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ROOSEVELT  
**BOROUGH**



**BULLETIN**

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February 1984

## Garbage recycling: why we must organize it, and how to begin

by Peter Warren

Now that the borough budget has been prepared for the coming year, recycling will be a major issue facing the Council and, indeed, all of us. As all resident readers of the Bulletin are well aware, 1984 started with once-a-week garbage pickup. In the face of sharply rising costs, this was the only way to hold them to 1983 levels. Future savings will have to come from a successful community recycling program.

The rising costs reflect State policy. As landfill sites become scarce, the State as a whole must recycle - our landfill costs more than tripled between 1983 and 1984 and will continue to rise. The sooner we set in place a recycling program, the more we will benefit each year in the future.

At the request of the Mayor and Council, I have been studying the recycling problem for several months. This article explains my findings. This is a preliminary exposition. The definitive recycling policy

will be the synthesis of many individual ideas and forms of cooperation.

Briefly, if Roosevelt recycles its paper, leaves, bottles and cans, this will provide the community with \$12,000 in benefits. This total includes a \$5,000 saving to the municipal budget from lower landfill fees, a \$1,000 "bonus" paid to the Borough by the State for recycling, and about \$6,000 gross income from sale of recyclables.

Recycling involves the following steps. Recyclables are separated from the garbage to be collected at curbside - hence, they are subtracted from the garbage which goes to the landfill. They are then taken to a central collecting point, whence they are marketed. The steps are simple to set down; they involve a strong community effort to implement. A number of residents already recycle some items - paper, glass, cans, leaves. The new program will translate this voluntary effort into a commu-

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## Garbage

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nity-wide initiative.

Let's take one step at a time.

Before embarking on a recycling program, communities find it necessary to enact a recycling ordinance. The Roosevelt ordinance would follow the general lines of ordinances in neighboring communities, and would include penalties for non-compliance. At the household level, paper, glass and cans would be set aside, each in its own container, and members of the household would take them to the central collecting point at their own convenience. The Council will select a suitable collecting point. Paper might be placed in a rented trailer, which would be periodically hauled to a waste paper dealer in Trenton. Bottles - separated by clear, brown, and green - would be placed in 55-gallon drums which would be either in another rented trailer or on an asphalt surface, and would be periodically hauled to a glass company in Freehold. Cans would also be placed in 55-gallon drums to be hauled to scrap dealers.

Paper and glass would be hauled by a trucker living in Roosevelt, and cans by a scrap metal processor also living in Roosevelt. After deducting the costs for trailer rental, asphaltting, purchase of drums and haulage, the profit from sale of recyclables could amount to \$4,000 a year.

Leaves are a separate item. They bulk quite large in the autumn garbage collection destined for the landfill, and hence should be recycled. Some residents simply mulch

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them with their mowers, others rake them into the woods, and others just let them rot. If Roosevelt set up a municipal compost site, it could receive a State bonus depending on tonnage. The point is, however, to exclude leaves from garbage collection in the future.

How can we go about our recycling program? The first point to keep in mind is that it is financially attractive - and that not recycling will become more onerous each year.

The Council has signed its garbage contract for 1984. Before this contract can be renegotiated, the contractor will want to see evidence that a recycling ordinance has been enacted and a program is actually working so that the landfill fees which would have been paid for unrecycled materials are no longer expenses of the contract. Recycling doesn't just happen, no matter how much good will is manifested by the community. Here, opinion groups, such as the Board of Education, the PTA, the Congre-

gation and the Citizens' Group can play their role. There has to be discussion and the resolution of individual problems - and most of all, recycling has to become a habit - and a welcome one rather than a nuisance.

There is clearly a role for groups like the First Aid Squad and the Sisterhood to play in helping people recycle as part of their fund-raising activities. They could pick up recyclables from the houses of people who are sick or aged. They could make sure that paper is properly stacked at the collection area, that bottles are properly separated by color, and that aluminum cans are separated from other cans.

Roosevelt has an advantage over other communities when it comes to recycling, in that it is a small, homogeneous community with strong local institutions and a tradition of community spirit. These attributes will come into play as the recycling program takes shape during the next few months.

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## County orders reassessment for 1985

### Borough to Hire Assistants to Help Do Property Inspections

Recently, the Monmouth County Board of Taxation informed the Borough Council and the Assessor that, because it is nearly ten years since the Borough was last reassessed and the assessment-sales ratio has fallen to just over 60%, it will be necessary to have either a revaluation (done by an outside firm) or a reassessment (done by the Assessor) completed this year to be effective for 1985. Since the Borough has consistently had one of the lowest coefficients of deviation in the county and in the State (the coefficient of deviation being the measurement of assessment equality among properties as determined by sales data), the Board gave its approval to our doing the reassessment in-house, thus saving about \$9,000.00.

Because of this low coefficient of deviation, there are unlikely to be many substantial changes in actual taxes paid as a result of the reassessment. Unfortunately, there are always some people who have the mistaken impression that reassessment necessarily means higher taxes, some even believing that a doubling of the assessment, for example, will mean a doubling of taxes. This is not true. If a property is assessed at \$50,000 and the total assessed value of the property in the community is \$10,000,000, the property owner will pay one-half of one percent of the total tax levy. If his property is reassessed at \$100,000, but the total assessed value of the property in town rises to \$20,000,000 as a result of the reassessment, he will still be paying one-half of one percent of the tax levy. If the

amount to be raised by local property taxes stays the same, which it is neither more nor less likely to do in a year in which there is a reassessment than in any other year, the tax rate will decrease in inverse proportion to the rise in the total assessed valuation. Thus, in the example given, a 5% tax rate before reassessment will convert to a 2.5% rate after reassessment.

In order to do the reassessment properly, we will have to inspect the properties in the Borough to see if any changes have occurred since the last reassessment which might not have been noted in the records and which have consequences for taxable value. Since the Assessor will not be able to do all of the field work, the Borough is planning to hire a couple of assistants, who will be trained in the use of the State Assessment Manual and will be responsible for visiting the various properties and recording the data on the cards. The Assessor will remain responsible for applying the data in order to establish values.

Any resident who expects to have several weeks available this summer and who would like to do this work is invited to contact Assessor Michael Ticktin (448-0363) or Borough Clerk Pat Antosky (448-0539). Experience in building work or in some work involving observation and recording will be helpful, though anyone willing and able to be trained is welcome to apply.

## HISTORY OF ROOSEVELT PART II

by Peter Warren

General Characteristics

The Roosevelt Historic District is situated in western Monmouth County, New Jersey, five miles southeast of Hightstown, and forty-five miles equidistant from New York and Philadelphia. The district includes the entire land area, with original boundaries, of the New Deal planned community known as Jersey Homesteads, which was developed by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads during 1933 and 1934, and constructed between 1935 and 1938. The town was renamed Roosevelt in 1945.

The district comprises residential, commercial/industrial, and public buildings which are integrated into a community plan of curvilinear streets, inner commons, park land, and a green belt of farm land and conservation areas. The 249 identified sites within the district include: six 19th and early 20th century farmhouses which became part of the Jersey Homesteads agricultural cooperative; 151 buildings which were constructed as part of Jersey Homesteads between 1935 and 1938; and 92 structures (predominantly single-family dwellings) which were built thereafter. A total of 162 buildings, or 65% of the district's structures, contribute to its significance; 31, or 12%, harmonize with the architectural and historical character of the district; and 56, or 22%, detract from its significance.

In addition, at least 90% of Roosevelt's land area (as opposed to structures alone) contributes to its significance. This is due to three major land use characteristics of the district:

- (1) The street layout and half-acre lot sizes of the original plan's residential core have not been changed or subdivided.
- (2) Intact open space and landscape elements of the original plan (including commons, park land, and agricultural green belt) make up approximately half of the district's land area.
- (3) Non-contributing construction generally is clustered in three areas: at the west end of Pine Drive, on Lake Drive west of S. Valley Road, and on the east end (south side only) of Farm Lane.

Present Appearance and Physical Development

Roosevelt is surrounded on the west, north, and east by a rural landscape of cultivated farm land, fallow fields, meadow, patches and strips of woodland, and scattered single-family dwellings. On the southern periphery is dense woodland which is part of the state-owned Assunpink Wildlife Refuge. All four approaches to the borough--from the west on Nurko Road, from the north on Rochdale Avenue (County Route 571), the east on Clarksburg Road, and the south on Roosevelt Road--are tree-bordered two lane roads uncluttered by commercial strip development or other intrusions in land use.

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## HISTORY OF ROOSEVELT

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The district is an irregularly shaped area of 1,244 acres, with boundaries identical to those of the original Jersey Homesteads community. The site for the proposed town was chosen by Benjamin Brown, a New Jersey farmer and a leader in the cooperative movement (see Significance, under Social/Humanitarian), in coordination with the Division of Subsistence Homesteads. In 1933-34, the Federal Government purchased eight contiguous farms in Millstone Township, at that time a sparsely inhabited area which was first settled in the 18th century. The spot was labeled "Paradise" on the 1889 Atlas of Monmouth County, but remained unincorporated until Jersey Homesteads became a borough in 1937.

The terrain within the district is generally level, 100 to 200 feet in elevation; the deep, loamy Freehold soils are high in natural fertility. The primary natural features are Assunpink Brook, which forms the southern boundary of the town, and its tributary Empty Box Brook, which flows westward through the town center.

Roosevelt's physical plan is a variation of the English Garden City Idea. In accordance with the Garden City dictum that "natural features should be taken as the keynote of the composition" (Creese, p. 206), the plan left much of the existing agricultural landscape intact, incorporating it into a wide green belt of farm land and conservation areas. The town center is structured on the location of the waterways (Assunpink Brook, Empty Box Brook, and a small unnamed stream) and three pre-existing roads. Rochdale Avenue, built upon an old county route, is the town's main thoroughfare, inter-

sected at the south end by Clarksburg Road and at the north by Oscar Drive (formerly Perrineville Road). Homestead Lane, Farr Lane, Valley Road, Pine Drive, and Tamara Drive were all constructed for the new town (Pine and Tamara Drives were originally named Cooperative Circle and Cooperative Extension)\*. Lake Drive, though added in the 1950's, conforms to the guidelines in the 1938 zoning plan. The overall street configuration is curvilinear but symmetrical, laid out with topographical considerations, large looped blocks, and cul-de-sacs characteristic of Garden City planning. The ample residential lot sizes, half acres averaging 100 feet wide by 200 feet deep, add to the district's suburban character.

The open space and landscape elements of the community plan are spatially and visually prominent, and are well-preserved. The commons and the park land were designed as the "inner greens," the counterpart to the encircling green belt. The municipally-owned commons, which are wooded instead of open, include those long parcels of land abutting the rear property lines of the residential lots. The park land lies along Empty Box Brook and Assunpink Brook, and is also wooded and criss-crossed with pedestrian trails. Since the 1940's, additional open space conservation areas have been acquired by the borough along Clarksburg Road, and by the state (N.J. Department of Environmental Protection) along Assunpink Brook. While all of this publicly owned open space is protected and unthreatened,

\* Corrected from the original text which had named the streets incorrectly.

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 the entire green belt to the north and east of the residential core is privately owned and vulnerable to development pressure. Currently most of this green belt is farmed (mainly corn and grain; the poultry farm, dairy, and apple orchard no longer exist), though there are uncultivated fields and wooded parcels (the largest such section lies along the south side of Oscar Drive, east of N. Valley Road).

The Jersey Homesteads plan provided all the physical elements for a self-sustaining town. Between 1935 and 1938, W.P.A. workers built 151 structures: 146 houses (198 residential units, counting each duplex as two units); a factory; a school; a borough hall; water works; and sewage treatment plant. Sites were also reserved for a future borough hall, stores, and churches (none were constructed on the planned sites). In addition, the homesteaders set up a cooperative store and tea room, a cooperative nursery (in the Britton House), a community center (in the Procoor-Ely House), and a synagogue (the original frame structure on Tamara Drive is now gone, replaced by a synagogue at 20 Homestead Lane).

The Workers Aim Cooperative Association Factory and the Roosevelt Elementary School are the key landmark buildings in Roosevelt. The factory, constructed for the manufacture of garments and as the economic mainstay of the community, was the first completed Jersey Homesteads structure, dedicated in August 1936. The design, described as "sleek as an airplane," incorporates Bauhaus stylistic elements into a one story steel frame rectangle, 100 feet wide by 220 feet long. Its concrete

exterior walls are painted white, and all facades carry continuous bands of large industrial-type windows. The concrete-enframed entries have rounded recessed surrounds. Unlike the prototypical planned industrial town focused on the centrally-located factory, the Jersey Homesteads factory is situated at the northeast edge of the residential core, bordering the agricultural green belt. Early views of the building make apparent the intended physical juxtaposition of factory and farm. Today, the factory is less conspicuous due to subsequent growth of thick vegetation around it.

On the other hand, the Roosevelt Elementary School is located at the center of the community, in the horseshoe formed by Pine and Tamara Drives. The school, which opened in 1937, is a one story concrete block building composed of two long rectangles, with the factory-like form, horizontal emphasis, and white stucco exterior characteristic of the International Style. Besides classrooms, the building contains an auditorium/gymnasium and a library. In the library is a celebrated mural by Ben Shahn, also completed in 1937. The school's 15.58 acre site with plantings and expansive lawn is a de facto town green, serving an aesthetic function as well as a ceremonial purpose (FDR Memorial and Amphitheater) and recreational use (playground and ball fields).

The Jersey Homesteads houses comprise the bulk of the district's buildings. Eight of the residential units were ready for occupation by July 1936, ninety-six were finished by the end of 1937, and the balance were completed in 1938. The housing designs follow the functional unadorned International Style aesthetic of the

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## HISTORY OF ROOSEVELT

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factory and the school. The houses are all constructed of concrete block (originally stuccoed and painted white), with flat roofs (most with wide overhangs), open plans, garages, floor to ceiling windows, and commodious interior features such as parquet floors and built-in kitchen cabinets and appliances.

Within this uniformity, there are four basic house types, listed below along with the numbers of each which were constructed, and selected photographed examples of each type:

- 1 story attached (duplex):  
39 built
- 1 story detached (single-family):  
78 built
- 2 story attached (duplex):  
13 built
- 2 story detached (single-family):  
16 built

Most of the Jersey Homesteads houses, therefore, are one story. These duplexes and single-family houses are interspersed along the primary roads, and are usually set back at least fifty to seventy-five feet from the street. The two story dwellings generally are grouped along the smaller streets and cul-de-sacs (School Lane, Maple Court, Cedar Court, and Elm Court); on the west side of N. Valley Road between Homestead and Farm Lanes; and at the southwest corner of Tamara and Pine Drives. With the exception of the two story detached houses on N. Valley Road, the two story units are usually sited closer to the road. Variations within the four Jersey Homesteads house types include two, three, and four bedrooms plans, and different arrangements of rooms and windows. Houses may or may not have a dining room or a breezeway.

Alterations to the Jersey Homesteads houses are enumerated in the Property Inventory. Primarily they include the addition of peaked roofs (the flat roofs proved problematic for the wet New Jersey climate), new exterior siding (mainly wood or vinyl), room additions, and changes in exterior paint color.

The housing designs, half acre residential lots, setbacks, and abundant yard vegetation together present Roosevelt as a garden suburb rather than a village. Originally, however, the yards were bare; 1930's photographs show a few small conifers planted around the base of each house, plus some yard trees which were standing prior to the construction of the new town. Subsistence garden plots, which were planned for vegetable growing and were part of the reason for the large house lots, were never widespread in the community. In the late 1930's and early 1940's the homesteaders initiated a beautification project and planted additional trees and shrubs. The Asbury Park Press of February 24, 1938, reported that:

Many colonists have improved the grounds surrounding their homes by planting flowers and vines and building vine frames and small fences, attractively painted. They have reinforced the experimental sidewalks which have proved unsatisfactory... and have groomed driveways to the garages which are attached to all homes. The driveways were left as muddy lanes when the federal government finished building.

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Today, mature trees and shrubbery are the outstanding feature in the Roosevelt residential streetscape. Border hedges and fences have also been used to enclose the formerly open yards around and behind the houses, further privatizing the residential area.

Six pre-1930's farmhouses remain in the district. All of these are located in the green belt except the Chamberlain House, known locally as the Britton House), which was embodied into the residential street plan. The earliest of the farmhouses dates from the 1820-1840 period, and illustrates three locally-popular house forms. The Proctor-Ely House has a five bay center-hall Georgian plan. There are also two examples of the I-house type, with exposed hearthbacks and narrow transomed entries. The Chamberlain House is built on a three bay side-hall plan and features a Greek Revival sidelighted doorway. A Vernacular Victorian house and a Colonial Revival dwelling complete the range of farmhouse construction represented in the district.

Construction in the Roosevelt district after the period of its significance (post 1940) consists primarily of single-family dwellings, but also includes: two factory buildings; stores and post office; a cemetery; a synagogue; two swim clubs; and a gas station. A 1950's subdivision of one story ranch houses on Lake Drive is harmonious with the form and scale of the Jersey Homesteads houses. Non-contributing residential construction includes ranch houses, geodesic domes, and bi-levels dating from the 1960's and 1970's. Most of these houses are in three well-defined areas: at the south end of Pine

Drive; at the west end of Lake Drive; and the south side of Farm Lane near N. Valley Road. A new senior citizens housing complex with twenty-one units is also non-contributing, as are five houses which have been built on parcels in the agricultural green belt. To date, these houses are the only subsequent construction in the planned community which has deviated from the 1938 Zoning Plan.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the historic district correspond to those of the Borough of Roosevelt. The district boundaries were determined so as to include the entire land area of the New Deal planned community of Jersey Homesteads. The overall town plan, rather than the structures alone, is significant as an example of English Garden City planning in form, and a New Deal subsistence homesteads community in function. The district, therefore, encompasses the three basic and intact components of the original physical plan: the residential core with factory and community buildings; the inner commons and park land; and the green belt.



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**Council news**

by Peter Warren

The regular meeting of the Roosevelt Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 8, Mayor Hepner presiding. Action was taken on the following items of business:

The Council voted to equalize the water rates charged residents of the Senior Citizens' Development, thus rescinding the decision taken last October which granted lower rates.

The ordinance covering activities of the fire company was amended to meet State requirements for insurance. The amendment sets age limits of 18-40 for members, and stipulates that members respond to a minimum of 60% of duty calls. Acceptance of the amendment increases insurance benefits for families of firemen killed in line of duty. The Council discussed modifications of the cemetery ordinance, which was given its final reading.

The annual problem of the gypsy moth was discussed. The Council passed a resolution declaring the moth a public nuisance. Becky Russell, the Gypsy Moth Coordinator reported on her findings at both the agenda and the public meeting. The cyclical gypsy moth population is currently waning, resulting, in part, from the establishment in New Jersey of eight predators. Becky reported that Roosevelt does qualify for spraying by the County. She will determine the date. This will be publicized throughout the community. The Council wants to discourage spraying by individual residents, who often use Sevin, which has noxious side effects. The County will spray wooded areas with Dt (commercial dipel). Roosevelt will also participate

in the mosquito aerial program. June Counterman described the weekend activity program in which teenagers between the ages starting in 7th grade through age 15 participate. The program includes ping-pong and construction of a skating rink, with a bicycle hike planned. The program has been attracting 17-30 teenagers, with a 45 minute wait to play ping-pong last Saturday. The Council voted to reimburse the group for the cost of the ping-pong table, as an indication of support. The Council also approved payment for the Borough Clerk to participate in a course on municipal budget procedure.

The Council approved the recommendations submitted by the new Borough engineer for a smooth transition from the former engineers.

About a dozen members of the public were present.

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Department of Amplification

In last month's Bulletin, it was reported that the Council granted permission to Rutgers' students to do a landscaping study of the factory area. The study will be done by the Landscaping Department, through the initiative of Dave Vitolo, presented at the Park Commission meeting in December. The study is intended to be the first step in the historical restoration of the factory area. It will provide a justification for rehabilitation investments to receive tax credits, thus encouraging beautification. Eventually, we hope to do the same kind of study for the historic factory building itself.

DAVID ARNOLD

A new song cycle, written for David Arnold by Judith Lang Zaimont, has been released in New York. The cycle is based on American Indian prayers, chants and rituals and comprises six songs: Flower Song, Firefly Song, Ghost Dance Song, A Spell to Destroy Life, Second Flower Song, and Elegy Dream Song. The work is a tour de force for baritone, piano, and percussion, and a limited number of pressings are currently available at the Princeton University Store - 921-8500. It is Leonarda Records release, #116.

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## First Aid news

Since the last input to the Bulletin, the First Aid Squad has been busy with its varied activities. Most of you ate your way through Hoagie Day as the "Skins" slowly faded into the sunset. Next year the Squad promises more, many more meat ball hoagies, but makes no predictions on the Superbowl. Plans are on the drawing board for another bus trip to Atlantic City--**GREAT FUN!** Other dates to mark on the calendars are:

March 18 - Pancake Breakfast  
 May 12 - Flower Sale  
 May 19 - Flea Market

During December the Squad responded to 4 emergency calls and one fire call. In January, there were 9 calls, two of which were back-up calls for Millstone. Six First Aiders completed recertification training in advanced first aid in January. New Squad officers were elected and installed. The new officers are:

President: Alana Porter  
 Vice-Pres: Bill Counterman  
 Secretary: Steve Scalph  
 Treasurer: Harold Melvin  
 Captain: Liz Johnson  
 1st Lt: Helen Barth  
 2nd Lt: Jessie Norris  
 Training Officer: June Counterman

To help us help you, please make sure your home is clearly marked with a house number and that it can be seen at night.

The town's support of the First Aid Squad has been outstanding. The squad could not function as it does without your financial support, nor can it function without the dedicated volunteers who willingly jump when called

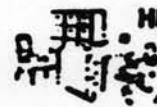
upon. Thanks to the entire community for your support during 1983.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 18  
 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Mouthwatering pancakes
- Have-it-your-way eggs
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Roosevelt Community and School CalendarMARCH 1984

1	Thursday, 2:00 p.m.	Senior Citizens meeting - Borough Hall
3	Saturday, 7-10 p.m.	Teen Group - Borough Hall
5	Monday, 8:00 p.m.	Deborah meeting - Borough Hall
6	Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.	CPR - Borough Hall
7	Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.	Planning Board - Borough Hall
8	Thursday, 7:00 p.m.	CPR - Borough Hall
10	Saturday, 7-10 p.m.	Teen Group - Borough Hall
12	Monday, 8:00 p.m.	Council Agenda meeting - Borough Hall
13	Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	CPR - Teens - Borough Hall CPR - Borough Hall
14	Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.	Council meeting - Borough Hall
15	Thursday, 7-11 p.m.	Boy Scouts - Borough Hall
17	Saturday, 7-10 p.m.	Teen Group - Borough Hall
18	Sunday, 6 a.m.-3 p.m.	First Aid - Borough Hall
20	Tuesday, 3-4 p.m.	CPR - Teens - Borough Hall Food Co-op - Borough Hall
21	Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.	First Aid Drill - Borough Hall
24	Saturday, 7-10 p.m.	Teen Group - Borough Hall
27	Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	CPR - Teens - Borough Hall First Aid - Borough Hall
31	Saturday, 7-10 p.m.	Teens Group - Borough Hall

## Planning Board reconstitutes

by Bob Clark

A newly constituted borough planning board spent its first two regular meetings of 1984 considering the future role of the board in borough affairs. On January 18 the board reorganized, electing Ralph Seligman to serve as chairman, Mel Friedman to be vice chairman and Lynn Frank to be secretary. Mayor Freda Hepner also serves on the board. She appointed Louis Esakoff as the council's representative, and former council member Aaron Datz moved from the council representative position to a seat as a general public member. Building inspector Peter Berlinrut continues as the public officer member. Virginia Edwards and Connie Herrstrom are alternates. John Bennett was appointed board attorney. Ann Kassahun is the clerk of the board. The Trenton Times and Allentown Messenger-Press will continue as official newspapers.

Chairman Seligman offered to prepare a program to enlighten planning and zoning board members and the general public about planning functions and the background and present meaning of the land use laws. He will arrange for experts to attend the March 7 meeting of the board, starting at 7:30 PM in the municipal building, and make a special presentation to the community.

Regular planning board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month unless a holiday intervenes. Meetings for the rest of 1984 are scheduled for 8:00 PM in the

municipal building on the following dates:

March 7  
 April 4  
 May 2  
 June 6  
 July 5 (Thursday)  
 August 1  
 September 5  
 October 3  
 November 7  
 December 5

The board discussed whether the state land use law exempts detached one or two unit dwellings from the necessity of site plan review (assuming no variances are needed) despite the requirement for such review contained in the borough's zoning ordinance. Seligman indicated he will contact the board attorney to determine whether the borough's ordinance may impose a stricter standard than the state law.


The board is working to adopt officially the master plan review statement required by the land use law. Friedman suggested that the board go beyond the minimal requirements of the law and examine potential master plan changes in depth. Seligman recommended that members study the current plan to prepare for a more detailed discussion of possible improvements at the March 7 meeting.

Peter Warren suggested that an historic preservation commission be established. He also praised the mayor and council for acting swiftly to invite a spring class from the Rutgers department of landscape architecture to study landscaping for the old factory area. Warren pointed

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 out that historic district designations could aid property owners in obtaining tax credits for renovations. Seligman noted that many existing historic district ordinances name the planning board as designated agency to oversee historic district development. Jessica Winslow, a resident with planning background and a member of the board of park commissioners, offered to obtain relevant materials from the office of New Jersey heritage. Warren described activities of a citizens advisory group which he chairs and offered its services to the planning board.



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Love of Words*Songs from my subconscious*

by Josef G. Solomon

Back in the Sixties, "non-verbal communication" became important, and it still is important. We communicate in ways that use words, of course, but we also communicate in ways that don't use words. The simplest example is a smile or a frown. There are no words, but something is communicated. Body language can tell the observer a great deal about you, as your subconscious communicates its thoughts by way of how you hold your head, cross your legs, etc. Whatever other modes my subconscious may use, it does also use words. In fact, my subconscious uses songs--it hums, sings and whistles to me. Did you ever let your mind wander as your feet wandered, and then suddenly notice that you were whistling? Did the song indicate something about what you were thinking? To be sure, most of the time that you find yourself humming a song, it's because you just heard the song--a passerby was humming it, or maybe you heard it from a store as you walked past. We will ignore these occasions, although they are no doubt the overwhelming majority. They are also not very interesting, because they are by definition without significance. Let us concentrate on the small percentage of times when it really is the subconscious that is communicating. About a hundred years ago, when I was a student at the University of Oklahoma, I noticed that phenomenon in me. What brought it to my attention was that it was usually the same song I was whistling while walking across

the campus. And what was the song? It was a song from "Carrousel": "This Was a Real Nice Clambake". And why in the world did my subconscious choose that particular song? At that time, I had never even seen a clam. (I don't get very close to them now, either.) Who knows? But it occurred to me that perhaps my subconscious was too embarrassed to walk across the campus of the University of Oklahoma whistling "Oklahoma". If that analysis (?) is correct, then the answer is that my subconscious tactfully chose another Rodgers and Hammerstein song.

Twenty years ago, I fearlessly took a whopping pay cut in order to work at the University of Pennsylvania, so I could do some physics. I enjoyed it, but money was a problem--especially when our fifth son was born during that time. And what did my subconscious whistle to me, as we walked across the campus? A revealing song from "Oliver": "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two".

More recently, after the death of my marriage, my subconscious began telling me more interesting things--as well as more-interesting things. At first, it was whistling "They Can't Take That Away From Me". Then it switched to "That's All". (In this context, that title is very misleading. The lyrics begin, "I can only give you love that lasts a lifetime...." The idea is, that's "all" the guy has to offer.) Shortly thereafter, I found myself strongly attracted to the wife of a friend of mine. That was bad enough. Imagine

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(Cont'd. from previous page) - my dismay at realizing what my subconscious was whistling to me--and to everyone within earshot. It was a song recorded by Frank Sinatra: "Won't You Change Partners and Dance With Me?"

Some time later (guess why), the song my subconscious was broadcasting was, "(Love is lovelier,) The Second Time Around".

I was once in a group discussion about Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself". Afterwards, a friend made the mistake of saying to me, "Well, do you have a song of yourself?" And so I began singing to him "Joey", a song from Frank Loesser's marvelous musical, "The Most Happy Fella". The chorus begins with the word "Joey" about six times--which is rather funny out of context, especially as my friend had never heard of the song, and had no idea what I was singing to him. Although I didn't go very far into the song for my friend, it has some interesting lyrics. Joey is describing how the wind talks to him--telling him, usually, that "You've been too long in one place, and it's time to go, time to go." The wind tells him this when he's getting too comfortable where he is. He mentions several causes, among them: "...when the bunk I've been bunking in starts to feeling too warm and cozy, when the grub they're cooking me starts to tasting too good..." My subconscious sings that song to me once in a while, even now--but I'm not leaving. My bed is comfortable, but that's because it's mine. Furthermore, the "grub they're cooking me" doesn't taste too good, but that's because I'm the one cooking it. Anyway,

I'm staying. My subconscious just likes the song. Incidentally, if you don't know the show, "The Most Happy Fella", I urge you to get to know it. It has some gorgeous music. What would you expect from the composer of "Guys and Dolls"?

I frequently find myself whistling some of the songs mentioned here, even though the context has changed. They're just very nice songs. When I find myself whistling them now, I can remember and enjoy the context in which they used to appear. Time heals all wounds. That reminds me of another song from those days. It's one made popular by the Carpenters: "It's Gonna Take Some Time This Time".

And what is my subconscious singing to me these days? Watch out, world. Today my subconscious is working on a newer song than is usual in my repertoire: "I Don't Want to Be Lonely Tonight".

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Inch by Inch*Succumbing to the lure of the catalogues*

by M.J. Berlinrut

In the latitude we inhabit, there's one variable we can count on: whatever the season the calendar declares it to be, our weather will throw in a few 'unseasonable' days just for kicks. Thus in one January week we went from deep winter, ground blanketed with frozen snow, temperatures hovering around zero to keep it there, to balmy spring when temps rose into the middle fifties, the snow disappeared, the gahtkes (long johns) came off, and the voice of the motor bike was heard in the land. It didn't last, of course, as the groundhog said it wouldn't--except for the motor bikes; once out, they're hard to silence. But that one day was enough to stir the most torpid gardening itch. And I, despite my firm resolve, succumbed to the lure of the catalogues.

Early on a snowy/rainy day I spread them out all over the floor and sat down in their midst to spend an hour or two with them. An hour or two? It was time to start supper when I came up for air--with a full seed order in hand. Though in the end it was substantially the same list as other years, some of the varieties were different and I was pleased with my selection as being better choices. All were vegetables, but for nasturtiums and marigolds which I always include among the vegetables because of their alleged insect-repelling properties. You can eat them too--the blossom petals and nasturtium leaves in salads, the nasturtium seeds pickled are just like capers.

Spring, however, is not just vegetable seeds, neither

is it confined to edibles. At my time in life, one also thinks of permanence (it has been said that only the old plant trees)--things that will assume at least their share of responsibility for their own growing, that will not have to be replaced year after year (around the fringes of one's mind lurks the unpleasant knowledge that probably a time will come when the garden will pretty much have to take care of itself). So, in the edible department I've been gradually adding small fruits--currants, gooseberries, bush cherries, grapes (melon are included in the seed order)--and raspberries, by now so well established as to give us enough to jam, to freeze, to eat till we turn purple, and still have some to share with neighbors. None of these takes too much care, mostly just some pruning in late winter at a time when other garden chores don't press. No strawberries though. I used to have a small patch but found they took a lot of care and were besides subject to disease and rot. Then I discovered the big strawberry farms hereabout. There I can pick many more and better than I can raise, without the labor and for a reasonable price.

In the ornamental department, I have for a long time been leaning on perennials and such summer flowering bulbs and tubers as don't have to be taken up in fall. For example, iris, peonies, and lilies, all kinds; they're hardy, take little care (only division of clumps every few years), and if you include a number of differ-

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ent varieties, they'll reward you with flowers over a long period. Their foliage is handsome too when their blooming time is finished. The gorgeous pictures of these in the catalogues tempt one to add a few new ones every spring.

This year, however, my planning focuses on a complete reconstruction of my front garden. August is really the time to do this, but August, in my experience, always gets lost. Because of heat and drought? Coping with the vegetable crop? A vacation break away? For whatever reason, having put it off, this spring I have no choice if I want anything to grow there at all. Because last year we had all our old painted-stuck windows replaced with lovely new ones that go up and down at a touch; and in the course of that project, the ground all around the front was so trampled and packed that everything planted there vanished without a trace and nothing, neither weeds nor grass, could struggle its way through that concrete-like surface. Even water just lay on top.

Part of the problem is that those borders were never properly prepared or planned in the beginning. When I first came here, the front yard was mostly given to trees and shrubs, and lawn--Peter's pride. In the corner by the front door was an overgrown spirea that covered the high side window. Another shrub, a big viburnum, was planted directly in front of the long front window. (I never understood the philosophy of the original Rooseveltians that led them to plant things right in front of windows where they cut off the light and blocked seeing out. Was it

that they were so urban they didn't miss the sun streaming in? Or did they distrust the passing eye?)

There was also a tall, very tall and thin but thickly branched cedar right at the corner of the house. Small when planted, it had probably not been foreseen how as it grew it would trespass on the house. But it was shallow-rooted and one winter an ice storm toppled it. To my delight, for it immediately opened the area around the front to sunlight. I helped that natural process along by cutting down the spirea and viburnum to the ground, leaving the roots to rot out for themselves. In the bare ground around the stumps, I stuck in quick-growing, self-seeding, spreading things wherever I could get a trowel in between roots. And spread they did. Two original clumps of ajuga have by now taken over nearly the whole front 'lawn.' At first dismayed by this encroachment on his lawn, Peter now takes amiably, as it relieves him of mowing the front and when blooming, is a traffic-stopping sea of blue. Gradually each year I pulled out more grass along the edges widening the strips close to the house to make more room for what was there. I put in spring bulbs and day lilies. But fearing to discourage the self-sown seedlings, I never really dug up or loosened the ground, never scratched the surface. And so it grew, like Topsy, a disorderly tangle above, below, soil that baked out every summer.

My plan for this spring is therefore to take up everything, regardless of what I may lose in the process. (When I once worked in a nursery/greenhouse I learned one can't be tenderly

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## the lure of the catalogues

(Cont'd. from previous page) sentimental about every little plant; if it's spindly or unhealthy, pull it out, seeds and seedlings are plentiful and cheap, relatively, much less work in the end and more likely of success than struggling to bring on weaklings.) I'll loosen the soil well and mix in organic matter. Then will go in those things that grabbed me in the catalogues.

In planning a permanent planting like this, it's important to consider its requirements. First, hardiness. We're in U.S.D.A. zone 7 but sometimes local factors will create within the zone an area that falls into a zone that's colder (6) or warmer (8). On the south side of our house where the midsummer heat bounces back off the wall, the area in question could be considered zone 8 or even 9. I have found that gladiolas left in the ground over winter come up there each spring, and a rosemary not reliably hardy north of Washington D.C. has survived the winter well. Then soil. Neutral to slightly acid is good for most things. Our soil here tends to be acid, as witness the moss that grows everywhere. Except in the vegetable garden I've never tested it, but I throw in a good dollop of lime or bone meal every year. Moist or dry? Because of the poor soil around the foundation and the reflected heat from the wall, the soil tends to dry out, though I hope the added organic matter will correct that. All the same, I'll call it dry. Light, sun or shade? Plants requiring full sun can usually get by on just six hours. We

have that much at the outside end of the border, the other end near the breezeway would classify as partial shade. Heights and colors should be part of a proper plan. Obviously tall things go to the back, shorter ones to the front. As for colors, there are no colors in nature, in my opinion, that don't get along, and against a white wall anything goes. With all these considerations in mind, I study the catalogues. Wayside and Parks give the best cultural information and they are very obliging about answering questions.

Well, I've yet to place my order for these things but that's my plan. Whether it comes off or not depends on how I hold up. And on Nature: Please let us have a nice long spring, neither too hot nor too cold, with plenty of gentle rain that falls only in the night! Is that too much to ask, after last year? Meanwhile we've got more winter to get through. It isn't that I hate winter--I don't. It's necessary, for regeneration of both gardeners and plants. And without it we'd not have spring or summer or fall as we know them. Nor peonies and other things that require winter freezing. That thought should cheer us through the snow and ice inevitably still to come.

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**SENIOR CITIZENS' MEETING -  
FEB. 2, 1984**

by Helga Wisowaty

Mrs. Sylvia Rossman (Gussie Singer's daughter) sang for us at this meeting. She was accompanied by Jessie Swirsky. We enjoyed their singing and playing.

Next month someone from the Federation of Senior Citizens will come to speak to us.

Sid Weisberger attended a meeting of the Federation in Hightstown and brought us up to date on the programs on the agenda.

1) A list of doctors who accept assignment payments through Medicare. These are available through County Offices or Prudential Insurance Company.

2) Funds will be available to Seniors for transportation.

3) Relief on taxes for renters was investigated and discussed.

4) Reverse mortgages were discussed. This is based on the age and value of the house.

5) Campaign for Health Care battles going on with legislators over the use of Casino Funds.

6) Auto Insurance - contact insurance company about Medicare involvement and choices to be made.

Laws being considered include the licensing of Nursing Homes - homes for Veterans; prohibition of eviction from motor home parks. Representative Karcher supports a gas tax reform bill; property tax reform (over 65 exemption).

Barker Wittaker and Idela Golden came to this meeting to help Seniors who have forms to be filled out and to follow up on the lack of transportation available to us in Roosevelt.

Ms. Golden has received letters and told us that letters or a petition will help to correct this situation. We appreciate her interest and help.

Esther Goldman and Nettie DeVito were our hostesses. We enjoyed the refreshments and companionship, as usual.



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## Roosevelt P.O.— one in 29 thousand

by Hortense Sochowitzky

Yes, in December 1983 there were 29,946 post offices in the United States. How many of these, do you think, served the public coffee, cake, punch and cookies on their first day in a new location? Perhaps only one. The Roosevelt, N.J. 08555 post office did, on December 28, 1983. It was a rare party, and testifies to Postmaster Gerry Millar's enthusiasm for her job, her concern for us, the post office patrons, and her understanding of the part the post office plays in our lives as meeting place and social rendezvous.

The new building is a joy to behold. It's clean and bright. It's warm. It's pretty. And it's dry. No more wet feet for the public and the employees. No danger of slipping on a wet floor. Hot water runs from the faucet labeled hot! (In the old building, once the adjoining store was unoccupied there was no hot water in the post office.) And the central heating works. In the old building the lobby was reasonably warm (though some complained). But we patrons didn't know that Gerry, Diane and Bob were freezing a few feet behind the counter, because the heat didn't reach their part of the office. Now it's evenly distributed.

There are improvements still to be added. Gerry, as postmaster, has a small private office, but so far it contains only a phone and three folding chairs. The carpet on the floor was provided by the contractor, Seacoast Builders. A

desk and proper desk chair are expected soon. And a new flagpole is coming. (The present one is just a piece of pipe) There will also be an authentic post office emblem on the outside.

Some people have been upset about the loss of bulletin board space for the Council, the Board of Education, Senior Citizens Club and other organizations. Gerry is aware of this concern and of the need for such space, as well as space for news and activities of Roosevelt residents in the "outside world". These needs are to be discussed with her supervisor, the manager of the Sectional Center in Trenton, who was expected to visit too late for his decisions to be included in this article. His approval is required for bulletin boards.

The new post office has 330 mail boxes, up from 285 in the previous office. Only a few families continue to get their mail at general delivery. The amount of mail handled has increased about eight percent in 1984, over the same period last year. Gerry points out that there are a few business mailers in Roosevelt whose mailings have sent the volume and the revenue up considerably. Ours is a class 2 post office. In 1983, for the first time in many years, Congress did not have to subsidize the post office. Nationally, it is no longer in the red. Increases in rates? Who knows.

In spite of the increase in volume of mail and the extended space the workers have to tra-

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**Roosevelt P.O.**

(Cont'd. from previous page)

verse within the building, the business hours remain the same as they had been. The lobby is open:

Monday thru Friday  
7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday  
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

The window is open:

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday  
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

The hours for the lobby closing are due to Gerry's personal kindness for the sake of those who cannot get there earlier. Officially the lobby may be closed when the window closes. If Gerry must be out of town, the door will be closed earlier.

Note: For those who question why Gerry is the Postmaster rather than Postmistress, Gerry explains that there is no gender consideration. For one who is a master of the work of the post office, the title is Postmaster. And that she is!

Police blotter

January 13, 1984: On North Valley Road, in the senior citizens complex, a theft of a 19" Sony T.V., and a stereo cassette player occurred.

January 17, 1984: A Farm Lane resident had a bicycle stolen from their driveway during daylight hours.

February 2, 1984: A Rochdale Avenue, business experienced the theft of approximately 200 gallons of #2 home heating oil from its storage tank in the rear of the business.

February 2, 1984: Trs. McSorley and Maskowitz arrested David Snow, 50 Lake Drive, Roosevelt for possession and distribution of a controlled dangerous substance as a result of an undercover investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force.

Friendly Reminders: Be wary of repairman in apartments or homes. Don't leave them by themselves for long periods of time if NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. Don't leave bicycles unattended in driveways or near the streets. Put them in garages or by the front door, anywhere that they are not easily accessible to someone passing by.

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