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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XVIII NO. 3

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 1993

Borough Council Report

XVII

County Grants Funds for Roads New Management Plans for Water and Sewer Plants in the Works

Kaufman and Vasseur Elected to Council

by Adeline Weiner

The award of \$85,000 additional Block Grant money was the good news announced at the regular Borough Council meeting in November. The Borough received this sum as a result of a presentation by Mary Alfare to the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders. The money will be used to finish Tamara Drive and improve South Rochdale Avenue, according to Stuart Kaufman, Street and Roads Committee Chairman. He reported that the start of construction on Eleanor Lane is scheduled to begin this month and should be concluded, except for a "final coat," by January. Plans for Tamara Drive, Elm Court and Brown Street must await the spring.

Privatization Front

For the Utilities Committee, Chairwoman Rose Murphy's report was brief, citing an upcoming meeting with DEPE and three Council members to discuss the treatment of outside waste water in our plant. She announced that New Jersey American

Water Co. has taken samples at the water and sewer plants as part of their audit of the system with a view to future purchase.

Peter Warren, as part of his report for the Community Relations Committee, explained that the company audit will be completed by the beginning of December and, depending on their findings and assuming a mutual

(Continued on Page 13)

by Michael Ticktin

On November 2, Democrats Stuart Kaufman and George Vasseur were elected to the Borough Council with 229 and 258 votes respectively. This will be Mr. Kaufman's second term and Mr. Vasseur's first. Although no other candidates appeared on the ballot, 89 write-in votes were cast for Howard Prezant, whose council term expires at the end of this year.

Governor Jim Florio carried Roosevelt by a margin of 263 to 159 for Governor-elect Christine Whitman. Democratic candidates for the State Legislature and the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders also won in Roosevelt but lost district- or county-wide. The proposal to amend the New Jersey Constitution to allow the recall of elected officials that was approved statewide was also approved in Roosevelt by a margin of 122 to 82.

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BulletinBoard

From the Editors

This will be the last Bulletin issue of 1993. As always, the next issue will not appear until the beginning of February of the new year, to be followed by the remaining five monthly issues ending in July, for the total of the nine issues to be published in 1993-94.

During our pause, we will be working on trying to line up more and more interesting material to make the Bulletin "must" reading.

We wish to thank those who have already made this fiscal year's contribution and hope that others will follow suit. While we are both fortunate and grateful for the grant we have received from the Herman Goldman foundation, it was awarded based on the belief that our readers are also cooperating to assure a firm financial structure that will enable the Bulletin to continue to serve our community.

To out-of-town subscribers to the Bulletin:

Please be advised this will be the last issue you will receive unless you renew your subscription for the 1993-94 year.

New Year's Day Reception

The second annual get-together and party for residents and people active in the community - members of public boards and activities - will provide refreshments, music and conviviality on Sunday, January 2, 1994 at 3:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Don't Speed in Town!
Pas si Vite, Alors!
Nicht zu schnell
fahren, bitte!
Lente, lente currite!

The deadline for submissions of material to the Bulletin is the 15th of the month, except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

Please send all articles and letters in clean typescript, or as ASCII files on 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 inch diskettes to:
The Bulletin, P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Reassessment Scheduled for 1994

by Michael Ticktin, Assessor

The Monmouth County Board of Taxation has approved a plan for an interim reassessment to bring taxable values more in line with recent sales prices. For most properties, assessments will be reduced by 20% for 1994. This will not result in any lowering of taxes, however, since reassessment does not affect the amount of tax money that must be raised and a proportionately higher tax rate will be needed to yield the same revenue.

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. is a
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**Borough of Roosevelt
Municipal Government & Municipal Utilities
Notice to Proposers**

Notice is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the Municipal Government located at North Rochdale Avenue, Roosevelt, New Jersey, on December 10, 1993, at 10:30 a.m. or as soon after as the matter may be reached for the following Professional Services:

Municipal Attorney
Municipal Auditor
Municipal Insurance Agent
Municipal Engineer

Consulting Engineer for Wastewater Treatment Plant - 3 and 5 Days per week (Consulting Engineer must have S2, C2, T2, Licenses and Bench Certification)

No Proposals shall be received other than at the time and place herein designated for their receipt, unless mailed to the Municipality for receipt at the designated time and place.

Proposals are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (Affirmative Action Program, Equal Employment Opportunity).

The successful Proposer shall be required to comply with all the provisions of New Jersey prevailing local wage rates, as determined by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry.

Each Proposal shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Municipality, bearing the name of the Proposer, upon which shall be designated:

"Proposal - _____"

The Municipality reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities or to accept the Proposal which in its judgment shall be in the best interest of the Municipality.

Nancy L. Warnick, R.M.C., Purchasing Agent

Public Notice

Licensing/Renewal of

DOG LICENSES

is required through January 31
of each year.

A license can be obtained through the mail or at the Borough office. Please make your check payable to **Roosevelt Borough.**

If your dog has recently been spayed or neutered, please send or bring a copy of the certificate with your payment. Should you not have a copy, one will be made and the original returned to you.

If your dog has been recently vaccinated for rabies, please send this as well.

**Any dog reaching the age of
7 months,
at any time during the year,
must be licensed.**

As of February 1, 1993,
a penalty will be issued for
late licenses.

Fees through January 31:

\$8.20 Spayed/Neutered,

\$11.20 for others

Nancy L. Warnick, R.M.C.,
Deputy Clerk

Save Woodpulp!

To stop receiving unwanted direct mail, write: Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, PO Box 9008, Farmingdale NY 11735 and ask that they remove your name from letters and catalogs you don't want to get in the mail!

Environmental Commission News

by Gayle A. Donnelly

By the end of the year, we will have completed our Visual Resources Awareness Program Grant. The second grant that we will do in 1994 is The Small Business Administration's Tree Planting Program. This program will landscape the Pine/Tamara triangle and screen the Pine Drive sewer plant.

At our January 5, 1994 meeting we will be hiring a media planner for our Environmental Resources Awareness Program and a landscaper for our Tree Planting Program. Please join us

for our 8:00 p.m. meeting.

At our semi-annual litter pick-up, on October 24, 33 volunteers picked-up 725 pounds of trash and recyclables. This is quite a few hundred pounds under what we normally pick up which could be one of 3 things: people are regular litter pickers, people are throwing less litter or the leaves were covering it.

The Clean Community grant for our 1994 monies has been submitted and we plan to have our Spring pick-up March 27 and our Fall pick-up the

end of September.

On November 6 & 7 volunteers posted safety zone signs and planted 300 bulbs at the cemetery. We received tremendous input about the beauty of our cemetery in our Visual Preference Survey.

Thanks to all our volunteers especially Lenny & Michelle Guye-Hillis, Johnny Shahn, Terri Skye and Kate John-Alder. We are looking forward to our 1994 projects and always looking for other interested people.

Senior Citizen News

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

Thelma Thompson chaired the November 9th meeting in Jeannette Koffler's absence.

On November 16, we went to the Freehold Shopping Center with the bus that is available to us every third Tuesday. We left at 9:30 a.m. and returned at 2:00 p.m.

Our annual holiday dinner has been cancelled at this time. We'll plan to arrange something in the spring.

We're making tentative plans for a luncheon on December 7th.

Congratulations to our new American citizen, Ana Quijano, not Gorzalis, (My mistake last month) who was just naturalized.

During our meeting we were discussing the fact that while our Social Security payments will be increased by 2.16% due to the cost-of-living adjustment in January, 1993, our medicare Part B premiums will be going up to about \$41.40 per month!

Millie DiGiorgio and Josie Maley were the hostesses at our meeting. Everything was great.

Recycling Dates to Remember

**December
1, 15, 29**

**January
13, 27**

**February
10, 24**

**Did you know
we have a
food Co-Op
right here
in Roosevelt?**

**You could get
Healthy
Delicious
Foods
at low prices!**

**All it takes is
about 2 hours
every other month.**

**To find out More Call
443-4948 or 448-5036**

Planning Board News

By Bob Clark

They're baaack ... developers, maybe. At the Roosevelt Planning Board's November 10 meeting, landowner Peter Nurko asked the eight members present to share any thoughts they may have concerning rezoning of the northern farmlands. The 500 acre area is presently zoned to allow one dwelling per 10 acres. Mr. Nurko and Jerry Murphy of DFM Group, a real estate consulting firm, told the Board some large developers might be interested in constructing residences on Mr. Nurko's property and the adjoining D'Amico and Cuzzolino tracts. The total of about 150 acres lies south of Nurko Road and west of Route 571.

Mr. Nurko and Mr. Murphy said they wanted to informally gauge the Board's attitude before finding a developer and making a formal application. Mr. Nurko said he understood "the town needs rateables." Mr. Murphy added that any proposal "has to work for both" any developer and the town. Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton referred Mr. Nurko and Mr. Murphy to the April 1991 amendment to the Borough's Master Plan. The amendment would tolerate consideration of limited development in the northern farmlands, provided it would be balanced with permanent preservation of some farmland or publicly-accessible open space. The amendment calls for limited development only in accordance with a comprehensive plan for the entire northern area of the Borough. Board member Burt Ellentuck said developers could determine the Board's intentions by referring to the amendment. Ms. Hunton said there are many opinions in the town about what to do with the northern lands, but the Master Plan amendment could be considered a "consensus document."

Ms. Hunton stated that the Planning Board's long-awaited study of the fiscal impact of development or non-development should not be finalized until the Roosevelt School Board completes its own study of school regionalization possibilities. Tax Assessor Michael Ticktin, also a member of the Planning Board, said the main factors were school capacity - about 140 children - and the capacity of the water and sewer systems - about 1,500 people. Ms. Hunton also referred Mr. Nurko and Mr. Murphy to the Borough's recently completed Natural Resource Inventory, which shows unbuildable wetlands occupying about 40 percent of the northern lands.

Board members expressed concern about piecemeal development of the area, but Mr. Ticktin noted that the three properties constituted one of three sections, each composed of contiguous properties, in the northern lands. The other two sections are the area north of Nurko road and west of 571 and the area east of 571 and north of Oscar Drive. He added that a proposal for even one of the three large sections would be better than individual landowners coming to the Board with separate propositions.

Ms. Hunton said preservation of a large portion of the area "is best achievable in today's political and economic environment if some development is allowed." She maintained that Roosevelt had not, therefore, adopted a "no growth position." However, she added that a small town has "to look carefully at the numbers" in order to avoid an adverse impact. She said some development "in the right place" may be beneficial and added that the Board "would be willing to work with a developer." She reminded everyone that in the final analysis any zoning change would have to come from the Borough Council.

Mr. Murphy called 10 acre zoning "unrealistic today." He said creative clustering instead of standard two-acre lots is more economical and "leads to more open space." Former Planning Board Chairman Alan Mallach said from the audience that any interested developers should look at the detailed zoning standards governing the Notterman tract, which lies south of Eleanor Lane and east of North Valley Road. He remarked that any proposal should constitute a "rational extension of concepts embodied in the original plan" of Jersey Homesteads. Mr. Murphy said professionals on the developers' side "may have some creative ideas."

After Mr. Nurko and Mr. Murphy departed, Mr. Ticktin said current zoning would allow Roosevelt to expand to about 400 residences. He added that the Borough could absorb a maximum of about 500 households - allowing "30 some odd units" for each of the three sections in the northern farmlands. Board member Harry Parker said Board members "need to be fairly united in what we expect" from developers.—Member Paul Henry said, "We need some clear understanding of what is good for the town." Ms. Hunton said she, Mr. Ticktin and Mayor Lee Allen, also a member of the Planning Board, could prepare a "matrix of known information" from the fiscal impact study draft so that the Board will be more prepared for the next discussion with potential developers.

Over the years, several proposals for development of portions of the northern farmlands have failed to materialize for a variety of reasons. The following list includes nearly all of the proposals during the 1980s.

April 1980 - Brottman - request to consider recommending a zoning change from agricultural to half acre residential for a 30 acre parcel east of 571 and north of Oscar Drive.

[Bulletin, April and June 1980]

(Continued on Page 17)

Nursery School News

by Sandy Wolk, Head Teacher,
R.M.N.S.

It's hard to believe that December is just around the corner. We have a lot to look forward to.

Our walk through the alphabet continues with the letter F for Frosty the Snowman, C for Cold wintry days and N for the coming New Year. We will be reviewing numbers 1-5 by building towers of triangles (which is our shape for the month) and counting stars. The colors for the month will be blue and white.

Our special topic and science week will be combined as we set out on an adventure to explore Stars, Space and the Sun. We will discover nighttime surprises and make flying saucers and sunny faces. Our space helmets will be donned when we enter our space

capsule to investigate things we see in the sky.

The pre-kindergarten children will be evaluated during the month of December. I will be planning my lessons for the coming months based on the results of these evaluations. I will concentrate on those areas which seem to need the most improvement. The children continue to amaze me with their knowledge and ideas on all sorts of subjects.

We will continue to have Show and Tell every Thursday and Friday during which time the children share something special with the class. This month we will have a Crazy Hat day - I can't wait to see those interesting creations.

We wish you all a safe and fun holiday and a happy, healthy New Year.

PTA News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

Just a short report this time, as the PTA gathers its strength for the flurry of activities set for the new year. The group's major December effort will be the Holiday Gift Shop, an annual event where RPS students are given the opportunity to select and purchase gifts for relatives and friends all by themselves. The Shop will be operating during school hours on December 1 and 2, and from 6-7:30 p.m. on December 2, with gifts ranging in price from 5 cents to 7 dollars. Chairperson Ellen Silverman and her crew will be on hand to assist the youngsters. The PTA will also sponsor "Magic with a Message," a December 15 assembly featuring magic tricks that illustrate this year's PTA theme of health and safety.

Special thanks this issue go to Hospitality Chair Dianna Moore and her team of fabulous cooks who supplied the delicious refreshments at the RPS Thanksgiving Assembly.

The PTA will not meet in December, so the next regular meeting is set for January 12.



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get home in
time for my

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Roosevelt, NJ
08555-0221

Letter From the CSA

by Frances Lobman, Ed.D.,
Chief School Administrator

How many of you accepted our invitation to the Thanksgiving festivities? We encourage all of you to participate in your school's "events." Whether or not you have children here, this building and its inhabitants are a part of Roosevelt and thus a part of you. If transportation is a problem, just call Helen Barth at 448-2798 and she will help you to find a ride. Our next event will be our Winter Showcase in January. Two of our themes will be Radio Station KIDS and snowflakes. We will hold day and evening performances and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Thank you Historical Commission and Environmental commission.

Through cooperative efforts, you put together and displayed the historic and environmental exhibit at Borough Hall. Among the items to be viewed were booklets about Roosevelt created by Ilene Levine's classes over the years as well as a booklet done by Kathy Hawthorne's kindergarten last year. Peter Warren, whose efforts made the exhibit so successful, agreed to keep the Sunday, October 31 display open one more day so that our students would be able to take a walking field trip to the Borough Hall. This is the kind of cooperation that helps forge links among our Roosevelt generations.

Speaking of links, most of the former Roosevelt and Cream Ridge residents that were supposed to tour the area and re-live their 1930's days here

on November 11 were unable to make it. Deluged with cancellations at the last minute, the World Zionist Organization postponed its plans. If the WZO does re-schedule (arrangements and announcements will come through the WZO), you are, of course, welcome to join these early settlers when they reach the school to share memories of Roosevelt and their days at Roosevelt Public School (RPS).

December. The days are short. It's dark at five, barely two hours after school is out, yet not quite suppertime. Children may still be playing in yards or walking home from a friend's house at that hour. Please keep an extra watchful eye out for youngsters when driving.

Have a good month.

School Board News - Meeting: November 17

by Joann San Nicola

The regular monthly meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education was called to order at 7:45 on November 17, by President Hamilton. There was a quorum despite one missing member and one vacancy on the Board.

The first order of business was to change the order of business so that the public session could be held first. Ms. Peggy Malkin addressed the Board about discipline concerns in school. She, along with other parents, was disturbed about the use of detention versus more constructive approaches in handling minor infractions in behavior, lack of academic preparation, irresponsibility, etc. She also felt that there should be more communication between the parents and the school. Mrs. Malkin also suggested that the traffic cones so placed to control traffic flow, should be removed. Many feel that the cones cause greater prob-

lems. Anyone picking up or delivering a child should be aware that double parking is never allowed. This problem endangers our children, and their safety is everyone's problem.

Dr. Lobman answered the concerns of the parents by assuring them that lunch detention has been done away with, and indeed detention per se is not the answer to student problems. Other alternatives are being explored. She also encouraged the parents to avail themselves of the opportunity to let teachers know their feelings and concerns at the upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences.

Mr. and Mrs. Yeger voiced their objections about a proposed sixth grade fund raiser to sell fir trees for Christmas. Such an activity is exclusive to some students because of religious beliefs, and is unacceptable in a public school. The Board subsequently denied the

written request of the teacher to use this activity as a fund raiser, but expressed pleasure with the teacher's enthusiasm and involvement in this area.

Dr. Lobman also extended her thanks on behalf of her staff to Mrs. Yeger for her culinary treats in celebration of National Education Week.

Mrs. Schlinski has tendered her resignation to the School Board, thereby creating an open position. Anyone interested in filling this position should so advise the Board in writing. The deadline is December 1st.

The Board voted to approve tuition reimbursements for the P.E. and Art teachers. They will receive \$1,387.00 and \$462.50 respectively. All courses will ultimately enrich our children.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30.

Bulletin Forum

Viewpoint - I This Unique Community

by Gilbert C. de Malvilain

Despite the use of the well-known description for Roosevelt, what I intend to describe has nothing to do with ambience, green acres, the quiet, safe neighborhood we live in, or for that matter, the intellectual and artistic components of our small society. All of those things are in place and can not be denigrated. Neither do I intend to delve too deeply into what I know of Roosevelt's history, except for the instances that fit into my arguments.

In thinking and considering how Roosevelt got to be what it is today, the phrase "historic isolation" came to the forefront of my mind and remained firmly fixed there. At the outset - due to ethnic and political consideration - the two-hundred families who found their way to Jersey Homesteads suffered nothing less than isolation from everything they had previously known and absolute rejection from their "redneck" neighbors. A pattern was set and carried on during the ensuing decades, to the effect that even though the inhabitants of Roosevelt were not against people as such, they preferred to have them live elsewhere.

The impact of this isolation from the main stream can only be understood through the study of the demographics for the nation as a whole from 1940 to 1990 and then compare them to those of Roosevelt for the same period. It is easy to see then why Roosevelt - along with many other tiny communities - has fallen behind and become (to use PC phraseology) "fiscally disadvantaged."

To begin with, the population of the United States has experienced an increase of 88.2% since 1940, with

New Jersey following close behind with 86.7%. By comparison, Roosevelt has seen an increase of just 26.5%. Had this community been in step with the trend, we would now have some 1300 inhabitants living here and not anywhere near the megalopolis some people have envisioned.

The fact is however, that real estate taxes and W/S bills are not paid by individual people, but by households. So let us look at the growth of households to determine where we are. For the U.S., we see an increase of 141% - with smaller families accounting for the disparity with population growth - while Roosevelt grew by 64%, or a shortfall of 77%. Again, had this community followed the trend, we would now have 487 housing units in place instead of 332, with a population of 1295 inhabitants.

With the numbers fitting pretty well so far, let us go a step further and assume a possible 50% increase in households for this community. Actually, the number most frequently discussed is 150 new units or somewhat less than 50%. What we would have then, is 482 households in place and a population of 1282. It should be evident that even with that increase we would still only be playing catch-up with the rest of the country, at the same time remaining a small enough community to get lost in the statistical shuffle.

Actually, the numbers hold up, even considering that the twenty-one Solar Village units can not be counted as full households bearing the normal burden of taxation and fees as the other 311 units do. Adding 150 new houses would bring the total to 461 households with a population/unit value of 2.75 per household, or 1268 people, plus the 29 residents of Solar Village for a total of 1297 in all, well within the general demographics for the country as a whole.

All of this leads to a look at growth in relation to the taxes and fees levied to support the community. In order to achieve a reasonable comparison between the three scenarios that follow, an average evaluation for tax purposes of \$129,408.00 based on 332 housing units, was used in all cases. Further, there is no reason to believe that gross tax amounts required for municipal, school, county or other purposes would be materially less, no matter the number of households existing in the Borough. The figures used therefore, are those of the 1993 budget.

For 1993, the total tax rate for all purposes is 3.273 per hundred of evaluation or \$4,235.00 per household based on the average evaluation stated above and a total revenue of \$1,406,106.00. Those numbers are however not the whole story, seeing that the school administration is pursuing a state cap waiver for an additional \$0.33 per hundred tax increase, raising the total tab by \$130,231.00, for a grand total of \$1,536,337.00, or \$4,628.00/household.

The next two categories are essentially a "What if?" proposition, but they are important in making the point of this study. Let us assume for instance, that the original inhabitants of Jersey Homesteads had succeeded in maintaining zero growth and the Borough now consisted of the 206 households that existed in 1950. Not a far-fetched idea considering the emotional resistance to any proposal of additional housing that exists to this day. At any rate, under those conditions, the total tax rate would now be 5.764 per hundred or \$7,458.00 per household, to provide the total revenue described above, not counting W/S fees.

Even with the meteoric rise in the construction (Roosevelt style) of 36 new houses over two decades to 1970

(Continued on Page 11)

Viewpoint - II Facing the Future of Roosevelt

by Michael Ticktin

By virtue of his early submission of his article, Gil de Malvilain has given me an opportunity to respond to certain points that he has made. Since this is a subject that has concerned me greatly for many years, both as a public official and as a taxpayer, I am grateful to him for the opportunity.

The optimum community size of about 500 houses that Mr. de Malvilain recommends was first suggested in 1935 by Jersey Homesteads Project Manager Max Blitzer in a letter to Albert Einstein. It would bring us close to the capacity both of our elementary school and of our sewage treatment plant. The basic economic principle that production can be done most efficiently, at the lowest per unit cost, when economies of scale are realized applies to these facilities as well as it does to a factory. I have no disagreement with Mr. de Malvilain as to the desirability of this goal.

There are several aspects of the problem, however, that cannot be overlooked or disregarded. They include the following:

1. Private control of land: Contrary to Mr. de Malvilain's implication, there have been significant changes to the 10-acre zoning scheme established in 1965. The establishment of the R-100 zone on land that was formerly zoned 10-acre agricultural or industrial has allowed 15 houses to be built, with room for nine more, one of which is under construction. A 109-acre agricultural parcel has been rezoned to allow construction of between 54 and 78 units, depending on the option chosen by a future developer. But it is up to the owners of the

property, not the Borough, to determine whether, when and at what price the property will be offered for sale. The Borough can permit development on private land, but can only make it happen if it owns the land itself, not a likely occurrence in this case. As far as the rest of the land zoned for 10-acre minimum lot size is concerned, the owners have not come forward with any proposals since the Switchel conceptual plan that preceded the collapse of the land development market in the late 1980's. There is reason to believe, however, that the landowners' idea of the value of their properties is not at all consistent with having no more than 100 or so homes in the entire northern part of the Borough, which is what an overall limit of 500 or so homes, combined with the current zoning of the rest of the Borough, would necessarily require.

2. Regionalization: Concerning regionalization, Mr. de Malvilain says only that it is not a matter on which adequate comment can be made in his study. But discussing our problem of excessive school taxation without reference to the possibility of regionalization is like discussing the Civil War and the crisis that preceded it without reference to the issue of slavery. We have been told that the Board of Education is going forward with discussions and studies on regionalization. If anything comes of this, it is likely to change the entire picture. Regionalization would enable us, in effect, to combine our modest tax base with those of other municipalities that have more ratables per capita and lower school tax rates, with a resulting averaged effective tax rate substantially lower than what we have now. Unlike a plan to send out all elementary school students, which would probably increase rather than lower costs and render as wasted all of our substantial investment in the school

building, regionalization has the potential to be an effective solution to the problem of high school taxes, leaving only high utility fees as a financial issue to be addressed through the planning and zoning process. (I am aware that some people equate regionalization with the closing of the elementary school. However, I find it difficult to imagine that, in a period of rising elementary school enrollments in surrounding districts, a regional board would find it to be more cost-effective to close an existing school than to assign more students to it.)

3. The Meaning of "Development": When the issue has been discussed at public meetings that I have attended in recent years, I have heard no objection raised to having a community of about 500 households. The choice between "no-growth" and expansion to a size that Gil de Malvilain, Max Blitzer and I would all support seems, at this point, to be virtually a non-issue. People who declare their opposition to "development" are usually, from what I can gather, reacting to the possibility of the construction of many hundreds of units in the northern area. At such time as a developer comes in with such a proposal, and I suspect that such a proposal is far more likely than a proposal to build at an average density of one house per four or five acres, which is what a total of 100 or so units in the northern area would necessitate, we will have to ask ourselves whether, after taking into account all economic factors, we would prefer to be a mini-Cranbury, limiting development so that the village core retains its primacy, or a mini-Plainsboro, where the original village is just one neighborhood among many. Upon that decision, which would most appropriately be made by the community as a whole through an advisory referendum, the future of Roosevelt will depend.

Bulletin Forum

Hunters, Deer and Roosevelt - I

by John Towle

With another deer hunting season already in progress and the shotgun and permit seasons quickly approaching, the issue of deer hunting in Roosevelt is once again a frequent topic of conversation. The current plan of towing, fining, and otherwise penalizing hunters on borough property is one method of getting the message across, but it is not one which fosters a favorable image of our town. I would propose instead to educate the local hunters as to the current ordinances of our community.

For the record, I am not against deer hunting in general, however, I feel strongly that all rules as set forth by the NJ Division of Fish and Game should be honored, along with other laws governing property ownership and municipal ordinances. Whether one agrees with sport hunting or not, on the surface there would seem to be a clear need for managing the deer herd in Western Monmouth county. With significant farmland surrounding our town, and ample woodlands as shelter, the deer seem to have a perfect retreat in an area that does not permit hunting. Anyone who spends any time in the woods or elsewhere in town is aware of the extensive browsing damage to the understory and residen-

tial landscapes. Allowing hunting on the few eligible tracts as governed by Fish and Game is one way to manage the local herd while ensuring that safety concerns are met.

One possibility would be to repeal our "no firearms discharge" ordinance, and then utilize the Game Wardens to strictly enforce the 450 foot setback and postings. Although it may be part of State Police duty to respond to hunter complaints, the lack of enthusiasm I have felt on the several occasions that I have spoken with the troopers after they responded to a resident's call leads me to believe that these calls are not a priority for the State Police. They would be a priority for Fish and Game, who exist largely to regulate and enforce these issues.

My concern each hunting season is to keep hunters off our property for safety reasons, and I ask hunters to leave when they are trespassing. I have personally spoken with the hunters who park on Eleanor Lane and Oscar Drive, and a few who walk down from Millstone, off Agress Road. As a group they are not renegades or law breakers, they are men who have hunted in this area for as long as fifteen years or more, coming from as far away as East Brunswick and Matawan. They have been extremely polite in asking about posting and hunting on my lot and the adjacent field and woods. Several were not aware of Roosevelt's

ordinance, but I started getting the word to them as I began to see them again this summer, and I would not expect them to return this season. Hunters are sensitive to anti-hunting sentiment and do not want a confrontation with landowners, or fines as a result of their pursuit of sport.

A comment I heard from one hunter was that he did not see any ordinance signs coming into Roosevelt. It is the hunter's responsibility to be familiar with all local regulations, but I am pleased that the Council is arranging for these signs at the entrances to town. These signs are part of what a hunter looks for as he chooses a place to hunt.

If our "no discharge" ordinance is not to be repealed to allow hunting beyond 450 feet of structures, then a small article in the local papers, with a copy posted at Rossi's Deli with a map of Roosevelt's borders would go a long way in educating the area hunters of our regulations. Copies could also be placed on the windshields of hunter's vehicles while they are in the woods to be sure that the message gets to the proper people. Members of local gun clubs could be given a copy.

If these methods do not produce results, then we could continue with our method of posting parking restrictions, ticketing and towing vehicles, fining trespassers and posting all areas with signage.

Support the *Bulletin*

Please send your Tax Deductible Contribution to:

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin

Box 221

Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0221

Hunters, Deer and Roosevelt - II

by David C. Donnelly

This year's seasonal cacophony of gunfire is being met by a group of determined Roosevelt residents, intent on defending the Borough's borders against deer and small game hunters. Safety, animal rights and a local anti-hunting ordinance are among the motivators peaking the interest of the group.

On November 13, members of the Environmental Commission and a number of volunteers, most notably Eleanor Lane residents, held a "Posting Party," where safety zone signs were posted around the Borough. The signs, provided by the State Fish and Game Department, indicated to hunters that they were within 450 feet of an occupied building, and therefore in violation of the law. This statute, which carries a fine of up to \$1,500

and permanent loss of hunting license, is said to be the most effective deterrent to unsafe hunting in populated areas.

As a result of action taken at the November Borough Council meeting, signs will be installed at all main entrances to town indicating that the Borough has in place an ordinance banning the discharge of firearms within its borders. The hope is that the street signs, along with the safety zone postings, will deter some hunters from crossing our borders with guns ablaze.

Seemingly with a herd in every backyard, I am preaching to the choir by saying we have a deer problem. The trick is finding a solution that does not jeopardize the safety of our residents, the primary concern in the matter. Observations and cooperation with state troopers and Fish and Game officers are key factors.

Understand that Fish and Game officers in the Assunpink WMA are

beleaguered with hunting complaints at this time of year and that the troopers have many priorities. Accurate and timely reporting of possible illegal acts are what is needed from residents for the police to put their professionalism to work. This is where our new 9-1-1 emergency number could be put to use.

There once was some talk of a "Neighborhood Watch" program being started in Roosevelt. Little interest was shown and the idea was dropped. I think it's time to bring it up again, not just for hunting problems, but for speeding, illegal dumping, vandalism and who knows what else. I have heard complaints about all of the above plus some others I'd rather not mention. Whatever the circumstances, it is clear that helping ourselves by helping the police is one of the solutions. Be observant, get involved and look for more about the Watch Program soon.

This Unique Community

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and the resultant 242 households forming the final concession to growth, the taxes would still be beyond belief. As to how resistance was overcome to permit the construction of 90 additional houses during the last two decades, is in the realm of speculation, but the point is that the addition of the 126 housing units had the effect of reducing the potential tax burden by 38%. Under the circumstances, growth can only be seen as having positive value.

Also very much to the point, the "new" people involved can not be said to have jeopardized the so-called "Special Character" of Roosevelt in any perceivable way. Quite the contrary, for they appreciate the ambience of the place in equal measure to that felt by those who can claim roots going back to the begin-

ning. They in fact - and perhaps not for the same reasons - are just as prone to resist change as the remaining original settlers and their descendants.

To get to the crux of the matter and reasonable tax relief, we can not wait another forty years for something to happen or we might as well turn Roosevelt over to the ticks and the termites and move to Montana. Let us focus instead on the potential of another 150 households added to the Borough and see where that takes us. With 482 housing units - including Solar Village - the tax rate would drop to 2.463 per hundred or \$3,187.00 per average assessment, to raise the same level of revenue previously stated for 1993. That means a 31% overall reduction in taxes.

There are those who will tell you that the more people we have living here, the more services will have to be provided by

the Borough. The answer to that smoke and mirror argument is that the Borough does not now provide any services that we do not pay for, so how could another four hundred people add to the cost of services that are non-existent. The reality is, that the larger tax base would afford the kind of flexibility we do not now have. Let us be reasonable and recognize that there is still a lot to be done for the infrastructure of the Borough and raise the tax rate back to the level we had in 1991/92, say \$3,387.00 per household, or \$96,400.00 more for Municipal purposes, at a tax rate of 0.73/hundred, reducing taxes by \$1,124.00/household.

What the expanded tax base would do for the W/S fees is another factor that has to be considered. Using the 1993 budget estimates of costs - that have been deliberately padded - the fee per house-

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This Unique Community

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hold would drop to \$93.00 per month, a much deeper cut than the \$5.00 reduction recently approved or for that matter, any possible reduction achieved by selling our utilities to the New Jersey American Water Company.

Now, to look at our school situation - that most sensitive and emotional subject - as to where we are and where we could be. There is no question that having a school within the Borough is good and desirable, but it must also be seen that the problem is how the constantly escalating costs of that operation are going to be financed. Currently, school taxes amount to about 68% of our tax bill and if the additional \$0.33 per hundred is allowed, closer to 70%.

NOTE: As of October 18, 1993, it appears that the cap waiver was approved, so that there will be an additional bill sent averaging \$392.00 per household. Now for the good news? Well, there just is not any.

For many years there has been a good deal of acrimonious discussion for and against keeping the school, one side maintaining that it is too expensive for the number of people who have to pay the bill, while the other side maintains that the school is the focal point of the community that is needed to attract young families to the Borough. Actually, neither side is wrong, but before taking one side or the other, it would be best to look dispassionately at the finances in question and the alternatives that have been proposed.

One of them, regionalization, is not one on which adequate comment can be made in this study. As for the other, that of sending all of our children to other districts, (East Windsor) cost figures are available and comparisons can be made.

According to the figures published in the 1993 School Budget, \$936,678.00 comes from our local taxes, while \$507,324.00 comes from State, Federal and other sources, for a published total of \$1,444,002.00. To be added to that sum,

is the increase of \$0.33 per hundred, or \$130,231.00 for a new total of \$1,574,233.00, breaking down to \$10,425.00 per pupil. At that level, it takes the contributions of 3.2 taxpayers to support one school child and that is the amount most likely to attract the antis to their position.

What about the alternative? According to available figures that are probably not current, we sent 14 children to Hightstown Middle School at a tuition of \$7,081.00 each and 40 to High School at \$8,080.00 each, for a total expenditure of \$422,334.00. These figures do not include children in Private School Placement (3) or Special Ed. (2). But wait, there is more. In addition to tuition, there are the Student Transportation Services amounting to \$108,567.00 and a grand total of \$530,901.00 for 54 or 59 students, whichever applies.

Now let us consider sending the remainder of our school population, 92 up to K-6, to East Windsor Elementary at a slightly lower tuition than middle school, perhaps \$6,500.00 each. The cost would come to roughly \$598,000.00, plus a proportional transportation cost based on current experience, of \$1,840.00 per student, or \$169,280.00, for a grand total of \$767,280.00. Putting the whole package together in sending all of our children to another district, would come to \$1,298,181.00, or \$231,272.00 more than our local contribution to the school budget.

Apparently, what has been missed in the past by people who have made rough calculations of school costs, is that the total school budget reflects a sizable amount of funds from other sources that we can not count as our money, but that follow the student to whatever school in which he happens to be enrolled. It follows then, that the \$10,425.00 cost per pupil mentioned above is a deceptive figure as a starting point in trying to make comparisons with the alternatives.

The only plausible solution to the present school costs - as with all of the other taxes and fees of the Borough - is the call for a wider tax base that is the core of

this study.

First, we must look at the impact of an additional 150 housing units in terms of demographics. There is no reason to expect that the population/unit figure would be any other than the national average of 2.63, but it appears that the Roosevelt figure is a bit higher, 2.66, so calculations will be made on that basis, producing 99 more children in our community. All of these children are not likely to be of school age, but let us arbitrarily say that two-thirds are, or 66. A further breakdown, based on experience, shows that roughly one-third of our school population goes to East Windsor, thus leaving 44 to be educated locally. Actually, there is no way of predicting if that breakdown would pertain, since it would depend entirely on the age bracket of the families in question.

According to published figures, RPS has the capacity to handle from 140 to 168 students at the high end, without having to expand the facilities. Let us say for the sake of argument, that 50 new pupils are added to the Kindergarten to K-6 school population, that would be well within the limits described and not likely to require additional staff, either administrative or instructional. But one never knows what other factors could come into play to upset that estimate.

Financially, the benefits would be undeniable. First, in order to maintain our contribution to the school budget at the current level of \$1,066,909.00, or approximately \$3,214.00 per household, we can see a reduction of close to \$1,000.00 per unit when spread over 482 households. Second, the larger school population would bring in proportionally more funds from other sources, estimated at \$719,040.00, for a total budget of \$1,784,607.00, or \$8,224.00 per pupil, in line with the costs/pupil ratio of other districts. Third, the additional funds required to transport 16 children to East Windsor schools, \$29,440.00, would easily be covered from available funds, still leaving the school with a cushion amounting to \$182,276.00 for other purposes. It

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could be that giving our teachers a raise would not be a bad idea.

To recap the potential of adding 150 housing units to our community, we see the following:

1. Reduces our overall tax rate from the current 3.573 to 2.704 per hundred. A reduction of \$1,124.00 per unit.

2. Revenue for the Municipal Budget would increase by \$96,400.00.

3. Revenue for RPS would increase by \$182,276.00.

4. W/S bills would be reduced by \$47.00/mo., a saving of \$564.00/yr.

5. Overall then, taxes and fees would be reduced by \$1,688.00 per unit.

Is that not worth going after? So, what are we waiting for?

Well, there are many little bits and pieces that have to be put together to form a coherent picture as to why Roosevelt has been and remains at risk. First, there is the irrational fear on the part of one faction that this "Unique Community" will forever be damaged by an influx of newcomers, a term often used with the connotation that "newcomers" are basically an unsavory lot that would not fit in with "Our Kind." Second, there has often been and to a certain extent, still is a lack of leadership on the part of our elected

officials, who would rather take the path of least resistance, than do something that might rock the boat. They have never hesitated when it comes to raising taxes, but always seem disinclined to do anything that would lower them.

Third, there is also the fact that, in 1965, the Borough Council deliberately reduced the possibility of reasonable development to insignificant levels, by zoning 57% of available land to potential 10 acres residential use, a lot size far in excess to the middle class character of the Borough. There is little doubt as to the faction behind the scheme. Since then, environmental constraints have further limited where houses can be built, but sufficient land remains for the modest growth envisioned.

But by far, the most troubling aspect of the situation, is the apathy and the lethargy displayed by the taxpayers of this community, who, when it comes to anything having to do with Municipal business, are simply not involved. Harassment is one thing, involvement quite another. Perhaps it is simply that the majority of people here are comfortable enough not to be concerned whether the community is in financial crisis or not, or how their money is being spent. At any rate, the recent \$900.00 plus increase in taxes did not stir-up any particular reac-

tion, but maybe the next \$392.00 for the school might. There remains however, that the bottom 15% of the economic scale who earn less than \$25,000 a year, may have to make a choice between paying taxes and fees, or buying medicine and putting food on the table, a sad commentary for a "Unique Community."

As to the alternatives proposed to produce additional income for the Borough, such as processing other people's sewerage, or selling our sludge for agricultural purposes, or privatizing our utilities, none of these things, singly or together, have the potential of providing the half-million dollars in revenues to be had with one-hundred and fifty new taxpayers added to the rolls. There are no easy ways to get there and in the end, change and an improvement in our financial situation, for families as well as for the Borough, can only come if enough people want it, or rather indeed, demand it. Silent acceptance of "business as usual" is not going to cut it and "Izzy" is no longer around to take care of things for us.

NOTE: The figures used in this study may not be totally accurate, but the end result in regards to the potential reduction in the tax-load compared to other studies, is not out of line.

Borough Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

interest, their proposal, including a purchase price, will be submitted for a referendum vote to the residents of Roosevelt. If the voters give their approval, documents will be prepared for a public sale of the utilities to the highest bidder.

Double Duty

In a supplementary report, Mayor Lee Allen described the semi-annual hydrant-flushing, held this year on the eve of Halloween. He recommended that "Mischievous Night" be made a regular date for this activity, since it provides for a team of adults to be "out on

the streets" from about eight o'clock to midnight, a useful safeguard against possible trouble. The group participants, Mark and Sonja Bianchi, Steve Yeger and Mr. Allen, were able to use the occasion to assess the weak spots in the lines due to improperly functioning valves. The Mayor warmly thanked the volunteers, and also the Rossis for their contribution of refreshments, and invited other Roosevelt residents to join this worthy and enjoyable function.

Running the Sewer Plant

In response to a general statement by Mrs. Murphy that new plans are in the works for reorganizing the man-

agement of the sewer plant, several residents raised pertinent questions including the status of Borough personnel and the role of Applied Wastewater Services (AWS). Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Kaufman and Mayor Allen discussed the difficulties of running a wholly new, highly complex facility, always under pressure of increasing demands from DEPE, with only one and a half employees plus two days a week of costly assistance from AWS.

Since the committee estimates that the plant requires as least 80 hours a week of trained hands-on operations, alternative plans for adequate management within budgetary restraints

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Roosevelt Weather Almanac

by Ron Filepp

"If we do not get an Indian Summer in October or November, we will get it during the winter" so says a weather proverb. We got our Indian Summer on November 14th and 15th when temperatures rose into the 70's. Both days offered pleasant relief from the prior chilly days.

New record lows and highs were set in Central Jersey during the first half of the month. Our lowest temperature as of this writing was 25 degrees on the 8th. In New Brunswick the low that day was 22 degrees and that set a record for the date. The 8th also brought the first hard frost to Roosevelt.

At the other end of the spectrum were the high temperatures on both the 14th and the 15th. These days set records for both dates in New Brunswick. Temperatures in Roosevelt those days rose to 71 and 77 degrees respectively. The highest temperature ever recorded in November in New Jersey was 88 degrees. The lowest was -7 degrees.

Most of the leaves fall off the trees in November thanks in part to the wind. November is one of the windiest months. After talking to a few people about their style of dealing with fallen leaves three basic approaches emerged. First, start a regular schedule of removal in late October. Second, wait until most of the leaves have fallen and then clean them up in one or two sessions. Third, wait until spring and deal with the leaves then.

Then there are the tools of the trade to choose from. Some people use leaf blowers or vacuums. These are noisy but effective. Others use their lawn mowers. The mower can do the job, but it leaves many chopped up leaves in the lawn. Then there are the traditionalists who put their faith in the rake. There is another strategy that

seems most appealing. Have someone else do it.

Another weather event in mid November is worth noting. On the 15th the late afternoon brought a beautiful display of clouds and sunlight. Cirrus and cirrocumulus clouds combined with fiery orange, late afternoon sunlight and a background of brilliant blue created a scene of burning clouds sailing across the sky. Robin and I were in the car leaving town when we noticed the sky. Robin suggested a brief stop to watch the sky and got no argument. This was a gift, a beautiful scene to behold. Most days offer an interesting sky if you happen to be looking up at the right time.

It's now December and winter is knocking on the door. There are many weather proverbs that relate to important days in the Christian calendar. There appears to be a proverb for almost every Saint's day. There are also some for Christmas. "A green Christmas, a fat churchyard." Most churchyards are populated by those who have passed on. The proverb is rather grim in that it predicts many deaths will follow a warm winter, which is signified by a green Christmas. It's no wonder so many people sing about a white Christmas.

Other weather proverbs about Christmas include: "The twelve days of Christmas determine the weather for each month of the year" and "Easter in snow, Christmas in mud, Christmas in snow, Easter in mud."

Finding weather proverbs relating to Christian holidays has been simple. Does anyone know of any weather proverbs relating to Jewish or other religious holidays?

A more scientific look at December reveals that it is the darkest month. There is less sunlight in December than any other month. Not only is the

**ROOSEVELT WEATHER
TABLE
November 1993**

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Precip inches
1	45.0	37.5	41.5	0.33
2	49.5	31.0	40.3	0.00
3	50.5	32.0	41.3	0.00
4	59.5	34.0	45.0	0.00
5	59.5	43.0	51.3	0.15
6	51.5	48.0	49.8	0.45
7	46.0	29.0	37.5	0.00
8	47.0	25.0	36.0	0.00
9	54.0	28.0	41.0	0.00
10	54.0	30.0	42.0	0.00
11	50.0	29.5	42.8	0.00
12	61.0	43.0	52.0	0.00
13	60.0	36.0	48.0	0.00
14	71.0	51.0	61.0	0.15
15	77.0	57.0	67.0	0.00
16	57.0	44.5	50.8	0.00
17	62.0	40.0	51.0	0.03
18	53.0	46.0	49.5	0.15
19	60.5	34.0	47.3	0.00
20	52.0	33.0	42.5	0.00
21	46.0	28.0	37.0	0.00
22	54.0	31.0	42.5	0.00
23	57.0	31.5	44.3	0.00
24	58.0	40.0	49.0	0.00
25	38.0	22.5	30.3	0.00
26	46.0	20.0	33.0	0.00
27	60.0	34.0	47.0	0.00
28	66.5	43.0	54.8	0.97
29	44.5	32.0	38.3	0.10
30	29.5	-	-	0.00
31	-	-	-	-

Weather*(Continued from Page 14)*

sun at its lowest point above the horizon but there is no other month with more cloudy days. The day with the least amount of daylight will be December 21, the Winter Solstice. We will have about nine and a half hours of daylight on that day. That contrasts with the Summer Solstice in June when there are about 15 hours of daylight. It seems appropriate that the December celebrations of Hanukkah and Christmas feature the lights of the Menorah and the westward leading star to fend off the darkness.

The architects of Roosevelt also seemed to have light on their minds when they decided the placement of windows in many of the homes. In our house, excuse me, Esther's house, most large floor to ceiling windows face south. They collect the sunlight and some of its heat during the late fall and winter months. The cantilever roof, higher angle of the sun and the woods behind keep the direct light from entering the house in the summer.

New Jersey Weather Event

On December 5, 1927 a heavy sleet storm left 1 to 4 inches of pellets on the ground. Traffic was hampered and sewers blocked. Trenton received 2.8 inches of precipitation.

Source: The New Jersey Weather Book - David Ludlum

Weather Word

Sun dogs: Splotches on one or both sides of the sun caused by ice crystal clouds.

Source: The Weather Book - Jack Williams

Borough Council Report*(Continued from Page 13)*

are a pressing necessity.

What To Do About Hunters?

A report by David Donnelly, Environment, Health and Safety Chairman, calling for the distribution of prepared signs restricting parking at the cemetery and along Eleanor Lane, led to further discussion regarding problems stemming from violations of firearms regulations. Some of the issues mentioned were the lack of information on the part of both hunters and residents: in brief, no shooting within our borders, under local ordinance, and no shooting within boundaries and an area 450 feet of any occupied house, under state law. The borders, however, are not marked and thus difficulties arise. Add to that the problem of enforcement: who to call, State Police or fish and Game Officials?

One idea offered by John Towle and promptly accepted was to order and post at least four signs at the points of entry into town warning against violations of the ordinance banning discharge of weapons (both firearms and bow and arrows).

Concern was also expressed about the growing herds of deer, lovely as they may be, invading our back yards and devouring our gardens. The discussion made clear the need to examine the problem and together formulate some workable solutions. *(See pages 10&11)*

Boosting Roosevelt

Mr. Warren reported on the success of the bus tour by the 92nd Street Y on October 31. There were 30 New York visitors, as well as many others attracted to the event by word of mouth. He made a point of giving credit to all the contributors to this unusual effort:

to the members of the Art Project who opened their houses and studios, to Gail Hunton who undertook to guide the tour and explain the points of historic designation, to Bernarda Shahn who officiated at the school mural, to Gayle Donnelly who mounted the extensive exhibit of Roosevelt memorabilia displayed in Borough Hall, and to Arthur Shapiro for his help with Roosevelt's background history.

A request by a representative of the World Zionist Organization to discuss the erection of a Benjamin Brown memorial monument was turned over for discussion to a Council Committee before action is taken in concert with the School Board.

November Business Items

1. The purchase of a snow plow (\$2,600) to be mounted on the Borough pick-up truck was approved.

2. A contract to purchase chemicals for the sewer plant was publicly offered for bids.

3. The sum of \$281 was received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the cost share incurred in the March 13, 1993 snow storm.

4. Passage of a resolution, circulated throughout the state, to appeal to all levels of government to write laws and regulations in plain language so they can be easily understood.

Prevention of the 3 D's

Stating that it was a happy duty to read a proclamation declaring December 1993 National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3 D's) Prevention month, Mayor Allen read the text. The proclamation is intended to promote "awareness of causes of driver impairment" and warn against abuse of alcohol and other drugs, especially by young people.

Crumbs from My Table

Focus on Waffles

by Rebecca Reuter

I bought a waffle iron at a yard sale last week. I was willing to go the two dollars, even though I already have a waffle iron, because this one was really big. I like waffles and I figured an iron this big could have me sitting down eating them a lot quicker. It makes rectangular waffles, but I guess there's always a price to pay.

We didn't eat waffles when I was a kid. At least, if we did I don't remember them. We had cereal mostly, and when my father cooked there was Wheatena - oh, luscious smell - and strange things in the frying pan like scrambled eggs with salami. Sometimes matzoh brei, pale yellow, lumpy, and warm. Now and then cream of wheat with eddies of brown sugar. And bananas and sour cream! Sugared, too, till each bite was a contrast of smooth fruit and grit. But we didn't have waffles. Or if we did, they weren't worth remembering.

The waffles I do remember:

1) At the Woodstock Inn of Woodstock, Vermont on occasional Sunday mornings when I hitchhiked into the town from school. I ate alone at a very small linen-covered table. The room was large, the ceilings were high. I was fifteen and the waffles were round. Each waffle came attended by two small wedges of melon, what was called up there a "rasher" of bacon, and a little jug of maple syrup.

2) Over Paradise Hill, past the lakes, on the Ridge. I would pick fresh raspberries from the patch in the back yard and shake out, as I walked back, the small insects who wandered their velvet interiors. The raspberries were heaped beside the waffles (round) and dosed with huge spoonfuls of soft

whipped cream. A fan of bacon. Maple syrup over all.

These waffles did not come from a freezer package. They were not garbled with oily corn syrups and slippery margarine. These were the waffles worth remembering.

Here is a recipe for waffles worth remembering. It is adapted from a book called *Better Than Store-Bought*, by Helen Witty and Elizabeth Schneider Colchie, which is full of great recipes for things you might as well make yourself (like waffle mix), and things you might never have thought of making yourself (like marshmallows).

Don't be shy about buying small bags of rye flour and whole wheat if you don't have them. They keep for a few months - much longer in the freezer - and once you have them you can begin to substitute them for small portions of the white flour you use in recipes for rolls, breads, and biscuits. What do you mean you don't make biscuits? So you'll start.

This recipe makes enough dry mix for three batches of waffles or pancakes. Store it in a plastic bag at room temperature or in the freezer.

Waffles Worth Remembering (or Pancakes)

Into a bowl put:

- 2 cups white flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Use a wire whisk to mix it all together for at least 30 seconds. Store the mix in a plastic bag or other tightly covered container.

For each batch of waffles or pancakes, heat a waffle iron, griddle, or large frying pan, and measure into a bowl:

1 3/4 cup mix

In a small saucepan, melt:

2 tablespoons butter

Mix into the butter:

2 eggs

Stir in:

1 1/4 cups milk

Dump the liquids into the dry mix and stir just enough to moisten it. It will be lumpy and bubbly. Don't try to stir it smooth or your cakes will be flat and rubbery. Leave the lumps alone. Spoon the batter onto the hot iron and bake till the light goes out, or, for pancakes, bake till little bubbles form, then pop, and the edges begin to look dry. Turn and cook till done. If there are extras, put them in the freezer and have them another morning, warmed in the toaster. These really don't need any butter on them.

Okay...one more thing. You don't have to eat that awful "pancake syrup" stuff. There's no way to make it taste like it came from a tree. If you think it's all right, you have forgotten what tree sap should taste like. If you shop at Wholesale Depot in Robbinsville, or know someone who does, you can get a half gallon of real maple syrup for ten bucks, and split it with a neighbor or two. Then have your neighbor over for breakfast.

By the way, my old (round) waffle iron, circa 1960's, still works fine and is available in trade for the most interesting offer.

Planning Board News

(Continued from Page 5)

April 1980 - Philpot - informal proposal for a 531 unit adult community on 71 acres west of 571 between the service station and Nurko Road. [*Bulletin*, April, June, September, October and November 1980 and February 1981]

April 1981 - Brottman - 1,200 unit senior citizen "concept" proposal for 165 acres east of 571 and north of Oscar Drive. [*Bulletin*, April 1981]

March 1982 - Redmar Corp. - proposal to build a plastic-leaf alternative fuel factory on the only portion of the northern lands zoned industrial (the northeast corner of 571 and Oscar Drive). [*Bulletin*, March, April and May 1982]

May 1987 - Nurko - request to rezone 83 acre tract from agricultural to 2 1/2 acre residential. [*Bulletin*, May and October 1987]

February 1988 - Switchel, Inc. - proposal for 139 dwellings for the 123 acre Beer-Kugler (now Beer) tract bordering the northern side of Oscar Drive. [*Bulletin*, February, March, April, May, June, Summer and September 1988]

May 1988 - D'Amico, Nurko and Cuzzolino - concept proposal for a "Falcon Ridge Equestrian Community and Center" on land west of 571 on both sides of Nurko Road. [*Bulletin*, May 1988]

In March 1991, a Rutgers landscape architecture class that included Roosevelt resident Kate John-Alder displayed for the Planning Board five hypothetical development schemes involving the northern 500 acres. Each student team's proposal intended to preserve the community's visual, historical and architectural character, as well as environmental features of the land. Each of the displayed proposals retained as open space the field west of 571 and south of Nurko Road. Two other projects were not displayed. [*Bulletin*, March 1991]

In recent years, the nonprofit Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been communicating with Borough officials regarding preservation possibilities within the northern 500 acres. TPL looked into helping Roosevelt to preserve open space through limited development. TPL would have supplied its expertise in land use, land acquisition and land finance. It also would have bought targeted properties at or below fair market value and sold some of the land, at slightly higher prices sufficient to cover its expenses, after dividing the area between developable and preserved tracts. [*Bulletin*, January 1991] These efforts were complicated in Roosevelt because several portions of the targeted lands have different owners with different ideas for their properties. In addition, the economic slowdown of the last few years reduced developer and landowner interest - until now.

A Farmlands Study Committee of the Planning Board, chaired by former Board member Anita Cervantes, sponsored workshops in the late 1980s to explore future uses of Roosevelt's agricultural lands. Land use experts participated in the workshops at no cost to the Borough and delivered reports to the Board after walking the land - with the cooperation of owners - and taking input from the public.

Reports from the first workshop, held in the fall of 1987, led to the Planned Community Development (PCD) ordinance adopted by the Borough Council in the summer of 1988. The PCD governs the development of the Notterman tract. The second workshop, held in the late fall of 1988, studied the northern farmlands. No report had been issued on this workshop by the time Ms. Cervantes' term on the Planning Board expired at the end of 1988. She was not reappointed by then - Mayor Leon Barth, and the Farmlands Study Committee became inactive. [*Bulletin*, June and November 1988 and January 1989]

A Busload of Cooperation

by Peter Warren

Six months of planning went into making a success of the first 92nd Street Y (N.Y.) visit to Roosevelt. When Melissa Golub, the Y tour director, first called me last spring, it was far from apparent that it would turn out as well as it did.

Let's start at the beginning of the morning of October 31. Lee Drasin, who had grown up in Jersey Homesteads, lectured on the early experiences of the town on the drive from New York. Gail Hunton, who had prepared our historic designation application, spoke, as the bus toured the town, on why we are historic. After lunch at Rossi's, Bernarda Shahn recalled the long-gone days of working on the mural. Gayle Donnelly, of the Environmental Commission and Art Shapiro, Local Historian, answered the tourists' questions as they looked at the exhibits at Borough Hall, where photographs and articles covered little-known or forgotten aspects of our history.

Thanks to the collaboration of Bob Mueller and the Arts Project, seven artists opened their studios. The only real hitch was a delay in leaving New York which precluded visiting two studios. Future tours should be either for art or for history, not for both.

Although the weather didn't cooperate, a number of residents and people from out of town not attached to the tour also enjoyed the exhibits, including a professor of Jewish history from New York who was fascinated by the copy of Michael Shally-Jensen's thesis on our early history.

In short, the tour acted as a stimulus to appraising what Roosevelt has to offer - and appreciating it!

Omnia Mutantur... Everything Changes...

by Peter Warren

New Kids on the Block... Aliya Goldman, born November 15th.

Married... Kristin Marie Johnson, to Glenn Hansen of East Brunswick; Amanda Rose, formerly of Roosevelt, to David Campbell of Manhattan.

Engaged... Debbie Nahmias, who has received her Masters in elementary school teaching from Trenton State, to Adam Dauer of Ewing.

Moving Out... Thomas & Gail Fisher; Stephen & Anny Najecki, after 12 years, to a larger house in Millstone.

Moving In... Ben & Eleanor Pedersen to Rotgard house on South Rochdale, from Millstone.

Switching... Elly Bermowitz, from North Valley to Ilus Lobl's house on Farm Lane; Mildred DiGiorgio from Lake Drive to Solar Village; Bob & Susan Dermody from Senden house on Tamara Drive to Crozier house on Homestead Lane.

Return of the Native... Siri Nadler, from Pennsylvania.

On the Market... As of November 15, 13 houses for sale.

Voter Registration... (Official figures) 601, including 351 Democrats, 71 Republicans, 1 Independent, 178 unaffiliated.

Plucky White Girl... Abigail Rose, formerly of Roosevelt, has returned from 30 months with the Peace Corps in Tchllera, Cameroon.

Population Total... Shown in school survey of Roosevelt, 850.

4th Generation Rooseveltians... Adam, Age 5, Jonathan, Age 3, Benjamin, Age 1, Adlerman; Justin Lenart, Age 1, with living great grandmother Ethel Friedman.

Scarce... Gypsy moth egg clusters in Roosevelt, reduced to "near innocuous levels," according to State Department of Agriculture.

Construction Started... November 15th on Eleanor Drive (DOT \$146,000 grant), later on Tamara Drive, Elm Court and Brown Street (CDBG \$192,000 grant); Construction will take total of 75 working days - may be suspended December 1-March 31 because of weather.

To Bid... \$85,000 contract (CDBG supplemental funds) for reconstruction of South Rochdale between Tamara corner and Assunpink Park.

Patrons... For January 9 concert at Peddie School of Russian pianist Boris Zarankin sponsored by Roosevelt Arts Project now number more than 30 contributors.

Postponed... Decision on location of memorial to Benjamin Brown, planned with the World Zionist Organization.

Flowing... October: Sewage 176,000 gpd (DEPE ceiling 250,000 gpd); water 120,000 gpd, respectively.

Roosevelt Arts Project 1993-1994 Season

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1993-1994 calendar of events, featuring two artists never presented before by RAP, the premiere of a new play by Leslie Weiner, a group show by Roosevelt visual artists and the return of your favorite musicians and poets.

At all events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$5.00, only \$3.00 for students and seniors. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.

Saturday	December 11, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	John Parrott in Concert
Sunday	January 9, 1994 at 3:00 p.m. Peddie School	Boris Zarankin - Classical Pianist
Saturday	February 5, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Peddie School	Laurie Altman - Jazz
Sunday	March 13, 1994 at 5:00 p.m. Roosevelt Factory Hall	Art at the Factory - The Artist as Social Commentator
Saturday	April 16, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Peddie School	Roosevelt String Band - Songs of Freedom
Saturday	May 7, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	Grant - A New play by Leslie Weiner.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances and exhibits. For additional information, call David Herrstrom, RAP President at 443-4421 or any of the RAP trustees or artists.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible in part by your support and a generous grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

Piano/Poetry Fest II - Review

by Bess Tremper

The second Roosevelt Arts Project event of the season at our Borough Hall on Saturday, November 13th was a most enjoyable evening for its large audience enhanced not only by the excellence of the music and poetry presented, but also by its innovative format. Richard Lloyd designed and executed an environment that created a sense of intimacy and involvement with the audience by turning the Borough Hall into a "theatre in the round."

The chairs had been placed in clusters around the room with the piano in the center and theatrical lighting washed over all from strategically placed lighting fixtures.

The program had been judiciously arranged to make the most of the musical and poetic offerings presented. For me, the only missing element was a printed program but perhaps this would have detracted from the informality of the occasion.

Anita Cervantes and Alan Mallach respectively, played solos as well as performing a series of four hand piano pieces that delighted both the audience and the two performers who managed to imbue the music with their pleasure in playing it.

Poets Dinah Coe, Wieslaw Czyewski, David Herrstrom, Judith McNally and Rod Tulloss read provocative and at times, amusing pieces that were enthusiastically received.

It is gratifying to see the Roosevelt Arts Project continuing to supply our town with such high level invention.

To The Editor:

As I wrote in my previous letter: "I believe that the Council and not the Mayor is the decision-making body in municipal government." Not in Roosevelt. Not for the past two years.

Since the January 1992 Council reorganization meeting, the Mayor has been trying hard to turn the Borough Council into a rubber stamp, banking on his ability to marginalize the two most experienced Council members and to take advantage of the lack of experience of new Council members (by next January, four new members) and the lack of public participation.

The Mayor's tactics are simple but effective - control information, especially on the Water/Sewer Utility, which is by far the largest responsibility of the Council, followed at a discrete distance by streets, and at a greater distance by "everything else" - Administration, Community Relations and Environment.

The Mayor has arranged to have all crucial correspondence addressed to him or to the Utilities Chairperson. He frequently takes as long as two hours a day from his job to read the latest Borough mail and decide what the Council members should see. He often meets the attorney, the auditor,

the CFO, and the engineers but doesn't tell the Council members what was said.

He has a freewheeling style of dealing with employees, of making appointments to advisory boards, and spending money.

He has completely reversed the 1991 policy when all Council members were appraised of important issues and reached decisions only after every Council member had his say. No wonder that most of what we have accomplished was initiated in 1991.

For the past two years, the full Utilities Committee hasn't met. The Council members are expected to vote as the Utilities Chairperson recommends without anything like full discussion. The Mayor has atomized the Council. This has wasted taxpayers' money, prevented Councilman Prezant from passing on his quarter-century knowledge of municipal finance, and left a weakened and ineffective Council to cope with serious and continuing Borough problems.

He now wants to replace experienced professionals, like the borough attorney and the Borough engineer, who have done wonders for us during the past three years.

Peter B. Warren

(Ed Note: Due to the content of Mr. Warren's Letter, the Mayor was asked to respond to provide a balance of views to our readers.)

Dear Sir,

It is sad day in Roosevelt when a member of our governing body disgraces himself and our good community with slanderous and libelous assertions which have no basis in reality. Mr. Warren, in his latest tirade, is calling your duly elected officials mindless drones in some far fetched conspiracy to do what, I do not know.

I can assure you, however, that no rubber stamp exists, all decisions are by majority vote of the Council, all information is circulated to all Council members, all meetings with the Borough's professionals are in the furtherance of Council directives, and no policies have been reversed.

For the past three years, from time to time, the full Council has not met due to absences for a variety of reasons. Does that invalidate the actions of the Council? We have carefully scheduled all meetings, Council and Standing Committees, with appropriate advertising so that all members of the Council and public can attend. With very few exceptions, these meetings were held as scheduled.

For Mr. Warren, unfortunately, this is just *deja vu* all over again because it seems that no one ever lives up to his expectations. To paraphrase a quote from an anonymous diatribe circulated within town early in 1991, "One can submit to the brayings of an ass for just so long."

Respectfully,
Lee Allen

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1993 - 1994

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everyone who lives in
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How about being a reporter for the Bulletin? There are lots of wonderful stories to be told but we must have people to write them. You'll have fun as well as bring pleasure to all of us.

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5		6		7		1		2		3		4	
12:30 PM. HANUKKAH PARTY - SYNAGOGUE JOY MARKO 448-2526		7:30 PM - BORO COUNCIL AGENDA MTG. - BORO HALL LEE ALLEN MAYOR 448-6978		1 PM BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK - BORO HALL 2 PM ROOSEVELT SENIOR CITIZENS - BORO HALL JEANETTE KOFFLER 448-2259 6 PM ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV. - CABLE CH. 8 7:30 PM. SPAIN SQUAD SUSAN OXFORD - PRES. 443 0525		RECYCLABLES		SCHOOL HOURS - R.P.S. - P.T.A. HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP - ADEENAH YEGER - 443 5848 7 PM - YOGA CLASS - DEBORAH METZGER 443 3759 8 PM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - BORO HALL J. CARNEVALE Pres. - 426 1728		7:30 PM BD. OF EDUCATION AGENDA MTG. R.P.S. MIKE HAMILTON PRES - 443 5227			
12		13		14		8		9		10		11	
		7:30 PM - BORO COUNCIL ACTION MTG. - BORO HALL LEE ALLEN, MAYOR 448 6978		6 PM ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV - CABLE CH. 8		HANNUKAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN 8 PM PLANNING BRD. BORO HALL - GAIL HUNTON, CHAIR - 426 4338 7 PM - YOGA - D. METZGER SYNAGOGUE - 443 3759		PLUS 6-7:30 PM.				ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 8 PM. JOHN PARROTT IN CONCERT BORO HALL	
19		20		21		15		16		17		18	
		7:30 PM. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS - BORO HALL LEE ALLEN MAYOR 448 6978		6 PM. ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV. CABLE CHANNEL 8		RECYCLABLES		7 PM. YOGA CLASS AT SYNAGOGUE WITH DEBORAH METZGER 443 3759 9 AM RPS MAGIC SHOW ASSEMBLY		7:30 PM. BOARD OF ED. ACTION MEETING R.P.S. MIKE HAMILTON PRESIDENT 443 5227			
26		27		28		22		23		24		25	
		7:30 PM. BORO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS - BORO HALL LEE ALLEN, MAYOR 448-6978		6: PM. (YET AGAIN) ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TELEVISION CABLE CHANNEL 8		7: PM. YOGA CLASS - SYNAGOGUE DEBORAH METZGER 443 3759						CHRISTMAS DAY	
30		31				29		30		31			
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