



ROOSEVELT BOROUGH

# BULLETIN

Volume <sup>21</sup>~~22~~ Number 5

March 1998

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

# MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCED

by Herb Johnson

**A**t its Regular Meeting on February 9, the Roosevelt Borough Council introduced the 1998 Municipal Budget, which once again neither increased nor decreased the municipal tax rate. It showed that \$929,000 in the General Fund at the end of 1997 (\$822,000 in cash and the balance in receivables), only \$350,000 was to be used in the 1998 Budget. In 1997 the tax rate of 77 cents per \$100 valuation produced a Current Fund surplus of \$477,000. The Council's proposal is to add the 1997 "surplus balance remaining" to the bank balance, which was \$1,100,000 at the end of 1996, at which time the borough had Money Market accounts which totaled just \$4,000 short of \$800,000, according to the report of the Chief Financial Officer. \$635,000 of that Money Market balance was for the Current Fund, while the balance was for the Water/Sewer Utility Fund. The Mayor and one Council member spoke of the \$.77 rate for four years in a row as an achievement they were proud of. (In contrast, at the beginning of this

decade, there were three years with an average rate of \$.33 per \$100 valuation. In 1990 to 1992, taxes for municipal purposes were at an average of \$84,700 per year, while this year the amount projected to be raised is \$268,021. The average amount projected to be raised in the last three years was practically the same, \$269,200.)

The Budget also shows that the amount actually raised in cash in 1997 from municipal taxes was \$74,000 - or 28 percent. Similar surpluses have occurred in other recent years, resulting in the budget producing large surpluses each year.

Another revelation of the proposed budget is on Sheet 4 and Sheet 11 which show that for Anticipated Revenues, none was listed for "Interest on Investments and Deposits," nor for Licenses, Fees, Fines or other Section A Local Revenues. The Audit which the Borough Council accepted in November 1997 showed that the Money Market accounts, which totaled nearly \$800,000 on January 1, 1997, earned

much interest income for the Borough of Roosevelt.

The Water/Sewer Utility Budget is included as part of the Municipal Budget. It showed that \$485,000 in water/sewer rents was collected in 1997, producing a surplus in cash of \$194,000, or 40 percent of the rents collected. The water/sewer rate was set large enough to permit capital improvements worth \$125,000 (only \$45,000 worth was undertaken), \$336,000 for operating expenses other than salaries, and other amounts for debt payment and

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
Class of 2005

MARCH 16 AND MARCH 17, 1998  
From 9:00-3:00 P.M.

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 16, 1998  
7:00-8:00 P.M.

Students who turn five on or before November 15, 1998 are eligible for entrance into kindergarten in September, 1998.

May 2nd and 3rd will be the **Townwide Yard Sale** Weekend. Get Ready!

Volunteers are needed to plan **Roosevelt's 4th of July Celebration**. Please contact Ellen Silverman at 490-0557 if you can help.

**THE BULLETIN is pleased to accept articles having to do in any way with the Borough of Roosevelt, including literary works by local residents and others with ties to the community. However, due to the fact that this is a non-profit publication that is dependent upon public contributions, articles designed to promote the sale of products or services for profit cannot be accepted.**

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## PLANNING BOARD NEWS

by Bob Clark

A would-be developer returned to the Planning Board on February 11 and sought clarification or modification of three issues contained in the Board's December 1997 policy statement regarding his informal proposal to develop an adult community in the portion of the planned community development (PCD II) zone lying east of Route 571 and north of Oscar Drive. Sydney Israel of Rumson, New Jersey, asked the Board to review density limits, the developer's responsibility to meet affordable housing needs and parking requirements. He stated, "Other than density, everything in the policy statement is acceptable to us."

On the important issue of density, the Board's policy statement had set a maximum of 1.5 units per gross acre, that is, 328 units if the entire 219 acres were included in the development. Mr. Israel indicated he would need 350 units in order to make the project a financial success. He had originally proposed 400 units on portions of the 135 acre Beer tract bordering Oscar Drive and 30 acre Hoffman property opposite the entrance to Nurko Road. He said he then discovered that the State Department of Environmental Protection would not permit a 600 foot road across wetland in order to connect the Beer and Hoffman tracts. Mr. Israel therefore abandoned his original proposal for a total of 400 units spread between the two properties and said he would concentrate 350 units on the Beer land. The Board's policy statement, consistent with the PCD II ordinance, had restricted building to that area.

Most Board members did not seem concerned that 22 more units would be constructed on the approximately 75 acres of the Beer property that are dry enough for building. If the Hoffman property stays "green" and an open space "viewshed" remains in the Brottman tract bordering Route 571, much of what the PCD II seeks to achieve would be accomplished. Mr. Israel said he is negotiating with Paul Brottman to include the 30 acre parcel in the proposed development. Under PCD II mandates, Mr. Israel also would have to make good faith offers to include three additional small tracts in the development for a maximum total of 219 acres,

all located east of 571. By sacrificing development rights to the Beer parcel, each participating landowner would share in the value derived from the permission to construct 350 units.

Board Chairman Joseph Zahora said a 350 unit limit would alleviate his concern that an adult community might alter Roosevelt's character by more than doubling its size. Mayor Lee Allen and Board member Michael Ticktin indicated that there was not a great difference between 328 and 350. Jeffrey Hunt, the Borough Council's representative on the Planning Board, expressed concern that "visually, we are talking about four units on my lot." Board member Bert Ellentuck said that was "not a great problem" for lots that size and indicated the visual effect would depend on how the structures are laid out on the lots. Mr. Israel said that he contemplated lots of 50 x 100 feet.

Member Harry Parker seconded a motion by Mr. Hunt to table Mr. Israel's request for a different density to allow additional time for discussion. Vice Chairwoman Gail Hunton said that would be a mistake, since the Board had already spent a couple of months drafting the policy statement and it seemed "we are not losing anything" by deciding the issue without further delay. Member Paul Henry noted, "The math speaks for itself; there is not much to play with here." At that point, Mr. Hunt withdrew his motion.

Vincent Vignuolo, a new resident who recently moved to Eleanor Lane, said he could see "no reason why we shouldn't go ahead" with Mr. Israel's proposal. He said 50 x 100 foot lots are "big enough" because "seniors don't want upkeep." He noted, however, that Oscar Drive would "need a lot of improvements." He added that, as a fire fighter, he believed the development would need two access roads.

Mayor Allen seconded a motion by Mr. Ellentuck to recommend a change in the PCD II ordinance to permit density for an adult community of 2 units per gross acre with a maximum of 350 units in the north-

*(Continued on page 15)*



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## Letter from the Chief School Administrator

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by William Presutti

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**O**N FRIDAY EVENING, February 13, 1998, the Kindergarten came back to school for Family Fun Night. The theme of the evening was bedtime. The students and their families decorated pillow cases, read a bedtime story and shared a bedtime snack. It was a great evening. In fact, a student who was visiting our building looked into the lobby as she was leaving and said, "This is really neat...we could never do this at our school..it is too big." It is one of the many benefits of having a small school community.

I have received notice from the Monmouth County School Boards Association that high school seniors in our district are eligible to apply for The Jeremiah F. Regan Teacher Education and Technical-Vocational Scholarship. The schol-

arships will be awarded to a high school graduate who has been accepted for admission to a four year college and plans to enter the teaching profession and to a vocational student who plans to attend a post-high school vocational-technical program. If any high school senior is interested, please contact Helen Barth at the school and she will mail you an application.

A big thank you to the PTA for once again sponsoring the Writers in the School Program (WITS). Cat Doty was our writer and it was a great success. Cat was most impressed with the writing our students accomplished during the four days she was in our school.

The Roosevelt Public School Third Annual Art Night is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 1998

at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you at this very special event. Please refer to Mrs. Williams' article in this issue of the Bulletin for further details.

Once again, the New Jersey State Police will be presenting the DARE program to our students in Grades Five and Six beginning February 26, 1998. The goal of this important program is to educate the students on the dangers of drugs in their lives.

Congratulations to Mrs. McArdie...she is the recipient of a \$300.00 grant from NJ BISEC. The grant money will be used to fund a science unit on how toys really work.

**TOGETHER...WE MAKE  
GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!!!**

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### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

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## RCNS REPORT

by Ginny Weber

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Hurray! March is here and we are so happy spring is just around the corner. Soon we will begin our spring projects, including learning about how our environment changes as the weather gets warmer.

This month we are also learning about how our body works. We'll find out what happens when we eat our food and why some foods are healthier than others. We will learn about the parts of our body that we can see as well as our body parts inside that we can't see. The children will discover that we need to take care of our bodies to keep them strong and healthy.

Last month we visited a dentist's office. We had so much fun investigating all the equipment and learning how to care for our teeth. We thank Dr. Falk and his staff for sharing their time and expertise to make our visit fun as well as informative.

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## PTA NEWS

by Ellen Silverman

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Thanks go to all those who helped the Roosevelt PTA in February with the Valentine's Flower Sale, School Spirit Sale, the Health Fair and the Winter Carnival.

May 2nd and 3rd will be the Townwide Yard Sale date. So now is the time to start collecting your yard sale items and planning your retail season. Don't forget to get on the map! It not only tells people where you are, but that you are a supporter of the Roosevelt PTA.

Don't forget that **Roosevelt Phone Books** are out. If you have been unable to locate one, call Ellen Silverman at 490-0557 or Diana Moore at 448-7742.

### WATCH YOUR SELF

**The speed limit on most streets in  
Roosevelt is 25 m.p.h.**

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## CUB SCOUTS

by Ellen Silverman

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February for Cub Scouts means the celebration of the founding of Boy Scouts, with the Blue and Gold Banquet. For Roosevelt's Cub Scouts it also means their annual Pinewood Derby. This all took place on February 22, 1998. Fun was had by all.

The Cub Scouts and the Webelos enjoyed working with clay with Ralph Warnick in late January. Thank you, Ralph.

The Webelos were invited to participate in the District's Klondike Derby on Saturday, February 21st. The Webelos will also have a chance to go camping with the Boy Scouts in March.



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## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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by Frances Duckett

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### ***Board Withdraws From Regionalization Study (Meeting of Jan. 29)***

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All nine members were present at the January 29 meeting of the Roosevelt School Board. Also in attendance were C.S.A. William Presutti, School Business Administrator Karen Minutolo and five members of the public.

After approving the minutes and bills without controversy, the Board reversed a previous decision to participate in a State funded regionalization study. The reversal was instigated by Michael Hamilton, who was upset by Governor Whitman's remarks about forced regionalization in her State of the State Address. The vote against participation was 5-4.

Mr. Presutti reported that Roosevelt's actual per pupil cost for 1995-1996, according to official State figures, was: Kindergarten - \$7,873; Grades 1-5 - \$9,616; Grades 6-8 - \$9,066. He commented once more on the good press coverage that the Roosevelt Public School has been getting.

Mr. Presutti told the School Board that K-2 school conferences will need to be held on the same days as those for grades 3-6. Otherwise substitutes would have to be hired and the school idled for far too long. He reported a proposal to push back the Kindergarten cutoff date from its current Nov. 15 to Oct. 1. This would be consistent with the policies of Millstone and East Windsor. He also recommended starting Kindergarten at 10:30 so as to be able to use Kim Schwartz's talents as a special education and reading teacher from 8:30-10:30. He noted that plans were being made to provide child care if the schedule were changed, although the school would be under no obligation to do so.

Lauralynne Cokeley reported that the Board's retreat went well, focusing on education, not business.

Councilman Paul Hoogsteden attended the meet-

ing as liaison from the Borough Council. His invitation to School Board members to attend Council Meetings provoked laughter. He reported that municipal tax rates should be stable, and hopefully water rates as well, and mentioned a First Aid Squad presentation that Gayle Donnelly plans to make to school children.

Mr. Hamilton asked Mr. Hoogsteden whether the Council planned activities for juveniles. Mr. Hoogsteden replied that a few thousand may be budgeted.

Mrs. Cokeley stated that the school budget will be presented to the voters as a whole, not in two parts as it was last year. The salaries for school administrators have to be decided first, and this has not yet been done. State Aid figures will not be available until Feb. 11. The Finance Committee will meet on Feb. 23 and should present figures to the public on March 26.

Petitions for seats on the School Board will be received until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2. The drawing for position on the ballot will take place on Wednesday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the office of the Board Secretary. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 21, between 2:30 P.M. and 9:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

Fund transfers were approved for heating the art room and to a special education jointure which has saved money.

Henry John-Alder, reporting for the Buildings and Grounds Committee, said that he had spoken with architects and set up replacement plans for the gym windows which, because the school is designated as an "historical" building, must resemble the old windows from the outside. The protective screening could be resurfaced, not replaced. The upper two sets of windows would swing out to provide ventilation, which



they now cannot do. The Board has \$33,000 budgeted for this project; approximately \$45,000 will be needed. The small windows will be bid separately.

Mr. John-Alder had also mentioned the necessity of re-roofing the gym. A "superior" (20 year warranty) roof was quoted at \$100,000 and a membrane roof at \$65,000. Three quotes did not include insulation or duct work. The roofer recommended that the siren be removed. Mr. Hoogsteden said that when and if that is done, the Council would pay the costs. The consensus seemed to be that Roosevelt could not afford \$100,000.

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### ***Board Prepares to Oppose Regionalization (Meeting of Feb. 12)***

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**T**he Roosevelt School Board met briefly on February 12 at 7:40. Present were Board members Hamilton, John-Alder, Ticktin, Ellentuck, Cokeley and Clark, Chief School Administrator Presutti School Business Administrator Minutolo. Also present were two members of the public.

In her President's statement, Mrs. Cokeley reported that districts like ours have been targeted by the Governor's Commission on School Funding for regionalization studies. Districts which should regionalize, according to the commission are K-6, K-8 districts, districts surrounded by another district and districts which send to another. In response, the School Board decided to begin a folder on the efficiencies and benefits of remaining as we are - if it should prove necessary to demonstrate this.

To be included were facts, such as that brought out by Mr. Presutti, that State figures showed RPS to be in the 92nd percentile in transportation efficiency.

Mrs. Cokeley also reported that our State Aid for 1998 will be \$52,000 less than that for 1997, in addition to the cutting of debt service aid that we had received. Roosevelt taxpayers will have to make up the deficit. The State used a formula to determine our ability to pay, based on more recent census data showing increased

household income. Mrs. Cokeley noted that this year special needs districts received huge increases.

The cutoff date for Kindergarten admissions was reset to October 1st—effective in the 1990/2000 school year. The vote in favor of this policy was unanimous. The school continues to attempt to recruit tuition students.

Mr. Presutti reported that the Sixth Grade trip will start with a Spirit of New Jersey cruise out of Weehawken, continue on a double-decker bus tour of Manhattan and include dinner at Jekyll and Hyde. Before entering the Kreps School, RPS 6th Graders will have a half-day orientation. Their math tracks, the highest of which is pre-algebra, will be determined by teacher recommendations. In foreign language, students may opt for a single language in 7th and 8th grades culminating in a level 2 placement in Grade 9, or various surveys in 7 and 8 and a level 1 placement in Grade 9.

Mr. Hamilton asked Ms. Minutolo to send a letter to the Council expressing concern about how the summer teen activities the Council envisions are to be insured.

#### *EDITOR'S NOTE*

Revised state aid figures issued on March 3rd, indicated a \$100,000 "adjustment" in Roosevelt's favor. Thus, we will receive \$48,000 in 1997, not \$52,000 less.

**RECYCLING  
DATES  
March 4th. & 18th.**



## LOOSE LEAVES

# THE SMOKING HUTS

by Ron Kostar

In front of my window at work there's a flimsy lean-to in which people huddle and smoke cigarettes, even on bone chilling January days like today. Some of them stroll there, as if trying to stretch the time they spend away from their desks, while others run there clutching their smokes. Once they've reached the hut they huddle together and draw hard on their cigarettes and send patches of white clouds into the air, and talk. They seem to find solace and community inside their humble Smoking Hut.

Smokers, I'm starting to think, are America's latest pariahs. Stoop-shouldered and, on days like today, shivering, congregating in isolated enclaves of two and three, they are America's most recent Outcasts who, for better or worse, right or wrong, have been forced to indulge their pleasures in the most transient-looking and unappealing of places. From a distance one is thankful that they at least have each other. And from up close, it's interesting sometimes to hear what they have to say.

"Whatd'ya smokin'?" asked a guy who was wearing a thin white shirt, clearly not enough for January, and who from this perspective looked like my aging rock hero Neil Young, only without the hair.

"Camels. How about you?" asked the other.

"Old Laughin Ladies," replied the first smoker.

"Never heard of um."

"*There's a fever on the freeway / Lights out to night,*" blurted the first smoker extemporaneously.

"What did you say?" asked the other.

"The traffic on 95 was terrible this morning," he exclaimed. "*And a rumbling in the bedroom / just don't feel right.*"

"I beg your pardon?"

"The wife and I broke the ice last night."

"Marital problems?"

"You might say that," said Neil Young with little patches of hair. "She says she can't stomach the smell of smoke any more. She's getting ready, I think, to give me an ultimatum."

"Stop smokin or else?"

"Something like that," said the smoker. "But ... I can't stop."

"Me either," said the other.

"And I don't want to." Both paused and dragged

deeply on their smokes, nodding their heads in tandem. "Even though I had an angina attack last November."

"Yeah?"

"And my doctor gave me another ultimatum."

"Mine too."

"*But I love my old Laughin Lady / Cause the taste is so sweet.*" blurted the shivering smoker out of nowhere.

"Huh?"

"*But Laughin Lady's lovin / ain't the kind you can keep,*" he tacked on for good measure.

"Buddy, you're losin me," said the Camel man, squinting and stomping out his butt. "What are you talking about?"

Silently they stood for a minute, focusing on nothing in particular, the shiverer puffing and the other one lighting up, before the thin, shivering guy started talking again.

"What do you think of all these anti-smoking laws?" he asked, but before the other guy could answer: "Personally, I think they stink. It's like Prohibition all over."

"I agree with you."

"We're committing a victimless crime, the way I see it. Not hurting anybody but ourselves," he said, dragging hard on his smoke.

"Right on."

"I mean, if we want to kill ourselves, who are they to stop us?"

"Yes sir!" reaffirmed the other. "And who are they, anyway?" he asked.

"Excuse me pal, while I puff on my Doctor Kevorkian," said the deadpanning shiverer.

"A Kevorkian!" the other laughed. "Ahh, that's a good one! I never heard of that. Gimme a pack of Kevorkians!" he said. They both laughed. "Only a dollar ninety eight cents for a pack of Kevorkians." More laughter and feet stomping.

"But I tell you," reiterated the shiverer, not one to linger in levity. "It's just like Prohibition. Except instead of herding them into Speakeasy cellars, they now herd us under awnings and inside sordid huts and lean-to's!"

"Right on, brother. Right on!" agreed the other.

"*I heard you knockin at my cellar door / I love you baby can I have some more,*" blurted the smoker from out

(Continued on page 19)





# Living Life As A Work Of Art

by Rita R. Williams, Art Teacher

On a Monday morning in the RPS art room, our Kindergartners were painting with tempera paint while the classical radio station from Temple University played quietly in the background. They were using huge quantities of paint as they experimented with and experienced the paint. Some children were patiently filling in drawn areas with paint to create recognizable pictures. Others were painting with such free abandon and happiness that I had to stand back and just watch them. "I MADE ORANGE!" yelled a little voice as if it had discovered a solar system. Soon many little voices were sharing the joy of discovering that primary colors could be mixed to form secondary colors and that lots of colors mixed together made a sort of Army color. What enthusiasm, what courage, what confidence, what noise and what joy in experiencing the moment!

Our little Roosevelt people were not just painting pictures but were showing me that life should be lived with the courage that comes from mixing two colors of paint together, not knowing what the outcome will be and still being very happy about it. We have much to learn from children when we allow them the freedom to be the wonderful people that they are. Whenever I watch children create I am moved to reflect much of their joy into my own art work. I choose bold colors and lots of them. I laugh out loud when my work looks good and I am ever so excited by the sheer beauty of creating art. It is valuable to be able to live one's life with vitality and spirit and to be able to apply the paint with aplomb. It is also good to get some paint on your hands and maybe even in your hair just to prove that you painted today.

"I found that I could say things with colors and shapes that I had no words for." said one of my favorite

artists, Georgia O'Keeffe. She told us in one statement why art is so very important in the education of children. (She is also a person who really lived her life as a work of art as I learned in a PBS documentary.)

Many of our students need to express their feelings and ideas using paints and colored yarns and papier maché. One can see that somehow their lives are enriched by getting a drawing to look just right. Very often children put lots of emotions into their art work and are able to work out concerns with a good session of drawing in a sketchbook. This is not to say that art in elementary school should be viewed as therapeutic and a busy activity. On the contrary! Art in the elementary school is a prism of all the subjects that students learn about in school. Students often react in a more positive manner to other subjects when they are taught within the context of art, especially if the student is easily frustrated in academic subjects.

***Students often react in a more positive manner to other subjects when they are taught within the context of art, especially if the student is easily frustrated in academic subjects.***

When an art history lesson on American quilts became a lesson in math and fractions that soon became a lesson in rhythm and pattern, it became apparent that students were gradually becoming able to really understand how to learn by associating and assimilating. Stu-

dents could see the quilt and could see the fractions in the design. Maybe the fractions made more sense the next time they were in math class. Maybe they appreciated a pattern made with their building blocks on the family room floor as a combination of math and art.

I have been experimenting with lots of assimilation in my new American art history curriculum for our students at RPS this year. We began with information and discussions about the Native Americans and we are currently up to the time of George Washington. We

*(Continued on next page)*



(ART, continued from page 9)

have studied the history in conjunction with the art and crafts of the time. We have created many crafts such as stenciling, tin punch, sewing, embroidery, carving, basket making and the standard arts such as drawing, painting and sculpture. Our students have learned what folk art is and have created some real folk art themselves.

The New Jersey and national standards for art education are being met within our art program. Our students are becoming better thinkers because they are receiving art education that encourages them to participate in more than just art production. Each lesson includes some art history, art criticism and a study of aesthetics. We can relate to our own attempt to create a folk art weather vane if we understand the history, the beauty and the why of creating art.

I invite everyone to our third annual Art Night at the Roosevelt School on March 31, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. As is our tradition, the students will be performing by demonstrating their arts and crafts. We will also be displaying work by students created during this school year. Students have been concentrating on American art history this year and our demonstrations will include basket making, a sewing circle and quite a few folk artists. This should be a wonderful Roosevelt evening for everyone!

I continue to try to live my life as a work of art and I invite you to do the same. When life begins to look wild and as messy as the bottom of the art room sink at the end of a day of painting, I urge you to listen for the little voices that yell "Look at all of those cool colors!"

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## Senior Citizens' Meeting - February 3

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by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

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Jeanette Koffler, President, was unable to attend this meeting, we missed her.

We discussed plans for the future, trips to various places, etc.

Thelma & Louise prepared the refreshments and coffee. They're always ready to serve. Great couple!

I was the hostess. It was a small group at this meeting so there was more than enough for everyone.

Until next month...

## WATCH YOURSELF

The speed limit on most streets in Roosevelt is 25 mph, on School Lane it is 15 mph. Please be aware of your vehicle's speed. Our neighbors are very important to us.

**Be a good citizen!  
Attend Borough  
Council Meetings  
the second Monday  
of each month.**

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN is distributed free of charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are needed to keep our publication going.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to postal regulations, we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the BULLETIN. We will be pleased to continue sending them the BULLETIN when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.



## ■ BREAKING BREAD

# RANGES FOR ROOSEVELT

by Bess Tremper

On our way into the Freehold Mall through Sears, we would pass row upon row of all kinds of appliances. Always, the ones that would catch my eye were the beautiful, white, gleaming stoves, obviously meant for modern, shiny kitchens. Our much used, narrow 35-year old one compared most unfavorably, but as they say, "If it's not broken, don't fix it."

A few months ago, though, it began to fail and although the gas service man was able to repair it, we decided, more optimistically than we ought in view of our advanced years, that we deserved one of those shiny beauties. We are now the proud possessors of a gleaming, white gas stove which has not only given our kitchen a new look, but has also begun to inspire us to attempt greater culinary feats.

As Michele Guye-Hillis mentioned in last month's column, there seem to be a number of new stove owners in town and I've secured promises from some of them to share their recipes with our readers. Here with my contribution from The Silver Palate Cook Book. In their introduction they say, "One of our most popular soups. Although particularly appropriate for the holidays, it's good and easy to prepare year-round." If you try it, I think you'll agree with me that they have it exactly right.



### CARROT AND ORANGE SOUP

4 tablespoons sweet butter  
2 cups finely chopped yellow onions  
12 large carrots, 1 1/2 to 2 pounds, peeled and chopped  
4 cups Chicken stock  
1 cup fresh orange juice  
salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
grated fresh orange zest to taste

1. Melt the butter in a pot. Add the onions, cover and cook over low heat until tender and lightly colored, about 25 minutes.
2. Add carrots and stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until carrots are very tender, about 30 minutes.
3. Pour the soup through a strainer and transfer the solids to the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade, or use a food mill fitted with a medium disc. Add 1 cup of the cooking stock and process until smooth.
4. Return puree to the pot and add the orange juice and additional stock, 2 to 3 cups, until soup is of desired consistency.
5. Season to taste with salt and pepper; add orange zest. Simmer until heated through. Serve immediately.

4 to 6 portions





## Roosevelt Weather Almanac

by Ron Filepp

### Degrees Of Separation

December's average temperature was 37.4, that's 2.8 degrees above normal. The average for January 1998 was 40.8 degrees. A full 10.4 degrees above normal. Temperatures in February, the last of the three months of meteorological winter, were also running well above normal at mid-month.

Evidence of the mild temperatures was found in a neighbor's yard. A bright yellow dandelion was blooming in January. Snowdrops appeared earlier than usual and daffodils were shooting up their stalks in February. Those who fill bird feeders may have noticed, as we have, that the birds have been eating less this year. Heating bills should also reflect the warm days and nights.

The two winter Nor'easters that ravaged Jersey beaches from Cape May to Monmouth Counties in late January and early February, only brought rain and wind to Roosevelt helping to perpetuate the above normal precipitation that started in November. Despite the greater than normal rainfall, there was little snow through February 19.

If we see no more this season, the total snowfall in Roosevelt for the winter of '97/'98 will be 2.5 inches, the normal average for the season is 24 inches. In New Brunswick only 1.8 inches of snow fell through February 19. A climatologist there said it was the lowest snowfall for a winter season in the 20th Century. Before writing off the possibility of a heavy snowfall this season, it is worth remembering that March has seen many significant winter storms. Among those events are the Storm of the Century in 1993 and the Blizzard of 1888.

An overlooked fact about snow is that it is clear, not white. The reflection of light off the many sides of the ice crystals that make up a snowflake give snow its white appearance. The white appearance of snow has clear advantages. Can you imagine shoveling an entire driveway of clear snow? Not very satisfying.

#### MARCH WEATHER EVENT

The day the falls stopped was March 29, 1848. Niagara Falls slowed to a trickle and then stopped completely for 30 hours when an ice jam blocked the neck of Lake Erie and the Niagara River entrance.

#### WEATHER WORD

"Dendrochronology" is the study of the growth rings of trees to determine past climatic conditions.

#### January 15 - February 15

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	48.0	22.0	35.0	0.00
16	39.0	36.0	37.5	0.98
17	46.0	33.0	39.5	0.05
18	40.0	34.0	37.0	0.10
19	44.0	30.0	37.0	0.00
20	40.0	29.0	34.5	0.00
21	40.0	24.0	32.0	0.00
22	39.5	30.5	35.0	0.00
23	55.0	34.0	44.5	0.30
24	48.0	36.0	42.0	2.25
25	40.0	34.0	37.0	0.24
26	42.0	28.0	35.0	0.00
27	45.5	27.5	36.5	0.00
28	39.5	34.0	36.8	0.10
29	48.0	30.0	39.0	0.13
30	49.5	34.0	41.8	0.00
31	46.0	29.0	37.5	0.00
1	46.0	24.5	35.3	0.00
2	50.0	26.0	38.0	0.00
3	50.0	35.0	42.5	0.00
4	43.0	39.5	41.3	0.00
5	37.0	35.0	36.0	0.40
6	46.0	34.0	40.0	0.30
7	44.0	26.0	35.0	0.30
8	39.5	26.5	33.0	0.00
9	45.5	24.0	34.8	0.00
10	51.0	27.0	39.0	0.00
11	55.0	31.0	43.0	0.00
12	55.5	53.0	54.3	0.80
13	47.5	33.0	40.3	0.00
14	37.0	26.0	31.5	0.00
15	36.0	18.0	27.0	0.00

**Total Precipitation 5.95**





## MEMORIAL FOR MICHAEL ANTOSKY

*From the Eulogy by his stepfather,  
Donald Wilson*

It seems like yesterday that we were in this very church when Patty and I got married. Michael was our best man. I remember him being in the Navy at that time and giving a speech at the reception. He said that he was happy for Patty and me and that if we ever needed him, he would come no matter where he was.

Well, we need you, Michael. Your Mom needs you, Stevie needs you, Terry needs you, Arielle and Ashley need you, the rest of your family and friends need you. I need you.

I have had a hard time sleeping these last few days. So many emotions have been running through me - trying to make some sense out of the tragic end to Mike's life. Then the other morning it dawned on me (or God made me realize) that there's something special about all of this. Twenty-Seven years ago, I faced a similar situation when my mother killed herself. I was hurt, frustrated, confused, at times I was even angry. I was angry at God for taking her, angry at her for leaving myself, my sister and the rest of her family with all the pain. I could never understand why the love I felt for her wasn't great enough to keep her here on earth.

Today I am feeling a lot of those same feelings. I know that there is no greater love on earth than that of a mother loving her child. No mother could love as deeply as Patty loved Michael. No brother or sister could love as deeply as Terry and Steve loved Michael. I loved Michael as well as the rest of his family, and the rest of you here in this church today did. All this love was still not enough to keep Michael with us. God in his way took Michael to finally be at peace. Michael leaves a special part of himself in each one of us. But the one special thing that he leaves for me, reminds me of, is the love that we have to share for each other.

In the past few months I have seen in similar situations what people can give to one another. I saw it when Louis' mom, Norma, passed away. I saw it when Nancy's dad, Mr. Monk, passed away. I saw it on a

lighter note when we celebrated Mike's 75th birthday. It is that special thing that we show most at Christmas time. People have always told me how special a place Roosevelt is. Well, it isn't Roosevelt that's special, it is the people in it. So many people in Roosevelt in the past few days have come to our aid - people I didn't even know. Friends and family of Donyale came to our aid. The amount of love and support that we've gotten from our family and friends has been overwhelming and in a sense is almost breathtaking. It is this kind of loving and giving and caring spirit that I'm focusing on. It's what makes us special and makes life special. We tend to take it for granted and it takes things like this to bring love out of us at times. But I think through Michael's death he is trying to tell us all this: take that loving gift that we all have and use it in our lives every day. Don't wait, because life's too precious.

Many of you here have known Michael longer than I did. I was fortunate to have known him for the past eight years. Six years ago when Patty and I were married in this church, I knew I was being blessed, but I didn't know how great that blessing was. And I was really afraid. Here I was being given a second chance by God to be a father and husband. Here I was coming into a family that had been together for 25 years. I never knew Mickey, except through Patty, Michael, Steve, Terry and the rest of you. What an incredible person he must have been. I knew I could never walk in his footsteps and I wanted to create my own. But instead, this family created a paradise on earth for me. Nothing that I could ever give them could repay what they have given me. Michael was a big part of that. I'm going to miss you, Michael, even though we drove each other crazy at times. We all are going to miss you, but I know you are finally at rest with your father and God. But I want to thank you for what you have given me and what you are leaving with me.

*I love you, Michael.*



## Michael

*by his brother, Steve Antosky*

You have left us all of a sudden  
And I'll never be able to cope,  
I know I speak for everyone  
When I say, "A part of me is broke."

You were always by my side,  
For as long as I can remember,  
I know you are watching over us,  
You and Dad, together.

We are all faced with choices,  
And we realize that you've made yours,  
Just knowing that you're happy  
Makes the love in our hearts for you soar.

We will never forget your smile  
And the way that you made us laugh,  
The way that you cared for us  
With such loving craft.

Your part in our lives  
Will definitely never end,  
For you were more than just "a loved one",  
You were a son, a grandson, a nephew, a cousin, a  
brother and a friend.

It was hard enough when  
You left to go overseas,  
But this is forever,  
Which still seems fake to me.

Every time we think of you-  
You and your smiling face,  
We will think of where you are,  
In a warm, loving, peaceful, painless place.

## Gold

*by Michael's friend, Jack Bowker, Jr.*

Here is a man with the heart of gold,  
He joked, he smiled, then stood really bold.  
He lived his life the way he knew best,  
He wore a white hat, a blue suit and medals on his  
chest.

He became a young man, being brought up by the  
Bible,  
When he lost his Mickey, his father, his idol.  
Growing up with his brother and realizing their father  
was gone,  
Their beautiful mother then met a great guy named  
Don.

Here is a man with the heart of gold,  
No matter who is asked,  
It will always be told,  
That Mike and Mickey are together in heart and soul.

As the Antoskys stay on earth for awhile,  
They can be sure that Mickey and Mike look down with  
a smile.  
God has his reasons why he took Mike to the Light  
It's simple—at such a young age, Mike did everything  
right.

As we remember Mike,  
Don't let sorrow be told,  
Because Pat, Don Terri and Stevie  
Remember his heart of gold.



*(Planning Board, continued from page 3)*

eastern PCD district. The motion passed with eight votes to Mr. Hunt's lone "no" vote. Member David Leff was absent.

Regarding the developer's obligation to meet affordable housing needs, Mr. Ticktin said he would get recommendations from Alan Mallach, the Board's Planning Consultant. He said he would also check with the Council on Affordable Housing, Department of Community Affairs.

Regarding parking requirements, Mr. Israel stated that he would provide one space in a garage or carport for each unit and another in the driveway. Mr. Ellentuck said he would have a problem with "shotgun parking" with "everybody backing out into the street." Ms. Hunton replied that "half the front yard would have to be paved if you are asking for turn-arounds and wide driveways." Mr. Ticktin noted that State standards would govern, and Mr. Zahora said the Borough would have to go through a lengthy and difficult justification process if it wished to implement a stricter standard than the State's.

Several Board members expressed a preference that traffic from the development be able to exit directly onto 571 by way of a right-of-way available to the Dexheimer property over Beer tract land. Mr. Israel's current proposal calls for all routine traffic to enter 571 via Oscar Drive, which would pass the main entrance to the development. He proposed improving the Dexheimer right-of-way solely as an alternate entrance for emergency vehicles.

Asked if he would be the prime developer, Mr. Israel replied that "a very sizeable player" would be involved "along with myself." He added, "In every development I was ever in I was always a player." Asked about his architectural licenses, Mr. Israel said he once held licenses in New York, Florida and New Jersey but does not have a current license.

Ms. Hunton said, "We have quite a bit of homework to do before we can make a recommendation to the Council." Mr. Israel noted that if the Council approves

the appropriate change in the PCD II ordinance, he would make offers to the remaining property owners. Mr. Zahora said that a Board committee could prepare a recommendation to the Council by April at the earliest. A committee of Mayor Allen and Messrs. Ticktin, Ellentuck, Parker and Mallach was formed. Mr. ticktin circulated a draft reexamination of the Borough's master plan. Mr. Hunt said the Council had increased the Board's "other expenses" budget from \$5,000 to \$7,000 in anticipation of the need for the Board to assess possible major development proposals.

In other action, the Board told Kevin Conley and Lisa Chappel of Pine Drive that they did not have to apply for a variance to construct a peaked roof on their two-story house so long as the total height of the structure would not exceed 35 feet. According to the applicants, Zoning Officer Ralph Warnick had referred them to the Board on the ground that a variance might be required to go higher than two stories with a flat roof.

### NINTH YEAR OF SUMMER ARTS PROGRAMS TO BE HELD AT THE PEDDIE SHOOL

The Peddie school is proud to announce the ninth year of summer programs in the arts. Albert T. Viola, Director of the Richard L. Swig Arts Center at The Peddie School, will oversee the various arts programs scheduled throughout the month of July. Course offerings include: "Summer Theatre camp," for ages 11-15; "Green Apple Theatre," for ages 8-11; and a "Visual Arts Program," for ages 7-12.

Camp hours will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. Each session is two weeks and the fee is \$425 per session.

For additional information please call (609) 490-7550.



## ■ NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

by Mary Alfare

### WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS:

Mary Anne Meadows and Teri Vollrath have moved into the former Rossi house on North Valley Road.

### MOVING OUT:

The Rossi family has moved to Hamilton but fortunately for us can still be contacted at the Deli.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Shiri Yeger, who became a Bat Mitzvah on December 28, at the Jewish Center at Princeton.

Meira Yeger, who accepted a preceptorship (a "shadow a doctor" program) at the Thaggard Health Center at Florida State University. A Freshman, Meira has also been invited to join the National Honor Society.

Molly Petrilla, who became first clarinet (and therefore Concertmaster) in the New Jersey Region II Intermediate Band. Positions are determined by regional competition.

Mayor Lee Allen, who was appointed Chair of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee by the League of Municipalities.

The father-daughter team of Carlo & Katie Alfare. Carlo, a chemistry professor at Mercer County Community College, has been nominated to Who's Who Among America's Teachers (for the second time) and Katie Alfare has been nominated to Who's Who Among America's High School Students.

Anita Roskam, who was given a New Jersey Fellowship in Painting for 1998 by the New Jersey Council for the Arts.

### FOND FAREWELL TO:

Michael Antosky, Jr., former Homestead Lane resident, who died February 5 at the age of 25. Condolences to his family and friends.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Roosevelt Public Library needs volunteers to staff the library on Mondays and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on a rotating basis. Call Helen Barth at 448-2798 if you can give some time.

The First Aid Squad needs members. The squad pays for training. For information call Beth Battel at 448-7701.

For information on joining the Roosevelt Fire Department, contact Chief Kim Dexheimer or leave a message at the Borough Hall, 448-0539.

### FROM RPS:

January Students of the Month in:

Health - Victoria Adams, Joshua Butler, Lexi Cheshier, Danielle Cokeley, Brian Davis, Kimberly Grasso, Jennifer Iacono, Leah Skye, Emily Silverstein and Cecelia Tickin.

Physical Education - Adam Adlerman, Naomi Goldman, Devin Kostar, Eric Skye, Brandan Tyers, Casey Wolfe, Caitlin Wong and Joseph Zahora.

### FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH:

Katie Alfare was named "Student of the Month" for January in Spanish Honors 4.

Ronit Yeger broke the all time HHS jump rope record by 6 minutes, managing 18 minutes of continuous jump roping.

*To have items included in this column, call Mary Alfare at 443-4243 or mail to P.O. Box 58, 08555. Please include contact name and phone number.*





*(Council continued from page 1)*

statutory expenditures. During the budget hearing last March, the response to the question, "Why was \$125,000 budgeted for capital outlays in 1997 while only \$40,000 had been spent in 1996?" was, "We expect water plant improvements will be needed." When Bert Ellentuck's suggestion that the Mayor appoint a Citizens Committee to Plan Five-year Capital Projects for the Water/Sewer Utility was presented, the response, "Where would we find people who have the expertise to know exactly what is going on with the utilities," was attributed erroneously by the Borough Bulletin to Mayor Lee Allen. At the next meeting he charged that the editor and reporter impugned their credibility, saying, "Statements were attributed to me which were false and misleading. The article reported that I said there was no one qualified in this town to overview our water/sewer capital budget. I know several people who are qualified. I look forward to an apology and correction." The apology was made in the next issue of the Borough Bulletin, very profusely, which was followed by a long paragraph of compliments for the many long hours of volunteer service by the Mayor and Council members. It had been Councilwoman Rose Murphy who had made the statement, and the Mayor interrupted her comments about the Citizens Committee by saying, "We'll have to explore it, but not now." Eleven months later, the Mayor responded to a question during the first Public Portion of the February 1998 Borough Council meeting, that he has not named anyone to serve on that "capital projects" committee.

When notified about the Mayor's answer, Bert Ellentuck expressed his conviction that a Citizens Committee to advise on Capital Projects for three or five years in advance is not only valuable for the Borough of Roosevelt but it is a statutory requirement of the State of New Jersey. At the April 1997 Council Meeting, he had said he hopes that "Five Year Capital Projects planning is still alive." Mr. Ellentuck was Mayor of Roosevelt for the five years before Leon Barth began his eight year stint in 1976. He is a member of the Borough's Planning Board and frequently attends Coun-

cil meetings. He could make no comment about the new budget, he said, because he received no information yet about its details. He expects to get at least a four page abstract of the introduced budget which is usually available at the Borough Clerk's office two weeks before the Public Hearing on the Budget. It is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.

Regarding the statutory requirement Mr. Ellentuck referred to, Sheet 40 of the MUNICIPAL DATA SHEET, which must accompany the 1998 Budget (and be mailed to Beth Gates, Director, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs in Trenton), states: "This section is included with the Annual Budget pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-4." Regarding the Borough's CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, defined as a "multi-year list of planned capital projects, including the current year," it directs, "Check appropriate box for number of years covered." Roosevelt checked: "3 years. (Population under 10,000)." The next box is for 6 years for populations over 10,000. The third and last box is for "(blank) years. (Exceeding minimum time period.)" Sheet 40c summarizes the Borough's "3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM-1998-2000." It shows six projects, all for 1998 and all as Current Fund projects. No Water or Sewer capital project is listed even though Sheet 35 shows under the heading of Capital Improvements for the Water/Sewer Budget that \$125,000 will be appropriated for "Capital Outlay."

In Other New Business, the Council (1) introduced an ordinance to double the amount the Borough may spend for increases in items covered by the State CAP law to \$22,259, (2) passed six resolutions including paying bills (\$117,000 to the Roosevelt Board of Education, \$50,000 to Monmouth County and 54 other amounts for a total of \$227,604), endorsing "Read Across America" Day on March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday and a temporary emergency appropriation of \$3,000 for Financial Administration operating expenses, without

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Council continued)*

specifying from what account the money would come.

Vincent Vignuolo, in the Good and Welfare public portion near the end of the meeting, questioned how the Council could appropriate funds without knowing from what account it would come. Mayor Allen explained that all municipalities must operate on a temporary budget until the Annual Budget is approved. It is one quarter of last year's budget and for Roosevelt it did not allow enough for some expenses that the rest of the year's budget would cover. Mr. Vignuolo also asked where the Borough's three fire trucks would be kept. Mrs. Murphy said it would be discussed at Council Committees' meetings the next Tuesday.

Mr. Vignuolo, in the first public portion of the meeting, gave the Mayor a newspaper clipping reporting that Gov. Whitman had signed new legislation to provide funding for redevelopment of derelict properties such as the former service station on North Rochdale Avenue, which the Council is considering as a place to keep the Borough's fire trucks. He also asked if the Council was "pushing for regionalization of the Borough's school." Mrs. Murphy replied, "Yes, but it is complicated. Mayor Allen explained that no other school district in nearby areas has agreed to consider it. Michael Ticktin said that New Jersey law does not require a referendum for approval of regionalization of districts that would provide a very small percentage of the student population of the enlarged district as would be the case with Roosevelt and East Windsor. Nona Sherak pointed out that East Windsor is nearly the most expensive school district in the State. Mr. Vignuolo changed the subject to request the Council to apply for "exempt status" for fire fighters so that after seven years service as a volunteer fire fighter, a person would get a \$5,500 death benefit from the State. This reporter then asked the following questions: (1) Has a decision been made where one or two new sirens would be placed in town when the present siren is removed from the school roof? Answer: No. (2) What steps have been taken to reduce the hazards caused by obstructions to view of oncoming traffic at intersections in town?

Answer: None. (3) Has a Capital Projects Planning Committee been formed? Answer: No. (4) Can the public be informed what purpose the Council had for passing a resolution to borrow nearly \$200,000 more than the sum of the balance owed on the 1992 bonds and the cost of refinancing the bonds? Answer: No, it is a dead issue.

During committee reports, Councilman Jeff Hunt announced that a first draft of a Summer recreation program for teenagers is available. The budget for Recreation: Other Expenses has been increased for 1998 to cover extra costs. Councilman Hunt asked for more volunteers like Louis Esakoff to assist Roosevelt citizens with transportation to and from appointments with doctors. Councilman Paul Hoogsteden said funds are in the budget to cover expenses of removing the siren from the school roof this year. Councilman George Vasseur introduced a State trooper who said he was filling in for Sergeant First Class James O'Donnell to answer any questions the Council or public may have about how the State Police are serving. A copy of SFC O'Donnell's recommendations for extra lighting at four locations was made available. Besides at the school and at the two swim clubs, a light "somewhere in the middle of the park" at Homestead and North Valley Roads was advised.

Among other correspondence, the Council received a request from Better Beginnings, an agency for subsidized preschool child care, summer care for school age children and other services. It is at 318 North Main Street in Hightstown. The letter stated that two Roosevelt Borough children were provided services in 1997. To make up for its deficit of \$53,500, it is requesting Hightstown, East Windsor and Roosevelt to appropriate \$190 per child served in 1997. The Mayor indicated, however, that such an appropriation was not authorized by State law.



of nowhere. "Oooh, oooh, the damage done!"

"What are you talking about?" the other asked.

"Nothin. But it's cold out here, isn't it? Really cold."

"It's freezin'!"

"Gone, gone, the damage done," the man repeated.

"Man, what's wrong with you?" asked the other. "Do you have that involuntary talking disease, or something?"

"No, man, of course not. But I am the Loner, and I do love my old Laughing Lady. But look ... to get back to what we were talking about, I've tried everything. Nicotine gum, the Patch, changing my diet, acupuncture, and now this new Pill, which is not cheap. Everything! And nothin works, because I guess the truth is, I don't want it to work. Because I guess the truth is I love smoking," he confessed proudly, barely resisting the urge to fly into song and shivering instead. "I love it."

"I hear you!" said the other.

"And I guess I can't even remember when I wasn't smoking," the Loner confessed, growing quieter. "How about you?"

"I started when I was 14," replied the other reflexively.

"And I've smoked everywhere," continued the shiverer.

"Me too."

"In fact every place I've ever been in the past 35 years is linked by one common thing, that being the smoke I've pumped into each one of them!"

"Smoke on!"

"And I guess I'd smoke under any circumstances," mused the shiverer.

"Which wemight get a chance to do today," speculated the other man as he looked up into a sky plump with potential snow.

"But this hoveling under awnings and inside lean-to's, man. This is low. This is degrading," said the shiverer.

"Sure is," said the Camel man.

"And we should do something about it."

"Like what?"

"Protest," said the Loner with patches of hair. "Organize!" he repeated angrily. "Organise and demand more humane Smoking Huts."

"What?" the other asked.

"We need better, more humane Huts!" repeated the shiverer. "And we need them now!"

I don't know if it was in response to the weather or a function of his temperament, but the thin, shaking man who I recognized as having seen once on a New York

subway down at the end of a car was getting choleric. Choleric, and well, maybe a little apocalyptic, at least for somebody obviously middle aged.

"I just got done building a beautiful Smoking Hut in my backyard," he confessed. "It's a cute little hut, too, with yellow aluminum siding and windows that serve as airholes and even a little cupola on top, creating a kind of Victorian effect. And it's centrally-heated and wall-to-wall carpeted, a great place to get away to and puff. Maybe also just the place to save a marriage."

"Sounds lovely."

"That's what I'm talking about," said the Loner. "And these corporations should stop treating us like lepers and do the same. Lord knows they have the money."

"They could be creative, and go in for themes," he continued. "Like at Disneyland or Busch Gardens or Atlantic City. They could build us Colonial Huts and Indian Huts, New England Huts and Southern Huts, and even Medieval and Renaissance and Space Age Huts! Maybe even put up some Designer Huts!"

"Anything is better than these dives!"

"That way we could smoke in style and socialize in comfort, instead of standing out here in the cold, shivering. Shivering like a bunch of junkies," the Loner spat.

"I hear you," the other said.

"It's not right," he said.

By now the man smoking Old Laughing Lady cigarettes and his fellow smoker were stamping their last smokes out on the sidewalk and rubbing their hands and stomping their feet as if getting ready to leave. But they hesitated, as smokers who have communed over a smoke for the first time sometimes will do, I'm not sure why.

"What department did you say you were in, man?"

"Shipping."

"And you?"

"Test Development," said the other as he blew smoke into his hands.

"Well, I'll be seeing you."

"I'm sure you will," said the shiverer. "I'm out here every two hours."

"Me too. Rain or shine, sun or sleet, day or night."

"Every junky's like a setting sun," blurted the one as he walked across the parking lot.

"What'dya say?" asked the other from a couple steps behind.

"Ahh nothin," he replied. "It's so cold out here, and windy! I guess I was just talkin to myself."



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## ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 1997-1998 SEASON

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The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce the remaining events of our 1997-1998 season, featuring an art exhibit, special evenings of music and poetry and the return of your favorite string band performers.

At most events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$6.00, only \$5.00 for students and seniors. This year, we will ask \$10.00 for admission to the Roosevelt String Band concert and for Laurie Altman at the Peddie School\*. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and *The Bulletin* for additional details.

**Saturday March 7, 1998 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Borough Hall**

**POETRY—A Potpourri  
of Roosevelt Poets**

**Friday April 24 and 25, 1998 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**and Borough Hall (two nights)**  
**Saturday**

**ROOSEVELT STRING  
BAND: In Concert**

**Sunday May 3, 1998 at 2:00 p.m.**

**ART AT THE FACTORY**

Also during the year, RAP will be sponsoring THE ROOSEVELT ARTS EXCHANGE, a series of workshops for adults and children presented by members of the community. The Arts Exchange recognizes that not all artists are performing artists, and it will provide a venue for townspeople to share their talents. Workshops may be offered in the theater arts, culinary arts, or woodworking, as well as the art of collage, garden or haiku. The Arts Exchange will offer you new opportunities to meet with your neighbors, exchanging talents in a participatory setting. Watch for details.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances, exhibits and events.

*The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible entirely by your support. Donations given to the Roosevelt Arts Project, other than for admission to an event, are tax-deductible. We appreciate your continuing support of our efforts to bring the highest quality art and performances to Roosevelt.*





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor

I believe it is wrong for our municipal government to levy taxes that have been so high that it can accumulate over one million dollars in bank accounts. On January 1, 1997 it had in Money Market Funds alone a balance of \$796,831, according to the report of the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Edward J. Debevec. It was like pulling a wisdom tooth to get that report from Mayor Lee Allen. He held it in his hands and said he did not want to offer it to me. I had to request it again during the January Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council, and then he had me wait out of the room after the meeting to confer with the Borough Council's Finance Committee Chair. That Councilman, in December, had fiercely attacked my ability to be a reporter for the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, rather than give any information to explain why he urged the Council to hire the Borough Accountant for up to \$10,000 to be an Assistant Financial Advisor for refinancing the Borough's 1992 bonds, just a month after another accountant, Douglas Bacher, was hired for up to \$10,000 to be Financial Advisor despite the Borough Accountant's application to be Financial Advisor at a rate less than Mr. Bacher's. I had said at the December Council meeting that I had "a feeling there may be a scandal brewing." After the attacks on my ability to understand audits and on my ability as a reporter continued despite my repeated attempts to have the Council focus on the legitimacy of my questions, the Borough Attorney rose to stand by the council table and advise me that my inflammatory remark may make me liable for slander or some kind of legal prosecution. The Councilman said he wanted that pursued and he told me after the meeting he never wanted me to speak to him again, but if I insist on communicating with him to do so through the Borough Attorney. During the meeting, I apologized to every member of the Council for using the inflammatory word "scandal" and I asked them to help clear up the questions (which included why was the Council seeking nearly one quarter of a million dollars more than the balance owed on the 1992 bonds), so that everyone in Roosevelt could feel that the Council was using good judgement in financial matters. No apology has been made to me, but the Finance Committee chair showed at the February meeting that he is willing to speak to me.

Now I have studied the 50 pages of the Introduced 1998 Municipal Budget and information sheets provided by the Mayor at last year's budget hearing, showing Roosevelt's tax history since 1980. It makes me feel that at least one member of the Borough Council and Mayor

Allen, who has been Mayor since 1992, have a compulsion to produce large surpluses since 1993, designate parts of them to the next year's budget, and build up larger balances in checking accounts and Money Market accounts. The \$1,100,000 in bank accounts at the start of 1997 may have increased by another quarter of a million dollars by now. There is no way for me to tell how much interest is earned on the approximately \$800,000 in Money Market funds. Furthermore, the 1998 Budget shows that no interest is counted as added to the Borough's revenues.

Perhaps the Council is going to show at the budget hearing at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 9, that I am wrong about the extent of its desire to accumulate enormous reserves at the expense of taxpayers. I am surprised that the budget shows that general Revenues for the Current fund in 1998 will include as "Surplus Anticipated" \$350,000, which is \$20,000 more than in 1997, and that the Water/Sewer Fund is budgeted to include as revenue for 1998 as "Operating Surplus Anticipated" \$185,000. I thought those funds did not produce that much surplus in 1997. Hopefully, the Council may be drawing on reserves in its eleven bank accounts to reduce the amount that will have to be raised by taxes.

Now the Mayor boasts about the proposed municipal tax rate being at the same level as it has been for the three previous years, 77 cents per \$100 valuation. In 1992, two months after he became Mayor, the tax rate was 9 cents per 100. The Assessed Valuation of the Borough's taxable property was then nearly \$43 million, from which the rate was budgeted to raise \$38,000 for municipal purposes. The Assessed Valuation was reduced in 1994 to about the present value. In 1998 it is \$34,852,000 and the \$.77 rate is predicted to produce \$268,021 for municipal purposes, seven times as much as in 1992. In case it is argued that 1992 was not a reasonable year to compare with because the Council that year designated great amounts of surplus to help cover expenses, I point out that in 1991, when Assessed Valuation was only \$24 million, the \$.26 rate produced about \$63,000. This year's budget still forecasts over four times that amount will be collected. To top it off, in each of the last years, the actual amount "Realized in Cash" from collections of municipal taxes was \$74,000 more than budgeted. That has nothing to do with "Receipts from Delinquent Taxes" which are budgeted each year recently to be about \$25,000. An Average of \$28,000 more than budgeted has been collected in each of the last two years. We certainly have an effective tax collector, and an effective Water/Sewer collector also.

*(Continued on page 22)*



(Letters, continued)

It is easy to keep a tax rate level for years after it has been boosted up to an exorbitant level five years ago. I hope more citizens will come to the Budget Hearing in March. Let the Council know that you feel we should have a lower tax rate. Do not swallow the diversionary remark that people like a level tax rate. Yes, they do, when it is a reasonable rate. Yes, people usually do not want taxes to increase, but we want reasonable rates and we have shown we accept reasonable increases. If we do not urge our Borough Council to take from our huge reserves in order to lower taxes, those who are obsessed with building up large Money Market funds will prevail believing they are doing good service for their community. Certainly the Mayor and all members of the Council do serve our community tirelessly and effectively, but some of their decisions need input from citizens as well as accountants and other professionals. Former Mayor Bert Ellentuck told me the State of New Jersey may even take away a town's excessive reserves.

*Herbert M. Johnson*

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Mon.3/2	7:30 p.m.	Agenda Meeting-Borough Hall, Mayor Lee Allen, 448-6978.	Fri. 3/20	Spring Begins.
Tues.3/3	1 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall.	Sun. 3/22	8 a.m. Stream Watch (Volunteer Water Testing), Kirk Rothfuss, 448-3713.
	2 p.m.	Roosevelt Senior Citizens, Borough Hall, Jeanette Koffler, 448-2259.	Mon.3/23	7:30 P.M. Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Lee Allen, 448-6978.
	7:30 p.m.	First Aid Squad, Borough Hall, Captain Beth Battel, 448-7701.	Tues.3/24	8 p.m. Roosevelt PTA Meeting, RPS, President Diana Moore, 448-7742.
<b>Wed.3/4</b>		<b>RECYCLE</b>	Thurs.3/26	7:30 p.m. Board of Education Action Meeting, RPS, President Lauralynne Cokeley, 443-6287.
Sat. 3/7	8 p.m.	RAP Program, Poetry, Borough Hall, David Brahinsky, 443-1898.		
Mon.3/9	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Lee Allen, 448-6978.		
Wed.3/11	8 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Joe Zahora, 426-4187.		
Thurs.3/12	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Agenda Meeting, RPS, President Lauralynne Cokeley, 443-6287.		
Fri.3/13		RPS Closed		
Mon.3/16	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Lee Allen, 448-6978.		
	8 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Michael Tickin, 448-0363.		
<b>Wed.3/18</b>		<b>RECYCLE</b>		
	8 p.m.	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall, Chairman Wayne Cokeley, 443-6287.		

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