

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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## Six vie for three seats in school board election



John Schroeck



F. Donald Paris



Dennis Linken



James Kehoe



Thelma Purdy

By Pat DiMaggio  
Voters will choose from six candidates for three available seats on the Clark Board of Education when they go to the polls on April 15.

Incumbents James E. Kehoe, F. Donald Paris and Thelma Purdy are joined by candidates George R. Cisneros, Dennis C. Linken and John Schroeck on the ballot seeking a three year term on the board.

James Kehoe is a retired Air Force Colonel with a background in aeronautical engineering. He has lived in Clark for 32 years and has 3 children. He is seeking election to his third term. Mr. Kehoe has been a vocal opponent of budget increases and board policies in the past. "Clark taxpayers have relinquished their control over the Board," said Kehoe, "to union control of their local property taxes. By not voting on April 15, they have been effective in relinquishment of that control. I fear that the taxpayers will be subjected, in another year or two, to a 3 year, 27 percent tax increase. I don't think the people of Clark can survive

the recent re-evaluation in town and increased taxes."

Currently vice president of the board, F. Donald Paris has resided in Clark for 20 years and has 3 children. Paris is an attorney with Exxon Research's Law Department in Florham Park and has been involved with the Clark Planning Board, Little League and Pop Warner and the Jaycees. He was first president of Clark B'nai B'rith and is a past president of Temple Beth Or Men's Club. "I believe that as a member of the school board team," said Paris, "it is essential to cooperate with administrators, educators and the community, to fulfill certain basic responsibilities of the Board and its members. These include providing responsible leadership, developing a community understanding of educational problems and school policies; providing adequate financing for the present needs and the future plans of the district; assisting in establishing conditions for the recruitment and evaluation of an excellent professional staff; continually evaluating the

educational program of the schools; insuring a quality education for all students by providing good physical facilities and equipment; providing the necessary student services for all pupils of the district; and engaging in self-improvement and training programs for the purpose of providing intelligent, well-informed leadership."

Thelma Purdy is currently serving her seventh term on the Board. She is a 30 year resident of Clark and has 3 children who were educated in the Clark school system. Mrs. Purdy is a graduate of Temple University with a degree in sociology and has served as president of the Abraham Clark PTA and the Clark Council of PTA. She is a life member of the New Jersey PTA, serves as chairperson of adult education at Temple Beth Or and is a charter member of the Clark Art Association and the Friends of the Library Services. "Providing public education is the most important task of the community," said Purdy. "I have dedicated twenty years to this vital task as an elected member of the Clark board. The schools must provide our students with a strong basic education to prepare them for their future. In Clark, we are constantly assessing our curriculum. I believe that our elementary schools

reflect what is best in current educational thinking balanced with what the community can afford."

George R. Cisneros has lived in Clark for 26 years and has 2 children who were graduated from the Clark school system. Cisneros is employed by a Westfield realtor. "I am strictly for education," said Cisneros. "I find we are not as well known as other towns around us for education and what we are doing for our kids. We have to make it better if we can."

Dennis C. Linken is a partner in a Newark law firm and has 3 children. He has been active with the Clark Jaycees, the Girls Softball League and is a member of PEP (People for Educational Progress). "Our children's education is absolutely vital to our community," said Linken. "We must maintain a successful educational system if our community will continue to prosper. It is our fundamental duty to prepare our children to compete in the world ahead and it will take sound and responsible decisions to meet that obligation.

To provide an efficient and complete education for our children is of paramount concern and to do so without unwisely spending tax dollars in a difficult task. I pledge my energies and abilities toward meeting that goal."

John Schroeck has lived in Clark for 36 years and has 1 son. This is his seventh try at a seat on the Board. He attended the Conservatory of Music in Newark and is employed as a sales representative. "It is about time people start doing better in schools," said Schroeck. "When schools are being closed, why is the budget up every year? Why do we spend all that money when there's really been no improvement. How much does it take to educate a child? When asked why he was running for a seat on the board, Schroeck answered, "Since what our society becomes depends directly upon the educational system, when words like mediocre and functional illiterates began cropping up, I felt a need to contribute in order to improve the failing system."



NEW JERSEANS URGED TO VOTE IN ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION... The New Jersey School Boards Association is urging Garden State voters to participate in the Annual School Election on Tuesday, April 15. Public School students spell out a message for

Garden State citizens: "Vote" in the Annual School Election on April 15. "It's your right — and our children's future," the New Jersey School Boards Association advises voters.

## "Hands Across America" Day is Sunday, May 25

Mayor George G. Nucera has proclaimed Sunday, May 25 "Hands Across America" day.

"Hands Across America" Sunday, May 25 is the day in which a human chain of 10 million Americans will link hands from coast to coast. All will have paid \$10 or more for had it paid in their name for the hungry and homeless.

The effort is being co-chaired nationally by Bill Cosby, Lily Tomlin, Peter Rose, and Kenny Rogers. It has the strong backing of Billy Graham, Robert Schuller, and Coca-Cola, among many others. Obviously, it will be BIG.

The actual route will go through 16 states (New York, New Jersey, Dela-

ware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California).

Here in New Jersey, the human chain will travel ap-

proximately 67 miles through Trenton, Princeton, New Brunswick, Edison, Linden, Hillside, and Newark before heading across the George Washington Bridge into New York.

This will require roughly

88,440 participants along the New Jersey line. Anyone interested in becoming part of this human chain can contact the New Jersey office for "Hands Across America" (201) 877-9750.



GOVERNMENT DAY IN CLARK... March 17 was Girl Scouts Government Day in the Township of Clark. The girls presided over a special meeting following the Municipal Council meeting. Pictured in photo are Gloria McCluskey, Jennifer Primich, Yvette Korb, Michelle Basile, Carolyn Augustyn, AnneMarie Crilly, Carolyn Cospito, Donna Schmidt, Jennifer Remminger and Patty Cahill.

## School budget goes to polls

By Pat DiMaggio  
Voters are being asked to support the Clark Board of Education 1986-87 budget when they go to the polls on April 15.

"The proposed budget is the culmination of many hours of work between the staff, administration and the Board of Education," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio at the budget presentation held on March 25. "Our objectives were to maintain educational programs and also to seek ways to improve programs for grades K-8."

The total budget of \$6,587,862.50 includes a Current Expense portion of \$6,394,326 Capital Outlay of \$147,500 and Debt Service of \$116,036.50. On homes assessed at \$112,000 this would show an increase of \$44.80 in taxes for school purposes.

The budget includes a Developmental Reading Program in grades 1-8, increased library expen-

ditures, increased expenditures for materials and supplies, full time nurses in each school and an aggressive campaign to upgrade heating, plumbing and mechanical needs by qualified district maintenance personnel. The Capital Outlay account includes proposals for blacktop repair at Heintz School, roof replacement at Kumpf School and phase three of window replacements at Valley Road School.

According to Dr. Ortenzio, of the 21 districts in Union County, Clark ranks 10th in expenditures per pupil, and of the 158 New Jersey school communities most like Clark, 82nd in per pupil expenditures. Clark ranks 15th in actual tax dollars paid on a given valuation out of 21 communities in Union County.

Residents will decide on a local tax levy of \$5,181,012 and on a Capital Outlay of \$147,500 when they vote on April 15.

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## Fire Department is seeking new members

The Clark Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for new members.

Any Township resident interested can obtain an application any Thursday evening between 7 and 9 p.m., or on any Sunday morning between 9 a.m. and noon at Fire Headquarters located on Broadway. The requirements needed are a good driving record, be between 18 or 40 years of age; and reside in the Township of Clark.

## Municipal Council introduces budget

By Pat DiMaggio  
The Clark Municipal Council introduced the 1986 budget at a special meeting held on April 4.

The council passed increases over the Mayor's budget by a vote of 6 to 0, with Councilman Joseph B. Pozniak not yet in attendance and passed decreases over the Mayor's budget with a vote of 5 to 1, with Councilman Bernard Hayden voting against. The total budget was introduced on a vote of 5 to 2, with Councilman Hayden and Brian P. Toal voting against the introduction.

The 1986 budget totals \$6,587,862.50, an increase of \$607,000 over last year's budget of \$5,753,000. The amount to be raised by taxes equals \$2,615,000.

Council President Raymond Krov said the budget represents a 2-point increase from last year. On homes assessed at \$15,000, this will mean a tax increase for municipal purposes of \$30.

According to Krov, areas of increase included insurance, medical costs and compactor services. Salaries for the Mayor and Council members remain unchanged.

The public hearing and possible final adoption of the budget will be held on May 2, at the Municipal Building, at 8 p.m.

The Council also awarded a contract for improvement of the Clark Pool parking lot to the lowest bidder, Rajoppl Contractors, Union, in the amount of \$52,247.50.

## Clark UNICO sets 50's dance

On Saturday April 26, the Clark chapter of UNICO National will sponsor a 50's Dance, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall in Clark. The price is \$10 per person and includes hoagie sandwiches, relish tray, snacks, soft drinks, set-ups (BYOB), coffee, and dessert. DJ entertainment will include contests and prizes.

All proceeds will benefit local scholarships and charities. For ticket information call 381-3592 or 382-3547.



CALLS FOR L.I.F.E. ... Union County College alumni and students (left to right), Bonnie Bandlin of Clark, Kimberly Kinal of Roselle, Michele Cadogan of Rahway, Jim Hoegland of Rahway, and Traci Karr of Cranford,

make phone calls at the College's "Super Sunday" Phenathon held in March to help raise funds for the UCC L.I.F.E. (Learning Is For Ever) Center, which is the 1986 goal of the Alumni Annual Giving Campaign.