

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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LOYAL FANS... A group of fans cheer on the ALJ Crusaders during last week's game against Roselle. ALJ won, 13-12.

Nov. 4 election

Eight seek Municipal Council seats

by Pat DiMaggio
The campaign for Municipal Council members includes seven candidates and only one incumbent on the ballot scheduled for Nov. 4.

The First Ward council seat has drawn Democratic candidate Robert Ellenport and Republican candidate John Dillon.

Robert Ellenport is self-employed as an attorney in Roseland, has lived in Clark for eight years and has served as counsel to the Clark Zoning Board of Adjustment since 1985. He served as the financial secretary for Temple Beth Or in 1985 and has been a member of Temple Beth Or Board of Education since 1983.

Ellenport said he is concerned with the increasing traffic volume going through Clark. "Raritan Road in the mornings and evenings is a gridlock," said Ellenport. "While the council has approved a light at Madison Hill Road and Raritan Road, it is a welcome temporary measure but not the ultimate solution."

"I am also concerned about keeping the tax

burden at a low level," continued Ellenport. "The past increase in taxes were largely the result of the county. I think the municipality has to get top value for each tax dollar. Based upon my experience, personality and ethics, I feel I listen to people. I gather my information and make judgements based upon knowledge and not rash decisions or expedient motives. If people have observed me as counsel to the Board of Adjustment they would have observed that I hear all of the information before acting."

John Dillon, Republican candidate for the First Ward seat, has been employed by Public Service in the Public Affairs Department as an Environmental Representative for 33 years. He is currently a member of the Clark Board of Education, the American Legion and has lived in Clark for 12 years.

Dillon is a supporter of a new fire house, which will appear on the ballot in November. "I feel taxes are an issue," said Dillon. "I am very concerned over taxation and the township's con-

tinual bonding. You have to be very careful. I liken it to the federal deficit because when you bond you're putting it off for some time."

"Streets and roads are also very important," continued Dillon. "In the First Ward I see some streets that are in drastic need of repair. There should be a yearly budget for street repair. I have represented the town on the school board and during my tenure I have been very hard on the question of taxation. I have been fiscally conservative and would continue to be as a councilman."

William Caruso, the only incumbent on the ballot, is seeking re-election to the Second Ward council seat. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and is a member of Plumbers Local 24. He has lived in Clark for 14 years and as councilman has served as liaison to the Planning Board and the Recreational Department. He is a member of the Finance Committee, Legislative Committee and the Public Works Committee. He is presently the chairman of the Senior Citizens Housing Committee and is a former chairman of the Capital Improvement Committee and the Fair Rent Committee. Caruso is the founder of the Clark Taxpayers' Coalition.

Caruso said he felt there were no major issues in this campaign "because of the fact that we kept all our campaign promises."

"I am just delighted to hear that people are satisfied," said Caruso. "I am a conscientious, hard working councilman. I am like a friendly neighbor who goes out and tries to get this town to do its job for the taxpayers."

Ralph Whittle, Jr. is the Republican candidate for the Second Ward seat. He has lived in Clark for 39 years and is retired from Exxon Research. He is a past Commander of the V.F.W. John L. Ruddy Post 7363 and has also served as Chaplain. Whittle served on the Senior Citizen Action Committee for two years.

"I'm promised to work toward cutting real estate taxes and to improve road repair for the township."

Third Ward Democratic candidate Joseph Comarata has lived in Clark for 27 years. He is employed as a

supervisor Universal Maritime Terminal Loan Officer and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Presently Director of Public Safety for Clark, he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, United National - Clark Chapter, A.A.R.P. and is a past president of the Clark Democratic Club.

Comarata said he would like to be "part of the team to work towards improving the township even more."

"I have served the community for one and a half years and I've improved every department I've ever headed," said Comarata. "I feel I can do the same for the township. Experience helps."

Carol Pluta is the Republican candidate for the Third Ward seat. Mrs. Pluta pointed to safety hazards she feels should be addressed in the Third Ward. "The corner of Harold and Broadway have no catch basins," said Pluta. "And there should be a light on the corner of Ross Street and Valley Road. The roads are literally falling apart, the catch basins haven't been touched in at least two years. It's a disaster."

"I am an honest person," continued Pluta. "If I am elected and there is a problem and people come to me, I will take it to council and get back to them with an answer."

Ron Kennedy is running as a Democrat for the Fourth Ward seat. Kennedy has lived in Clark for 14 years and is a supervisor for Maher Terminal. He is president of Clark Girl's Softball, an executive board member of the Clark Recreation Committee and a past vice president of the Clark Young Ladies' Athletic Association.

Kennedy said he hopes to continue the movement with senior citizen programs. "I'd like to improve what I can and to see that recreation programs continue," said Kennedy. "The administration is heading in the right direction with their clean up and sidewalk repairs. Road repairs are also a good move. There are 18 roads on the list and more to come."

If elected councilman Kennedy said he would "be easy to reach."

"I plan to be a councilman for the ward, for the

people of Clark. I plan to stay in the same ward," explained Kennedy in explanation for having his house on the market.

A major question Kennedy's Republican opponent Canine Cristiani has is that Kennedy is trying to sell his house. "Funny that they should have him run," said Cristiani. "If he moves will they get the right to appoint someone else? And probably someone rejected in past polls?"

Cristiani has lived in Clark for 33 years and is retired from Shering Plough. He is an engineer self-employed as a consultant.

Concerned over the problems of senior citizens in Clark, Cristiani questions why one group is funded and the other is not. "There are two senior citizen groups in town," said Cristiani. "One meets at Brewer School and the other at the V.I.W. Hall. Why does one get funded and not the other? The administration tells the group at the V.I.W. that they should move to Brewer. I feel they should get equal treatment."

Cristiani also feels garbage collection is an issue in the campaign. "We cannot go on in this town paying hefty money for the removal of garbage and being limited on what we can put in the garbage," said Cristiani. "I think we can get a package from one contractor whereby the people can save money. The turnover of employees in this town is disgraceful and I wonder why. Stuck to it-iveness is one of my attributes. If elected I think I have a track record that proves that I will work long and work hard."

polling locations for the Nov. 4 election are as listed: Ward 1, Districts 1, 2 and 3, Frank K. Helmlay School, Raritan Road.

Ward 1, District 4 - Carl H. Kumpf School, Mildred Terrace.

Ward 2, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 - Brewer School, Westfield Avenue.

Ward 3, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 - Valley Road School, Valley Road.

Ward 4, District 1 - Fire House, Broadway.

Ward 4, Districts 2, 3 and 4 - Carl H. Kumpf School, Mildred Terrace.

TV show to focus on legislation curbing "frivolous" lawsuits

Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden reports that frivolous lawsuits are crowding court calendars and contributing to the legal practices which have earned the U.S. the dubious distinction of being the most litigious nation in the world.

"New Jersey & You," a public service program hosted by Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden (District 22), returns for a new season this Sunday, Nov. 2, on Suburban Cablevision's Channel TV.3. This first program of the fall season focuses on the "pros and cons" of legislation proposed to penalize attorneys and litigants who file "frivolous" lawsuits, those lacking in merit or basis in fact or law. Sidney Schreiber, retired Associate Justice of the N.J. Supreme Court, joins Mrs. Ogden to explore the consequences of frivolous litigation on the litigants, the courts and on the legal profession.

Mrs. Ogden notes that 13 states prohibit frivolous

suits by statute or court rule, while 23 states impose penalties upon those who file them.

Summit resident, Frank Lehr, Legislative Chairman of the state's Consulting Engineers' Council, and Thomas Ahart, Legislative Chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents of N.J., are also guests on the program. They voice their support for Mrs. Ogden's bill, recently passed in the Assembly, which would allow the judge to make the losing party responsible for all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the suit if the action were found to be "not substantially justified." A similar bill calling for a penalty of \$1000 against lawyers who file frivolous suits is now in its second reading in the Senate, according to Ogden.

According to Ogden, her constituents are feeling "a growing sense of helplessness" as a result of frivolous lawsuits; she concludes that "the time has come" to legislate reform.

200 Club plans awards luncheon

The 200 Club of Union County will hold its annual Fall Valor Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 7 at the L'AFaire Restaurant in Mountainside.

The luncheon honors a selected group of Union County police officers and firefighters who have demonstrated heroic bravery in protecting and serving the people of Union County. Each recipient will be awarded the prestigious 200 Club Medal of Valor, in honor of their heroic deeds.

The 200 Club Valor Awards Luncheon has become a tradition for con-

cerned citizens of Union County. Last year's luncheon was attended by over 350 people.

The 200 Club of Union County is a non-profit organization dedicated to provide aid and support the survivors and dependents of those who served as policemen and firefighters in Union County and to award those members of police and firefighters for their courage and valor above and beyond the call of duty.

Tickets are available by contacting the Union County Chamber of Commerce at 352-0900.

Clark leaf collecting to begin November 12

Mayor George G. Nucera has announced that leaf collecting will begin on Wednesday, November 12. The collection will be by wards, starting with the third and fourth wards.

Two crews of four men each will collect the leaves, with one crew in each ward. The first and second ward leaves will be picked up after the completion of the third and fourth wards.

Leaves should be placed on the curb. The use of plastic bags is encouraged. No other material should be

placed with the leaves. Everyone's cooperation is requested.

During this period no bulky items or branch clippings service will be available. However, any resident can take these items themselves to the Disposal & Recycling Center, which continues to be open seven days a week, Monday and Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5:30 p.m.

Junior Dance Party slated for students

The Township of Clark, in conjunction with the Rahway Area Junior

Woman's Club, will be sponsoring a Junior Dance Party on Saturday, November 8, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The dance will be held at the Brewer Community Center, Westfield Avenue, Clark, and will be open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students attending schools in the Township of Clark, N.J. Music will be provided by "The Pros."

For more information, call Mrs. Andi Twombly at 382-6925.



Jane Lough

Jane Lough named to Grotta Center post

Jane Lough has been named Director of Social Services at the Theresa Grotta Center for Rehabilitation in West Orange, says Robert Meyers, Executive Director.

A resident of Clark, Ms. Lough holds a bachelor degree of social work from Kean College and a MSW from Rutgers University where she was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award.

Prior to her appointment at Theresa Grotta, Ms. Lough was associated with Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange and Memorial General Hospital in Union. She also has had experience as a group home manager for

the Association for Retarded Citizens of Union County.

In addition to her strong academic background and professional experience, Ms. Lough often entertains patients in the evenings as a strolling guitarist and singer.

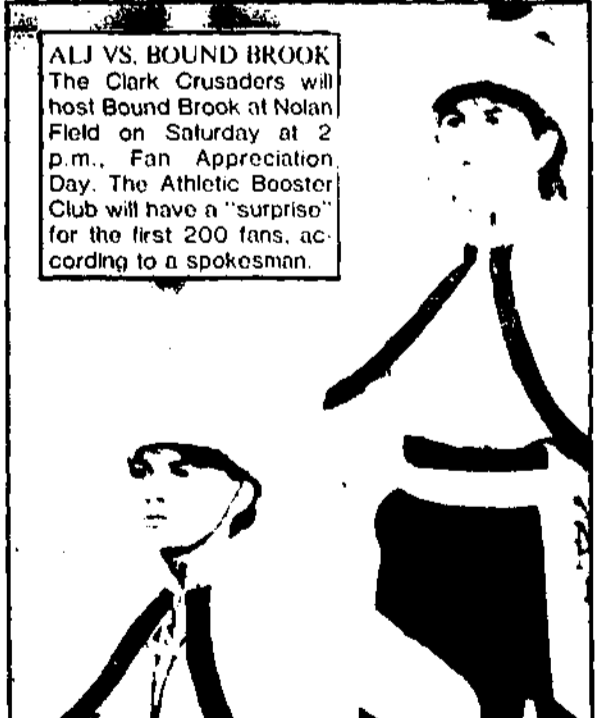
She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, The Hastings Center, Covenant House and the Justice Helping... and the New Jersey Justice Program.

The Theresa Grotta Center for Rehabilitation has been providing rehabilitation services in the Essex County area for more than 70 years. The center is an agency of MetroWest.

Clark residents invited to school workshop

A "Hands-on-Workshop" will be conducted by Dr. Paul J. Ortenzio, Superintendent of the Clark schools and Mr. Edward Flanagan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Kumpf School on Mildred Terrace. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The meeting workshop will be hosted by People for Educational Progress (PEP).

PEP invites all interested citizens of Clark to attend. The presentation will provide an opportunity to learn how the school budget is formulated.



ALJ VS. BOUND BROOK
The Clark Crusaders will host Bound Brook at Nolan Field on Saturday at 2 p.m. Fan Appreciation Day. The Athletic Booster Club will have a "surprise" for the first 200 fans, according to a spokesman.

4-H Photography Club forming in Clark

Erika U. Fields, County 4-H Agent, announces the organization of the 4-H Photography Club in the community of Clark.

William G. Brown, Leader of the club, is seeking new members who have and interest in photography.

League seeks manager

The Clark Babe Ruth Baseball League will hold tryouts for the 1987 season in the spring. Notification will appear in newspapers and in school hand outs. All students 13, 14, and 15 years old are eligible.

The league is also seeking a manager. If interested, contact Sal Bonocoro at 382-6158.

Brescher graduates Air Force course

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Bertram Brescher, son of Bertram J. and Veronica Brescher of Westfield Ave., Clark, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force aerospace ground equipment mechanic course

at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill.

During the course, students were taught to repair generators, gas turbines and hydraulic pumping equipment.