

Clark Patriot



'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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OUTSTANDING STUDENT ...The Alumni Association at New Jersey Institute of Technology presented Student Recognition Awards of \$250 each to students demonstrating academic excellence in each university area of instruction. This year's awards were presented by Robert Snow, right, president of the Alumni Association, and Pompey Malnardi, emeritus professor of mathematics, center. Among the recipients was Zofia Monczka of Clark, left, an electrical engineering student with a perfect 4.0 average in humanities courses, who was recognized for excellence in humanities.

Council approves ballot question; township salary guidelines

by Pat DiMaggio
A public question will be placed on the ballot at the next general election in Clark which would ask the state legislature to convene a Constitutional Convention.

The Clark Township Council approved a resolution at their regular meeting held on May 18 that would ask voters to decide on requesting the legislature to hold the convention to review the New Jersey Constitution to determine if amendments to the constitution on issues of land use would be appropriate so municipalities could control their own land use policies.

"I am against this," said Councilman Robert Ellenport. "Constitutional Conventions are quite significant and serious matters. They cannot be limited to one issue."

The resolution was approved, with Ellenport and Council President Joseph Pozniak opposed.

Also at the meeting, an ordinance amending an ordinance to fix minimum and maximum township salaries was approved by the council, with Council members Bernard Hayden, Carmine Cristiani and Carol Pluta opposed.

"I am not against all the salaries in this ordinance,"

said Hayden. "There are seven salaries I am against and those are for the council, the mayor, the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment attorneys, the starting salary of the Director of Senior Citizen Affairs and the salary of the Director of Public Works and Engineering."

In other business, the council:
—Approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Accu-Fone Audit, Inc., Manahawkin, for the purpose of auditing monthly telephone billing statements to discover if there are any overcharges or excess charges to the Township.

—Approved a resolution urging the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a block of four stamps honoring the Iowa Class Battleships: The Iowa, the New Jersey, the Missouri and the Wisconsin, and to place them on sale in November 1988.

—Authorized the Business Administrator to participate in joint purchasing agreements relative to police radio maintenance with the City of Linden and the City of Rahway.

—Awarded the contract for furnishing on-site electrical inspection service to

Middle Department Inspection Agency, Inc., Collingswood.
—Awarded the bid for the purchase of items of fire fighting equipment to Fire and Safety Services Ltd., Piscataway, in the total amount of \$9,190.50.

—Reappointed William C. Hofscheider as a constable for a three-year period, effective April 20, subject to his posting a

bond in the amount of \$1,000.

—Authorized the filing of an application to establish a petty cash fund with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

—Appointed Raymond Londa, Elizabeth, as special counsel to defend individual defendants in the case of Miller, et als, vs. the Township of Clark and the Clark Police Department.

NEW WELCOME ... Mayor George Nucera is pictured with one of the signs recently erected to welcome motorists to Clark. The signs have been donated by area businesses including four from the Ramada Inn, two from Howard Johnson's, one each from Polychrome, Inc. and MacArthur Fuel and the first to be erected, the one shown above from Cosmar, Inc. The signs were designed by Clark's Business Administrator Joseph Monaco and Mike Stall from Wood Graphics, North Carolina.

Clark tenants show support for rent monitoring board

by Pat DiMaggio
Tenants and landlords in Clark will have a forum to resolve differences with the final adoption Monday night by the Township Council of an ordinance creating a rent monitoring board.

More than 125 residents, most of them tenants, showed

vocal support for those members of the council who voted in favor of the ordinance. Several homeowners spoke out against the ordinance, calling it a return to rent control, defeated in referendum by voters in 1983.

"Without doubt, it is a

form of rent control," said resident Tom Winters. "In 1982 the people of Clark, by a very strong mandate, voted against rent control." "In 1983, when the emotional impact of the abolishment of rent control took place in this town, I supported that abolishment," said Council Member

William Caruso who originally introduced the rent monitoring ordinance two years ago. "Promises that taxes would go down inflamed homeowners into believing something outstanding was going to happen. If people knew the true facts, the vote would have been different."

"Landlords brought this on themselves," continued Caruso. "They intimidated a lot of people. They doubled rents, refused to make repairs when requested, refused to meet with tenants on several occasions. This ordinance is for the benefit of landlords. It also protects your interests, too. It gives you a sounding board. People living in apartments are citizens of this community and they have to be represented. It is a constructive move for the Township of Clark. We have to give and take to make it all work."

"This ordinance is not rent control," said Councilman Robert Ellenport. "It is an attempt to provide a neutral meeting place for tenants and landlords to talk to one another. If you communicate, you solve a lot of problems. All the citizens of Clark deserve the opportunity to be represented."

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

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

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. All dwellings covered by the ordinance must be registered with the rent monitoring board and the owner of the property must answer a financial questionnaire prepared by the board.

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

Budget cuts reduce tax points

by Pat DiMaggio
The Clark Board of Education approved a resolution agreeing to a \$60,000 cut in their budget made by the Municipal Council at the board's regular meeting held last week.

"As a result of a meeting with the board, the council and County Superintendent of Schools Vito Gagliardi, we were able to arrive at what we believe to be a reasonable compromise between all parties," said Board President J. Donald Paris.

Although the council approved a \$60,000 reduction in the Current Expense portion of the budget, it was up to the Board of Education's discretion as to what accounts would be cut.

The local tax levy was reduced from \$5,739,759 to \$5,665,759 and the tax points for homeowners for schools purposes was reduced from 4 to 2 1/2 or from \$44 to approximately \$30 at a home assessed at \$116,000.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio said the following reductions would be made in the 1987 budget: Summer School Program, \$36,000; Community Services, \$4,000; Heat, \$10,000; Maintenance, \$5,000; Out-of-District Tuition Payments, \$5,000.

Paris also announced that Board Member John A. Fitzpatrick would be honored at a New Jersey

School Boards Association dinner to be held in June to commend him for his 20 years of service to the Board of Education. Board Member Thelma Purdy was honored last year for more than 20 years of service.

"They are the 'seniors' of the Clark Board of Education," said Paris of Fitzpatrick and Purdy. "We really appreciate their service."

In other business, the board:

—Approved a resolution accepting \$36,520 in Flow Through Funds (Education of All Handicapped Children).

—Adopted the following series for use in the district: Language Arts, Houghton

Mifflin Series 1986, K-5; Language Arts, Warriner's English Grammar Series 1987, 6-8; Social Science, Silver Burdett, Grade 4.

—Accepted the resignations of Argentina and Modesto Navarro effective June 30. The Navarro's have been employed as custodians at Kumpf School since 1980. "They have been great workers," said Ortenzio. "They never stop, they just stay with the job. They are courteous and are hard workers. I am going to miss them."

—Approved the Summer Payment Plan for 1987-88 for those persons who have indicated in writing their desire for such a plan.



TAKE TWO ... The students of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark will present their annual spring play, "Butterflies Are Free," on Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30, at 8 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Pictured during an informal rehearsal session for the play are, from left, senior Claudia Herrera (as Jill Tanner), junior Michael Ricci (as Don Baker),

sophomore Amy MacVicar (as Mrs. Baker) and sophomore Jim Sargent (as Ralph Austin). Sophomore Jen Burns is the stage manager for the production and Mrs. Michael Vogel, a teacher of English and Drama at Johnson Regional, is the play's director. Call 382-0910 for tickets which are \$3, \$2 for students, and local seniors will be admitted free.

Clark students plan art show

The students of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School will present their annual Art Show on Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22, in the school's Senior Cafeteria.

The show, which will feature the work of students from seven different art classes at Johnson Regional, will run from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, and all day on Friday, May 22. Sandra Hasselman, a teacher of Art at Johnson Regional, is the coordinator of the exhibit.

Klimko receives B.A. degree

Joseph S. Klimko, Jr. of Schwin Drive, Clark, received a B.A. degree in speech communications recently from East Stroudsburg University, Pa.



NEW HONOREES...The Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Zeta Chapter of Delta Epsilon Phi, the National German Honor Society, recently held its annual induction ceremonies, welcoming seven new students as members. Pictured here are front row from left, new members Thomas Kowalenko, Lynda Schubert, Lisa O'Brien, Diane MacAvoy, Dana DeSanto, Angela DeNevo and Patricia Koch. Back row, Teacher of German and Advisor to Delta Epsilon Phi, Mrs. Kathryn Zig-

mont; A.L.J. Assistant Principal, Mr. John Hutchinson; returning members Sigrid Stabenow, Lori Karamus, Michelle Marhofer (President), John Clement (Treasurer), Jennifer Carrea (Vice President), Julie Carrea (Secretary) and Johnson Regional Principal, Mr. David Carl. "These honor students are a credit to their Zeta Chapter, their school, Arthur L. Johnson, and their community, Clark," said Mrs. Zigmont of the recent inductees.

Memorial Day services

Veterans to be honored Monday

Memorial Day services sponsored by Clark Post 328 of the American Legion and Post 7363 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Clark are scheduled for Monday, May 25 at the Memorial Park located on Broadway, according to Commander Don McArdle of the American Legion.

Commanders from both veterans' organizations extend an invitation to Clark residents to attend the traditional rites scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. The Memorial Day message will be delivered by Dr. Frank Papandrea of the Union County Baptist Church, Clark, and the Honorable Mayor George Nucera.

Joining the veterans' organization and laying wreaths will be the Clark Municipal Council, Clark Volunteer Fire Department, Clark Police Department, Knights of Columbus, Clark-Scotch Plains Elks 2182, senior citizens, Boy Scout Troop 145, and Winfield-Clark Girl Scout Troop 130. During roll call of the veterans the Girl Scouts will place flags at the monument.

The Color Guard and Firing Squad will be conducted by veterans of Post 328 and Post 7363. Students of the Arthur L. Johnson High School will play taps.

In addition to their participation in the formal services, all veteran organizations will be responsible for placement of flags on the graves of all known veterans.

V.F.W. Commander Gene Koblikska states the tradition of the Memorial Day observance has its roots in the period immediately after the Civil War. For many years, the GAR in the North and the Confederate veterans in the South took charge of Memorial Day in their respective communities.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, pledged to perpetuate the annual observance of Memorial Day.

American Legion Commander Don McArdle adds that the observance of Memorial Day should include the display of the Flag of the United States by every home and business.