

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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**STUDENT OFFERINGS...** Aldo Collura, the Supervisor of the Foreign Languages Department at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, makes a point during a recent meeting of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education. Mr. Collura and the Foreign Languages Department supervisors from the other three Regional High Schools made

a presentation at the meeting concerning the foreign language offerings and programs in the Regional District. Spanish, French, Italian, German, Hebrew, Latin and English as a Second Language are among the offerings for students in the Union County Regional High School District.



**KUMPF'S HIGH SCORERS TAKE THE SAT'S...** Twenty-two seventh grade students from the Carl Kumpf School in Clark have utilized a unique educational opportunity. Along with high school juniors and seniors, they will have taken the SAT's this year. To qualify for this offering, students must rank in the top 3% nationwide in mathematics and/or verbal skills on standardized tests. Mrs. Mary Foster, guidance counselor at Kumpf, identified the eligible students and implemented this opportunity which is made available by the Johns Hopkins University Center for the Advance-

ment of Academically Talented Youth. High scorers pictured are, bottom row (left to right): Heather Buckley, Barbara Tsipilareas, Jodi Jordan, Carol Haines, Karin Lichtman, and Eric Moraes. Middle row: John Meyer, Gina Lewis, Kerry Dillon, Susan Angelsky, James Grote, Jeffrey Glasser, Jamie Stack, and Michael Sommer. Top row: Principal of Kumpf Middle School David M. Hart, Michael Pressman, Robert Bierwirth, John Braun, Christopher Sedelmaier, Lisa Goodman, Jake Doran, James Marczewski, Christine Rufolo, and Mrs. Mary Foster, guidance counselor.

## Landlords will be monitored by mayor-appointed panel

by Pat DiMaggio

An ordinance establishing a rent monitoring board in Clark passed its first hurdle Tuesday night when it was approved by the Municipal Council on a vote of 4 to 3.

The ordinance will come before the council again on May 18 for a public hearing and possible final adoption. More than 130 residents, most of them tenants, turned out for the meeting and were vocally in support of those members of council who voted for the board.

The ordinance establishing the rent monitoring board calls for a five member panel to oversee tenant/landlord disputes relating to rent increases, landlord and tenant relations, property maintenance conditions and the term of leases for dwellings consisting of four or more rental units.

Councilman William Caruso originally introduced the rent monitoring board resolution two years ago, but it was defeated by one vote.

Caruso stated, "This monitoring board will be good for the residents of

Clark by reconciling differences between landlords and tenants. The landlords brought this on themselves by unfairly raising rents twice a year. Senior citizens on fixed incomes will especially benefit from this monitoring board."

The panel, to be appointed by Mayor George Nucera with the consent of the council, will include at least one homeowner residing in Clark, one landlord and one tenant.

According to the written terms of the ordinance, the panel shall "make studies and conduct a continuing investigation of all rent increases imposed by landlords after January 1, 1983, apartment vacancy rates and economic factors justifying increases in rent."

The rent monitoring board will conduct hearings relative to rent increases, review complaints relative to rental charges and services and attempt to resolve any disputes between landlords and tenants. All dwellings covered by the ordinance must be registered with the board and the owner of the property must answer a financial questionnaire prepared by the board.

The ordinance stipulates that it will allow only one rent increase per 12-month period as long as the same tenant continues to occupy the dwelling. When a question of a rent increase is brought before the board, they will justify it by using the following criteria:

Length of time the tenant has occupied the rental unit; the history of the rental increases to the tenant; the percentage of the increase in the Consumer Price Index; the answers provided by the landlord to the financial questionnaire; the services and amenities provided by the landlord to the tenant; a fair and reasonable return for the landlord.

The rent monitoring board will meet at least once a month.

Voting against the ordinance were Councilmembers Carmine Cristiani, Carol Pluta and Bernard Hayden.

"I've had calls from homeowners asking me what this is," said Pluta. "Is this the same as the one put on the ballot four years ago that was defeated?"

"If this is not re-establishing rent control as we knew it before January 1, 1983, I don't know what it is," said Cristiani in reference to a referendum defeated by voters four years ago.

"We can assume that the 1988 general election is being kicked off in Clark

tonight," said Hayden. "I talk to tenants and they tell me they are overcharged on rents. Landlords tell you they get no return on their investment. Rent control was put on referendum and was voted out. This administration said the only way it can come back is through another referendum."

"This is not rent control," said Councilman Robert Ellenport in voting for the ordinance. "We are setting up new ground in which tenants and landlords can air their disputes. It provides the public a mediation and investigative service. It is an opportunity to create a neutral forum for tenants and landlords."

The ordinance will take effect immediately after passage and publication as required by law.

## Board of Ed approves fine arts workshops and co-op swim team

by Pat DiMaggio

The Regional Board of Education approved a new program entitled "Summer Evening Fine Arts Workshop," to be held at Arthur L. Johnson High School this summer, at their regular meeting held on April 15.

The program is designed to serve residents by providing opportunities for a

"hands on" experience as well as an overview of portraiture, landscapes and still life through slide presentations, lectures and visiting artists. The course will be in session for five weeks in June and July.

The board also gave permission to students from Johnson to participate on a swimming team at the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. Louis Peragallo, Director of Health, Physical Education, Driver, Education and Athletics at Johnson indicated to the board that ten to twelve students were interested in participating.

According to the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association, a new rule permits students in one high school to join a swimming or gymnastics team of another high school on a cooperative basis if specific criteria are met.

David Carl, principal of Johnson, requested permission for the Band and Band Front to participate in the Heritage Music Festival, Boston, Massachusetts, on May 22-24. Sixty-one students and twelve chaperones will make the trip, paid for by funds raised by the students and the band parents organization.

Also approved by the board is a trip by forty members of the Johnson Drama Club to see "Edwin Drood" on Broadway after school on May 6. The total cost of the trip will be \$49 which includes ticket and transportation. The trip will be chaperoned by Michael Vogel, drama instructor, as well as additional staff members and parents.



**SHINING KNIGHTS...** Clark Mayor George G. Nucera, second from left, is pictured supporting the annual fund-raising drive of the N.J. State Council, Knights of Columbus, for the benefit of mentally retarded citizens and those with learning disabilities. The drive will be held April 24-26. Grand Knight James E. Ellif, right, said the members of Clark Council will be asking for donations in shopping centers and other public places in the Clark area. Also pictured are Fund Chairman Stanley Gora, left, and Angelo Accolla, Past Grand Knight.

## Hilary Altman reaches final audition for Governor's School

For Hilary Altman, writing music and playing the piano are methods of relaxation. But the junior at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark seems to go about "diversions" with the intensity of a professional.

Hilary has recently been chosen to participate in final auditions for admission to the Governor's School for the Arts, a month-long summer program for advanced study held at Trenton State College. Only 100 high school juniors from throughout New Jersey will be chosen for the select program after final auditions take place on Saturday, April 25.

"Music is a release for me, a way of expressing myself," explained Hilary, who has written 30 songs, 20 of which have been copyrighted. "I come to school an hour early each day to play the piano — I just come in and improvise sometimes, experimenting with possibilities for new songs."



"I didn't think that I would get the final audition for the Governor's School," she admitted. "But I guess I work better when I'm challenged."

To qualify for the finals, Hilary had to put together a 15-minute audio tape of her piano playing, which included her rendition of two

works, one classical and one jazz. The judges at the Governor's School were obviously impressed, as the talented Johnson Regional student passed the first test in the selection process.

"I'm comfortable with this music now," explained Hilary, who has studied piano for the past nine

years. "My renditions of these works are now developed, I know what the pieces are about and I'll be able to make my own interpretations. There will always be a little nervousness, but I'll be ready for this audition."

Hilary has several outside interests aside from music. A student in the Gifted and Talented program at Arthur L. Johnson, she's also a member of the Girl's Varsity Tennis Team, the Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, and has also been involved in drama productions at the school.

The Governor's School, currently in its fifth year of operation, provides gifted high school students from all over the state an opportunity to engage in intensive study during a tuition-free summer program. The school, a joint effort involving the office of Governor Thomas Kean, the State Department of Education and the State Department of Higher Education, includes three programs —

the School of Public Issues and the Future of New Jersey at Monmouth College; the School of the Sciences at Drew University and the School of the Arts at Trenton State College. One hundred qualified high school juniors are selected to attend each of the three schools.

### Tutor training offered to Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of America holds tutor training sessions periodically at Elizabeth Public Library. The library maintains an ongoing list of adults who need reading help and of people who would like to teach someone how to read.

The workshops are free. The program is made possible through the Library Literacy Grant Title 6. The training workbook has a dialogue for the tutor to follow.

For further information phone 354-6060, ext. 730.

## The show must go on. . . Your pledge can make the difference. . .

By now you're aware that the Union County Arts Center (Rahway Landmark) has made a most definite "mark" on the community. With shows like "Woody Herman," "The Lettermen," "Up with People," "Circus," and so much more, there is no doubt that the Union County Arts Center is giving the arts a place — to provide good quality family entertainment, as a very important part of your life. You've enjoyed these shows in that past, you can provide more of these wonderful entertainments. Why plan to miss a super fall!

Now you're ready to make a difference. Why, just to heat and air conditioning, they cost a small fortune, not to mention the hundreds of other things that need to be done, just to present one show.

What's more, you, our members, and friends . . . to those of you who have made our dream become a reality, to give what you can. We need your help. The Union County Arts Center, and we know that you are too, are planning a special event for Wednesday, April 29 from 5 to 8 p.m., or on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Operations will be ready to take your pledge. We'll be glad to help you in any way we can!

Call today 574-1200  
Or fill in your pledge to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_