

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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## Promoted cops sworn in

by Pat DiMaggio  
More than 100 residents, family members and fellow police officers attended swearing-in ceremonies for police department promotions on August 15 in Clark. Patrolman James Cerasa was promoted to sergeant

and Sergeant Dennis Connell was promoted to lieutenant. "I am very proud of my police department," said Mayor George Nucera. "They are willing to go the extra mile for the residents of the community."

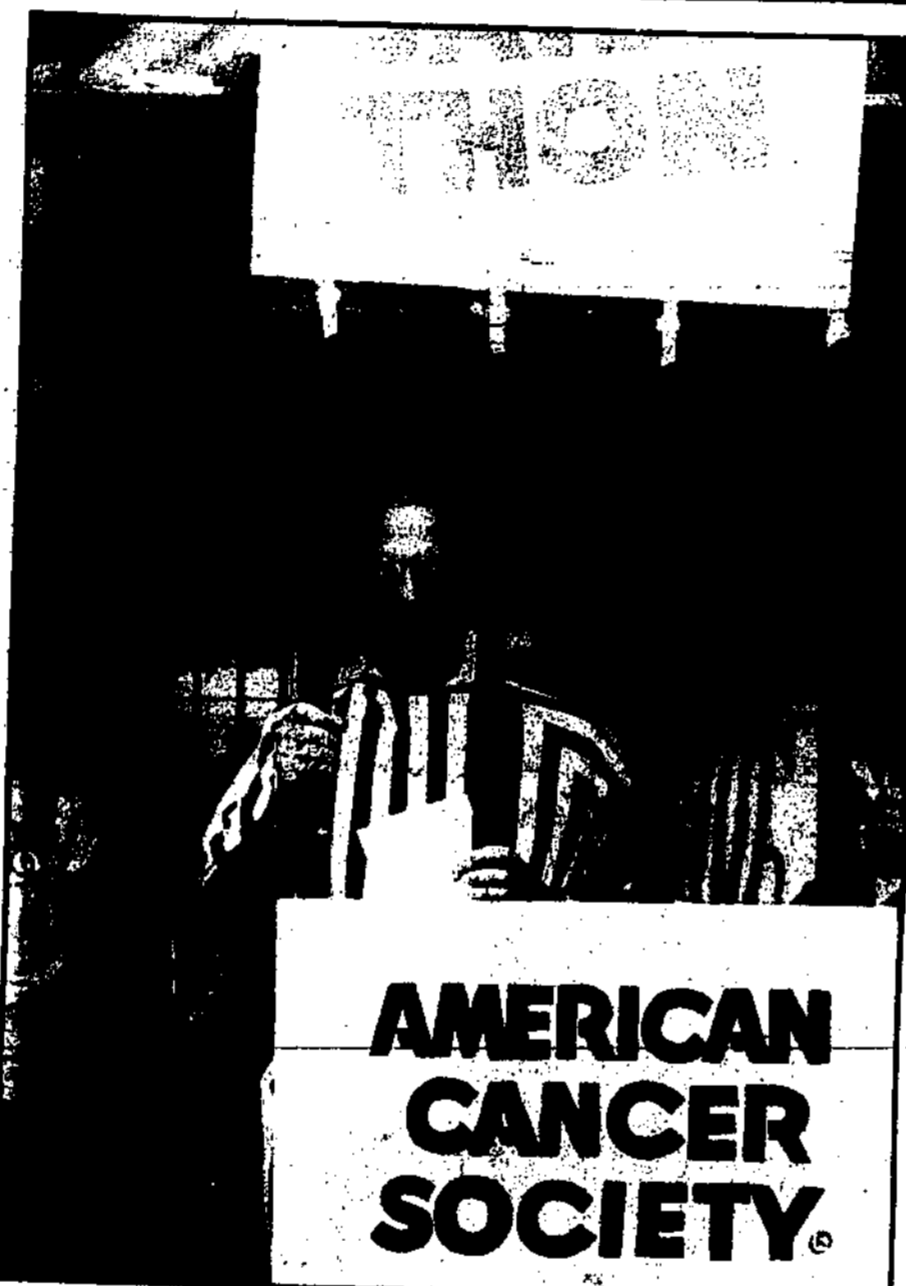
James Cerasa came to Clark from the Westfield Police Department. He is a graduate of the Union County Police Academy and is a licensed CPR instructor. He also attended 10 other law enforcement schools. Dennis Connell was ap-

pointed to the police force in 1974 and was promoted in 1982. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Administration and is a graduate of the Union County Police Academy and 20 other law enforcement schools.

Municipal Council Vice President Joseph Pozniak offered congratulations to the men on behalf of the council. "Welcome aboard, and we wish them a long period on the police force," he said.



SWORN IN... Anton Danco, right, Acting Police Chief of Clark, pictured with Lt. Dennis Connell, left, and Sgt. James Cerasa, who were just sworn in to their new Clark force.



NO JAILHOUSE BLUES!... Dr. Vito A. Gagliardi of Clark, Superintendent of Schools for Union County, smiled bravely as he prepared to serve his "Jail-A-Thon" sentence. He successfully raised his \$500 "bail" to fight cancer.

## County officials 'arrested' in effort to arrest cancer!

It was an incredible sight! From July 19-21 the lawn of the Union County Courthouse was the scene of trial after trial! Justice, such as it was, was swift and merciful. The hapless prisoners were escorted by off-duty sheriff's officers and county police, who volunteered their time, to the judge who read them the charge, found them guilty and set their bail.

That little melodrama was the 4th Annual Jail-A-Thon here in Union County. A unique, exciting fundraiser, Jail-A-Thon benefits the American Cancer Society's research, services and educational programs. Respected government officials, including Acting County Manager Ann Baran, cheerfully volunteered to be hauled off to the "hoosegow"...there to phone their friends and associates for donations to raise their "bail."

"Let me take this opportunity to commend the American Cancer Society, including their many volunteers, and their co-sponsor, WJDM (1130 AM), which broadcast the event live from the courthouse steps for all three days. It really helped to make this Jail-A-Thon a success," noted Michael Lapolla, Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"In particular," Lapolla added, "I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of Brenda Curtis, Executive Director of the American Cancer Society's Union County Unit, and John Quinn, president and general manager of WJDM in Elizabeth, which serves North Jersey and Staten Island. My hat's off to all those hard workers!"

A total of over \$89,000 during the three day period...a new "Jail-A-Thon" record. Rarely have so many been so happy in jail. Raising money for cancer with a Jail-A-Thon...what an arresting idea!

## Freshman Orientation set at A.L. Johnson

The Board of Education of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 will conduct Freshman Orientation Day on Tuesday, September 6, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School. The following bus schedule will apply that day:

ALJ

## Bus routes to ALJ

The first day of school at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School will be Wednesday, September 7 with the following bus schedule in effect:

A.M. Route  
Route 44 -- Stop 1, 7:35 a.m., Hayes Avenue and Sherold Road; Stop 2, 7:45 a.m., at high school.  
Route 43 -- Stop 1, 7:50 a.m., Boynton Avenue and Picton Place; Stop 2, 7:55 a.m., Dakota Street and Florida Street; and Stop 3, 8 a.m. at high school.

P.M. Route  
Routes 43 and 44 -- Stop 1, 3 p.m., Boynton Avenue and Picton Place; Stop 2, 3:02 p.m., Dakota Street and Florida Street; and Stop 3, 3:13 p.m., Hayes Avenue and Sherold Road.  
Late Run -- Leave high school at 3:45 p.m. to above locations.

The driver will be Angelo Altomonte; the last day of school will be June 22, 1989.

## Robinson Plantation to exhibit paintings

A demonstration and exhibit of pastel painting by artist Sandra Watts of Summit, will take place at the Dr. William Robinson Plantation, 593 Madison Hill Rd., Clark, Sunday, September 4, from 1 until 4 p.m.

The 17th century house and grounds will be open to the public and tours conducted by authentically costumed members of the Clark Historical Society. There is no charge.

The annual fall Herb Day will take place at the herb garden. Dried and fresh herbs, food items from herbs and information on their use will be available.

The Museum Shop with its unique collection of books, gifts and antiques will be open.

## Clark couple loans Soyer paintings for museum show

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Newman of Clark have loaned three paintings from their private collection for an exhibition of the work of the Soyer brothers at the Montclair Art Museum. The exhibition opened August 21.

The Soyers, Russian immigrants to the U.S. in the early 1900's, gained fame as "Urban Realist" artists in the 1930's, depicting life as they saw it in New York City, with a sensitivity for the underlying frailty and fatigue of the people who worked there. Raphael, who died in 1987, is recognized as a major American painter and the premier realist of his generation.

The Montclair show, titled "City Dwellers: The Soyers," is scheduled to run through December 11. It features 20 paintings, prints, drawings and watercolors of various wistful nudes, dancers and portrait models dating from the 1920's to the 1960's. About half the works are from a bequest made to the Museum in 1974 from Moses Soyer and his wife Ida.

The three works loaned by the Newmans are by Raphael Soyer: a self-portrait, "Landscape circa 1950, an aquatint, "The Embrace" (c. 1962) and an oil, "Lady in Red" (c. 1941).

Sons of a teacher of Hebrew who also wrote children's books, the Soyer brothers worked at odd jobs before attending art school at night. Resisting the undercurrents of change that led to the rise of abstract painting, they were steadfast believers in painting the workers they had seen and known in humanist-realist style and even helped publish a magazine in the 1930's espousing that style.

## Clark's Obedin is swim meet medalist

Stacy Obedin of Clark has won four medals at the New Jersey Swimming Long Course Junior Olympics. The meet was held August 5, 6, and 7 at the West Point Military Academy, New York.

Obedin placed first in the 200-meter backstroke, second in the 100-meter backstroke, and sixth in both the 200- and 400-meter individual medley events. Last month she qualified for the National Junior Olympics, and swam the 200-meter backstroke event at the meet in Orlando, Florida.

Obedin swims for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Swim Team, and was a member of their 1988 National Swim Team.

## Acting Police Chief sees education as key to improvements

by Pat DiMaggio  
Clark's Acting Chief of Police believes that education is important, and one of the changes he would like to institute in the Police Department is more training and schooling for officers.

Since being appointed Acting Chief in mid-April, after the retirement of Chief Anthony Smar, Anton Danco has worked for improvements in Clark's Police Department.

"We are trying to increase the training of police officers both in-service and off-duty," said Danco. "We would like to send them to school, either before line-up or when we can afford to pull them off the roads. A lot of things have gotten very technical, the laws are constantly being updated and changed. We have to keep the men right on key."

A "monumental job" for Danco is to rewrite policies and procedures for the Police Department. "A lot of things have changed," said Danco, who is working with three sergeants to bring procedures up to date.

Danco hopes to complete construction work on the building which houses the Police Department. One of the projects is to change the entrances to make them more secure.

"We lack security," said Danco. "And we would like to make it easier for people to come in and out so we can service our public better."

Another program close to his heart is the updating of the communications system. "We are trying to buy a new police console and are updating our radios and communications," said Danco.

Clark's Police Department consists of 44 officers and 5 civilians. "We are basically a service oriented Police Department," said Danco. "Most arrests are for burglaries, drug offenses, drunk driving, traffic control and traffic accidents."

## Violence and vandalism costs in regional district decrease last school year

For the second straight school year, the number of incidents of violence and vandalism and the financial loss resulting from these incidents has decreased in the four high schools of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1.

"We are doing better when it comes to preventing incidents of violence and vandalism, and the numbers prove it," said Dr. Donald Merachnik, Regional District Superintendent of School.

A total of 74 incidents of vandalism and/or violence were reported in the Regional High Schools -- David Brearley in Kenilworth, Jonathan Dayton in Springfield, Arthur L. Johnson in Clark and Governor Livingston in Berkeley Heights -- during the 1987-88 school year.

The total cost resulting from these actions was \$6,993.75. Less than half of the total loss, \$2,938.75, has been absorbed directly by the Regional Board of Education and the Regional District. These figures compare favorably to a total of 79 incidents costing \$14,160.59 in 1986-87, and 140 incidents of vandalism and violence resulting in a loss of \$15,543.93 during the 1985-86 school year.

Dr. Merachnik also said that "the students have listened to our message," a statement which was made in reference to a letter the Superintendent submitted to the student newspapers of the four Regional High Schools last fall. In the letter, Dr. Merachnik appealed to the students' pride in their respective schools while emphasizing that the money spent on repairing the damage caused by violence and vandalism could have been used in ways that would have more directly benefited the students.



DOWNBEAT... The Union County Regional Pops Ensemble, featuring local students and adult residents, is seen performing during their recent free outdoor concert at the Clark Municipal Building. The Ensemble presented two shows this summer, one in Clark and one in Springfield. A more extensive schedule is being tentatively planned for the summer of '89. This year's performing members were participants in the Summer Instrumental Music Workshop held at Governor Livingston Regional High in Berkeley Heights, one of four annually by the Union County Regional Board of Education.