

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Townwide garbage resolution passed at emotion-charged meeting

by Pat DiMaggio
Clark residents tuned out in force last week to voice their opinions at a public hearing on a Township-wide garbage collection plan. More than 400 vocal and sometimes angry residents showed their support or condemnation of the plan at the meeting held September 14. More than 100 people were left standing, lining the walls of the Brewer School auditorium when the meeting commenced. Special police officers, circulating among the crowd, were, for the most part, unsuccessful in their attempts to quiet the crowd when they would cheer or deride a speaker. The Solid Waste Committee, consisting of Chairman Robert Ellenport and

Council members William Caruso and Carmine Cristiani, have studied a proposal to change the solid waste collection plan in Clark to one hauler for the Township. Residents currently contract privately with scavengers and pay more than \$400 a year for their services. The committee's plan would divide the Township into two special garbage districts, which would be taxed separately through their property taxes for garbage collection. This would allow tax deductibility for this charge, said Ellenport. Residents were asked to sign their name on a speakers list before the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Councilman

Bernard Hayden moved to allow Sally Barton an opportunity to speak. Hayden said she was recognized in the state of New Jersey as an expert witness on solid waste management. Council President Fred Eckels said that because Barton had not signed the list, she would not be allowed to speak. (Editor's note: See letter, page 4.) Eighteen residents voiced their comments during the meeting. John Schroeck, Hutchinson Street, questioned the tax deductibility of the special garbage assessment to be paid through homeowners' property taxes. Schroeck said an IRS publication showed that assessments for services such as garbage are non-deductible. He also said that

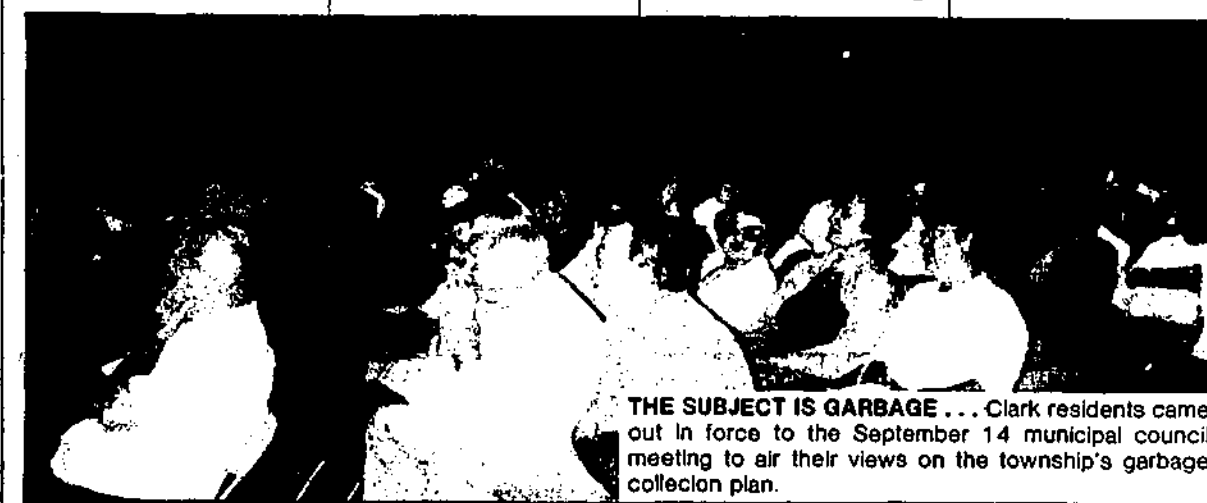
mailers sent out by the Clark Taxpayers Coalition showed that residents were against the plan by a margin of 4 to 1. "Do we want garbage costs on our taxes," Schroeck asked. "No we don't," he answered rhetorically. John Hennessey, Sycamore Street, commended the committee for the job they did in studying the plan. "I have 40-plus years experience in the tax field," said Hennessey. "I cannot think of any plausibility for not including garbage in our tax bills." Nelson Kornstein, the next speaker, asked to defer his allotted time limit of three minutes to Ms. Barton to allow her to speak.

Despite chants of "Let her speak, let her speak" from the audience, Township Attorney Stanley Fink advised the crowd that to allow Barton to speak would violate the Sunshine Laws and render the meeting illegal. Fink said that when the meeting was advertised, the rules of the meeting stated that anyone wishing to speak must sign their name on the speakers list prior to the meeting. Barton did not do so and to allow her to speak anyway would violate the intent of the meeting. "You people are very self-serving," said Kornstein to the council. "There are some rotten eggs in this case and they're sitting on that platform." "I am shocked," said the

next speaker, Jerry Gold of Thomas Drive. "I thought we were neighbors and friends and that we all were interested in one thing. We've had many years of neglect. Stay firm on this," he told the council. Councilman Hayden moved to table the proposal for further study. Councilwoman Carol Pluta seconded the motion but she and Hayden were outvoted five-to-two. The council finally approved the resolution to go

out to bid for the Township-wide collection plan on a vote of five in favor, with Council members Hayden and Pluta opposed. The council finally approved the resolution to go

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Board of Ed lists appointees; extends warm wishes to retiring custodian

by Pat DiMaggio
Clark's Board of Education appointed personnel, accepted resignations and approved Advanced Study Grants at their regular meeting held last week. The board appointed Marie Keller as a teacher aide at \$6.50 per hour, Debra Daly as a bus driver at \$10.60 per hour and Kathy Miller, Mary Ann O'Halloran, Rita Mellito, Patrick Healey and Joseph Wagner as bus and/or van drivers at \$9.50 per hour. Philip Venditto, Bill Gillford, William Schaffer

and Patrick Healey were also appointed as substitute custodians at \$8.75 per hour and Patrick Healey was appointed as a substitute maintenance worker at \$8.75 per hour and as a substitute clerical worker at \$7.00 per hour. The board accepted the resignation of Diane Seeburger, library aide, and the retirement resignation of Frank Galiszewski, custodian at Valley Road School. The board extended warm wishes for health and enjoyment to Galiszewski. Advanced study grants for Carol Speiker and Paul Westerfield were approved.

'Military order' states beer bust
The Military Order of the Cooles, Pup Tent #5, of Clark has scheduled a "Swamp Bugs" dinner-dance Saturday, October 1, 8

Tix on sale for '60s dance

A "Sixties Dance" will be held at St. John the Apostle Gym, Valley Road, Clark, on September 24, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, which includes hot and cold buffet, beer, soda, snacks, coffee and cake. Music will be provided by D.J. "Smokin' Joe." An Acappella group will also perform. Tickets and table reservations are now available. Call "Tony" at 381-3104. Proceeds of the affair will be used for the benefit of hospitalized veterans.

Back to School Night next Thursday at ALJ

The Parent-Teacher Association (P.T.A.) of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School will sponsor its annual "Back to School Night" at the school in Clark on Thursday evening, September 29, at 7:30 p.m. The activities for the evening will begin with a general orientation session, call the main office at Johnson Regional at 382-0910.

Johnson will then have an opportunity to participate in a simulated school day, following the academic schedule of their sons and/or daughters by spending a few minutes in each class and with each teacher to whom their children are assigned. For additional information, call the main office at Johnson Regional at 382-0910. (P.T.A.)

Kumpf PTA slates classroom visitations

The Kumpf School PTA of Clark will sponsor the annual Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Carl Kumpf School on Mildred Terrace in Clark. Parents will meet their children's teachers and will follow their children's school schedules. Refreshments will be provided by the PTA following the classroom visitations. For further information call Linda Montgomery, President, at 232-8225.

Historical society plans Wednesday meeting

Michael Yesenko of the Union Historical Society will speak on "Connecticut Farms and the Caldwell House" when the Clark Historical Society meets Wednesday, September 28, at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Clark Municipal Building, formerly the Brewer School, 430 Westfield Ave. Mr. Yesenko will recount the story of the settlement of Union in 1667 by several families from Connecticut seeking freedom to practice their own religion, and the tale of their "fighting parson," Rev. James Caldwell, whose wife was killed by a sniper as she sat in the parsonage he chose away from Elizabethtown, for her safety. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Membership in the Clark Historical Society is open to all.

Employment offered through Green Thumb Program

New Jersey Green Thumb is now accepting applications from persons seeking employment with the Green Thumb Program in Union County. Applicants must be 55 years of age or older, and must meet low income guidelines. Wherever possible, jobs will be suited to each individual's interests and abilities, and will offer up to 24 hours per week of employment at the federal minimum wage. The Green Thumb Program is funded by the Department of Labor, and is designed to provide jobs and income to older persons. The program also assists local public and private non-profit agencies by providing labor on projects that will benefit the local community. Anyone wishing to apply or who desires more information should contact the Regional Green Thumb office, day or evening at 756-0161, or County Green Thumb Representative Silvia Brendel at 925-1992.

Interested persons can call 381-3113 to schedule a screening appointment. Homecoming Dance
The St. Agnes Sports Committee is sponsoring a Fall Homecoming Dance at St. Agnes School, 342 Madison Hill Rd. on Saturday, October 8, from 8-midnight. D.J. music will be provided by the "Duke of Earl". Cost is \$7.50 a person. For ticket information call Mary Ford 382-4235 or Joyce Crygo 499-0277.

Cocktails with the candidates

A cocktail party for the Clark Republican candidates will be held at the American Legion Hall, Westfield Avenue, Clark from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 25. Candidate for Mayor, Bernie Yarusavage, and Council-at-Large candidates Bernie Hayden, Joe Rybak and Ruth DeLuca will be available to discuss the issues in the upcoming election. To purchase an advance ticket, call 388-7916 or 382-4295. Tickets will also be available at the door. Donation is \$10 per person.

Library slates pre-school story time

Fall Pre-School Story Time for children aged 3-12 to 5 will be held on Tuesdays in October at the Clark Public Library. The four sessions of stories, songs, games and fingerplay will last from 10:30-11 a.m. Adults who accompany the child must remain in the library during Story Time. Registration in advance is requested. Parents may register their children in person at the library or by telephoning 388-5999 during library hours.

Free eye screening offered in Clark

"The Leading Cause of Blindness" was the subject of a presentation given by Dr. Robert Neweloff, Ophthalmologist, to more than 200 members of the Clark chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons at the group's September meeting. In conjunction with the presentation, Dr. Neweloff will be conducting a free vision screening at The Eye Center of Clark, 86 Westfield Ave., Clark, on October 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tests for glaucoma, cataracts, and visual acuity and general eye

health will be performed at the screening. Interested persons can call 381-3113 to schedule a screening appointment. Homecoming Dance
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FOCAL POINT... The Clark War Veterans' Memorial has found a new home, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Clark Central Veterans' Committee and the cooperation of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1. Pictured at the new site of the Veterans' Memorial, the front lawn of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School on Westfield Avenue, are (from left) Union County Regional Assistant Superintendent of Schools Charles Bauman, Regional Board of Education members Harold Donaldson and Natalie Waitt (Board President), James Kehoe, Chairman of the Clark Central Veterans' Committee, David Carl,

Principal of Johnson Regional, Board of Education member Margaret Hough, and Dr. Donald Merachnik, Regional District Superintendent of Schools. The Clark War Veterans' Memorial was recently moved to the grounds of ALJ from its former location, a parcel of land at the corner of Broadway and Grand Street in Clark. Mr. Kehoe and the members of the Central Veterans' Committee requested the relocation to the school grounds because of their belief that the school is an "appropriate" place for their memorial in that it is the "focal point of the community."