

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Township seniors have a friend in Peter Campana

by Pat DiMaggio
According to Peter Campana, before Mayor George Nucera took office there weren't very many programs available to Clark's senior citizens. "Former Mayor Yungavage asked me to be co-chairman of a committee he appointed and called the Mayor's Senior Citizens Action Committee," explained Campana. "That committee just looked into affairs and tried to see what could be done for senior citizens. At that time we really couldn't do anything — we didn't have any power. We had to call the County to get any information and our hands were tied."

Originally from Jersey City, Campana returned from service during World War II to complete his education in real estate and insurance. The first office he opened in Jersey City is still in existence, but he has devoted his time and energies to Clark and to the Township's senior citizen contingent. Campana began his political life in Clark by joining the Democratic Club in 1958. He became the Democratic Committeeman in 1963 and was appointed to the Board of Adjustment where he was chairman for six of the nine years he served. Campana was a Fourth Ward Councilman for more than two years, and is presently the Fourth Ward Democratic Committeeman, marking twenty years of involvement with that organization. He is presently a member of the Planning Board.
Appointed by Mayor Nucera as Director of Senior Citizen Affairs,



Peter Campana
Director of Senior Citizen Affairs

Campana then formed his own committee to look into the plight of seniors in Clark. Through the funding of a state grant, the former Brewer School was refurbished and offered to the seniors for use as their own recreation center. "The old gymnasium floor was painted and the cafeteria was painted and carpeted," explained Campana. "The cafeteria is used as a recreation room and as a classroom by seniors. If the day ever comes when I can get meals served, it will be used as a cafeteria."

Campana has been told that money is scarce and that there are enough centers (19) now in Union County. The closest senior citizen center providing meals in Rahway and the latest one to open in Westfield. The coffee pot is always on for the senior citizens who utilize the Brewer School Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and refreshments are provided. Exercise classes are scheduled three times a week under the auspices of Recreation Director Tom Dunn.
Until recently, when funds ran out, a nutritionist provided advice on diet and health.
A three-credit course on current events is offered Friday afternoons by a Union College professor, beginning in January and running until the end of May. A new course of study will begin in September, if money from the municipality is available. Bus trips and dances are in the works.
One of the most pressing problems, according to Campana, faced by seniors in the township today is housing. Put that on the list along with meals and expanded activities and let Peter Campana do what he does best — fight for the senior citizens of Clark.

A far-reaching message of love

When Kristy Parise, a sixth grade student at the Carl Kumpf School in Clark released her balloon on February 28 in tribute to the Space Shuttle Astronauts, she never expected it to glide all the way to Massachusetts.



TRAVELING TRIBUTE ... Kristy Parise of the Carl Kumpf School marks the spot where her message landed. The balloon she launched on February 28th carried it all the way to Hanover, Massachusetts!

However, on March 28, exactly one month later, Kristy received a letter from Robert L. Gregory, a Massachusetts civil engineer who found her message while working on Rts. 3 and 53 in Hanover, Massachusetts. Mr. Gregory was so moved by Kristy's cause, that he mailed a check to the Space Shuttle Children's Fund.
In his letter to Kristy, he said, "We can all be proud of the Astronauts who gave their lives. It is now time for us to give support to the families."
Kristy is pleased to know that her message touched another caring individual who reached out in a loving response.

Dog census underway

Mayor Nucera has announced the annual dog census is now taking place in Clark. All homes will be visited by a Dog Census Taker who will be identified by a township identification badge.
Anyone owning a dog should have had it registered in the Township Clerk's office no later than January 31, 1986. Any dog unregistered will be reported by the Census Taker and proper legal action will take place against the violator.
All residents are cautioned to insure the person taking the Census be properly identified by a badge.



ACCORDION CHAMPS ... Frank and Regina Terzo, children of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Terzo of Clark, recently competed in the New Jersey State Accordion Championship and won a total of 11 trophies and 2 medals. Regina, who is seven years old won three firsts, a second and two fourth place awards. Frank, who is nine years old won seven trophies — all of them first place. The children competed in various categories, such as polka, ethnic, and jazz, and teamed up to perform two duets. They are students at the Progressive School of Music in Linden, and study under the direction of Cynthia Bartlett.

TJHS plans 50th reunion

The Thomas Jefferson High School class of 1936 will hold a 50 year reunion on Saturday May 24. For information call Bill MacFarlane of Linden at 486-9700.

POISON HOTLINE
1-800-962-1253

Teresa La Stella named chairman of '86 Cancer Crusade

Teresa La Stella of Clark has been named Chairman of the American Cancer Society's 1986 crusade in Clark. The announcement was made by Ronald Posyton, Chairman of the Board of the Union County Unit.
"Teresa is the perfect choice for the Chairmanship because of her experience volunteering for the American Cancer Society," said Posyton. "With her dedication and commitment to the Society, I'm sure this year's campaign will be a success."
The Cancer Crusade in Clark will be held during April and May. The annual

campaign not only raised funds for the Society's research, service and education programs, but also included a door-to-door residential education drive.
"This year, more than 300 volunteers will be visiting their neighbors with good news about cancer prevention," La Stella said. "We'll be distributing a folder entitled 'Eating to Live: What Food May Help You Reduce Your Cancer Risk?' In it, residents of Clark will learn that, by eating more of certain foods and less of others, they may reduce their risk of getting cancer."

La Stella added that she expects to raise \$2,000 through this year's Crusade. "This money will be used to support programs right here in Union County for the prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer and to provide assistance to cancer patients."
Mrs. La Stella has lived in Clark for 16 years. She is a registered nurse with the Oncology Unit at Elizabeth General Medical Center.
The 1986 Cancer Crusade in Union County is part of a statewide and National effort involving more than two million American Cancer Society volunteers.

Senior Citizens elect officers

Clark Mayor George G. Nucera has announced that the Department of Senior Citizens Affairs have elected officers for 1986. Those officers are: President-Leah Graham; Vice President-Betty Comer; Secretary-Harry Levinson; Treasurer-Joseph Heelan; Recording Sec't-Jennie Saunders; and Sergeants at Arms-Anthony Vasta and Edward Flanagan.

These officers will work under the supervision of Mr. Peter Campana, Director, Department of Senior Citizens Affairs.
At the March 20 Senior Citizens meeting Dr. Jerry Puma, a local physician spoke about the body disease arthritis, as well as giving care information on arthritis.
A buffet and dance will be held in the auditorium

Senior Citizen Center (Brewer School) on Saturday night May 17. The cost will be \$3 per senior citizen. Mr. Edward Martucci is chairman of this affair. Anyone interested in attending can call 388-3600 Extension 39 to request tickets, or come to the Senior Citizen Center Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and sign up for the affair, or call Mr. Campana at 388-4323.
The next meeting of the Senior Citizens will be Thursday, April 17 at 1 p.m. A demonstration on square dancing will be part of the agenda.
All Senior Citizens of Clark are encouraged to attend all monthly meetings as well as attend the buffet dance on Saturday, May 17.



VOLUNTEER HONORED ... Ernie Wolton of Clark, a junior volunteer at Rahway Hospital, is among the 300 volunteers being honored at Rahway Hospital this week for their work and dedication to the community.

School plans walkathon

Sister Jacquelyn Balasia, Student Council Advisor at Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, has announced that the annual schoolwide fundraising event for the current year will be a twelve mile walkathon. The walkathon is scheduled for Friday, April 25 the culmination of Student Council Week activities. Other Student Council Week activities include the National Honor Society Induction ceremony, Volleyball Internal Finals and It's Academic.
All students will participate as walkers or student workers at checkpoint stations. Faculty members will be participating in the event also. Pledge cards were distributed to the students at a recent assembly and they will be seeking pledges from family, friends and businesses.

Baglieri named merit scholar

Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School senior Chris Baglieri has recently been selected as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, ALJ's first finalist since 1984.
The program bases its selection on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Chris's high score made him first a semi-finalist. He then had to write an essay concerning his career goals and was judged on the merit of his academic record, high school activities and accomplishments, SAT scores, and on personal recommendations. Merit scholar awards range from partial to full 4-year scholarships.



Chris Baglieri

Chris Baglieri entered ALJ in the start of his junior year, and quickly established himself as one of the class's top-ranked seniors. His other interests include music, reading, theater, and writing. He is also a member of the Gifted and Talented program.
Another member of the Class of '86 was also honored by the Merit Program. Sharon Margulies was named as a commended student. Sharon received high scores on both the

PSAT's and the SAT's and has also been received the Salutatorian ranking for this year's graduating class.

Robinson Museum and Plantation plan open house

The Dr. William Robinson Plantation and Museum will be open to the public on Sunday, May 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. Costumed members of the Clark Historical Society will conduct tours through the 300-year-old restored farmhouse located at 593

Madison Hill Road in Clark.
Demonstrating open hearth cooking at the fireplace will be Mrs. Doris Simpson, who with her husband Edward and their family, operate a unique restaurant, Muirhead, in Ringoes, N.J. Mrs. Simpson

is co-author of three books on Colonial and Victorian cookery, two of which were published by the New Jersey Historical Society.
There is no admission charge and the Museum Shop will be open, offering a variety of hand crafted articles.