



Former mayor seeks to unseat Nucera

Yarusavage cites achievements of previous reign



Bernard G. Yarusavage

by Pat DiMaggio
Bernard G. Yarusavage, former mayor of Clark for 12 years, is seeking to return to office to implement programs for expansion of community services.

Yarusavage, defeated by Mayor George Nucera in 1984 for the mayoral position, proudly lists the accomplishments of his 12-year tenure.

"During my 12 years as mayor of Clark, many of our goals were realized with the help of many people, certain members of the municipal government, professional department heads, outside government agencies and citizen volunteers," said Yarusavage.

Among Yarusavage's accomplishments were improvements in the Public Safety Department, the Public Works Department and programs for the handicapped and senior citizens.

Yarusavage's Republican administration acquired a tape machine to log all incoming and outgoing phone calls and two-way radio traffic for the Police Department as well as being responsible for the installation of a computer terminal on the police dispatcher's desk. A program to provide officers with bulletproof vests was initiated, and weapons for the entire department were upgraded.

Improved pedestrian walkways with fencing on the Jackson's Pond bridge were instituted and a traffic light was installed at the intersection of Broadway and Liberty Street.

Yarusavage also worked with the County on planning for the traffic light and flow patterns at the intersection on Madison Hill Road and Raritan Road and secured assistance from County officials for "phased" traffic light controls for Central Avenue and Raritan Road, Westfield Avenue and Raritan Road, and Lake Avenue and Oak Ridge Road.

Yarusavage also adopted one of the first in-home smoke detector ordinances in the area. "This became a model for other communities," he said. "This was a major safety improvement for the people and a milestone for the Fire Department."

Funds were also approved for extensive training and schooling for officers and men of the Fire Department, and the first diesel pumper was purchased.

A compactor was installed to reduce the volume of grass clippings and garden refuse by a 7:1 ratio, said Yarusavage. "Dumpsters were removed as soon as they were filled and the public works yard was closed on Mondays for cleaning," noted Yarusavage. "Use of the facility was strictly limited to Clark residents and required a window sticker permit."

Yarusavage said his administration scheduled storm sewer catch basin cleaning on a scheduled basis and that township-wide cleanup was done on a year-round basis. "Bulky items were picked up by telephone appointment, at no additional cost to the taxpayers," he pointed out.

"We also employed a full-time engineer who was available for off-hour emergencies. He also directed and supervised the Department

of Public Works," Yarusavage added.

In providing services for handicapped residents and senior citizens, Yarusavage provided an access ramp to the library and dedicated grant funds for an elevator for the municipal building. A bus was acquired under a special grant to transport senior citizens but was discontinued because of lack of interest, said Yarusavage.

Identification cards were provided to seniors and discounts were arranged with local merchants. A free flu shot clinic was established on an annual basis.

Recreation facilities were provided during Yarusavage's tenure including a soccer field on Bartell Place, and baseball diamonds were added at Lupine Way, Bartell Place and Curry Field. The summer camp recreation programs for special handicapped children were originated, and summer recreation programs for all youngsters were picked up when they were discontinued by the Board of Education, said Yarusavage.

Under legislation, Yarusavage pointed to ordinances approved to limit the height of commercial buildings and the density of multiple unit dwellings. He also established handicapped parking places at the municipal building and enacted animal control ordinances.

New ratables instituted under Yarusavage's administration included the Clark Village complex and zoning changes permitting the erection of the Call Building and the "60 Walnut Center" office buildings on Walnut Avenue.

A full-time treasurer was hired to permit investments of available municipal monies to generate interest income. "This revenue source averaged \$100,000 annually," said Yarusavage.

Proudly listing past accomplishments, Yarusavage also promises improvements for residents in the future if elected. He promises to "restore accountability" and to work towards a reasonable solution to the garbage situation which has become a hardship for homeowners, he said.

"I will repair and maintain Township roads and will reinstate our original 'Five-Year Plan' for road maintenance and improvements," Yarusavage said. "I will also resume the scheduled cleaning of storm drains and will provide a full-time, qualified engineer and director of Public Works. Recreation programs will be expanded to include opportunities for all citizens all year round. I will reinforce and pursue an inter-community working agreement with the County and will hold taxes to a responsible level."

Other accomplishments listed by Nucera include up-

grading of the Police and Fire Departments with new equipment, and the referendum allowing citizens the opportunity to show their preference for a new fire station now under construction on Raritan Road.

The Township-wide clean-up is also a point of pride with Nucera. "We've had a clean-up for the past four years," he noted. "The previous administration did not have one for 12 years."

"One sore point on the clean-up," Nucera continued, "has to do with the Township transfer station which I tried to keep open seven days a week until the state closed it down. The previous administration never got the proper permits and I was left holding the bag."

"I also recommended over a year ago to look into a solution to the garbage crisis we have now. I suggested we go out to bid for one garbage hauler who will come in to take care of the garbage twice a week, including grass clippings and bulky items. I'd like to stop the need for our own people to be their own garbage collectors."

Nucera's administration is in the 4th year of the road reconstruction building plan and has changed the hours of operation for municipal offices to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the convenience of residents.

Nucera also pointed to operation of the Clark Com-

munity Pool as a project to the Democratic majority on the council. "We turned it into a cost-free venture for the community," he said. "One more year and the pool is ours."

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nity open," said Nucera. "I operated it like a business by using managerial skills and applying them to municipal government. I am very proud of the past four years. The scorecard shows that I've worked for the interest of the community."

Nucera seeks 2nd term; lists accomplishments

by Pat DiMaggio

Mayor George G. Nucera, seeking his 2nd term in office, lists accomplishments of his past Democratic administration with pride.

Nucera, first elected to the position of mayor in 1984, stresses as one of the most important accomplishments the expanded recreation programs for children and senior citizens.

"The recreation program has expanded out to offer facilities to most of our churches in the evenings and we've opened up the facilities to industry in town," said Nucera. "The program services more than 2,000 youngsters and 400 adults."

"I said that we would give the police adequate room to operate in," noted Nucera. "We have taken over a school (Brewer School) that could have been put on the selling block and we moved our municipal offices into it. What is unique is that from the rental of half of that building, we cover the costs of operating the building. It hasn't cost the community any additional money."

Nucera said his administration also saved tax dollars by investing money in interest-free bonds. "This interest has been utilized to reduce expanding taxes," he noted. "We've gone from mid-point in Union County to the 2nd lowest tax rate."

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grading of the Police and Fire Departments with new equipment, and the referendum allowing citizens the opportunity to show their preference for a new fire station now under construction on Raritan Road.

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Mayor George G. Nucera

Republicans seek to upset Dem council majority

by Pat DiMaggio

Republican candidates for council seats in Clark include one incumbent, one former council member and a newcomer ... all seeking At-Large seats in the November 8 election.

Members of council serve four-year terms and govern policy in the Township of Clark. Republican candidates hope to upset the Democrat council majority of the past four years.

Council-At-Large Bernard Hayden was first elected to the council as a Democrat in 1976. He was re-elected in 1980, but resigned after two years.

Hayden is an incumbent councilman and DeLuca is a former council member.

Elected again in 1984, he is now seeking his first term as a Republican.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Hayden is a graduate of Upsala College and is employed by General Foods in Clifton. A resident of Clark for 22 years, the incumbent candidate is married and the father of three children.

Former Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca is hoping to return to government in an At-Large position. A former representative of the 3rd Ward, DeLuca is also a former member of the Clark Board of Education and has been involved with the Board of Union County Ed-

ucational Services Commission, the Girl Scouts and is past president of the Clark Council of PTAs.

DeLuca is employed by Wheaton Plastics and has been active in the American Legion (Post 328) and the Clark Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Joseph Rybak, a resident of Clark for 29 years, has

been associated with Clark Post 328 of the American Legion and with other veterans organizations. He was recently honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the Clark Elks Lodge 2882 and is involved with the Special Olympics.

Rybak is employed by Merck & Co. in Rahway.

Council votes additional cleanup funds

by Pat DiMaggio
At a special meeting last week, Clark's Municipal Council voted to appro-

praise additional monies to continue with the fall clean-up program.

Last month, the council signed a contract with Blue and White Disposal, Inc. for \$150,000 to cover 100 truckloads of debris from throughout the four wards in the Township. Forty-one trucks were utilized in collecting attic and basement debris in the 1st Ward, and an estimated 48 trucks would be used to complete clean-up in the 2nd Ward, according to Councilman William Caruso.

"The trucks have been collecting double the amount of debris that people have been storing since the dump closed," said Caruso. "The additional \$150,000 is based on 50 truckloads per ward. Based on 5,000 households in the Township, cost is estimated at \$60 per household, according to Caruso. If collected through private scavengers, the cost to the homeowner would be approximately \$350, he said.

Three Dems seek council seats

by Pat DiMaggio

Two Democratic incumbents hope to retain their seats on Clark's Municipal Council, and one newcomer hopes to win election when ballots go to the polls on November 8.

All At-Large council positions carry a salary of \$3,400 for each member and \$4,200 for the council president elected each year.

Democratic candidates include incumbent Fred Eckel, currently council president, incumbent Joseph Pozniak and candidate Marie Soyka.

Eckel is a past vice president of Newark P.B.A. 3 and

is a member of the Police Honor Legion. He also serves as president of the Clark Democratic Club.

Joseph Pozniak has served as a councilman-at-large since 1979. He has served as council president five times and has chaired various council committees.

Pozniak is a member of St. Agnes' Church, the St. Agnes Holy Name Society, the Clark B.P.O. Elks 2327, the Raritan Traffic Club and the Clark Democratic Club.

Marie Soyka is also a former member of American Maternal Hand-

lers. A former member of the Clark Board of Education, Marie Soyka has been on the Clark Planning Board since 1985. She is employed by Supermarkets General Corp., Carteret, and is a member of St. John the Apostle Church, the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School P.T.A. and band boosters.

Soyka is also a former league director and board member for the Clark Girls' Softball League and is a member of the Clark Democratic Club.



HOPEFULS ... Four Republican candidates for Clark administrative posts are, from the left, Bernard G. Yarusavage, mayoral candidate; and Ruth DeLuca, Bernard Hayden and Joseph Rybak - candidates for council seats. Yarusavage is former mayor; Hayden is an incumbent councilman and DeLuca is a former council member.



HOPEFULS ... Three Democratic candidates for seats on the Clark Municipal Council pose with Mayor Nucera (right). The three council candidates are, from the left, incumbent Joseph Pozniak, first-time candidate Marie Soyka and incumbent Fred Eckel.