

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 19 NO. 47

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1985

USPS 115-760

20 CENTS

Council hires attorney to fight group home law

By R.R. Faszczewski
Township officials have decided to join the Township of Union in fighting the state law which allows group homes for the mentally retarded to be established in a community without going through the normal planning or zoning body hearings.

Township Council, on Nov. 18, specifically voted, 5-2, to retain Robert Levy, 57, of the Union law firm of Levy and Lybeck, to file a lawsuit to prevent the establishment of a group home at 270 Oak Ridge Rd. That home has been proposed by the Assn. for Retarded Citizens, and many of the current residents of the area have protested its presence because they feel property values may drop. The other private residences in the area are one family.

Mr. Levy is also working on a lawsuit filed by Union against the state law because of the establishment of one group home in that community and the proposed establishment of another.

The only two Governing Body members to vote against the lawsuit resolution were Third Ward Republican Councilman Ruth DeLuca and Democratic Councilman-at-Large Bernard Hayden.

Councilman Hayden said he saw no reason to hire a lawyer to fight the law since there was no tangible evidence, the courts would favor forcing those who propose the homes to follow local zoning and planning laws.

The Council also voted unanimously to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign a two-year contract with Union Council No. 8 of the New Jersey Civil Service Assn. for blue collar employees employed by the township.

The head of the union, Olga Sachenski, told The Clark Patriot the average salary increase over the life of the contract amounted to 12 or 13 percent.

Council members also voted 5-2 to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign the annexed agreement between the township and Clark Local No. 125 of the Policemen's Benevolent Assn.

Under terms of the one section of the two-year contract which had failed to be voted on previously because of negotiations on a work schedule, the so-called "4-on, 2-off" system will be used for members of the police department patrol division except the chief and any captains assigned to that division.

The new schedule, to be used for one year, starting on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1986, will give officers four days on duty and two days off for two weeks in a row with each shift being eight hours and 15 minutes long.

Councilwoman DeLuca, who was joined by Fourth Ward Republican Councilman Brian Toal in voting against the new work schedule, said she was not against the police department but thought the Council should vote on the contract as a whole because she thought the 9 percent salary increase was excessive.

Asked when the policemen would have to start being paid overtime, Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel, the chairman of the safety committee, told Councilman Hayden the overtime would go into effect after a patrolman had worked 168 hours in a 28-day tour.

The delay in approving the work schedule was caused by a recent United States Supreme Court ruling which said government employees had to be paid for overtime rather than receiving compensatory time off, according to Mayor George Nuera.

An attempt by Councilman-at-Large Joseph B. Pozniak and Second Ward Democratic Councilman William Caruso to have the police place barriers across School St. to prevent through traffic between Central Ave. and Gibson and Lexington Bldgs. was turned back.

The resolution was withdrawn after Council President Raymond Krov read a letter from fire chief Howard Payne saying the barricading of School St. would take away a primary route used by fire equipment in heavy traffic periods.

Councilman Pozniak said he was only withdrawing the resolution because he

could not get the support to have it passed. He noted several citizens from the area had petitioned the Governing Body for action and 35 vehicles had been ticketed for speeding in the area last month alone.

Councilman Eckel said the measure should be referred back to the safety committee so the fire department staff could come in and explain its reasons for opposing the move in detail.

Councilman Krov also announced the Governing Body would meet in a special session at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 to award bids for fire equipment and for road reconstruction.

Asked by Councilman Krov when leaf collection would be finished in the First Ward, Mayor Nuera replied most of the leaves in the township would be picked up by Sunday, Dec. 2, and the public works employees were attempting to get the leaves picked up as quickly as they could.

The councilmen also approved the awarding of a \$2,200 pact to Hallett Drilling Co., Inc. of Plainfield to perform borings at the proposed fire substation site on Raritan Rd.

They also withdrew the bid to Warren George Inc. of Jersey City for \$1,178.

Councilmen Pozniak and Krov voted against the award to Hallett.

In other action, the Council:

-Authorized the director of revenue and finance to obtain bids for the renewal of a bond anticipation note for \$105,000 which is part of the total cost of a \$175,000 emergency appropriation made to cover the revaluation of all property in the township.

-Approved the creation of an overtime account in the department of public works and engineering's division of code enforcement, salaries and wages.

-Okayed the refund of \$814.58 in 1985 property taxes which were overpaid.

-Authorized the return of \$50 on property taxes to 61 property owners because of recently-enacted state legislation which allows qualified veterans who are senior citizens to collect an additional \$50 exemption on their tax bills.

-Approved the transfer of \$23,000 from a salary-adjustment account to accounts for salaries and wages in the police department and for wearing apparel in that department.

-Gave its permission for the transfer of \$16,000 from a salary-adjustment account to the salary-and-wage account in the bureau of roads in the department of public works and engineering.

-Okayed the transfer of \$2,000 from various accounts in the municipal court and the department of law to cover part of the legal expenses involved in hiring Mr. Levy.

-Authorized the transfer of \$9,719 from the salary-adjustment account to ac-



ABOVE AND BEYOND CALL... On Oct. 17 Clark Local No. 125 of the Policemen's Benevolent Assn. held its annual Harvest Moon Ball at the Westwood on North Ave., Garwood. A spokesman for the association thanked Clark residents who contributed to the fundraiser, since the proceeds help the group in its support of local youth programs as well as its Death and Retirement Fund. Presenting awards to the honorees at the dance are dance co-chairman, Mike Ince, left, and Jim Carasa, right. The honorees, shown, left to right, are: Clark Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel, Larry Lovee, the owner of Larry's Luncheonette in Clark; and Tom Westerland the owner of West Carpets in the township.



PRIDE IN COUNTRY... Commanders John Specht of the American Legion and William Holschneider of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, both of Clark, greet the throng of residents and their children who helped participate in the Veterans Day Services on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Park. As the disabled war veteran called each name of Clark's deceased veterans a flag was placed by a Winfield-Clark Girl Scout in the memory of the veteran. At the podium are Commanders Holschneider and Specht and in the foreground are chaplain, Michael Tolin of Post No. 328 of the American Legion Councilman-at-Large Joseph Pozniak, chairman, Ray Grimes of Post No. 328, Dr. Frank Papandrea, the Pastor of Union County Baptist Church of Clark Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel and Second Ward Councilman William Caruso.

Chief Smar warns: Watch for burglars

A series of home burglaries has prompted Chief Anthony T. Smar of the Clark Police Dept. to alert residents to be ever vigilant and report any suspicious activities within their neighborhoods.

The current burglaries have occurred primarily along Lake Ave. and adjacent streets between the Woodbridge and Scotch Plains borders.

Jewelry appears to be the prime target of the thieves. Early evening is the prime time of entry, Chief Smar noted.

Residents should be wary of strangers and unfamiliar cars in the neighborhood. Anyone suspicious of "king door-kick" or "shy" activity out of the ordinary should be reported to the Clark Police by telephoning 383-3434. License plate numbers and descriptions of vehicles and persons should be carefully noted, the chief added.

Public Safety Director Joseph Conarata stated, "With the co-operation and help of our local citizenry crimes such as this can be stopped."

Patriot mail now at 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.

A MEMORIAL TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY WILL HELP IN THE CONQUEST OF CANCER.

Mother Seton to open house

Mother Seton Regional High School, on Valley Rd., Clark, will hold an informal open house on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all seventh and eighth-grade girls and their parents. The program will be for girls who are planning to enter high school in the near future.

Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, examine the curriculum and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation and meet with administration, guidance and faculty members.

Visiting students will experience life at the school through contacts with students within the school. New time schedules, new uniforms and expanded computer activities will be of special interest to students, reports a spokeswoman.

An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students of the school, which is located at Parkway Exit No. 135.

An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students of the school, which is located at Parkway Exit No. 135.

FOOTBALL

Nov. 28th
Thanksgiving Day Schedule
Rahway — Cranford — away 11:00 A.M.
Clark — Hillside — away 10:30 A.M.



A REAL MILESTONE... Sarah Zolotin, right, the maternal great grandmother of Cheryl Folt of 158 Fullon St., Clark, celebrated her 104th birthday on Thursday, Oct. 3 at her residence, the Daughters of Israel Home in West Orange. Born in Russia on Oct. 3, 1881, she came to the United States in 1910. She had owned and operated a grocery store in Newark. She had seven children, of whom three survive. Mrs. Zolotin also has eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Her husband, Louis Zolotin, died at age 37.

Have a happy Thanksgiving

Christmas Countdown
35 DAYS LEFT TO SHOP