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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



BULLETIN

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Roosevelt, New Jersey

April 1981

Council reverses itself, reappoints Loftus

By Carol Watchler

After months of skirmishing, the Borough Council reappointed Special Police Officer Wilbur Loftus at a special meeting March 2. At the regular meeting March 11, the council amended a zoning ordinance, received bids for the new well, appointed a new director of welfare, and approved bidding on a license to sell liquor.

At the special meeting, Loftus was rehired as special police officer for a total of 800 hours a year, but his hours were redistributed to give a greater concentration of time during summer months. This plan received unanimous support of the five council members present: Bill Counterman, Lou Esakoff, Marilyn Magnes, Jan Terry, and Les Weiner. Councilman Counterman of the

Public Safety Committee acknowledged Councilwoman Magnes' request that the reinstatement presumes that the special police officer's activities will be reported to the council regularly.

A letter from the borough attorney alerted the council that the borough is now able to grant two liquor licenses. Each municipality is allowed to grant one license for sale and one for consumption of alcoholic beverages. The time allowed for appeal by the Rochdale Corporation to retain its license has run out, leaving that sale license available. The council approved a motion to put the license for the sale of liquor up for bid at this time.

(Cont'd. on P.3)

School board presents proposed budget to public

By Arlene Markow

On Tuesday, March 17 the School Board presented the proposed 1981-82 school budget to the public. The presentation, accompanied by graphics prepared by Finance Committee chairman Bruce Lakin, was an item by item explanation of revenues and allocations for the upcoming school year.

Board members and principal Beverly Hetrick responded to questions raised by the fifteen members of the public who were present. Following the presentation questions focused on the cost of educating a child in the Roosevelt School

(Cont'd. on P.5)

EMERGENCY SYSTEM TESTED

In order to insure that the new communications system is working properly for fire and first aid calls, the equipment is being tested each Saturday and Sunday evening between 7 and 8 p.m. The siren, which is an important part of this alert system has been repaired and is also set off during these tests.

Though this may cause annoyance, it's vital to have all the equipment in good working order so that firemen and first aiders can respond to emergencies as quickly as possible.

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CORRECTION

In the March issue of the Bulletin, the Borough Council story inadvertently reversed the names of Councilmen Esakoff and Weiner in reporting the vote to accept the first reading of Ordinance 97-2. In fact, that measure to establish some 2½-acre residential lots was supported by Counterman, Terry, and Weiner, and opposed by Esakoff and Magnes.

Council

(Cont'd. from P. 1)

Consideration of proposed zoning ordinance amendment 97-2, scheduled for final reading and public hearing at the regular meeting on March 11, brought pro and con statements from members of the public. The purpose of the ordinance is to make available for development in 2½-acre lots for single-family dwellings [a wooded tract of land adjacent to and north of the area known as Future Residential III of the borough's land use plan.] Bob Clark spoke in favor of the ordinance as passed by the Planning Board, saying that it wouldn't alter the green belt concept of the town. David Glassman argued that the road leading to the proposed land would be impassable and that a developer could not be forced to build a road; consequently he opposed the passage of the ordinance.

Councilman Weiner corrected the Borough Bulletin's report of his stand on this issue, explaining that he had voted "yes" on the ordinance at first reading, while Councilman Esakoff stated that he had voted against it because he felt there was sufficient land allotted for habitation with the land across North Valley Road. The matter was brought to a vote and passed with approval of all members present excepting Esakoff. Councilwomen Magnes and Terry weren't present during this regular meeting.

Only two bids were received and opened for the construction of well #4. The low bid was

almost \$185,000 compared with only \$170,000 allotted to this project from community development funds. A decision to accept any bid was tabled in order to examine the bids further and to seek an increase in the funds available for use on this project, according to Councilman Aaron Datz.

Earlier, Datz and Mayor Leon Barth met with Ramsey Himaia of the Robbinsville office of the Farmers Home Administration, the agency granting the loan for the improvements to the borough's water treatment system. They learned that there is little danger of the borough forfeiting any funds due to time limitations if the water plant improvements are bid in two stages as proposed.

In the report from the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Counterman reported problems with parked cars impeding snow plowing during the unexpected snow of March 5. Though such problems are not likely to recur this season, he noted that warnings would be issued to car owners should this happen.

Counterman further stated that Hightstown police would be the dispatchers for Special Police Officer Loftus and can be reached at 448-1234. He also reported that testing for the fire and first aid siren calls would occur on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Despite a letter of complaint to the council

(Cont'd. on next page)

Council

(Cont'd. from previous page)

regarding the time of testing, it took no action to alter the testing.

Money from the State Department of Transportation in the amount of \$10,440 has been received for repair of South Rochdale from Tamara Drive south to the state owned property. Steps will be taken to transfer the use of these funds to repair Nurko Road, where council members felt the need was greater.

Deborah Metzger was appointed to the position of Welfare Director for the borough replacing June Ord, who has resigned. Metzger has a masters degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and is a former Mercer County mental health administrator. She has recently been named contract administrator for the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health. In addition, she is the founder and first president of Women-space of Mercer County, the first publicly funded shelter for battered women in the state. One other seat on the Welfare Board remains to be filled. Interested persons should contact Liz Johnson, borough clerk, for further information.

The seat on the Planning Board to be held by a member of the council was filled during this meeting by the appointment of Aaron Datz. Datz was also sworn into his position as a council member at the beginning of the regular meeting.

The council received a

letter from George Katz of the School Board regarding the ad hoc committees of the council and the board which have been set up to seek a solution to the controversy over school funds. The board states that points of agreement that must be included are: "(1) The percentage or dollar amount of the free balance necessary and appropriate for the board to maintain; (2) A mutual statement concerning the history and resolution of the matter." The council committee consists of Counterman, Terry, and Weiner, while the board is represented by David Herrstrom, Bruce Lakin, and Dave Zaleski. The committees were expected to come together later last month.



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School board

(Cont'd. from P. 1)

relative to the per pupil cost in other districts. Ms. Hetrick shared the difficulties she had had in gathering comparative figures. Lakin said that statewide statistics were based on "net current expense" which is a derived figure and not actual per pupil cost. He did add however, that, "The net current expense for a student attending the Roosevelt School last year was \$2,464.00, \$44.00 over the statewide average." It was agreed that relative statistics would be presented to the public at the March 24 meeting when the school board is scheduled to vote on the budget.

Ed Goetzman, from the audience, asked the board if any members would have trouble supporting the budget. Board member Al Hepner expressed concerns over, "some parts of the budget" and stressed that he had come to the meeting, "open." However, he affirmed his support of the plan. Vice president David Zaleski said, "The board's attitude has been conservative. We have not approached it [the budget] in a cavalier fashion." He added that he would like to "encourage the public to come and sit through the many hours that go into preparing the budget so that they do not make hasty judgments. "I am appalled," he said, "at some of the public attitudes towards the budget."

In response to a question about the borough council's position on the budget for the 1981-82 school year, board president George Katz said he "had no idea how the council

would respond." Litigation concerning the 1980-81 school budget is still pending. A closed sub-committee meeting of board and council members has been scheduled to attempt to resolve the monetary dispute which has cost the community both time and money.

Fire Squad News

The Roosevelt Fire Company elected Jim Manzi as fire chief and Joe Maldera as assistant chief, reversing their previous positions to smooth the transition in anticipation of Maldera's planned move from town.

Nine members of the fire company will attend a course on basic firefighting techniques at the Monmouth County Fire College. After completing the six-week lecture course, each fireman will become certified.

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Skillman barn destroyed

By Adeenah Yeger

Fire destroyed what was left of a barn on the Skillman property east of Route 571 on the north side of town March 1. The old barn, with both the roof and floor gone from age, was used to store wood trims and cleanings from the fireplace. A hot ash had apparently started the fire. The Roosevelt Fire Company responded to the call. Fire chief Jim Manzi quickly assessed the situation and called for mutual aid from the Millstone Fire Company. They brought two tankers and 10 men to help fight the fire. Between four and five thousand gallons of water were used to put it out. Although the building was already worn away, the firemen prevented the fire from spreading. On the way back to the Roosevelt Fire House the fire truck, a 1948 Ward La France, suffered damage due to an electrical fire. Chief Manzi rewired the truck that night and it is back in operation.

Volleyball fund raiser draws lively response

By David Brahinsky

The Roosevelt Public School staff showed great courage and determination in its battle with a more experienced squad from the First Aid Squad in the first annual R.P.S.-F.A.S. volleyball extravaganza fund raiser at the Roosevelt School gym. The first aiders, battle-honed veterans as they are, took command early in the initial match and never let go their victory grip.

The match attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd (the twenty five cent admission went to the First Aid Squad) and included cheering sections, led by cheerleaders, for each team. Along with the games, there were clowns and a bake sale.

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Concept for 1200 unit development discussed

By Bob Clark

The Borough Planning Board was exposed to another major "concept" for the development of Roosevelt at the board's regular meeting Feb. 23. Resident Paul Brottman and his associate Murray Tornovsky asked the Planning Board for "guidance" as to what, if any, development would be acceptable on 165 acres of Brottman land north of Oscar Drive and east of Route 571, portions of which are currently zoned industrial or agricultural.

Brottman and Tornovsky outlined one possible proposal and asked for the board's reaction. They described a residential development of 1200 units -- composed mainly of housing for senior citizens -- that would be built over a 10-year period. The plan (for which master plan and zoning changes would be required) includes a commercial center and "amenities" such as swimming pool and tennis courts.

Board member Ralph Seligman cautioned the board not to risk binding itself to any plan by agreeing to a mere "concept." He said that applicants should come in with specifics. Seligman asked for legal advice on fiscal zoning, the value of land use plans as precedent for development and the dangers of giving concept approval without formal applications.

Member Peter Berlinrut took exception to the view that the board could not discuss theoretical possibilities. He listed

several points important to the study of any development in Roosevelt. Berlinrut stressed that, in his opinion, stating such ideas in no way committed the board. Primarily, according to Berlinrut, Roosevelt is interested in developments that bring more income than expenses to the local government. He said that any development should be phased in on a trial basis; the historic "old town" should be protected; and any new dwellings should be "houses of dignity and not excessively cheap."

George Levinson, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, labeled any requests for responses to informal proposals "absurd." However, newly appointed Planning Board Attorney John Bennett said that it was not unusual for a developer to seek informal, nonbinding discussion of concepts with a planning board prior to submitting an application. Bennett noted that the law creates procedures for applicants to follow and includes a process for the review of land use plans.

Board Chairman Mel Friedman stated that the onus was on the applicants to pursue the correct course. Tornovsky said that he and Brottman had raised the subject not to obtain an agreement but to get an idea of the board's thinking and the wishes of the town.

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Letters to the Bulletin**Readers question future of town**

To the Bulletin:

Your columns in recent issues have reported changes in the makeup of the Planning Board to accomplish the mayor's purpose of making over the board in his image. To do this, Barth refused to reappoint Virginia Edwards who, the mayor acknowledged, had served with distinction for three years, and replaced her with an inexperienced woman who will have to spend the better part of her term getting on-the-job training.

In addition, the mayor's maneuverings resulted in the removal of Ralph Seligman from his position as chairman of the Planning Board, in spite of the fact that Seligman is the only professional planner on the board, and his service of 20 years has saved our community thousands of dollars in lieu of hiring professional planners. Seligman's leadership in formulating the town's state-mandated Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance would have cost the town over \$25,000 if an outside professional had been employed.

Although the Planning Board should be a strong independent voice in local government in its role as advisor to the council, the attempt by the mayor to remove from the board those who have honest disagreements with him, is to make the mayor both judge and

jury in planning matters, since he sits on both the board and the council.

The disagreements have been represented by the mayor to be a "growth" or a "no-growth" issue, with the mayor seeing himself as the champion of the growth forces. These forces want to expand the town by large numbers of adult community homes which, it is asserted, would cut our taxes by two-thirds. The opposing forces on the other hand, are portrayed as being for "stagnation," insensitive to the need for lower taxes and better services. This picture of the issues is rubbish - a phony picture - to be made into an issue in the upcoming council primary and election.

The facts are that the mayor ran for office on a platform that said he favored incremental growth; that is slow, steady growth, at a rate of 10-15 houses per year, a rate similar to the growth the town has been experiencing up to now. He also voted for the land use plan which provided for such growth in areas of the borough, which good planning had dictated was the best place for such growth. This was agreed to by the mayor at open hearings. His present position is a complete turnabout which he justifies by saying the "circumstances have changed."

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LETTERS (Cont'd. from previous page)

Now, what are these "changed" circumstances? A builder with no track record of large-scale development, proposes to the Planning Board to build more than 500 adult community homes which he estimates to be an investment of \$20,000,000. The builder stated that he doesn't have that kind of money - in fact, he doesn't own the land he proposes to build on; he has no marketing plan to sell the houses; and, the architectural drawings he submitted [were completely inadequate]. What the builder wants is a "blank check" from the Planning Board, in the form of a statement that it would consider his proposal which he can then peddle to banks or other developers. In fact, what he really is asking for is a sharp rise in the value of the land from which the current owner of that land will benefit.

I submit this proposal by a small-time builder with no appreciable assets is not one to be considered seriously, and certainly not one to justify doing violence to our land use plan. There is time enough to discuss that, if and when a serious proposal is submitted by developers of substance. Many questions would have to be asked and resolved at that time as to the quality of life in a new environment, the impact on school budget, the new political and social picture which large scale developments bring. Most of all, a good deal of research would have to be done to learn of the success or failure of similar projects and their impact on small towns elsewhere.

There is nothing before our town today to justify making campaign issues over "pie-in-the-sky" offers by small-time builders. This rush toward a blank check for a plan on land use is unseemly. Especially since the land use plan already has set aside sufficient land for expansion.

--George J. Levinson

To the Bulletin:

I realize that there are probably several articles and letters concerning possible substantial growth in our borough. Furthermore, at the latest Planning Board meeting, a proposal for 1,200 housing units was discussed.

Do we all realize that Roosevelt is bigger in land area than Freehold, Asbury Park or Deal? Do we realize that Roosevelt currently has only approximately 270 dwelling units?

Most of us moved here and remain here because of open space, and we want to live in the country. Do we want all the problems of a city? Do we realize all of the social and economic costs?

Let us not move too hastily! Before we commit ourselves to any plan of action, we must be very sure of what we want and what effect it will have. If not, we may end up as a town that none of the current residents wish to remain in.

-- Mel A. Adlerman

Postmaster Millar: one of the lucky people

By David Herrstrom

The luckiest people are those who have jobs they like. Gerry Millar, Postmaster of Roosevelt, is such a person. Sure, her job is convenient and allows her to carry on a career and care for a family at the same time, but, more important, it allows a "relationship with customers." This is the reason why, when asked if she has any complaints about her job, she can't name a single one. From anyone else, I'd find this hard to believe. Having experienced her service, with its good humor and obliging manner, I'm convinced.

Her job isn't just 9 to 5. It's a continuing concern for her customers. It's not just bringing home paper-work, which she does, as do many conscientious people, but a concern that goes beyond the job for the people of Roosevelt. Only this makes her resist pressure from the bureaucracy to transfer, even temporarily, and makes her willing to receive a call about postal business at any time, whether it's within the "work day" or not. She refuses to separate her official duties from the duty and the desire to foster a relationship with her customers. Like the bartender or barber, she listens sympathetically to the young father's problems with his children, as well as the older citizen's age-old lament, "But I never thought it would happen to me."

Her official duties, of course, go beyond dispensing stamps. And unofficially

there's more to postmastering than handing out pretzels, though you won't convince the kids of that. Handling over 12,000 pieces of mail a week is no small task. Especially, considering that, besides getting the mail out on time, she must drop everything at any moment and follow up on a customer complaint, provide miscellaneous services, such as international rate search or "Business Reply" application, and continually verify safe and drawer stamp stock, to say nothing of the daily reports, the monthly accounting reports, and quarterly sales reports to Trenton. Despite the fact that she has two part-time employees, updating manuals and routine filing are never finished. Sorting is continually interrupted by questions and messages from customers, such as "Will Canada accept this size envelope" or "I'll be spending the next two weeks in beautiful downtown Tierra Del Fuego; please forward my mail to the San Andreas Fault."

Then there are the little things that the government saddles the Post Office with. In the eight-page bulletin she receives from Trenton every week, there is usually a manual change, but often more responsibilities, everything from stocking tax forms and draft registration blanks to drumming up business for gold medallions and handling Susan B. Anthony coins or relief parcels for Italy.

(Cont'd. on next page)

Postmaster

(Cont'd. from previous page)

Gerry didn't plan to become a Postmaster, rather a set of circumstances thrust it on her. Ten years ago a friend mentioned that there was an opening for a part-time employee at the Post Office and suggested she apply. The day her last child started school she became Clerk #1. It's not a job you can learn from books, because it's always changing, and the apprenticeship she served was invaluable, finding herself in a few years, "Officer in Charge." Then in 1979 she became "Postmaster," quite an achievement, from clerk to Postmaster in ten years.

Although Roosevelt is a small Post Office, its revenue, thanks to a first-class business mailer in town, has doubled over the past year or so, keeping it, according to total revenue and work-load, a classification of "Second Class." As a result, salaries are higher here than in other small Post Offices and there is a much slimmer chance of Trenton closing it down.

Gerry's relationship with Trenton is a good one, despite her balking at transfer. She's been asked to serve on a committee investigating carrier efficiency and on a review board for post office applicants. At times there is bureaucratic tension, when the head of the Sectional Center doesn't understand the individual services provided here that would be impossible on a large scale. Imagine a Postmaster anywhere else subsidizing a piece of overweight mail out of her own pocket until she can tell us, rather than having us find what we thought had

gone out still waiting for the right stamp. Or she'll call the person who mistakenly puts a thirteen instead of a fifteen-cent stamp on a letter, saving them time and aggravation. More than once she's met the challenge of delivering a letter addressed to "Grandma and Grandpa, Roosevelt, N.J." She'd hate to work in a Post Office where you "don't know everyone," and it's a good thing for us, because who else would pay attention to a common request such as, "my sister-in-law is here for a week, please put her mail in my box."

The small Post Office is the only kind Gerry would want to work in, because there is "not much pressure" and she can better encourage and develop the careers of those under her, even though it would be easier to get and retain part-time help in a larger one. Also, the overall shift in emphasis of the United States Postal System from subsidized public service to profitable business has not affected the workings of our local Post Office. But if a burst water-pipe next door deluging the Post Office and a car coming through the window in a nightmare of shattered glass couldn't force her to transfer, what chance does the bureaucracy have?

"What, the mail's not ready yet?" one of the members of the regular 9:00 a.m. Kibbitzer Club ribs her. She takes it in stride, knowing that they know she knows that it's never out earlier, and if they'd congregate a bit later, it would be out by then. "How many coffee breaks have you had already?" another sings out. When the mail comes, she hesitates and, from behind

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the bank of mailboxes, throws their kibbitzing right back, "Sorry, I can't put it out, I'm on break." Of course, she immediately proceeds to distribute the mail, and the little ritual ends to be repeated again the next day and the next. This is Roosevelt. This is part of the personal "relationship" she cherishes that is her job and her life. Where do you draw the line between them? She doesn't care to, and we are all better served for it.

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Roosevelt Community and School CalendarApril 1981

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. | Sr. Citizens meeting - Borough Hall |
| | 7:15-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |
| 2 | Thursday, 8:00 p.m. | Pioneer Women meeting - call 448-2365 for information |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Fire Company meeting - Borough Hall |
| 6 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Agenda meeting - Council |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Deborah meeting - Borough Hall |
| 7 | Tuesday, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. | School Board election - R.P.S. |
| 8 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Council meeting - Borough Hall |
| 9 | Thursday, 8:00 p.m. | Borough Bulletin - Freda Hepner's home |
| 14 | Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. | School Board meeting - R.P.S. |
| 15 | Wednesday, 7:15-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |
| 17 | Friday | Good Friday |
| | - Friday 24 | School closed for Passover-Easter vacation |
| 18 | Saturday | First Passover Seder |
| 19 | Sunday | Easter |
| 21 | Tuesday, 1-10 p.m. | Food Co-op pickup - Borough Hall |
| 22 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Eleanor Roosevelt chapter of NOW meeting |
| 23 | Thursday | Last day for filing petition for Council elections |
| 27 | Monday | School reopens |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Planning Board meeting - Borough Hall |
| 28 | Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. | First Aid meeting - Borough Hall |
| 29 | Wednesday, 7:15-8:30 p.m. | Bookmobile - store parking lot |

Principal's Letter***Teaching: it's like nurturing your own garden***

Right under the collective noses of the Roosevelt Planning Board, a brand new shopping center sprang up over night. The center is complete with every convenience -- bank, hardware store, pet store, food store and clothing store. Small matter that the entire complex is contained in Room 7-A at R.P.S. The munchkin proprietors take themselves quite seriously, and rightfully so. Their idea for a full-service bank is innovative. At this bank you stop in and pick up all the coins, bills and checks you need to spend in their stores.

Sorry if you missed the sale. You could have bought a hand-made horse at the pet store for \$4.00. Things move quickly in the first grade. There's so much to do. When it's your turn to take the attendance sheet down to Mrs. Barth the custom is to skip all the way down and run (head down) all the way back -- unless the principal or other adult reminds you to "Walk in the halls, please." Then you switch to an equally fast stiff-legged "walk."

So what's the hurry? Well, basically school is a neat place. Where else could you find people making landscapes of the Pine Barrens, modeling

Egyptian face masks, picking out a book from the library, taking apart a frog, learning how to regroup before subtracting, learning cursive writing, and best of all, reading aloud the story you wrote?

For adults, working at a school is not so easy. The first temptation is to be totally overwhelmed by one hundred or so lovely children. The next barrier is an equally overwhelming sense that yours is the most important job in the world. Being responsible for shaping academic and social growth in children is an awesome task. In many jobs it's easy to take short cuts and reduce the quality of the product. But you just can't do that with real, live children.

One big challenge for educators is delayed gratification. Education is not the same as using tools to get a motor running again. Sometimes educators don't see the payoff right away. Hours, days and weeks can be spent working with a child who struggles with the concepts of long division. Sometimes the problems come out right; sometimes they don't. Teachers try different approaches, assign more practice time,

(Cont'd. on next page)

May 1981

4 Monday

Last day to register to vote before primary

6 Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Senior Citizens meeting - Borough Hall

7 Thursday, 8:00 p.m.

Fire Company meeting - Borough Hall

Teaching

(Cont'd. from previous page)

then review and finally, mastery. Several months later it is hard for the student or the teacher to remember what it was like when the student couldn't divide.

With math, the student's progress can be observed. However, skills such as logical thinking, appreciation of music and producing a year-book are not as easily assessed. Just because good tests have not yet been devised to measure these types of skills does not mean they shouldn't be taught. Teachers have to cultivate many areas in a child's academic and social development even though the progress in these areas is more difficult to quantify.

"Cultivate" is a good word to describe teaching these days. Anyone who tried to grow a garden last year might understand the complexity of teaching. It wasn't just the shortage of rainfall or the hot weather that caused problems. Indirectly the drought and heat caused more insects to flourish and some plants matured too early or late in the season and died. Trying to cultivate and nourish the "young sprouts" in gardens and schools is both a delicate task and plain, hard work.

The late Ella Grasso, governor of Connecticut, had a little poster in her office that said "Bloom where you're planted." Voltaire's *Candide* reminded us to "cultivate our own gardens." We depend on food and educated people for survival. The quality of both affects our way of life. Radishes, elm trees, orchids, musicians, athletes, readers. Thank you to those who cultivate.

--Beverly Hetrick

Senior Citizens News

By Helga Wisowaty

The highlight of the Senior Citizen meeting of March 4 was the return visit of Mrs. Pat Myer who is affiliated with the Wellman Addition of Freehold Hospital. She showed a film on nutrition and advised the members to cut down on junk foods (such as soft drinks, processed foods, and white bread) and on sugar, salt, and fat (especially if there is heart disease), and also to consume more fresh fruit, vegetables, chicken, and fish (as opposed to red meat and eggs).

The group received a letter from the Pioneer Women expressing thanks for the Senior Citizens' contribution to the planting of trees in Israel in memory of Yona Weisman. Belle Meier, who presided in lieu of Esther Pogrebin, reported that a bus will be available for a future trip; the details will be discussed at the next meeting.

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CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

The Borough Bulletin invited each of the six candidates for election to the Board of Education to submit a statement of 100 words or less about themselves or their views. Here's what we received by the deadline.

Sylvia Feigenbaum

My name is Sylvia Feigenbaum and I am running for the two year term on the school board.

I have been a resident of Roosevelt for seven years and have three sons, Alan 22, Corey 18, and Scott 16. The younger two attended Roosevelt School.

At this time I work part time at the Roosevelt Deli and I'm also the bookkeeper for Mira Corp.

As a parent of children who attended Roosevelt School, I am well aware of the problems that exist and feel I can serve the community as a member of the school board.

Albert Hepner

More money begets more things. Things do not necessarily beget a better education.

As we must now make our building energy efficient, we must also make our learning environment efficient.

I have built a successful business while earning my degree in elementary education, because I learned how to use all my resources to best advantage. I can bring this personal experience to help the school devise creative approaches for using all its

existing energies and resources for a better education; one that reflects the highest values of our unique community.

VOTE HEPNER--VOTE FUEL CONSERVATION, he always walks to board meetings.

George Loyer

I first became interested in the School Board last year, just before the school budget election, when I received my copy of a letter to the community, primarily signed by the Borough Council Members, urging defeat of the school budget.

I quickly drafted a response to this letter, showing that the recommendations would result in a higher long term tax rate. Unfortunately the school budget was defeated.

As a member of the school board, I will use my business experience in planning and budgeting to help minimize the negative impact on the community caused by what has happened in the past.

Sandra Orlando

For those of you who do not know me I have been a resident of Roosevelt for 32 years. I am married and have two children at R.P.S.,

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

(Cont'd. from previous page)
Shannon 13 and Dylan 6.

In 1975 I was elected president of the P.T.A. and held that office for three years. In that time I organized the Roosevelt Art and Craft Fair and the Roosevelt Summer Program. I served on the School Board from 1978 through December of 1980, when my employment as a display designer took up too much of my time to allow me to serve the community fairly. My career has now taken me closer to home and I now feel I do have the many hours it takes to be a board member.

David Zaleski

Election to a second term on the Roosevelt Board of Education would allow my continued participation in several important projects begun during the last two years. These projects include the necessary and required renovations to the school building and the development and implementation of a relevant coordinated, complete and viable curriculum, just to name two. They represent some of the essential steps which, if successfully completed, will allow continued planned improvements in the administration and operation of the school and the educational process. By their successful completion the school would be better able to meet the probable demands of the future. It is my sincere hope that recent strong efforts of the board for a more efficient and effective school be realized for the benefit of a community which cares about itself and its children.



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Culinary Delights**It's all desserts—rich and fancy**

By Barbara Halpern

While sorting through my recipes I decided to devote my first column to my favorite category of food: Desserts. If you're not counting calories you'll enjoy these rich sumptuous delights

Almond Torte with Mocha Buttercream
12-14 servings

Cake

8 eggs, separated (room temperature)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cream of tartar $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
 1 tsp. vanilla $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups finely ground almonds
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup very fine breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line three 9" cake pans with buttered waxed paper. In a large bowl beat egg whites and cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar and beat until they hold stiff peaks. In a separate bowl beat egg yolks with remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar until thick and pale yellow. Blend in vanilla. Add almonds and breadcrumbs to yolk mixture and beat well. Gently fold in egg whites; do not overfold. Divide batter among pans, smoothing tops with spatula. Bake for 30-35 minutes until edges of cake shrink slightly from pan. Cool in pans.

Mocha Buttercream

4 egg yolks $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups powdered sugar sifted
with 4 T cocoa
 4 T coffee liqueur or 4T strong coffee 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 3 sticks softened unsalted butter

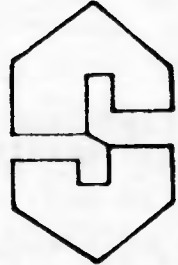
Place all ingredients in mixing bowl. Beat at moderate speed for 5 minutes to obtain a smooth cream. Chill until cream is cold but malleable. Yield: 3 cups.

Fill and frost cake. Decorate top and sides with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup toasted almonds. Refrigerate.

Chocolate Roll

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sifted flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cocoa 7 eggs separated (room temp.)
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. salt $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cream of tartar
 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line an 18" x 12" jelly roll pan with buttered waxed paper. Sift flour with cocoa 3 times. Beat egg whites with salt and cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar and continue to beat until they become stiff. Set aside. Beat egg yolks with remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar until thick. Add vanilla. Fold yolk mixture into egg whites. Do not overfold. Fold flour-cocoa mixture into eggs. Spread smoothly onto prepared pan and bake until done for 12-15 minutes. Turn onto large piece of brown paper. Sprinkle lightly with confectioners sugar. Place a towel on top of cake and roll in a jelly roll fashion. When cake is cooled you may fill it with the Mocha Buttercream (from Almond Torte recipe) or with fresh whipped cream. Serves 10-12.



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The voice of the turtle signals the feeling of spring

By Freda Hepner

No matter how many springs I see, it is always a doubt and then a marvel of forgotten shades and new forms.

During the terrible "Febs", as my friend calls those bleak, sickly days before the first thaw, I forget that it will happen. I am sunk in the gloom of winter sniffles, boots that seem to grow on feet and overcoats that badly need dry cleaning.

Then the crocus peeps out and I remember that the freedom holidays are coming.

Roosevelt is less deserted; new babies roll down the road in their carriages and determined walkers are more visible to even my jaundiced eye. For no good reason, I start searching for favorite poems.

This year my memory yields, through the winter crusts, the Song of Solomon and I reread and rethink this most beautiful, if somewhat erotic love song. I find that my favorite is still:

"For, lo, the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

The rains may not have come this year as often as we wanted them, but nature is providing for the birds and the flowers.

"The voice of the turtle" pleases me most. It's a better phrase than the "dove of peace," because it means slow plodding progress. The dove is for the quick; it is a fleet bird that hovers briefly overhead and speeds up, up and away.

The turtle is calm and its voice is felt rather than heard. (In fact, nobody I've asked knows if a turtle makes sound.) The voice can feel like spring; warmth and color and days of freedom or "peace in our time" or sweet nothings as in "turtle doves." It can also be an omen of death and bad times to come.

I guess it's really up to each person to respond to spring, the turtle's voice, as we choose. The voice will be "heard in our land" no matter how we feel it.

Often, I am impotent to control my "land" and what happens here; but in the springtime - it feels like there is some choice, if only in how I behave when there is new growth outside my window.

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Issue & Debate**Retirement Community: right for Roosevelt?**

This is the first part of a two part article. The second part will cover possible objections and responses to the objections.

By Peter Berlinrut
First of two parts

The past year or so has made it clear that the issue of a retirement community to be located in the limits of the borough is on the docket. It already has come up several times in the Planning Board. Two developers have appeared with requests for some preliminary intimations from the Planning Board of how it would respond to a retirement development. The subject is clearly up for discussion and should be given a thorough, fair, and cordial consideration.

I stress cordial. It has become evident that people have strong opinions about it, pro and con, and I hope the discussion will proceed in a respectful and friendly manner. Let me make it clear at the outset that anything I say here, speaks for me and only me. It is possible that no two members of the Planning Board (indeed no two residents in the town) think exactly alike on the subject. I am confident that those who differ from me will want to make themselves heard. And I am equally confident that our Bulletin will extend the freedom of its columns impartially.

A Fixed Predicament

Based on figures put out by the Monmouth County Board of Taxation, Roosevelt's equalized taxes are the second or third highest in the county. This is a grim constant, not a passing thing due to special circumstances. And equally grim is the fact that of the 547 municipalities in the state, our equalized taxes fall into the upper 10%. The reasons are easy to grasp. We are a community of 280 houses attempting to maintain a level of services and utilities without benefit of industrial or commercial rates. Every penny we raise to defray our expenses, has to come from taxes on private dwellings.

There has always been talk of bringing in business or industry to lighten our tax load but unfortunately it remains talk. Business or industry just won't come here. We have so little to offer of the things they want--proximity to important arteries of transportation, supplies of raw materials used in production, plenty of skilled or inexpensive labor, whichever happens to be in demand. There is scarcely a town or city anywhere in the nation that isn't doing its level best to attract business or factories and we simply aren't in the running.

Is There A Remedy?

Bad as the situation already

is, it promises to grow worse. The utilities constructed when the town was founded no longer are in the first bloom of youth. That was almost 50 years ago and things do wear out.

Today we are dependent on one well for our water. We had a standby well that went out of commission years ago. Izzy Sackowitz, our late borough clerk, was always in the toils of anxiety that we should be at the mercy of this one well, brown water and all. Our filtering system is just as flawed today as it always has been.

The plant that processes our sewage, was designed to service some 500 houses. Today it isn't doing a proper job for few more than half that number. The reason is the seepage of ground water into aged underground pipes, resulting in a volume of liquid greater than the plant can handle. The Environmental Protection Agency complains that the effluent leaving our premises is unsatisfactory by ecological standards.

Our school building is wasteful in heating and needs to be considerably renovated to become more energy efficient. This will involve considerable expense, the exact amount of which no one can foresee. Our roads clamor for attention and repair and in some instances, for complete repaving.

I won't mention items that some might consider luxuries but that I would think are necessities: new outdoor

furniture for our picnic grounds, repairs on our attractive amphitheatre adjoining the F.D.R. memorial, paving the parking lot next to Borough Hall and landscaping the grounds, equipping the premises of Borough Hall better to serve community needs, etc.

More Taxes

Where are we to raise the money for these pressing needs, some of which won't wait very long? Allowing that we can obtain some grants that come as outright gifts, it still leaves the bulk of the finding to be raised by loans. And loans need to be repaid, no matter on what generous terms they come. The alternatives are harsh: Either we defiantly refuse the expenditures for the necessary renovations, or we go into a cycle of higher and higher taxes.

If the former, the outcome is not hard to predict: We become a semi-derelict suburb, a rural slum living from hand to mouth and stoically resigned to our deteriorated utilities and services. This is a prospect that should frighten everyone who lives here. If the latter alternative, then we proceed to keep increasing taxes on our houses until only the more affluent homeowners can afford to live here. The rest of us (and may I be pardoned for inverted boasting in including myself in that number) will have to look around and go elsewhere to live. The issue then is either stiffer and stiffer taxes or a gradual decline in the level of utilities

(Cont'd. on next page)

Retirement Community

(Cont'd. from previous page)

and services. If I exaggerate in any way, it isn't by much. The situation as it is has nothing too hopeful about it.

But, say some, why a retirement community? Why not a program of adding new houses at a natural or perhaps at an accelerated pace, houses that would not clash with the town as it is? Unfortunately, this would not be a solution. We can't add houses at a rate fast enough to affect the deepening crisis. When I settled here in 1953, we had some 225 houses. Now in 1981 we have 280 houses, which reveals that we have added 55 houses in 28 years, a rate of about two houses each year. There is little evidence that we can improve this rate. On the contrary, with the present rate of interest on mortgages, we probably can't do as well. We have a new house on Lake Drive that has cried for a purchaser longer than the builder wants to remember.

However, there is even a more serious reason why added new houses are not necessarily any solution. Students of taxation go along with this axiom: Most small towns can improve their tax problems with added houses only if their existent utilities can give adequate service to the newcomers. The moment they have to expand their utilities or build new ones, the bargain becomes a dubious and perhaps a losing one.

It is even possible for a town to lose money on new houses. If a family occupying a new house in Roosevelt, moves in with one child of high

school age, it would probably be a losing proposition. It costs us \$2400 to send a child to Hightstown High. The odds are we wouldn't collect that much from the taxes on the house. And that includes nothing for other services the town has to provide the given house. Education takes almost three-quarters of our tax dollars; and as long as we are obliged to provide education to each house, it is a dire gamble that we can profit from the house.

The Likely Solution

A retirement community brings no education expense to a town. There being no children, there is no need for schools, for faculty, for administrative staff, for maintenance, etc. It brings justice and relief to a tiny town like ours which is without business or industrial ratables or millionaire estates. Tax revenues from it lighten the tax burden we bear to pay for the education of our children, our water and sewer system, our roads, and other communal facilities. It means taxes go down. Or at the very worst, they stay the same.

I have no wish to paint too glowing a picture. I have listened to figures tossed around that were a bit too lurid to be credible and I don't want to help circulate them. Not only would it mean fiscal relief but it is almost certain we could get a better town out of it. We would have revenue. We could upgrade our physical plant, beautify our commons land, improve Borough Hall, possibly provide a very inexpensive, or perhaps even

(Cont'd. on P.28)

Ben List writes of life and learning in Spain

To the Bulletin:

I was requested by the Roosevelt newspaper to write an open letter to the people of Roosevelt and recount my experiences thus far in Spain. Naturally I agreed to, although I do have my doubts about my letter writing abilities.

I have been living and studying here in a large town called Gandia in the province of Valencia. It is about 65 to 70 kilometers from the capital of the province, Valencia ciudad, and a little over 110 kilometers from Alicante. It is situated in a particularly beautiful part of the province called the "Safor" located right in the middle of immense orange groves.

I arrived here about 4½ months ago, traveling with a returning group of visiting Spanish students at Hightstown High School (the first group of Spanish students to visit the east coast of America in a school exchange program since the death of Francisco Franco). I came here already having made a number of Spanish acquaintances and with at least minimal knowledge of the language (upon which I have greatly improved).

The town Gandia is basically an upper-middle class place in what is decidedly the richest province in Spain, and certainly one of the most beautiful. When I arrived here in October, it was about 75 degrees, school was just starting, and I was a little bewildered by the whole experience and the initial culture shock. Adjusting to my receiving

family was no problem and I quickly began to pick up the language, learned a little of the local dialect, and started on the way to becoming a full fledged Spaniard.

As it turned out I was the only foreigner living in a town of 55,000 people except for a couple of Mormon missionaries and an occasional French or German tourist here and there. Sometimes an English tourist can be seen, but absolutely no Americans. In the holidays this town of 55,000 swells to about 300,000 with the difference being those European tourists. Well, because of this fact, I am pretty much known throughout the town, and the fact I am a U.S. citizen (these people have some funny ideas about America due to the fact almost all of the movies, most of the advertisements, and the majority of the media events are American) even added to my mystery. Because of this I still find myself trying to convince some close associates of mine that what I say and do is not the latest thing in fashion, etc. It is a strange and hard-to-understand situation that I am just beginning to grasp.

The school I go to, called Institute Francisco Franco (changed in mid-winter under some local pressure to the separatist Valencian name of Tirant Lo Blanc) is a rather plain looking, four-story

(Cont'd. on next page)

Ben List

(Cont'd. from previous page)

building with about 1500 alumnos or students attending. It is not as well equipped with the relatively modern facilities of Hightstown High but it utilizes an effective educational program which I find considerably harder. The average school day begins at 9:00 a.m., ends at 1:30 for a "siesta" then starts again at 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 when it is over. Occasionally one must stay in class until 7:30 when we go over reviews. Afterwards I start my long walk through the narrow streets of Gandia until I get to the "Paseo" or the main walkway of Gandia where all the roads converge. Then I follow along the Paseo until I get to the apartment building where my Spanish family lives. I usually spend the remaining hours studying or reading "El Pais" with a brief break for supper at 9:00 p.m. Although this leaves the students with little or no extra-curricular time during weekdays I must admit I have learned quite a bit here because it's either study or fail--and that's it (something I didn't find to be the case with some previous schools I have attended.).

The methods of teaching foreign languages are also very distinct. The student is offered either French or English (they made me take French) and the idea is to fill the class with the said language. It's sort of like a Berlitz course except they neglect particularities and stress speaking and comprehension. Because of this method I can now understand almost

all spoken French and I am speeding up with my speaking, although I would fail almost all grammar tests.

From the window of my classroom I can see orange groves stretching out to the jagged mountains on the horizon, the tail end of the Cordillera Iberico speckled by towns with their largest buildings, the churches, standing out in the sea of orange trees. A little on the left the blue line indicating the Mediterranean is visible.

Last November, noting the complete lack of clubs or anything extracurricular, I made a try at starting the "American Club" here and ran it like the foreign language and cultural clubs in Hightstown High School. It was great at first with about 20 members and regular meetings every Friday. We had all sorts of things planned like having English-language films sent to us by the U.S. and British Embassies in Madrid and a little side trip to a U.S. aircraft carrier stationed in Manises army base in Valencia. Well, great: Since I received no funding from the school and all they did for me was make a lot of red-tape, the whole thing just kind of fizzled out.

But I have had one success here--I organized a baseball team and I managed to train them in the fundamentals of the game. We have organized and played games against Valencia and other teams every Sunday. We all chip in for gas and equipment. We train every Saturday and Sunday in

the beautiful 60 to 80 degree weather we have all winter, using a soccer field no less than 150 years old. We have a good time but we aren't, by any means, tearing the league apart.

Well, the big issues in Spain have been the following: Last Monday a Spanish colonel and about 150 civil guards entered the Spanish "Cortes" or Parliament building and held all the legislators hostage for about 18 hours in a dangerously near-successful attempt to overthrow the government and set up a Franco-like military dictatorship. This ultra-rightist nut would have been successful but he was backed by only one general stationed in Valencia in charge of the third motorized division. In other words, Valencia came under temporary military occupation with tanks and soldiers filling the streets.

Even in Gandia the National Police were out to enforce a 9:00 p.m. curfew and make sure we did not form any groups larger than four persons. All political activity was banned in this province and the constitution was suspended for 10 hours until the King came on the T.V., saying he would not accept any interruption of the democratic process, so all the tanks and soldiers had to go back to the barracks.

It was a close call; all it needed was a little push to set off another civil war, or at least that is what all the old people were saying. The grandmother of the family I live with ought to know, as she had

lived and worked in a Republican cannon factory in Asturias and had numerous friends and relatives killed by nationalist soldiers during and after the Spanish civil war.

Other big issues here are the projected Spanish entry into NATO, and its possible entrance into the European Economic Community. Also of note were the large communist demonstrations against the U.S. aircraft carrier the "Kennedy" that just anchored in Valencia.

Life goes on. All next March we will be having celebrations called the Fallas. It's an ancient Valencia tradition left over from before Christianity in which huge bon-fires are lit in all the town squares and kept going all night with people dancing around them in all sorts of costumes, eating incredible amounts of food, getting drunker than dogs and setting off fireworks. This will go on all month. During the days there will be parades with all the girls and women dressed up in native clothes known as the Falleras and all the boys and men in black and white suits known as the Falleros, followed by marching bands playing traditional music. Right now I can hear them practicing for the fiesta of San Jose.

In the beginning of next month I will be going to the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain to a little principality called Andorra with a stop-over in Cataluna, probably in Barcelona. A friend of mine called Carlos

(Cont'd. on next page)

Ben List

(Cont'd. from P.27)

and a university student named Castella and I are planning a trip to Ibiza in the Balearic Islands in April or May in which we will probably be living in youth hostels. Just two weeks or so, and if we do not do that Castella has offered his car for us to drive to Rome via the Mediterranean coast and stay with some of the Italian friends he has there. We will decide soon.

Well, I don't want to take up too much space in the paper so I'll finish this letter up with a "hello" to all my friends and hopes to come back and see everyone this summer.

--Benjamin List

Retirement Community

(Cont'd. from P.24)

free, bus service for shopping, for medical care, for recreational tours, etc. Freed from the pinch of scarce dollars, it would be nice to sponsor town affairs, celebrations, social life in rich variety. And the idea that people of retirement age are fogs over the hill is an idea that is slow in dying--but dying it is. I am fairly confident that we would be enriched by the addition of new people to the town.

I can appreciate there will be some skepticism. By the hard law of probabilities, there can't be any human transaction which is all velvet, all gain and no loss. Simply to go along with the odds I am ready to grant there may be some liabilities. The crucial thing is that the gains will outweigh the losses. Therefore the real issue is not, should we have a retirement community, but what kind of retirement community should we have? This is what calls for hard and clear thought. Obviously, the developer's answer to this question isn't necessarily going to be our answer. The builder will want to squeeze every bit of profit from the situation. We want an enlarged community that bears out the character of the original town as much as possible--physically, aesthetically, socially. I admit this won't be easy to obtain. I would like to see some provision for green acres, but this collides with the inevitable high density that characterizes retirement developments. We would have to achieve some workable compromise.

(Next issue: Objections and counterobjections...and your comments on this Part I.)

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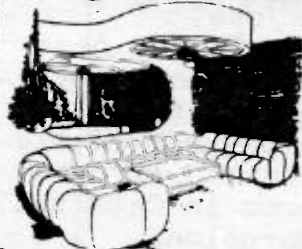
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