

# Clark Monthly NJ

**FREE**

Published by Renna media

Issue 1 • August 2011

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## FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

An exciting year is in store at the Clark Public Library, as the 50th anniversary of the opening of the public library in Clark is celebrated. Formed by referendum in 1961, the library has grown exponentially from its small storefront location on Lincoln Boulevard. It moved to its current location in 1966. The collection, which started with less than 600 books, now holds over 100,000 titles and multi media. Today, the library has meeting room facilities with wi-fi access, study rooms, a computer training lab, and a dedicated teen area. The library is valued by the community, as witnessed by 126,000 patron visits in 2010.

To ensure many more years of exceptional service, the Clark Public Library is undertaking a fundraising campaign in honor of the fifty year celebration. Patricia Anderson, Library Director commented, "While the Township of Clark funds the library for its operating costs, there are capital expenses and growing technological needs that place upward pressure on an already constrained budget. We are undertaking a significant fund raising task in order to continue the many fine programs and services enjoyed by preschoolers, teens, adults, seniors and business people."

Monies raised will be used to provide children's programs and services, purchase books and audio-visual materials and to upgrade the computers and servers. All gifts are tax deductible and checks should be made payable to Township of Clark - Library 50th Anniversary. Checks may be mailed or dropped off at the library.

Plans are underway for a celebration of the Library's 50 year milestone on Sunday, October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Further details will be available in September and the public is welcome to attend. The Clark Public Library is located at 303 Westfield Avenue, Clark. For additional details about the library please call 732-388-5999 or visit their website at [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org).



*Low-tech/high-tech - Juliannne Sanchez and Anderson Schifferstein animate toy dinosaurs while Ryan Lombardo goes on-line.*



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*(above) The original library on Lincoln Blvd.*

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# Clark Monthly NJ

Clark Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Clark.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## INTRODUCING CLARK MONTHLY

Renna Media is excited to bring to you our latest community newspaper, Clark Monthly. Beginning with this issue, 6,700 papers will be printed and mailed monthly to every household and business in Clark.

Clark Monthly is all about you, the people who live and work in Clark. We encourage you to submit photos, press releases and inform us of upcoming events by calling 908-418-5586 or emailing [info@rennamedia.com](mailto:info@rennamedia.com).

*Joe & Tina Renna*

Clark monthly joins a growing network of newspapers focused on hyper local news. The total circulation for all newspapers is 34,000, 21,000 of which are mailed. For advertising rates contact Tina at 908-418-5586 or [info@rennamedia.com](mailto:info@rennamedia.com).



**CLARK MONTHLY** 6,500 printed and mailed to every home and business in Clark.



**KENILWORTH BUSINESS LIFE** 3,500 printed and mailed to every home and business in Kenilworth.



**LIFE IN LINDEN** 5,000 are printed with 4,000 mailed to businesses and residents and 1,000 papers distributed free throughout Linden.



**OUR TOWN RAHWAY** 4,000 are printed with 1,200 mailed to every business. 1,800 are distributed free throughout Rahway.



**SPIRIT OF UNION** 5,000 are printed with 4,000 mailed to businesses and residents and 1,000 papers distributed free throughout Union.



**AROUND ABOUT PETERSTOWN** 12,000 printed Bi-monthly and distributed free throughout Union County.

## CLARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 300 • Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300  
Vice President: Kate Conroy  
[kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com](mailto:kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com)  
908-352-090

### CLARK, NJ

MAYOR;

Sal Bonaccorso

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Frank Mazzarella, Ward 1, President

Angel Albanese, At-Large

Sheila Whiting, At-Large

Alvin Barr, At-Large

Patrick O'Connor, Ward 2

Richard Kazanowski, Ward 3

Brian Toal, Ward 4

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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Aging: Phyllis Cupo.....732-382-7134  
Assessor: Michael Ross.....732-388-1943  
Attorney: Joseph Triarsi, Esq. ....908-709-1700  
Board of Education.....732-574-9600  
Building Inspector: Michael Khodaa732-428-8401  
Clerk: Edith L. Merkel ..... 732-388-3669  
Construction Off.: Michael Khoda...732-428-8401  
Fire Chief: Andrew Beach.....732-388-3434  
First Aid.....732-574-1374  
Health Official: Nancy Raymond.....732-428-8405  
Judge: Antonio Inacio.....732-381-5395  
Library: Patricia Anderson .....732-388-5999  
Municipal Court: Lorraine Disko ....732-381-5395  
Police, Chief: Denis Connell.....732-388-3434  
Prosecutor: Jon Henry Barr, Esq. ....732-388-3434  
Public Safety, Dir.: John DeSimone 732-388-3434  
Public Works: Joseph Bonaccorso....732-428-8402  
Recreation: Ralph Bernardo .....732-428-8400  
Recycling Coordinator: John Haber.732-388-3600  
Tax Collector: Terrance O'Neill.....732-428-8403

## TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

### CLARK COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

### WORKSHOP MEETING

430 Westfield Ave., Room 30  
September 6th, (Tuesday)

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

315 Westfield Ave., Council Chambers  
September 19th

### PLANNING BOARD

Public Meetings 1st Thursday – 7:30 P.M.  
315 Westfield Avenue, Council Chambers  
September 1, 2011

### ZONING BOARD

Public Meetings Monday – 8:00 P.M. 315  
Westfield Avenue, Council Chambers  
September 26

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

All meetings will be held on a Tuesday and will open at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center of the Arthur L. Johnson High School located at 365 Westfield Avenue, and immediately go into Executive Session. Public Sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Clark Council Chambers  
Regular Meeting August 23

## ClarkMonthly.com

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of CM, photo albums, and advertisements. Businesses and residents are encouraged to submit items for publication through the site.

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## CLARK CHAMBER IS AN AFFILIATE OF GATEWAY

- The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business association in the New York Metropolitan Area with about 1,500 members. We hold approximately 170 events per year from large 600-person dinners to small 10-person breakfasts, and everything in between, with a great emphasis on networking and business promotion, 60% of which are included in membership.
- The Gateway Chamber has a long history dating back to 1911 when it was founded as the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce by John D. Rockefeller and other New Jersey industrialists.
- The Gateway Chamber operates in Union, Essex, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, making it the only multi-county association in Northern and Central New Jersey. The Gateway also has many members in other states, and a growing number outside the United States.
- The Gateway Chamber is a strong advocate for its members. It works at the federal, state and local levels on both legislative and regulatory issues.
- The Gateway Chamber publishes its own monthly newspaper, Inside Business, which has an estimated readership of 75,000.
- We consider it to be core to our mission to help our members grow their businesses, and as a result our retention rate has averaged 95% over the last five years. This focus on membership services is at the center of our philosophy.

- Members of the Gateway Chamber run the gamut from large corporations like Merck, Comcast, Verizon and Continental Airlines, to small and medium-sized business, to a very active home-based business group.
  - Today, the Gateway Chamber serves as an umbrella organization for a number of regional and local chambers and networking groups including:
    - The Clark Chamber
    - The Union County Chamber
    - The Central Jersey Chamber
    - The Route 22 Chamber
    - The Kenilworth Chamber
    - The Roselle Park Chamber
    - The Linden Chamber
    - The Somerset Hills Business Network
    - The Irish Business Association
    - The Small Business Council.
- When you join the Gateway Chamber you automatically become a member of ALL sub-groups at no additional cost.

For membership information please contact  
Kate Conroy - 908-352-0900  
kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com



(left) Joe Fazio, CPA, Managing Director at Fazio, Mannuzza, Roche, Tankel, LaPilusa, LLC, Cranford was appointed to the Executive Board as Treasurer of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce for 2011-2012.

## NEVER FEAR ~ WITH BRATWURST AND BEER, A GOOD TIME IS NEAR!!



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(above) Artist Peri explains the Japanese art of marbling at a recent library program.



(above) Paul Miller of Flow Circus wows the crowd at the library with his juggling skills.

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## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

203 Westfield Ave. • Clark, NJ 07036

732-388-5999 • [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org)

Hours: Monday, Tues, Thurs: 9:30am - 9:00pm  
 Wed, Fri, Sat: 9:30am - 5:00pm. Sun\* 1:00pm - 5:00pm  
 \*Sun hours end May 22. Sun hours resume on Oct 2nd

### Statue of Liberty Lecture • 9/26 @ 7:00 p.m.

Join author and lecturer Kevin Woyce to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. Ayers Room. Lower Level to the library. Registration required.

### Chess Club • Every Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.

in the Board Room 10:00 a.m.  
 New members welcome.

### Teen Crafts • 9/14 @ 3:30

Make a stylish magnetic pen holder for your locker.  
 Refreshments provided.  
 Sign up via the library calendar online @  
[www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org)

## CHILDREN

### Storytime

Registration is required for all storytime programs.  
**Storytime will start the week of September 12th and run for 8 weeks through early November as follows:**

*Tales for Tots - for ages 2 - 5*

Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

*Stories and More - for ages 3 - 5*

Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

*Lapsit - for ages 3 months - 2 years*

Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

### Fun with Play Dough

**Friday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m.**

for ages 3 - 5 years. Registration is required.

### LEGO CLUB • 9/23 @ 3:15 p.m.

For kids in grades 1-5.

Come build your favorite lego creations.

Lower Level playroom. Registration is required.

(right) Bill Duffy, Chairperson of the 50th Anniversary Committee, examines the celebration banner in the Clark Public Library.

## JOB & CAREER DATABASE AVAILABLE AT CLARK LIBRARY

If you've been laid off from your job or downsized out of a job, your public library can help. The Job & Career Accelerator database, a comprehensive online job search system, is available for free to help provide job seekers with everything they need to find their next job or career. This innovative resource provides personalized, step-by-step assistance for job seekers at all experience and education levels—from exploring and matching suitable occupations from over 1,000 detailed occupation profiles to finding available jobs in their area of over 5 million up-to-date job postings.

With the Job & Career Accelerator product, users can create professional resumes and cover letters, master interviewing and networking techniques, improve work related skills, and prepare for occupation related exams. There are expert tips available as well. The online program is available to patrons at no charge with a valid library card and can be accessed from any internet-enabled computer by going to the library's homepage [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org). For assistance or more information, contact a reference librarian at the Clark Public Library.



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 Late appointments are available by request.

**INSURANCES:** Please call if you do not see your insurance plan listed.

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- Vision Benefits of America
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## *Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*

### *Look At Me Now!*

Dorothy lives at home with her husband. She leads a very active life in the community and cares for her husband. This is the second time she chose Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for her care.

Dorothy came to Clark Rehab after her hospitalization with pneumonia. When it resolved, she wasn't ready to go home as she had become weak and lost muscle strength. Her balance was not as good as it was before and she was having some difficulty with walking and climbing stairs independently.

After developing a care plan focused on increasing Dorothy's strength, endurance and balance, she started a program that included physical and occupational therapies. Strong emphasis was placed on walking, stair climbing and independence in everyday activities.

At the completion of her rehabilitation, Dorothy was discharged home to resume her active life there and in the community. She's climbing stairs, doing laundry, cooking and is independent again. Dorothy made her stay at Clark even more productive by designing and crafting earrings to donate to her church sale. Now at home, she is making more jewelry and creating decorative pillows as well. In addition to the Rehabilitation Team, Dorothy's recovery was aided by excellent care from our nursing, dietary and social work teams.

\* The staff was wonderful and are dear to my heart\*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SUB-ACUTE REHABILITATION SERVICES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CLARKREHAB.COM](http://WWW.CLARKREHAB.COM) OR CALL OUR ADMISSIONS OFFICE AT 732 396-7100.

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Clark, NJ 07066

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# SUPER BOWL CHAMP TONY SIRAGUSA GIVES CRUSADERS A PEP TALK

On August 1st the Arthur L Johnson Crusaders hosted their annual Pop-Warner Night. This is a wonderful event that kicks off the Pop- Warner season in Clark by allowing the Varsity Football Crusaders to hold a skills camp to coach all levels of the young Crusaders.

In addition this year, thanks to Head Coach Mike Mancino, a guest speaker attended the clinic. Former Super Bowl Champion and current football analyst Tony Siragusa spoke to the Pop-Warner and Varsity Crusaders athletes at this event.



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## CAFÉ GALLO SERVES AUTHENTIC ITALIAN HOME COOKING



Café Gallo Restaurant located at 1153 Inman Avenue in Edison, NJ is owned and operated by Clark residents Maria and Giovanni Gallo. The Gallo family opened their restaurant on October 30, 2008. By “Gallo Family” they mean Mom, Dad, brothers wives and kids. Café Gallo is the quintessential family owned and operated restaurant, everyone in the family works together and are part of the operation. Maria and Giovanni Gallo came from Vallata, Italy to America in 1959 first living in Newark, NJ before moving to Clark, where they raised their two sons Freddy and Roberto.

Both sons are married to wives named Christina and all six work at the restaurant. Roberts son and daughter, Marcella and Giovanni like to be part of the action also. Café Gallo serves traditional Italian food. Many recipes are Maria’s which she teaches the chefs to make when she isn’t cooking herself. All the sauces are uniquely her creations and are being passed down to her sons. The atmosphere at Café Gallo is relaxed and inviting to families, like their own.

(left, seated, l-r) Maria, Marcella, Giovanni and Giovanni Gallo, (standing, l-r) Christina and Freddy Gallo, and Cristina Roberto Gallo.

## EVERY DAY IS SPECIAL AT THE WINDSOR DINER

Whether you want breakfast, lunch, dinner, or desserts and cocktails, the Windsor Diner has a diverse menu for you. Breakfast is served at any time, and a special kids’ menu is available.

The Windsor is an ideal meeting place with ample parking and seating for over 200 people. Its location at 1030 Raritan Road in Clark, NJ, is in central Union County and just a short distance from Garden State Parkway Exit 135.

The Windsor Diner has been family owned for 32 years. It is currently operated by John Kallas, John’s sons Peter and Nick and Tommy Milonas, a relative through marriage. The family and staff at Windsor strives to make every day special.

Featured on Monday is The Early Bird Senior Specials from 4pm – 6 pm; Tuesday is Pasta Night, Wednesday is Kids’ Night from 5pm-9pm, Thursday features Prime Rib w/Soup & Salad Bar for only \$13.95, Friday Barbecue has Smoked Ribs, Pork, Chicken and \$2 Pints of Draft Beers.

The Windsor has an extensive menu along with a salad bar and a Saturday and Sunday Buffet Brunch. Happy Hour is Monday through Friday 3 pm – 5 pm with ½ off all appetizers, \$2 pints of draft beers and \$4 house mixed drinks.

The Windsor hours are  
8 a.m. til 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday;  
8 a.m. – Midnight Friday and Saturday.



(left) Wednesday is Kids’ Night at the Windsor Diner in Clark. Sienna and Gabriel Pastore of Westfield display toys that were distributed by Hello Kitty on August 17. Each Wednesday offers a different activity from face painting to game playing.

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Photo of Vallata by John Zamorra



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Tuesday: Pasta Night

Wednesday: Kids Night from 5pm-9pm

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## ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE FOOD PANTRY

St. John the Apostle Food Pantry is housed in the basement of the McGuinness Center (the former convent) located on Valley Road in Clark/Linden, NJ. Rahway and Winfield Park are in close proximity.

The St. John's food pantry is a partner agency of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, located in Hillside. The agency is contracted to service Clark, Linden, Rahway, Roselle, Cranford Winfield, parts of Elizabeth and Newark. Depending on the weather the pantry services 650 – 700 clients a month.

Being a partner agency of Community FoodBank gives the pantry access to a cost effective means of providing food, for instance \$300 typically can purchase \$1,000 worth of food through the network. They also receive grants from the Community FoodBank and rely heavily on donations from parishioners.

St. John The Apostle Church donates the space and pays the electricity bill, the pantry has to keep several large refrigerators and freezers going. The pantry has to defray the cost for a rental truck and gas to pick up the food in Hillside and bring it back to the Pantry.

The Pantry was founded in 1991 by a former teacher Genevieve "Jean" Murphy, a resident of Winfield Park. Jean stayed involved with the pantry until her death in her 80's.

The current Director, Mary Ann Fiorillo, joined Jean in 1993, she remembers "I planned on helping out just a few hours a week but quickly wound up taking over the whole kit and caboodle."

Jean found a deep need in Winfield Park for a pantry, especially amongst the senior citizens. When Mary Ann took over as Director in 1993 there were about 60 clients. She started getting the word out through the church bulletin, newspaper articles and eventually a website. The Community FoodBank featured St. John's as one of the up and coming food pantries in their newsletter. Now Mary Ann estimates the pantry serves 300 families, 700-800 mouths to feed through 3 separate programs.

The Pantry still runs a satellite program in Winfield Park Recreation Center on the second Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. They service about 70 clients there, Mary Ann explained "It's in memory of Jean, and because many clients in Winfield, most are seniors, struggle with transportation."

On the third Tuesday of the month, the Pantry administers a state program at the Clark Recreation Cafeteria, 430 Westfield Ave. Clark is a shared program. They offer space and cooperation with volunteer staff. Nancy



(left, l-r) Mary Ann Fiorillo, Jo Lavan, Joe Blankley, Jim Mellito & Tony Fiorillo.

*St. John the Apostle Food Pantry volunteers gathered school supplies for their Third Annual Back to School Project which will distribute school supplies to area children.*

Raymond, Clark's Health Officer, helps get the word out about the pantry, has the room set up, and solicits collections that can be dropped off at the Health Office. This month she put out a call for school supplies, the need changes almost monthly, baby items, cleaning items, soup and sandwich drives (any non-perishable you can make a sandwich with).

Because the pantry has run short of toys for Christmas distribution, Nancy set up the program "Christmas in July" a box will be located in the municipal building where new toys can be dropped until December.

Mary Ann has been married to her husband Tony, the assistant director, for 47 years, they lived in Cranford for most of those years, then moved to Orlando, FL for about 4 years and then settled in Rahway, in 1991. The couple are retired, but act as unpaid government workers. Maryann taught for 20 years in the Hillside School District mostly 1st grade, then for a short time at St. Agnes in Clark. Tony was in car sales, he joined Mary Ann at the pantry 7 years ago.

Through their contract with the Community FoodBank, the Pantry has an obligation to be open to the public 10 hours a week, however, St. John's, asked them to be on call for emergencies. They are on call 24/7.

Aside from distributing food, Mary Ann estimates she spends 35 hours a week processing paper work. Tony spends countless hours coordinating the pick up and delivery of the food, including the rental truck. It's a Herculean shopping trip. Several times a month the food has to be picked up in Hillside and brought back to St. John's. It then has to be organized into several different refrigerator/freezers, then the truck needs to be returned to the rental company.

Mary Ann is always hunting through dollar stores for sales on items to stock their many programs they offer along with food, like the back to school program. She estimates she spends probably 10 hours a week minimum at

Sam's Club and the Restaurant Depot. The pantry distributes food 2 – 3 times a month and on holidays such as Easter, Valentines Day, Fourth of July, Back to School, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Pantry is assisted by about a dozen volunteers, some are also generous financial supporters; several are retired Hillside teachers who worked with Mary Ann. The pantry is also assisted throughout the year by St. John's Boy's and Girl's Scout troops and confirmation candidates who need volunteer service hours, CCD students as well as St. John's students. The Pantry is always looking for young people to help with tasks such as assisting the elderly to carry their bags to the car.

Mary Ann says everyone that comes to the pantry is treated with dignity and respect by the volunteers, and that 99.3% of the clients are wonderful in return. She said "Everyone is unfortunate, we are all struggling in this economy, they just hit on bad times."

Because the Pantry can't fit everyone in their space inside, clients patiently line up outside the door waiting their turn, some sitting on folding chairs. The wait could be up to an hour. One week it was so hot the pantry served popsicles.

The Pantry administers three separate programs, based on what the state and federal government provides and what the Pantry can afford to supplement it with, once a month a client typically receives, 2 bags of non-perishables and 1 bag full on non-perishables.

About 60 Clark residents are served at the state program administered at the Clark Recreation Building, mostly senior citizens. Anyone with questions can contact Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405.

If you'd like to help, the pantry accepts checks and money orders payable to St. John the Apostle Food Pantry, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden, NJ 07036. Anyone with questions can contact the pantry at 732-382-1216.

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- Beringer White Zinfandel 1.5lt. .... \$ 8<sup>99</sup>
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- Grant's 750ml ..... \$11<sup>97</sup>
- Grant's 1.75lt ..... \$23<sup>99</sup>
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