eight times the rate they had been previously and cited the case of one handicapped tenant whose rent, she said, had gone up 33 percent over seven months.

Requesting the Governing Body to grant a 90-day halt to all rent increases, she said the recent rent increases gave Clark the greatest possibility of having a rent-monitoring board in the near future. Asked by Second Ward Councilman William Curuso to look into doing something about the situation at least temporarily, Township Attorney Stanley Fink replied a letter from Councilman Krov to the landlords would only be regarded as a courtesy, strictly voluntary and would have no legal standing. He added only a rent-stabilization ordinance would have "teeth" in it.



Edward R. Padusniak

Herman Kagan of 221 Lexington Blvd. said the landlords had been quiet about an agreement on fair rents with the tenants and only procrastination and stalling had been met by the tenants in efforts to reach an accord. Mr. Kagan added in one bedroom apartments on Lexington and Gibson Blvds. the rent had been \$330 a month in 1982, \$360 a month in 1983, \$403 a month in 1984 and this year would go up to \$525 a month—far above the 12 percent a year agreed to in a pact signed by tenants and landlords after rent control was voted down in the township.

He called the approximate 60 percent-a-month increase over three years a violation of that agreement. Mr. Kagan also cited rents in two-bedroom apartments on Lexington and Gibson Blvds. which he said had gone from \$380 a month in 1982 to \$456 a month in 1984 and would go up to \$625 a month this year with split leases which were only for six months each. Under the agreement, according to the tenant, the rent on the above apartment should only be going up to \$590 a month to stay within the 12 percent guideline. He wanted to know who the tenants could go to. He said they needed the Governing Body's help and they wanted rent stabilization, which was not rent control.

The councilmen also amended a resolution, which gives permission for the fire department's Auxiliary to hold its Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 14.

at the fire headquarters on Broadway, after it was pointed out by Councilwoman DeLuca the requirements for a \$500,000 liability insurance policy and a special permit from the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control were put in at the last minute and it would be hard for the Auxiliary to meet them. Councilman Curuso said with the township's new self-insurance system and the more stringent court rulings on the responsibility of hosts for those drinking at their parties the requirements might be needed. However, Councilman-at-Large Bernard Hayden pointed out the fire officers increase what the situation was and would alert the men on duty so there would be no possibility of anyone driving fire apparatus who had been drinking. Both the amendment and the overall resolution passed unanimously.

In other action, the Council: Voted 4-3 not to authorize the purchase of a \$35,000 tractor-backhoe. Unanimously approved the purchase of a compressor-paving breaker at a cost of about \$8,400. Introduced salary ordinances for school crossing guards, special officers, and department directors. Unanimously urged the state to lift the ban on the dredging of Jackson's Pond which had been delayed because of the drought. Created the position of acting public works foreman with a minimum annual salary of \$20,762.

Regional surveys school calendar

Dr. Donald Mersachnik, superintendent of schools for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Clark, announced a survey of parents and teachers will be conducted before a school calendar for 1986-1987 is adopted.

The regional high school district and the public schools of Berkeley Heights, Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside and Springfield will conduct a joint survey of all parents and teachers. Preferences for days school should be open and closed during the

next school year will be requested. Survey forms will be sent to the homes of all parents of school-aged children on Wednesday, Nov. 27 with all replies to be returned within 10 days. Reports of the survey results will be discussed at a joint meeting of representatives of all seven school districts on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield. All parents and teachers should complete the survey form and return it promptly in order to have their preferences included in the report.

Patriot mail now at Brewer

The Clark Patriot makes mail pickup at the Clark Municipal Building on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. Since the municipal government has moved its office to the former Charles M. E. School on Westfield Ave., some mail will be delivered to the municipal building, a mail slot has been provided for the newspaper at that building.

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



WHAT WILL WE BE? ... Clark's Kumpf School guidance counselor, Mrs. Mary Foster, center, reviews the Career Occupational Preference Test with eighth graders Eric Samowski, left, and Chris Peters, right. The "COPS" inventory was administered by Mrs. Foster to all Kumpf eighth graders in order to help them pinpoint areas of interest from among 14 main occupational groups or "career clusters." The information derived from the inventory is analyzed by Mrs. Foster, who then discusses the results with the students. This, in turn, will help students to plan more effectively for their future.



SCIENCE ROUNDTABLE ... Mrs. Rhonda Linken, second from left, and Mrs. Roslyn Slack, third from left, parent volunteers, and Mrs. Shirley Ducatman, school librarian, meet to plan "Science Awareness Day," which will be held at Clark's Frank K. Hahnly School Friday, Dec. 6. The students will be exposed to a variety of science activities on the theme of "Science, the Why of the World." A feature of the day will be an assembly program given by Mrs. Melody Elliott, a parent of students at the Hahnly School. Helping with the planning is Jennifer Linken.

Coalition winds way through red-tape maze

More than a dozen representatives from New Jersey business and industry testified recently before the Coalition for Regulatory Efficiency. The witnesses related their plight with the state's rule-making bureaucracy.

Chaired by Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Clark, and cosponsored by the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce, the meeting was held to gather support for Assemblyman Franks' bill, A-3824, which seeks to reform the regulatory process. "For too long now doing business in our state has meant running a maze wrapped with red tape through which a businessman, trying to comply with our rules and regulations, must find his way," the assemblyman said.

"We have got to start putting our regulatory regulations in order before it becomes impossible to do business in New Jersey," he added. The lawmaker authored legislation that would establish a 13-member Study Commission on Regulatory Efficiency to reduce the burdens of regulations without sacrificing the public safety goals that many rules serve. He had barely introduced the legislation when the legislator said he was approached by leaders of business, labor and civic organizations who found

the need to accomplish the goal too urgent to await passage of the bill through the oftentimes legislative process. "That's when we decided to form the Coalition for Regulatory Efficiency which seeks to inform the public about the need for regulatory reforms and to press for passage of my bill," he explained.

Serving with the three-term lawmaker on the steering committee of the coalition are William Clary, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business; Bob Yackel, assistant to the president of the New Jersey AFL-CIO; Jeffrey Stoller, director of regulatory affairs for the New Jersey Business and Industry Assn.; James Morford, vice president for government relations of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Pizzello, assistant director of government affairs of the New Jersey Builders Assn.; and Jon Spinnanger, president of the Society for Environmental Economic Development (SEED).

At the recent public hearing more than a dozen speakers told how over-regulations negatively affect their business in sometimes surprising ways. They came from large corporations and from small family businesses. Betty Greizer, manager of public affairs for Pathmark, described how even a simple requirement like a sign becomes a major expense for a chain supermarket. Helen Ryan of Ryan Fuels testified on behalf of small business owners who, like herself, feel the additional paperwork burden imposed by some regulations takes so much valuable time from getting the actual work done small businesses are placed in danger of failure. After the various witnesses had testified Assemblyman Franks concluded the program noting, "What we heard was New Jersey business and industry is being subjected to an invisible government—one that serves as its own legislature, police, prosecutor, judge and jury, and that's wrong. It's an abuse of power," he said. "On the other hand, the witnesses all agreed rules to protect the health, safety and pocketbooks of the public are necessary."

The coalition will hold another public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. in the Statehouse in Trenton. For more information, please telephone Assemblyman Franks at 273-8888.



DEDICATED TO SERVICE ... Dignitaries from the Department of New Jersey of the American Legion are shown seated in front row as members of Clark Post No. 328 and guests gather for the dedication of Post No. 328's monument. The dedication was held on the post's 40th anniversary, honoring those veterans who served our country and then served the American Legion, contributing to community, state and nation.



Christmas Countdown
42 DAYS LEFT TO SHOP