

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY

VOL. 21 NO. 20

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

USPS 115-760

25 CENTS

## 14 percent increase

# \$7.2 million budget adopted

by Pat DiMaggio  
The Clark Municipal Council adopted their 1987 budget at a special meeting held last week.  
The total budget of \$7,287,680 shows an increase of 14 percent over last year's budget. Robert Ellenport, Chairman of the Finance Committee, pointed out, however, that most of the increase was due to fixed charges including a \$230,000 raise in sewage

charges from the Rahway Valley Authority.  
The budget passes on to homeowners a 3 point tax increase, or an additional \$30 per year for municipal purposes, on a house assessed at \$100,000. Councilman Fred Eckel called the tax increase "one of the lowest in Union County." He also listed fixed charges, including the newly-negotiated three-year police contract, building and mainten-

ance costs, garbage disposal and insurance, as reasons for the increases. "Clark is alive and kicking," said Eckel. "It's doing well."

Councilmembers Carol Pluta, Carmine Cristiani and Bernard Hayden voted against the budget. "Because of all the increases the taxpayer doesn't have a chance," said Pluta. "Houses are up for sale all over the place. People can't

afford to live in Clark anymore."  
"The budget is full of items that I do not think the people of Clark should be paying for at this time," said Cristiani. "They voted themselves an 80 percent increase in salary in one year. They are giving lawyers for the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board and their families benefits when they are only part-time and on a retainer basis. I do not

approve of the increase of the police staff at this time which was made possible by grants from the Safe Streets Program. In order to avail ourselves of these grants, we had to increase the police staff by three. The people of this town are now committed to paying these policemen until they retire.

There are too many police for the number of people in town."

## Board of Ed cuts budget by \$60,000

by Pat DiMaggio  
The Clark Municipal Council approved a resolution that cuts the Board of Education budget by \$60,000 at a special meeting held on May 11.  
The Board of Education, which governs policy for Clark's elementary schools, had their budget defeated by voters in the April 7 election. The budget then went before the council for cuts. The board appealed that decision to County Superintendent of Schools Vito Gagliardi. After a joint meeting with the board, the council and Gagliardi, the council has agreed on a reduction in the Current Expense portion of the budget, reducing it from \$6,939,950 to \$6,879,950.

The Board of Education will now decide from which accounts the \$60,000 will be taken. Capital Outlay will stay at the budgeted \$70,000. Miscellaneous Revenue was increased from \$35,679 to \$49,679, which brings the actual reduction to \$74,000.

The reduction in the budget lowers the tax increase to homeowners from 4 points to 2 and 1/2 points, or from an original increase of \$44 per year for schools purposes to a projected \$30 per year on a house assessed at \$116,000.  
The resolution reducing the budget was approved on a vote of 4 in favor with Councilmembers Carol Pluta, Carmine Cristiani

and Bernard Hayden voting against.  
"I do think there is money that could have been cut from capital improvements," said Hayden. "I think the Board of Education should be chastized for giving 9 percent increases (for staff salaries)."

"There were compromises that had to be made in the give and take," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio. "We will do our utmost to provide the best education to our students and I feel confident that we can. We will do our utmost to see there are no services diminished for the community."

## Local student selected for national conference

Karen Kolaitis, the daughter of Charles and Martha Kolaitis of Clark, was a participant in the first National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Kolaitis is a senior student at University of Delaware. She presented research on "Association of 5.5 Megadon Plasmid in *Pediococcus* spp. with Bacteriocin."

More than 450 students from more than 120 colleges and universities na-

tionwide attended the annual conference, which is an outgrowth of UNCA's commitment to providing sophisticated research opportunities for undergraduate students.

## School board business...

by Pat DiMaggio  
The Regional Board of Education, governing Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, approved funding to introduce a program entitled "Writing Across the Curriculum" (WAC) at their regular meeting held last week.

The first workshop, available to superintendents and other curriculum leaders in the regional district, will be held at the Clark Board of Education building today from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The second workshop will be held at Johnson from 7 to 4 p.m. and will be open to principals, assistant principals, directors and supervisors. The WAC concept will be demonstrated with emphasis on the application of writing within the kindergarten through eighth grade curriculum.

Dr. June Birnbaum of Rutgers University will conduct the workshops at a cost of \$300.

The board also approved submission of an application in the amount of \$38,696 to the Union County Department of Human Services, Private Industrial Council, for a summer project to provide

employment and career exploration for 25 handicapped students. The training will be provided through classroom and hands-on experiences in clerical/office skills, food service preparation, building and grounds maintenance and auto preparation and cleaning. Students being trained would participate at the rate of \$3.35 per hour for a 24-hour week during a six-week summer period.

In other business, the board:  
—Adjusted the salary rate of Cynthia Mac Laurin to \$98 per day. Mac Laurin completed 10 consecutive days as a substitute teacher for Marie Rattel in the Physical Education and Health Department at Johnson.

—Adjusted the salary rate of Anne Sroka to \$98 per day. Sroka completed ten consecutive days as a substitute teacher for Gloria Menendez in the Foreign Language Department at Johnson.

—Accepted the retirement of Robert Lummer, a teacher of physical education, effective July 1.  
—Appointed Christopher Sadio as an Assistant Volleyball Coach.

—Accepted the retirement of Ruth Grossman, an English teacher, effective July 1.

—Accepted the resignation of Annemarie Andersen Yeo, a part-time home economics teacher, effective June 19.

## Johnson Regional student to attend Governor's School on public issues

Jon-Henry Barr, a junior at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, has been selected as a Governor's Scholar for the 1987 session of the Governor's School on Public Issues and the Future of New Jersey.

Jon-Henry is one of just 100 high school juniors from throughout the state who have been chosen for this program of intense study, which will be conducted from June 27 to July 25 at Monmouth College in West Long Branch. The Clark resident was nominated as a candidate from his school and then advanced through competition on the Regional High School District and county levels, based on his application to the Governor's School and two essays written by him.

J.H., as he is known to his friends, is looking forward to attending the Governor's School.

"Political and public issues are my primary interests," said the articulate teenager. "But, since you are required to take a variety of different subjects in high school, I'm not able to take as many History and Social Studies courses as I would like — I can't get enough of those subjects. At the Governor's School, I'll have the chance to study nothing but Social Studies-type material, which is great."

Jon-Henry, who aspires to enter politics after first establishing himself in the fields of business or law, is an enthusiastic student who is involved with a number of in-school activities at Johnson Regional. Currently, he's the Vice-President of the Student Council; a member of the Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society; an assistant editor of the school newspaper and a contributor to the school's literary magazine.

And, during the fall, J.H. is the statistician for the Johnson Regional varsity football team. But nothing raises this young man's curiosity quite like government and politics.

"I like national and international issues the most," explained J.H., who's certainly not afraid to voice his opinion on public issues — he's already had two "Letters to the Editor" published in *The Star-Ledger* of Newark and one in *The Daily Journal of Elizabeth*. "But I'm interested in every phase of government and politics — the controversy, the decision-making, I'm also intrigued by the law, I enjoy studying court cases. And diplomacy is just fascinating."

The Governor's School, which is now in its fifth year of providing gifted high school students with an opportunity to engage in advanced study, is a joint effort involving the office of New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, the State Department of Education and the State Department of Higher Education. There are three Governor's School programs in New Jersey: 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 from throughout the state are selected to each program for the annual four-week, tuition-free honors session.

## Disposal Center closing

Mayor George G. Nucera has announced that due to the high volume of trash and the problems that plague the state in garbage removal, the Township of Clark Disposal & Recycling Center will be closed from Monday, June 1, through June 7, in order to clean up and remove as much of the trash as possible.  
The center, like most centers throughout New Jersey, has accumulated an overabundance of trash due to the fact the landfills are no longer operating at capacity or in some cases closed down.

Waiting lines for trucks to dump trash at landfill sites have increased from less than one hour to over 8-10 hours, according to a Township spokesman.



**STATE HONORS...** Brett Ashley, a sixth grade student at the Carl Kumpf School in Clark, has been recognized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as first place winner in their "Clean Air in New Jersey Poster Contest." The talented Kumpf student submitted his entry with the help and encouragement of his science teacher, Mrs. Jane Murray. Brett's theme, "When you carpool to work or school, you will help make clean air the rule," won him first place in the intermediate division. Brett was awarded a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, a year's subscription to *New Jersey Outdoors* magazine, a plaque, free admission to all New Jersey State Parks, assorted memorabilia from the DEP, and a board game. In addition, Brett was invited to an awards presentation in Trenton where he was acknowledged by Governor Thomas Kean. The Department of Environmental Protection plans to compile the award-winning entries in a calendar which will illustrate New Jersey's commitment to clean air.

## Clark mourns three residents killed in Poland

Three Clark residents were among those killed over the weekend in the Polish jetliner disaster that killed a total of 183.

The plane, with a crew of 11, caught fire shortly after take-off on May 9 and crashed into a forest outside of Warsaw. All aboard were killed.

Among the casualties were Clark residents Theodore and Gertrude Wojtas and their daughter Christina, 4. The family was returning home after visiting Mrs. Wojtas's mother. They are survived by two sons, Robert, 17 and Richard, 20.

Joseph Monaco, Clark's business administrator, said all flags in the township were lowered on Saturday in memory of the couple and their daughter.

## Hartz may buy Hyatt

by Pat DiMaggio  
Hyatt Clark Industries (HCI) may have a buyer for their property with a bid of \$25 million in cash from Hartz Mountain Industries. Alan Lowenstein, Chairman of HCI, said plans for development of the tract were not definite and that he had received other offers. "It will go to the highest bidder," said Lowenstein.

Hyatt has been in court since January after filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 11. Judge Gindin will handle all bids and the sale of the property through his court in Trenton. June 17 is tentatively scheduled for the hearing, said Lowenstein.

The parcel of land includes 85 acres, 65 in Clark and 20 in Cranford. The

building includes 1 million square feet, all in Clark.

Hartz Industries has suggested to township officials a mixed use project similar to their development in Harmon Meadows, Secaucus.

Mayor George Nucera, Business Administrator Joseph Monaco and Council President Joseph Pozniak met with officials from Hartz Industries to discuss development of the land to include office buildings, a hotel convention center and stores. "It would triple our tax benefits," said Monaco in support of the plan.

Hyatt Clark Industries are phasing out their operations and plan a total plant shutdown by the end of August.

## Spring Dance set for seniors

A spring dance for senior citizens will be held on Saturday, May 16, 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center in Clark (former Brewer School), Westfield Ave. Admission is free to all

senior residents of Clark. Coffee and cake will be served; participants may bring their own refreshments and snacks. Soda will be available.  
A D.J. will provide music.



Governor's Scholar Jon-Henry Barr, a junior at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School.