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Discussions pending on new Parkway exit

by Pat DiMaggio
Township officials are still working to meet with the N.J. Highway Authority to gain a new exit off the parkway to alleviate traffic in Clark.

At an executive meeting held Monday night, Councilman William Caruso said he met last week with officials from the Garden State Parkway Authority during their capital budget hearings. While there, he set up a tentative meeting with the director to discuss the feasibility of adding an exit on Inman Avenue in Colonia to ease the burden of traffic on Raritan Road. Caruso said there was still time to amend the Parkway Authority's budget to add the exit.

Councilman Bernard Hayden suggested that any meetings with the authority be delayed until next month when a new administration will take office. Council President Fred Eckel said the scheduling of such a meeting would be at his discretion.

Councilman Hayden also questioned the Township's policy of granting benefits to Township employees who have 25 years of continuous service. He said a resolution directing benefits to the township clerk, the public works foreman and the police chief and police captains does not extend to other personnel or part-time employees.

Meanwhile, Mayor-elect and Pluta question township spending

A request to extend benefits to Judge Pozizzi, a part-time employee, after 25 years of continuous service should be denied, said Hayden. "It is not the responsibility of the taxpayers to grant such a plum to a part-time employee," said Hayden. "We are killing the spirit of what this resolution is about."

Hayden said benefits cost

the taxpayers approximately \$4,000 per year for each qualified employee.

Councilmembers Hayden and Carol Pluta also questioned an additional payment to Blue-and-White Disposal for the fall clean-up program. Hayden said he was told at the last council meeting that 48 truckloads of debris had been removed from the 4th Ward. He has

since been told that Blue-and-White is billing for a total of 61 truckloads from the 4th Ward at an additional cost of \$19,500.

The council had originally approved \$300,000 for the clean-up, with 200 truckloads of cellar and attic refuse to be removed at \$1,500 per truck.

"I have a serious problem with this because the left

hand doesn't tell the right hand what goes on in the Township," said Hayden. "How did these numbers come about?"

"We were told 200 truckloads exactly," said Pluta. "Now, all of a sudden, 13 more truckloads come up."

The next regular council meeting will be held December 19 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building.



CHRISTMAS CLASSIC... Lisa Macera of Clark (right) plays Clara to Nancy Wilbur's Fritz in "The Nutcracker," as presented by one of New Jersey's more unique and exciting young dance companies, the New Jersey Dance Theatre Guild Ballet Company of Rahway at Rahway's Union County Arts Center on Irving Street. The event takes place Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for balcony and \$12 for Loge and Orchestra seats. They may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling 498-8226 (Vesa and Master Charge-\$1 Handling Charge per order). Group discounts are available for 25 or more. The arts center is located where Central Avenue and Main Street join Irving.

ALJ library computerized Special program offers better control

by Pat DiMaggio
The library at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark has entered the future with a new computer system that offers ease of operation and high performance.

Librarian Bobbi Sutherland spent 1,000 hours during the summer punching in the titles of more than 20,000 volumes housed in the High School library. "Principal David Carl was very supportive," said Sutherland. "Anything I needed he would get. And as a reward for all that hard work, he provided new furniture for the library."

The computer package was purchased last spring, said Sutherland, at a cost of \$8,000. All four Regional High Schools have received the program, although not all of them are operational at this time. The package, Circulation Plus, was purchased from the Follett Software Company.

Some of the features of the system are that it automatically calculates overdue books, a laborious task under the old card system, said Sutherland. It also permits reserves for books and offers a complete inventory at a glance.

The system can search to see if a book is out and, if a student signs out of school, the computer can immediately call up any books that a student might still have. "We could get burned if a book or two was out in the past," said Sutherland. "Now we call on the computer to see if they have any books. It's nice to have the control."

The next step for the computerized system includes placing the entire card catalog on line to search for a book using the computer terminal.

"The program is 'user friendly,'" said Sutherland. "Our only fear is a power shortage. It was a lot of work to implement but the results are worth it."

Sutherland says the computerization also lends a feeling of power to the library. "A student comes up and gives us a book and we use a wand like those used in the supermarket to read the bar code," she said. "The computer will recognize and come up with the title of the book. Kids are fascinated, and it has a strange psychological effect. Students assume we have greater control over who has the books and they bring them back faster."



PEAS CORPS... Teacher Kenneth Lighthipe with some of his students at the Carl Kumpf Middle School in Clark, who demonstrated their Thanksgiving spirit by donating a harvest of food for those less fortunate than themselves. This year, as in years past, the students contributed enough money and food to provide 21 complete feasts for needy families in Clark. This Kumpf Thanksgiving tradition was organized and coordinated by Mr. Lighthipe. Pictured with him are, left to right, Angela Pumo, Renee Jadro, Anna Dalia Russo, and Katie O'Donnell.



SUNNY ARIZONA... Clark AARP members gather at the water's edge in Lake Powell, Arizona, during a Canyonland tour led by Bill and Doris Maguire. Arrangements were by the Clark Travel Agency.

17 days till Christmas

Clark AARP luncheon
Clark Chapter #3733 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will meet tomorrow (December 9) at noon at the Coachman Inn, Cranford, for a Gala Holiday Luncheon, by reservation only. A social hour will be followed by luncheon and entertainment. Ruth Paulmens is Chairperson of the event.

Trips to the Smithville Inn and an Atlantic City casino on Tuesday, December 13 are also scheduled. Bill Maguire, Tour Chairman, is planning a seven-day cruise to Alaska for July 1989.

Regular meetings will resume on Friday, January 13, at the Brewer Municipal Building, Westfield Avenue, Clark, at 12:30 p.m. Membership in the local chapter is available to area residents 50 years of age and up, whether employed or retired.

Sr. Center slates talk, Christmas party
Members of the Clark Senior Center will meet Thursday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m. at the Brewer Senior Center, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark. Joseph D. Gough of Merrill Lynch will explain the new Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act which becomes effective Jan. 1, 1989.

Among the concerns for seniors that the new act elicits are benefit changes, increased premium charges and tax consequences.

Following Mr. Gough's talk will be a Christmas party. Buffet will be served while strains of Christmas carols and songs appropriate to the holiday season are played.

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Membership is free and open to Clark residents 55 years and over. Call 388-5600 or 381-3823 for more information.

Clark BPW to meet on Tuesday

All working women are invited to attend the Tuesday, December 13 dinner meeting of the Clark Business and Professional Women at the Ramada Inn, Clark. The Program will feature a panel discussion on "Careers" moderated by Joann Mehalick, 1st Vice President of the group.

Candidates are still being considered for the Young Career Woman competition. Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 35 and employed in business or the professions at least one year. Contact YCW Chairman Jean Switek at 381-2935 for more information.

The Clark BPW is part of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, the oldest and largest organization for working women in the country. The group promotes career advancement, equal opportunity, and economic equity for women.

For membership information and dinner reservations, call Winnie Canavan, 2nd Vice President, at 382-2500.

'89 budget meetings have commenced in Clark

Friday, December 9
7:45 p.m. - Dept. of Recreation; 8:30 p.m. - Municipal Court; 8:45-9:15 p.m. - Dept. of Law; 9:30-10 p.m. - Municipal Council.

Monday, December 12
7:15 p.m. - Dept. of Public Safety
7:30 p.m. - Office of Director
7:45-8:45 p.m. - Bureau of Fire
9:10 p.m. - Bureau of Police
10:15-10:45 - Emergency Management.

The Departmental Budget Meetings will be conducted by Business Administrator Joseph J. Monaco.

Friday, December 9
7:45 p.m. - Dept. of Senior Citizens Affairs; 7:45-8:15 p.m. - Dept. of Shade Tree; 8:30-9 p.m. - Planning Board; 9:15-9:45 p.m. - Board of Adjustment; 10:11 p.m. - Dept. of Public Works and Engineering.

Clark AL plans party for children

The American Legion, Post 328 in Clark, will host the children and grandchildren of past members at its annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10, 1 p.m., at the post home.

Chairman Don McArde and Co-Chairman John Specht, Tom Witka and Mike Hydock have prepared a fun-filled afternoon for 140 registered children. Each child will receive a gift from Santa and refreshments and food will be served by the members and Auxiliary.

Children will also be entertained by Frank Deutchman and his daughter Lori with their singing and clown act.

Clark's Yezpez is merit scholar

Humberto Yezpez of Thomas Drive, Clark, is among the more than 100 Rutgers freshmen who were honored recently at a reception for merit scholars.

The students and their parents received the congratulations of top administrators, deans and faculty members involved in honors programs at the State University of N.J. during the reception at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum.

The merit awards program was established in 1980 to reward students with generous scholarships based solely on academic or artistic excellence, without regard for need.

The merit awards range from the most prestigious, the Presidential Scholar Awards, which cover almost all expenses for four years, to a number of collegiate scholarships.

Crafts at library

A Craft Program for girls and boys in Grades 4-7 will be held at the Clark Public Library on Thursday, December 15, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

All materials will be supplied by the Library and registration is not required.