

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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BEARING GIFTS... These Senior Class Officers from the A.L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark brightened the holiday season for some underprivileged children by bringing toys and arts-and-crafts materials to the St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth.

Pictured presenting the gifts to Peggy O'Donahue (second from right) and Kathy Bland (far right) of the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless are, from the left, Johnson Regional seniors Denise Favor, Christin Meister, Debbie Kalucki and Kelly Richter.

Council gives nod to road work, confronts waste disposal issues

by Pat DiMaggio
Clark's Municipal Council approved road improvement bond ordinances at their regular meeting held last week.

An amended ordinance for the improvement of 16 township streets was approved in the amount of \$500,000, adding the installation of Belgian block curbing on Mildred Terrace and deleting the area behind the Municipal Building from the original ordinance.

An additional ordinance was approved to improve the parking lot of the Municipal Building at an added cost of \$60,000. A bond ordinance in the amount of \$54,000 was approved for improvement to Tudor Drive.

All ordinances will come before the council for a public hearing and final adoption on February 16.

The council also approved resolutions dealing with the solid waste crisis faced by the township. A resolution urging the legislature and governor to make solid waste disposal a priority item immediately and resolving that a supplemental appropriation from the potential state surplus be made to aid municipalities around the state was approved.

A resolution urging the state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to rescind its action permitting the pass-through to customers by the trash haulers of the 136 percent increase for garbage disposal was also affirmed by the council.

The resolution also asks that the BPU direct all trash

haulers servicing Clark to pick up all household items and grass clippings and to investigate the negotiated contract between the Union County Utilities Authority and Union County on the \$138-per-ton rate.

A resolution resolving that Clark join in a lawsuit with Garwood, Fanwood and other municipalities against the Union County Utilities Authority to set aside the tipping fees pertaining to charges and deliveries to the Linden transfer station was approved on a vote of four in favor with Council members Carmine Cristiani, Bernard Hayden and Carol Pluta opposed.

The resolution also names Robert Renaud, of Elizabeth, as special counsel for the purpose of representing the township in this lawsuit at a fee not to exceed \$2,000.

In other business the council:

Reappointed Joseph R. Postizzi as township Municipal Judge for a three-year period.

Authorized the township engineer to undertake and supervise correction of a portion of Hillside Avenue.

Refunded to Visey Investment Corporation the sum of \$1,874.85 as a result of the redemption of a Tax Sale Certificate.

Authorized payment in the amount of \$1,580.80 to Bertone Associates for architectural services rendered in connection with the new fire sub-station.

Junior Volunteers in the limelight

by Pat DiMaggio
The name has changed, but the service they perform remains the same. Candy strippers are now known as Junior Volunteers and they continue to bring a special touch to the hospital environment.

The name "candy strippers" has been changed to encourage more boys into the program, said Phyllis Andelman, Administrator of Volunteer Services. "They are very conscientious, good workers."

Rahway Hospital's junior volunteers have dropped in number over the past two years, from 125 to 75, notes Phyllis, who has worked with volunteers for 14 years. "Not that they're not eager," she said. "But there is a transportation problem. Many come from single parent families or both parents are out working."

Some are taking care of younger siblings.

The volunteer office is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. "While they are here as volunteers, we try to take as good care of them as we can," Phyllis pointed out. "We bend over backwards to do whatever is right for the child."

Most youngsters in the program deal with Mrs. G. Audrey Grimaldi, the Junior Volunteer Coordinator for the past two years.

"Children come into the program for two reasons," said Audrey. "Because they are interested in studying a hospital environment or for a Confirmation project. They get a hands-on job experience of what it is like to work in a hospital." The program has been in existence for 20 to 25 years, she said.

Junior volunteers range in age from 14 to 18 and are asked to volunteer one day after school and a morning or afternoon on the weekend. They undergo an extensive training course. "The child will go right on the floor, one-to-one with patients," said Audrey. "They are the feet of the hands and feet for the nurses. The majority of them have never had a serious illness. They start very busy-tailed and wide-eyed and after awhile they realize the seriousness of sickness. All of a sudden they are able to stand on their own two feet. They are more appreciative of their home life and they learn commitments they don't learn in society."

An orientation session is held for new volunteers. They are instructed on "don'ts" of hospital life. They must be quiet; they may not enter a room if the doctor is present; and they are not allowed to ask personal questions of patients.

But the hospital depends heavily on their services. They will deliver flowers and help with trays at meal time. They will provide fresh water and change beds and help to feed patients.

"A patient who has had a bad night, who is frightened, might not tell the nurse or doctor an important symptom, but they will tell a kid," said Audrey. "They are non-threatening and they won't cause them pain."

One of the benefits of the junior volunteer program is the socialization between youngsters. And the feelings of helping other people.

"They share and become close with kids they work with," said Audrey. "Some kids come to me and they don't feel like winners. For some of them it is their first time as a success and they feel wonderful. It is the first time in their young life that they feel how special they are. If that's the best we can do for them, I'm very pleased."

Junior volunteers honored

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway Hospital's Junior Volunteers were feted at a Christmas party at the hospital on December 18.

Top honors went to Donna Abrams and Laura Brzychoy with 700 hours of volunteer time each.

Why do youngsters give up their free time to get involved with the program and work with patients? Mary Pedersen, of Carteret, has been working as a volunteer since last summer. "I like helping people. I want to be a nurse and this gives me information," she said.

Donna Abrams, of Rahway, starts nursing school next year and said she got involved for the experience. She hopes to attend either Seton Hall or East Stroudsburg Universities.

"I like helping people," said Lee Cohen, of Clark, who is thinking of becoming a doctor. "It makes me feel as if I've accomplished something. It makes me feel good and it is a way of meeting new people."

Robert Fraser and Martin Wendel, both of Rahway, said they got involved as a service project.

"I like helping people," said Sam Weakland, of Rahway. "It makes you feel good."

"I care," said Vita Navarra.

Youngsters between the ages of 14 and 18 interested in volunteering their time are invited to call Mrs. Audrey Grimaldi at Rahway Hospital, Stone Street.

Special officer commended for distinguished service

by Pat DiMaggio
At a meeting held last week, Clark's Municipal Council commended a special police officer for his years of service.

A resolution honoring Special Police Officer Gordon L. Lechner was approved by the council and presented by Mayor George G. Nucera and Council President Fred Eckel, accompanied by former Township Clerk Edward Padusniak.

Lechner has served the township as a special police officer since 1973 and as a volunteer civil defense auxiliary member since 1970.

He was also one of the founders of the Clark Volunteer Civil Defense Auxiliary and has risen to the rank of captain where

he has been in charge of training new members.

While a special police officer, Lechner served on many details including bicycle patrol, Halloween parade, mischief night and, on a regular basis, as the officer designated as the sergeant-at-arms by the chief of police at council meetings.

Lechner tendered his resignation which became effective on January 1.



CALL OF DUTY... Clark Police Chief Anthony Smar, at left, poses proudly with some of his "finest": (left to right) Patrolman James Pflug, Detective Sergeant Robert Clark, Exceptional Service award, and Cerasa received an honorable mention for commendable actions in the line of duty. Others honored with awards (not pictured) were Patrolman Kevin White and Sgt. George Sikora.

Five of Clark's finest receive service awards

by Pat DiMaggio
Departmental awards were presented to members of the Police Department at Clark's Municipal Council meeting last week.

Patrolman James Pflug received an honorable service award for an incident that occurred last February 5, during a robbery at a jewelry store. An individual involved in the robbery fled the scene. Patrolman Pflug was in the area, observed the suspect, chased him on foot and arrested him. At the time, it was unknown if the suspect was armed.

Pflug has been an officer since 1984 and this was his first award.

Patrolman James Cerasa also received an honorable mention award for actions that led to the apprehension of a hit-and-run suspect last March in which a youth from another municipality was fatally injured.

Cerasa was previously a communications operator and a member of the Westfield Police Department. He has been a Clark Patrolman since 1985.

Patrolman Kevin White also received an honorable mention for his initiative award for actions that led to the apprehension of a hit-and-run suspect last March in which a youth from another municipality was fatally injured.

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Michael Boczon on Dean's List

Michael Boczon of Kathryn St., Clark, was among those named to the Dean's List at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., for outstanding student scholarship during the first semester of the 1987-88 academic year.

To achieve this honor, the average of a student's grade in all courses within the semester must equal 3.5 or higher. Boczon's average for the semester was 3.6.

Boczon is entering his second semester as a senior at Bucknell. He plans to graduate in May with a B.S./B.A. in accounting, after which he will likely pursue an M.B.A.

Detective Sergeant Robert Clark received an exceptional service award for disarming a youth who had a large hunting knife and was threatening suicide at a resident's home. Clark accomplished this by talking to the youth, who was later referred for professional services.

Clark has been in the Clark Police Department since 1968 and has received numerous awards.

Sergeant George Sikora received an honorable service award for his professional experience and dedication in surviving a vehicle previously involved in an armed holdup of a vendor in Clark. The suspects had committed armed robberies in other communities.

After the arrest, a revolver was found in the suspect's possession. Sikora has been an officer in Clark since 1960.

Tax forms available
The Clark Public Library has tax forms 1040 with schedules A, A&B, and EZ available.