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25 CENTS

Osceola fire named worst in township history

by Pat DiMaggio

The "worst fire in Clark's history" which raged through the night Wednesday, injuring three Township firefighters, was deliberately set, according to fire officials. The fire, which destroyed

the Osceola Presbyterian Church on Raritan Road, began on Wednesday evening shortly after 10 p.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Robert Volpe. Clark's Volunteer Fire Department was assisted by apparatus from Cranford, Linden, Westfield, Winfield

and Rahway. Scotch Plains provided additional manpower.

The fire was finally declared under control at 6 a.m. Thursday morning but not before the steeple of the church collapsed into the main building. The source of

origin of the fire, said Volpe, was the cellar area.

Firefighters had difficulty controlling the blaze because they had to go through three "false" ceilings, he said.

Injured were Vince Perera, Jr. who was treated and released at Rahway Hospital

for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion, Mark Klemptist, treated and released for smoke inhalation and Richard Davis, who was hit with a large volume stream of water. Davis remains hospitalized in stable condition. Investigators have deter-

mined the fire was an act of arson, according to the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. E., Cranford, N.J. on Tuesday, Oct. 11th. There will be a parent, child orientation program on Thursday, October 6.

Anyone with information is asked to call the arson unit's confidential hotline at 527-1222 or the Clark Police Department at 388-3434.



BEFORE AND AFTER... Osceola Presbyterian Church is shown in its glory, above, and after the devastating fire last Wednesday.



Town-wide clean-up to commence October 11

Hayden critical of collection plan

by Pat DiMaggio

A bid was accepted at a special council meeting Monday night for a Township-wide clean-up to begin in October.

The council approved a contract with Blue and White Disposal Service, the same company that collected bulk items in last year's clean-up, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. The council approved an emergency appropriation of \$50,000 at last week's council meeting to bring the total of funds allocated for the clean-up to \$150,000.

Blue and White Disposal Service will utilize 25 cubic yard trucks or containers at a cost per truckload of \$1,500. The \$150,000 contract would cover costs for 100 truckloads. Last year, the Township filled 60 truckloads of bulk items from residents' cellars and attics in the annual clean-up.

Councilman Bernard Hayden, concerned that collection would exceed 100 truckloads, asked for a guarantee that all homeowners in the Township would be serviced by the contract.

"What happens when 100 truckloads are exceeded and a ward is not done," asked Hayden. "There should be a guarantee that every homeowner in this town will be in on this clean-up. No one is a second-class citizen. We are the victims of poor planning on the part of this administration."

"I find this very amusing," said Councilman William Caruso. "During our budget hearings, Mr. Hayden said we didn't need another clean-up."

Councilman Robert Elmpert asked Township Attorney Stanley Fink to include a clause in the contract saying that the administration would reserve the right to pro-rate the trucks, depending on the number of households in a ward.

"We are not going to leave any ward out," said Councilman Joseph Fozzack. "We will provide service to everyone."

The schedule for pick-up for the annual clean-up is as follows: Ward 1 - October 11 to 14; Ward 2 - October 18 to 21; Ward 3 - October 26 to 28; Ward 4 - November 1 to 4.



TEAM PICTURE... Republican Candidates for mayor - Bernard Yarusavage, Bernard Hayden, Ruth DeLuca, (Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden) and Joseph Rybak - at a recent party-hosted sendoff. Assemblywoman Ogden was a special guest at the affair.

Clark GOP fetes mayor-council team

by Pat DiMaggio

Clark's Republican Party hosted a cocktail party-fund-raiser on Sunday in preparation for the November 8 mayoral and municipal council elections.

Former mayor Bernard Yarusavage, Councilman Bernard Hayden, former Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca and newcomer Joseph Rybak were the guests of honor at the event held at the American Legion Hall on Westfield Avenue.

Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden stopped in to show her support for the candidates on the local level. "All of you in Clark know what I know," said Ogden to the crowd. "You are all really fortunate to have candidates such as these. Clark really needs these individuals."

Yarusavage, mayor for 12 years until he lost the 1984 election to present Mayor George Nucera, is seeking a return to office. He is employed by Exxon in Linden and has lived in Clark for 36 years. "We are happy to know you will follow us through to election day," Yarusavage told the audience in introducing the candidates. "Vote for them and they will tell you the truth."

Yarusavage was sharply critical of the Democrats on the present council for having rescheduled this year's annual "spring" clean-up (cellar, attic refuse, etc.) to October. "...another case of poor planning or deliberate election timing" at the expense of the people of Clark, he how he characterized it.

Councilman Hayden switched his party affiliation from Democratic to Republican earlier this year. He is seeking his 4th term in office. He was first elected in 1974 and re-elected in 1980. He served only two years of that term, resigning because of family health problems, but was re-elected in 1984. Hayden is employed by General Foods in Clifton and has resided in Clark for 23 years. "Put class back into the mayor's spot," said Hayden. "This council will work together for the benefit of all the taxpayers."

Ruth DeLuca, a former councilwoman representing the 3rd Ward, was first elected in 1982. She did not seek re-election in 1984 and is now seeking an At-Large seat for the Township. DeLuca was formerly employed by Eastern Airlines and now works for Wheaton Plastics. She has lived in Clark for 20 years.

Joseph Rybak is seeking his first term in office and is employed by Merck and Company. He has resided in Clark for 31 years. "We will make every effort to put 110 percent into this job," he said. "Our goal is to work in unity. Whether we are Democrats or Republicans, we should work together for the taxpayers."

For additional information, call the main office at Johnson Regional at 382-0910.

The Clerk's Office of Clark Township will be opened until 9 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, Friday, October 7, and Tuesday, October 11 to accept voter registrations for anyone desiring to vote in the General Election to be held November 8.

The last opportunity to register will be Tuesday, October 11 until 9 p.m.

An additional pie-shaped lot will not be included in the appraisal. The Planning Board recommended that the Township purchase the lot, but Caruso said purchase would jeopardize the Township's position in the Mount Laurel decision. Purchase of the lot would increase Township-owned undeveloped land to two acres and would subject the Township to possible Mount Laurel affordable housing programs for low-income residents.

The council also approved for first reading an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of new communication and signal systems and appropriated the sum of \$75,000 to pay the cost.

In other business the council: - Agreed to support any proposal which would prohibit the siting of a hazardous waste incinerator in the City of Linden.

- Awarded a contract for tree removal and trimming to Clark Tree Service in the amount of \$18,200.

- Rejected a bid of \$99,750 from Schiano Construction Company for the improvement of King Street because of an alteration in the bid specifications and urged the business administrator to advertise and solicit new bids.

- Supported the action of the Township of Hillside and condemned the inaction of the N.J. Department of Transportation in the proper maintenance of Route 22.

- Approved the insertion of an item of revenue in the amount of \$726.45 from the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund with a matching sum of \$756.45 to be appropriated under the Driving-While-Intoxicated Program.

- Confirmed the filing of an application for state aid in the amount of \$132,000 for the repaving of Broadway, from Valley Road to the Railway city line and in the amount of \$74,800 for the repaving of Terminal Avenue from Westfield Avenue to Central Avenue.

- Endorsed proposed legislation which would state that no hazardous waste incinerator shall be located within a ten mile radius of a resource recovery facility.

- Approved an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of providing additional funds for an annual clean up program.

Notice

The Osceola Presbyterian Nursery School is planning to resume classes at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. E., Cranford, N.J. on Tuesday, Oct. 11th. There will be a parent, child orientation program on Thursday, October 6.

Any donations for the Nursery School Building Fund can be sent to: Osceola Nursery School 6 Yarmouth Rd. Cranford, N.J. 07016 c/o Carol Walsh

Notice

Tonight is 'Back to School' at ALJ

A reminder: 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 tonight (Sept. 29) at 7:30.

The activities for the evening will begin with an orientation session in the school's Hough Auditorium. Parents of students currently enrolled at ALJ 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.

For additional information, call the main office at Johnson Regional at 382-0910.

Voter registration

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Johnston promoted

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert E. Johnston, son of Jean Johnston of Ivy St., Clark, has been promoted to his present rank while serving at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego.

He is a 1979 graduate of A.L. Johnson Regional High School.

Rabinowitz named Man of the Year by Boxing Hall of Fame

Max Rabinowitz of Clark was voted Man of the Year by the N.J. Boxing Hall of Fame, and will be honored at a breakfast at the Ramada Hotel in Clark on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Rabinowitz, who fought under the name "Mickey Valenti", boxed outstanding fighters in the metropolitan area including Bucky James of Morris town, Vincente Portes, welterweight champion of Spain, Ray Davis, Danny Compton and Pete Tracoli. Rabinowitz fought 24 fights, losing only 4.

He is currently first vice president of the N.J. Boxing Hall of Fame; vice president of the Union County Boxing Association; vice president and vice chairman of the Board of Governors of Ring 25 of Newark; and vice president of the Veteran Boxers Social Club of Belleville.

Rabinowitz was inducted into the N.J. Hall of Fame in November 1985, and was honored by the Township of Clark for being the first township resident to earn the honor.

For further information on the breakfast, phone 388-9480.



FIGHTING FRIENDS... Max Rabinowitz, at right, is pictured with Tippi Larken, former Jr. Welterweight Champion of the World. Max will be honored at a breakfast on Oct. 9 at the Ramada Hotel.

Valley Road Schools sets Parents' Night, Chinese Auction

Tuesday, October 4, will be Back-To-School Night at Valley Road School. Mr. Foster, Principal, urges all parents to attend. They should report to their child's room at 7:30 p.m.

The Valley Road PTA will be holding its Second An-

nual Chinese Auction on Friday, October 7, at the Kumpf School cafeteria. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and drawings will begin at 8 p.m.

For tickets contact PTA President Nancy Brannagan at 381-0075.

Robinson Farm to open Sunday with exhibits

A demonstration of beekeeping, an exhibition of pressed flowers under glass, and guided tours will be featured at the Clark Historical public opening of the Dr. William Robinson Plantation, Sunday, October 2, from 1 until 4 p.m.

Located at 592 Madison Hill Rd., Clark, the Robinson House and grounds are open the first Sunday of every month except January, February and March - free of charge.

One of the few examples of 17th Century architecture in the nation, the Robinson house is registered as a Historic Site by the state and federal governments.

The beekeeping demo at Sunday's opening will be by the Coyne Bee Farm of Plainfield. The pressed flowers are from the collection of Dorothy Smith of Farwood.

The Museum Shop, located in the lean-to of the house, features tin and woodens ware, antiques, collectibles, needlework, greeting cards and a wide selection of handcrafted items.