

# Clark Patriot



'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 21 NO. 14

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1986

USPS 115-760

25 CENTS



**SPRING INTO ACTION.** A call for blood donors goes out to all local citizens for the blood drive, to be held Wednesday, April 15, 2-5:30 p.m. at Arthur Johnson High School, Westfield Avenue. Pictured are co-chairman Kristen Reggeli and Robert Petersen. The drive will be conducted by the North Jersey Blood Center. All healthy area residents between the ages of 18 and 66 are urged to become blood donors. Seventeen-year-olds can donate with written permis-

sion from a parent or guardian on a provided Blood Center form. Those between 66 and 76 can donate with proof of a recent physical examination. Donors receive credits to cover their own and their immediate family's blood needs for one full year. The North Jersey Blood Center, the State's oldest and largest non-profit blood banking center, supplies blood to more than 40 hospitals in New Jersey. 1987 marks the Center's fortieth year in operation.

## Clark resident receives two national honors



Christa Candon

Christa Candon of Clark, a senior at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains, has recently been named to two national publications.

Christa's picture and biography appeared in the recent edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students." This volume recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership in academics, athletics, and school or community activities. More than 13,500 high school and youth organizations nominate students for this national honorary award. Only six percent of all high school juniors and seniors in the United States are listed in "Who's Who."

Christa will also have her biography published in the 1987 edition of "Extraordinary Performing Arts Students of America." High school students listed in this book are nominated for character, service and outstanding contributions in all fields of performing arts, and in service and involvement in their schools and communities.

While at Union Catholic,

Christa has been a member of the Union Catholic Performing Arts Company, a member of the school's Thespian Society, and is presently vice-president of that group. This spring she will play the role of Mrs. Higgins in the school's production of "My Fair Lady." She has appeared in "Bye, Bye Birdie," and received the school's 1986 character actress award for her portrayal of Ursula Merkle in that play.

In 1985 she received the best character actress award for her role as Gloria Upson in "Mame." Christa was also in the casts of "Camelot" and "A Christmas Carol" at Union Catholic, and has been actively involved in the Westfield Summer Arts Workshop, where she appeared in their production of "Grease."

Christa is a member of various school organizations, has been a CCD teacher at St. Agnes Church, Clark, and a junior volunteer at Rahway Hospital. She plans to attend Montclair State College in the fall, and major in speech and theater.

## Mark Henry completes Infantry training

Army Private Mark K. Henry, son of Leroy B. and Mary M. Henry of Hilltop Ave., Clark, has completed one station unit training (OSUT) at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

OSUT is a 12-week period which combines basic combat training and advanced individual training. The training included weapons qualifications,

squad tactics, patrolling, and mine warfare, field communications and combat operations. Completion of this course qualifies the soldier as a light-weapon infantryman and as an indirect-fire crewman. Soldiers were taught to perform any of the duties in a rifle or mortar squad.

He is a 1986 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, Clark.

## Clark Lions plan White Cane Drive

The Lions Club of Clark will conduct their annual White Cane Drive in the Clark community April 3-5. Club representatives will be posted at various business locations throughout Clark township and all monies raised by the club during this drive are to be used to fund projects to aid the blind in the coming year.

As one of the Clark Lions community projects, a fully-staffed Lions Eye/Ear Mobile Unit will be stationed at the Brewer School in Clark on Saturday, April 4, between noon and 6 p.m.

Free vision and hearing acuity screenings will be available to all senior citizens.

## Voters to decide on elementary school tab

Clark residents will be asked to approve the Board of Education budget when they go to the polls for the school elections on April 7. "We are looking forward to its passage," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio. "With the support of the community we can continue to move forward in the school district. The budget is well prepared and has moved through several levels in its development with the assistance of the staff, the community and the Board of Education."

The board, which governs policy for Clark's elementary schools, approved a total 1987-88 budget of \$7,009,950. The Current Expense portion equals

\$6,939,950 and Capital Outlay totals \$70,000. For a home assessed at \$117,000 approval of the budget would mean a four point tax increase, or \$45 per year in taxes for schools purposes.

The budget includes funding for a Language Art Series, continued library growth, materials and supplies for curriculum changes, summer school and a wrestling program. Also included are new textbooks, with Language Arts, Science and the study of New Jersey to be given priority, stress on language development and the National Writing Reform efforts, professional staff training and the reevaluation of kindergarten education.

## ALJ included in \$22M tab

# Regional budget going to polls

by Pat DiMaggio  
The Union County Regional Board of Education, which governs policy at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, is asking voters to support their 1987-88 budget when they go to the polls on April 7.

The budget, which totals \$22,096,394, includes funding for all-four Regional High Schools including Johnson, David Brearley in Kenilworth, Jonathan Dayton in Springfield and Governor Livingston in Berkeley Heights.

"The board has agreed to a budget with a modest increase of 5.82 percent after carefully considering the many needs of the students in the six communities as well as the burden any budget might place upon taxpayers," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Merachnik. "Although the task of budget development was not an easy one, it was carried out with professional planning and prudence and with sensitivity to the most pressing priorities of our student body. Approval at the polls on April 7 will ensure a continuation of quality education plus varied opportunities for individual student growth via many activities and programs."

Merachnik said many line item accounts would be frozen at the same dollar levels found this year, ten staff positions would be cut in accordance with the enrollment decline throughout the four schools and there would be no capital outlay portion of the budget. "Aside from anticipated in-

creases in staff salaries and fringe benefits and the purchase of some additional textbooks, library books and workbooks, the major budgetary change will be found in increased costs for insurance premiums," said Merachnik.

Included in the budget for Arthur L. Johnson High School, numbering 699 students, is funding for repair of the thirty year old stage floor and funds to upgrade safety standards and Physical conditions within the art room.

Curricular changes projected include Advanced Placement English, which will be made a full year offering only, Advanced Placement Spanish 5 and Advanced Placement French 5 at Johnson and introduction of an Advanced

Placement Computer Science course, using the PASCAL language throughout the four high schools. Also at Johnson, a new Home Economics Vocational "Education" course and Interior Decoration and Design will be offered. Also included in the budget are funds for a new summer evening art workshop.

"As you will note we are an active school district with many plans for 1987-88," said Merachnik. "We intend to provide the kinds of quality services and varied activities required to today's high school students, within the constraints and restrictions reflected in the proposed budget for the next school year. We can do this, however, only with voter support of the budget on April 7. We urge you to review

our budget. If you review it, I believe you will decide to support it."

Voters are also asked to vote for a member of the Board of Education. Running for one available seat in Clark are incumbent Melvin D. Altman and his opponent, Franklin A. Felman. Seats are for a three-year term.

Polling places for the April 7 election are as follows: Ward 1, Districts 1-3: Frank H. Hehny School, Rantan Ave. Ward 1, District 4 and Ward 4, Districts 2, 3 and 4: Carl H. Kumpf School, Midland Terr. Ward 2, Districts 1-4: former Charles H. Brewer School, Westfield Ave. Ward 3, Districts 1-4 and Ward 4, District 1: Valley Road School, Valley Rd. The polls are open 2-9 p.m.

## Voters decide Tuesday

# Three Board of Ed seats available in Clark Twp.

by Pat DiMaggio  
Voters in Clark must choose between six candidates for three available seats on the Board of Education when they go to the polls on April 7.

Present Board of Education President Thomas Faria has decided not to seek re-election; the seat held by Board Member John Dillon, who recently passed away, is available; and incumbent John Schneider is seeking his second term.

Candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are John R. Schneider, Maurice Avenue; Robert J. Niemiec, Lake Avenue; John A. Dolinaj, Willow Way; James K. Kehoe, Wendell Place; Henry R. Varriano, Bradley Road; and Lori-Ann Kazanowski, East Lane. Mrs. Kazanowski is currently an appointed member of the board filling Mr. Dillon's unexpired term.

John R. Schneider is the father of six children, all products of Clark's schools. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Newark College of Engineering, a Certificate in Meteorology from New York University and a Masters degree in Industrial Management from Stevens Institute. He is retired from the Corporate Engineering Department of BASF Inmont.

Schneider is active in the Clark Little League, the Arthur L. Johnson Band Boosters and is a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus and St. John the Apostle parish. He is a volunteer in helping the elderly with their income tax.

"I am interested in children," said Schneider. "I am in favor of hiring quality teachers so we can continue

to strive for excellence in education. I am in favor of restoring the summer school program, both remedial and non-remedial. My desire is to see that the children of Clark get the best education that we are financially able to afford."

Robert J. Niemiec has been a resident of Clark for 17 years and has two children currently in the school system. He is a graduate of Boston College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Economics. Niemiec attended graduate business school at the University of Massachusetts and was elected to the Boston College Hall of Fame for athletics. He previously played professional baseball with the Houston Colt 45's organization, now known as the Houston Astros. He is employed as an Assistant Director of Corporate Human Resources.

Niemiec has been involved with Pop Warner Football as a vice president and equipment manager, Cub Scouts and Little League.

"I feel the education of our children is important," said Niemiec. "I think community service is important and I think I have an obligation to serve my community. I think our system is a good one; I think it could be better. We need our educational problems and our school policy. I strive for a higher quality of education."

John A. Dolinaj has resided in Clark since 1974 and has one child in the school system. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Upsala College, a Master of Arts degree from Kean College and a Master of Education degree from Columbia University where he is presently part of the Doctorate program. Dolinaj

supervises and administers the Adult Vocational Division at Union County Vocational Technical School. He is also the Director of the Union County Adult Advisory Council.

Dolinaj has been active with the Hehny School PTA, Brownies and Girl Scouts, the Clark Historical Society and the Scotch Plains YMCA. "I would like to be part of a quality educational enterprise," said Dolinaj. "I do believe that good educational systems increase the real estate value of the town. I feel that the Clark schools are good, but the students and educators shouldn't be complacent. You must be prepared to support a good educational system: good property values, a school population that is a source of pride for the community and good future citizens. Money spent for education must bring in the maximum in a quality educational system for the children of Clark."

James E. Kehoe is a former two-term member of the Clark Board of Education. He is a retired full colonel from the United States Air Force, with a background in Aeronautical Engineering. He is also retired from Exxon. Kehoe has lived in Clark for 33 years and has three children.

Kehoe has been a vocal opponent of budget increases and board policies in the past. "I don't believe in the present budget," said Kehoe. "I do not support PEP (People for Educational Progress) or the teachers' union. This budget is extremely high cost. We've gone from 3200 kids in five schools down to 1100 kids with two schools closed down and we still have a staff of 115. Our

taxes have gone up since the day of inception. Forty percent of the eighth grade graduating from Kumpf have failed the High School Proficiency Test in ninth grade. I think that's a disgrace and it highlights what is wrong with our school system. What we're talking about is failure and I attribute that failure all the way back to fifth grade in Valley Road School and in Hehny School. It goes all the way back through our grade school system."

Henry R. Varriano is a graduate of Clark's elementary schools and Arthur L. Johnson High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree from Jersey City State College in elementary education and is employed as a teacher in Elizabeth. Varriano is a member and past president of the Clark Republican Club and was a member of the Clark Players.

"I feel that as a product of the school system I would like to give something back to the system that I received," said Varriano. "I feel that the school board could use a teacher's expertise. I have knowledge about the school curriculum and various facets of the school program. I feel that I would be an asset to the board."

Lori-Ann Kazanowski

has lived in Clark since 1980. She has two children, one currently in the school system. A graduate of Overlook Hospital School of Nursing and the Somerset College of Nursing Ladder Program, Kazanowski has been a staff nurse for ten years at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She has worked as an OB-GYN nurse for Dr. Alan in Westfield and Summit and as a surgical scrub nurse for the Linden Podiatry Group in Linden. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the National League of Nurses, the Valley Road PTA, PEP and is an assistant leader for the Girl Scouts.

"I am interested and involved in our town and I want to serve out of a sincere desire to benefit our community," said Kazanowski. "I realize the importance of offering a quality service. I would like to continue to convey community understanding of education problems and school policies. I feel I have the determination and the capability to accomplish this. Every policy approved and every action taken will also be based on all the facts. Education today is extremely complex. I am willing to invest the time, effort and the study that it takes to have an efficient and thorough education."

**Crossing guard shortage**

According to Mayor George G. Nucera, there exists a critical shortage of school crossing guards in the Township of Clark. Anyone interested in becoming a school crossing guard is requested to contact Chief Anthony Smar, Bureau of Police at 388-3600, or come to the Public Safety Building, 315 Westfield Avenue, Clark, for an application and interview.