

# CLARK

## *Teri Says ...*

***"When people think of Clark, the first thing they remark about is its dedication to its youth. It basks in compliments about its athletic facilities, sports programs, and the academic achievements of its young people. And the adults love the golf courses and casual dining offered by Molly Maguire's, Steak 'N Ale, Chilli's and other restaurants.***

***Home styes range from freshly rehabbed Capes, to updated Splits, to huge new Colonials -- with new construction still going on. The 17,000 residents are very friendly, hosting backyard BBQs, block parties, and actively participating in school fundraisers.***

***Clark's 1.2 sq. miles has 2 business districts. The Raritan Road-Central Avenue district boasts many giants -- like Bally's Sports Gym, Barnes & Noble, Chilli's, RiteAid, Marty's Shoes, Target, Marshalls, ShopRite, A&P, several banks, and a host of service providers.***

***The Westfield Avenue district is home to several banks, insurance offices, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, and many independent retailers and service providers.***

***Easy access to the Garden State Parkway, good schools, 2 thriving business districts, and good neighbors make Clark a first-choice for many home buyers.***

## SOME FACTS

The Township of Clark covers about 1.2 square miles and is home to nearly 17,000 residents. It is essentially a "bedroom" community with little industry. It has two business districts -- Raritan Road and Westfield Avenue.

Clark was initially established from Lenape Indian hunting grounds, developing into an agricultural paradise that enabled many European immigrants to strive for the American Dream.

The territory that is Clark was originally a part of several of the early villages in Union County, ultimately becoming part of Rahway. In 1858, the village of Rahway incorporated itself into a city, and designated this land as its 5th Ward. Six years later, in 1864, the 357 residents of Rahway's 5th Ward declared their independence and established their own town. They took the name of the signer of the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Clark.

Clark was a small quiet farm community, and remained so even as the large farms were inexorably sub-divided into smaller tract farms in the early part of the 20th century. However, when State Highway No. 4, the present day Garden State Parkway, was expanded through Clark, new horizons opened up and Clark experienced the beginnings of a massive change.

The expansion of the GSP into Clark combined with the housing needs of post-WWII, saw farmers begin to sell their land to housing developers for tidy profits. From 1949 through the late 80's, Clark changed from a farming community to the thriving suburban community it is today.