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Costs increase 30% for Raritan Road Fire station

by Pat DiMaggio

Clark's proposed fire substation, to be built on Raritan Road, faced another hurdle Monday night when the architectural firm hired by the Municipal Council to design the building came in with an estimated cost \$150,000 over the amount approved by voters in referendum.

Ronald Bertone, of the architectural and planning firm of Bertone Associates, Sewaren, advised the council at their executive meeting held Monday night that the estimated cost for the building would be \$650,000. In November 1986, voters approved a

bonding issue of \$500,000 to pay the cost of a new fire-substation.

Bertone said that design specifications had been discussed with the township engineer, Business Administrator Joseph Monaco and representatives from the fire department at a preliminary meeting. A design of "optimal, functional space" resulted from the meetings which would result in a masonry building with a fiberglass shingled roof, he said.

When the design was put through the firm's cost estimating process, an amount of \$650,000 was placed on the project, said Bertone. Improvement on

the original design included increasing the square footage from 4,920 square feet to 6,314 square feet, adding another overhead door to allow fire trucks access from the rear of the building and additional paving and fencing work to separate the substation from the neighboring First Aid Squad property and the adjacent Little League field.

Bertone also said that because the area was previously a fill site, seven feet of fill over the entire building area would have to be removed and replaced with five feet to be removed from the area outside the building. New fill would have to be brought in to hold a concrete slab and

footings able to support 50,000 pound fire trucks, he said. Estimated cost for the fill work would be between \$65,000 and \$70,000.

Saying he was "very disillusioned" by the report, Councilman Robert Ellenport cited the 30 percent increase in the original \$500,000 estimate over the past nine months. "As in every construction project, once we get suckered in, the price goes up," he said. "This was voted on by the residents of this township. The people of Clark expressed their decision of what they wanted and what they wanted to spend. A 30 percent increase shows disrespect."

Township Attorney

Stanley Fink said the council could not agree to the increased cost. The amount and site were spelled out and the public voted on it," he said. "The council and the administration cannot change that." Fink said there were two choices: to bring the estimate down to the amount specified in the referendum or to put the amount back on the ballot in next November's election. He said if the council had to wait another year for another vote, the cost would increase again.

Council President Joseph Pozniak handed the question back to a committee consisting of Councilmen Robert Ellenport, Fred

Eckel and William Caruso, Police Director Joseph Monaco, and to the chief of the Fire Department and the presidents of the First Aid Squad and Little League. "We have to stay with \$500,000" said Pozniak. "I'm sure we can put up a good building within the referendum."

Saying he was not optimistic in getting the price down, Bertone agreed to sit down with the committee to work out a compromise. "It is a simplistic building," he said. "Nothing in there is gold-plated, but we are more than willing to work with the committee and the township."



LAUNCHING THE LANCE... Nearly 200 enthusiastic members of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Class of 1987 gathered at the school recently for a party to mark the arrival of their school yearbook, The 1987 Lance. 1987 grads Megan McCutcheon, left, and Denise Pingor, right, page through a copy of the new yearbook. For the first time in ALJ history, The Lance was released in the fall, five months after graduation, rather than in the traditional month of June. This change, which is believed to be precedent-setting among public high schools in N.J., was made so the Johnson yearbook staff could put together a book of higher quality, with more color pages and covering an entire school year of events.

Clark AARP lists upcoming events

Clark Chapter #3733 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will celebrate the holiday season with a luncheon and entertainment festival at the Coachman Inn, Cranford, on Friday, December 11, noon, by reservation only.

Ruth Putmann is chairperson of the event assisted by Tillie Heisch, Mildred

Zlotek, Fran Witkin, Evelyn Whiting and Estelle and Andrew Butkowski.

Regular meetings will resume on Friday, January 8, at the Brewer Senior Citizen Center, Westfield Avenue, Clark, at 1 p.m.

Membership in Clark Chapter #3733 is open to those 55 and over, retired or employed and is open to all

area residents. Call 388-2426 for further information.

Upcoming day tours are listed for February 24 to Huntington Valley Dinner Theater, March 16, to Perona Farms, April 1, to Three Little Bakers.

A cruise to Bermuda from May 18 to May 25 on the Nordic Prince and a Caymanlands Tour of the West in September are also planned for members and guests.

Clark Post 328 plans annual International Night

The American Legion Clark Post 328 will hold its 4th annual International Night on Saturday, January 30 at the post home located on Westfield Avenue and Liberty Street, Clark.

A buffet dinner of ethnic food and refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m. followed by dancing to the music of "The Jack Kassiok Kombo" starting at 9 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained at the post home from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. Reservations may be made at \$25 per couple by contacting Chairman Joe Rybak, 381-5299 or Co-chairman Don McArdie, 381-3458.

ALJ students will present annual concert

The students of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark will present their annual Winter Band and Vocal Concert on Thursday, December 17, at

8 p.m. in the school's Hough Auditorium. Students, parents and residents are cordially invited to attend.



REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST... ALJ Class of 1987 members, from left, Julie Carrea, Shari Krelltzman, Hillary Bressler and Chris Canada share some memories while looking through their copies of The 1987 Lance at the recent yearbook gathering held at the high school.

THE 1987 LANCE



ADMIRING THEIR EFFORTS... Mr. Doug Felter, right, Faculty Advisor to The Lance, and Mr. Walt Cichy, left, Regional Manager for the Harff-Jones Yearbook Publishing Company, proudly display the newly arrived 1987 Johnson Regional yearbook, The Lance.

Library gets grant

The Clark Public Library has been awarded a State Library Aid Incentive Grant of \$5,000 to improve information services for community adults by upgrading the reference collection.

The library's Board of Trustees must match the grant with an additional \$5,000 to purchase much needed books, and other informational materials.



MARKETING FOR THE FUTURE... The Distributive Education Clubs of America-Marketing Education students at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark recently held their 15th Annual Parent/Student Luncheon at the school. Pictured are the senior students enrolled in the Marketing Education program at ALJ, standing, from left, Paul Petrella, Robyn Rosen, John Davidson, Robert Clifford and Mr. John Ford,

teacher of Marketing Education. Seated from left are Ed Santabarbara, Angela DeMarzo, John Joe and Kris Huey. The highlight of this event was a slide show, presented by the students, which described the Cooperative Education facet of this program. These students attend school in the morning and work at career-oriented jobs in the afternoon.

New staffers welcomed

by Pat DiMaggio
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio invites residents to "meet the staff" in the Clark Public School System.

Mrs. Marion Trabelsi is a new member of the Clark public schools. A Foreign Language teacher at the Carl Kumpf School, Mrs. Trabelsi is a graduate of Aurora College, Illinois, Universidad de Jaime Balme, Mexico and the Sorbonne, France. She has taught high school in Boston, at the Haitian Center in New York and in the Plainfield public school system.

Mrs. Catherine DePaola is the new school nurse at Kumpf School. A former nurse at the Children's Partial Hospital of the Jersey City Medical Center, she has worked in several other nursing institutions as well. Mrs. DePaola is a graduate of St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing, Union County College and Kean College and is the author of several articles on nursing care. She

has also been a workshop presenter.

Lucille Strano is the district's new accounting clerk/computer operator. A resident of Clark, Ms. Strano is a graduate of Arthur Johnson Regional High School and has worked for a number of private employers as an accounting, billing and financial clerk.

Megan Fitzgerald is the new art teacher at the Carl Kumpf School. A graduate of Montclair State College and the Parson School of Design, Ms. Fitzgerald holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Miami. She has taught in both private and public schools and serves as an adjunct instructor of art at Middlesex County College.

New officers names needed

The Clark Public Library is requesting all area organizations to notify the library of the names of their 1988 officers, so the Community Service File may be updated.

Clark Legion Unit lists activities

At their last meeting, the members of Clark Unit 328, American Legion Auxiliary draped their charter in memory of member Martha Dmytrow who passed away recently.

Tickets may be obtained from President Mrs. Dorothy Rea for the ham dinner to be held at the post

home on Sunday, December 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. Adult tickets are \$7 and children's tickets are \$3.50.

Chairman Mrs. Alexandria Rudnicki reported that she will visit with four veterans at the New Jersey Disabled Soldiers Home in Menlo Park for the holidays

and present them with a gift from the unit.

Mrs. Annette Ditzel and Mrs. Lorraine Gesner were welcomed as new members.

A donation was made to Frank McSweeney, who uses his animals to entertain at children's hospitals, shelters and detention centers.



A LIONS' DECREE... Mayor George G. Nucera signs a proclamation recognizing the thirtieth anniversary of the Clark Lions Club, with Lions look on, from left, William Miskowitz, Pat Dousa and Dr. John Farnella. The club was chartered on Dec. 11, 1957, and provides many public services including sight and hearing conservation programs in Clark.