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# ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 1988

## Toxic Incinerator Update

# MAATI MEETS IN ROOSEVELT

By Bruce Reimbold

*Special Correspondent*

On January 28, at the Borough Hall, there was a public meeting of the Millstone Area Against Toxic Incinerator (MAATI) organization with chairman Dave Egli presiding. Local executive committee members are Bobbie Teich and Nina Burghardt. There were approximately 25 people in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public and receive input on attitudes towards the possible siting in Millstone of a toxic waste incinerator. Similar meetings will be held in Jackson and Allentown.

### What is MAATI?

In February, 1987 the Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Commission proposed 11 possible sites for a toxic waste incinerator. As of this report, all but 3 sites have been disqualified for various environmental reasons. The 3 areas still under consideration are in Burlington, Edison and Millstone Townships.

MAATI is a grass roots organization founded in February, 1987 from within the Millstone Homeowners Association. Since then the organization has grown to include Jackson Township and Roosevelt Borough. MAATI has also evolved into an anti-incineration group and aligned itself with political, scientific and environ-

mental groups, e.g. Green Peace. Its aim is to make legislators and the public aware that incineration is an unsafe alternative to waste disposal. More viable alternatives are site reduction and reclamation at the manufacturing level.

### What is a Hazardous Waste Incinerator?

Such an incinerator receives toxic chemicals from industry and the public. It burns liquid and solid hazardous waste, emits gaseous, liquid and solid effluents. Toxic waste cannot be completely destroyed in a mass burn situation. Its output is toxic ash, liquids and fugitive emissions. It produces Hydrochloric Acid, requires large amounts of water, toxic chemical storage areas, and toxic ash impoundment areas (ash to be disposed of in land fills). The incinerators are operated and built by private industry, are run for profit and will burn materials from other states as well as New Jersey.

### Impact on Agriculture and Residents

The USDA and EPA have established that there will be an uptake by crops of Dioxin, Furans and Heavy Metals. Hydrochloric Acid emissions will damage crops. Acid rain will affect local nurseries. Farms and nurseries will require more fertilizer. There will be a contamination of irrigation ponds. Products from the area will be

labeled "hazardous" and can lead to a drying up of the market.

There will be health risks. Contamination can occur through food ingestion, the water, through inhalation, dural soil ingestion and direct contact. Highest at risk are children 2-6 years of age. Possible ailments include cancer, liver disease, kidney disease, birth defects, infertility, skin lesions, and heavy metal poisoning.

Local gardens will be affected, local produce, meat, milk, wells, fish from local streams, ponds and lakes and game from the hunting areas.

There will also be a decline in local property values, an increase in home maintenance costs and landscaping costs.

Horse owners will experience higher veterinarian costs, farmers higher fertilizer costs. The recreational areas will become contaminated and the high quality of life will be gone forever.

### Questions Raised at the Meeting

What is being done! Ground water testing is being conducted at the Millstone site. If the water table is less than one foot at the site it will be disqualified. Material is continually being compiled on the health and safety aspects of incineration to be presented to the State Hazardous Waste Siting Commission in February. There have been protests at the State Capital Building and Governor Kean's

home. There is a protest billboard near state buildings.

What studies have been done? To date MAATI has not received the results of any studies on the environmental effects of toxic incineration from the DEP.

What of other sites? An incinerator similar to the one proposed exists in Logan Township, New Jersey. This incinerator burns hundreds of tons of toxic waste from all over the United States each year. The same chemical responsible for the deaths in Bhopal, India was trucked to this site for burning in 1987. In 1976 a fire at this site killed two persons and spewed toxic fumes throughout the area.

Who is to blame? A moral issue was raised at the meeting. We, as consumers, are responsible for creating and maintaining the demand for products that generate toxic wastes in either their manufacturing or disposal. Action can be taken to curtail the trend towards toxic disposables. Consumer action can take place as well as legislative action, for example, passing bills to fine industry for failure to reclaim or substantially reduce toxic waste. We can support alternative technologies and investigate safer methods of disposal.

What can we do? We can write to Governor Kean, the siting commis-

sion, State Representatives, newspapers and let them know how we feel. Some addresses follow:

- Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Commission  
CN 0406  
Trenton, NJ 08625
- Governor Thomas Kean  
State of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor  
CN 001, Trenton, NJ 08625
- Republican National Committee  
310 1st Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003
- Hon. Christopher H. Smith (Congressman)  
655 Park Ave., Rt. 33  
Freehold, NJ 07728
- Hon. Thomas Gagliano (State Rep.)  
1090 Broadway  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764
- Hon. Clare M. Farragher (State Rep.)  
6 West Main Street  
Freehold NJ 07728
- Hon. John O. Bennett (Assemblyman)  
6 West Main Street  
Freehold, NJ 07728

## ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

Box 265, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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### Deadline

The *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* is published nine times a year, in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June. The deadline is the 10th of the month.

## In the News

### Maley Polls on Goats

In January, Jim Maley asked townspeople to sign a petition permitting him to continue to own goats under present Borough ordinances. Of the approximately 190 people whom he found at home, about 150 signed his petition, about 25 were undecided and 10-15 refused to sign.

### High School Project on Roosevelt

While strolling one afternoon, Peter Warren found himself being filmed and recorded by three young ladies engaged in a research project on Roosevelt for Middletown High School. The Friedmans and Nahmias', also strolling, were also interviewed,

after which the researchers visited the school and factory to complete their study.

### Mellon Semi-Finalist

Benjamin Rhodes List, son of Margaret Schlinski and graduate of Roosevelt Public School, is a semi-finalist for a Mellon Scholarship. Ben is majoring in Linguistics at Georgetown University and is named in Who's Who in American Universities.

### One Hundred Pounds of Dogs—Free!

When John Ord's Labrador bitch, Gipse, whelped 11 puppies, he put them—at the age of seven weeks—in his pick-up and took them down to the Post Office; five of them found homes. The Bulletin estimates that, fully grown, the five have a total weight of 100 pounds. You lucky pet owners—

don't forget to license them at seven months!

### Foundation Approves Grant

The Directors of the Herman Goldman Foundation, on December 10, 1987, approved a grant of \$5,000 to the Roosevelt Arts Project for the purpose of continuing the Foundation's support of the Project in the current year.

**Do you have a news item?** Have we missed one in the past? (impossible!) Send yours to us so we can tel all.

# BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

By Adeline Weiner

## What Price Borrowing?

At a special meeting of the Borough Council on Feb. 2 still another source for financing the sewer/water project was presented. Monmouth County Chosen Freeholder Ted Narozanick described how in 1986 the Monmouth County Improvement Authority was speedily created before passage of the new federal tax law and thus succeeded in amassing a \$135 million fund to assist Monmouth County municipalities and school districts. (Federal law now requires that interest from local investments be submitted to the federal government rather than be returned to local bodies.)

John Laezza, former State Director of Local Government, who now represents the County Improvement Authority, outlined the terms and procedures for borrowing. The loan would be for 20 years, at an interest rate beginning with 6%, a percentage fixed as the probable average rate for 1988, and considerably less than that of the open market. There is no penalty for early payback; the entire sum can be borrowed at once or taken in smaller chunks; and access to the loan is just about immediate. Application can be made now and withdrawn, if desired, before final commitment.

The interest rate charged is the same for all communities and is only 1% over the basic rate paid by the Improvement Authority itself, an amount needed to cover its day to day expenses. As Mr. Laezza himself expressed it, making the loan from the Improvement Authority means "taking a gamble" because the interest rate will necessarily vary from month to month. The current average for instance is 5.44%, ranging from 3.90% to 7.50%, with the 6% figure only a "crystal ball" prediction for the coming year. In answer to questions, the speaker indicated that there is a limit of 15% interest that could be charged but that the average variable rate for "short

term paper" is expected to be below 10% according to the figures for the last ten years.

## Fears: Phantom or Real?

In the course of discussion, Mark Bianchi expressed strong fears about the consequences of not meeting the DEP deadlines, i.e., having to pay huge financial penalties. Council members, the Borough engineer, Mr. Birdsall, and the County guests made the following points: The DEP has not held to its own schedule of response and they acknowledge the delays which this causes. Also, it has been established from the experience of many cases that only if a community fails utterly to take action to meet DEP requirements is there a likelihood of penalty. A genuine show of good faith by a community toward undertaking the ordered improvements is the definitive factor. Roosevelt is further ahead in this respect than other small towns and furthermore, there is every possibility that the Roosevelt project can be completed by the stated deadline.

## Ordinary Business

On Feb. 9, the regular meeting of the Borough Council conducted the following business:

Ordinance #128, designating the State Dept. of Community Affairs as the agency for building inspection, was passed and is now in effect. Administrative chair Carol Watchler announced that the budget will be introduced on Feb. 22nd. Ralph Seligman and Gail Hunton were appointed as official representative and alternate, respectively, to attend the State Planning Act hearings and to participate in those proceedings.

## Anticipating New Ordinance

Chair Jill Lipoti of the Public Safety Committee explained that the new animal control ordinance could not be introduced because the Borough attorney had not yet responded to the legal aspects. The ordinance apparently deals with the issue through

provisions for odor and manure management. In the public portion discussion grew heated for a few moments when some residents insisted that there were sufficiently explicit laws already on the books to regulate the matter. Others stated that being zoned residential and not agricultural means that keeping farm animals on a small 1/2 acre housing plot is in itself unlawful. Counter statements contained in part in a petition made the point that living in a rural area, surrounded by Wild Life Preserve and Green Acres should encourage residents to value the presence of animals, farm-type and domesticated. A further suggestion to test the problem in Municipal Court seemed to receive considerable support.

Ms. Lipoti reported that on complaining to the State Police regarding the delay in responding to last month's burglary on Pine Drive, they explained that on that icy day, there had been 15 accidents which took priority. Response time, they claim, is 5 to 8 minutes especially for reports of ongoing accidents. This was challenged by members of the public who said that police failed to react to several calls for help when, for example, on going acts of violence were taking place around the swimming pool.

## Volunteers Needed

New and more stringent speed limits have been posted on Rte 571, as announced by Ms. Lipoti, who also made a plea for more volunteer firefighters. In talking to the National Organization of Volunteer Fire-fighters, she was told that the shortage of volunteers was a nation-wide problem and that suburban townspeople do not fully perceive that fire-fighting is their direct responsibility and cannot be left to others, as is the case in larger cities. Andrew Hazell, president of the Roosevelt Fire Company, applauded the appeal for more volunteer help and, only half-jokingly, tried to enlist on the spot recruits from among councilmembers and visitors.



### Summer Program Likely

A letter from Margaret Schlinski asking the Council to decide on its sponsorship of the annual Summer Program was backed by a group of supporters in the audience and discussed by Councilmembers Seligman and Watchler. A decision concerning the required insurance rider was awaited and would constitute the deciding factor. Ms. Watchler emphasized that the Summer Program would have to be entirely self-supporting financially, inclusive of the insurance costs, since there was no room for extra expenses in the new budget. Given those conditions and on receipt of an OK on the rider, there appeared to be no obstacle to the request for Borough sponsorship.

Other actions taken at the meeting included:

- A motion to authorize a repetition of the Aerial Spray program for 1988.
- Reimbursement of \$300 to Senior Citizens for their holiday dinner and play.
- Designation of the Trentonian as an official paper for the Borough.
- Passage of a salary ordinance awarding \$799 again this year to our Zoning Officer.
- Recycling Coordinator Lou Esakoff announced that violators of recycling rules would no longer receive warning; they will, in the future, be fined directly.

### The Way We Were

Senior Citizens Tour Monmouth County Parks (reprinted from *Roosevelt Tabloid*, July 12, 1977)

Thirty of Roosevelt's senior citizens enjoyed a scenic tour June 30. The tour, provided by the Monmouth County Park Service, took the group along the shore, to the rose garden and art exhibit at Thompson Park, and to Turkey Swamp Park.

At Turkey Swamp, Ilse Riesenfeld entertained the group during their picnic with accordion music. "Everybody happily sang and danced along with it," she said. "The weather was beautiful, and we all had a good time."

## PLANNING BOARD NEWS

### Development Coming to Town?

By Bob Clark

At the planning board's February meeting chairman Alan Mallach announced that he had been notified by a representative for the option holder for a large tract of northern agricultural land that an important proposal for residential use would be made at the board's March meeting. The 135-acre parcel is set back a few hundred yards from Route 571 and borders on Oscar Drive.

Any large scale proposal for residential use would require a zoning change from agricultural to residential. The borough council would have to make such a change but could act on a recommendation from the planning board. The town's recently revised master plan calls for a continuation of agricultural use for the tract. The board decided to change its March meeting date from March 2 to Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00PM so that Mallach may be present during initial consideration of the proposal.

The board planned to hold a special meeting on February 24 to discuss fine tuning the zoning ordinance. Considered revisions would involve provisions dealing with home industries, location of driveways, parking of commercial vehicles and the like.

At future meetings the board will consider the impact of the recently-released draft plan of the state planning commission. The draft shows the borough's core areas as a town and has designated the fringe areas for "suburbanization." Meanwhile, the draft assigns surrounding areas of Millstone Township, which are currently undergoing development, to rural or "future suburbanization" categories. According to Mallach, the county planning board acts on behalf of municipalities in the county to negotiate modifications of the state plan before it becomes final or officially guides development.

Mallach reported that volunteer experts had reached a consensus concerning the best way to develop the 106-acre Notterman tract bordering North Valley Road and Eleanor Lane. The tentative concept would allow approximately 70 housing units comprised of two small clusters of townhouses and single and attached houses on half-acre lots on both sides of an extension of Farm Lane connecting with Eleanor Lane. This plan would leave 75 percent of the site in open space. It would preserve the stream corridor and woods surrounding Empty Box Brook, the view of field and woods from the cemetery and a buffer area behind the houses on North Valley Road and Eleanor Lane.

The board approved a minor subdivision creating two residential lots from one on the south side of Eleanor Lane near the sharp curve. Although each lot substantially exceeded the minimum 100,000 square foot minimum for the zone, a variance was granted from the minimum lot depth requirement. In addition, the board granted a variance from the requirement that the proposed residences be tied into the borough's water and sewer system, citing topography and the distance from the nearest lines.

Board member Marilyn Magnes, also a member of the borough council, said that the board should consider the affordability of housing that might be planned for future growth areas. She also suggested that the board look into regional contribution agreements allowing other municipalities to pay Roosevelt to accept some of their "Mt. Laurel" low and moderate income housing obligations.

After interviewing an alternative candidate, the board decided on a 3 to 2 vote (Barth, Friedman and Magnes for and Hunton and Mallach against) to retain John Bennett as the board attorney. Marilyn Magnes replaced Ralph Seligman as the council representative on the board. Board members voted to retain Mallach as chairman, Mel Friedman as vice-chairman and Deborah Metzger as secretary.

## Viewpoint: The Proposed School Budget

### I was The Only Outside Witness To The Unanimous Vote For The School Budget

By Albert Hepner

The Board of Education meeting, scheduled for 7:30 P.M., usually doesn't start before 7:45. The chair opens the meeting while the C.S.A. sets up the tape and microphones and the secretary overshadows the chair with some announcement of her own. This, the third budget workshop, on 1/28/88, does not begin differently from other meetings except that the Chief School Administrator (C.S.A.) doesn't even bother to put the tape on. Here we are—presented with a \$904,844 current expense budget and the C.S.A., the secretary and the Board could not drum up enough efficiency to have it legibly presented. It makes me wonder if we were to approve the Board request for \$1,089,096, (the new budget) would matters improve?

If the C.S.A. and the Board have their way, this is what we will approve: an increase in the local tax levy of \$209,524, from \$479,516 to \$689,040 (see "follow up" for change). To nearly all questions on items which seem excessive, replies lead to "these items are state mandated" and "our hands are tied!"

During most of the first meeting, Dr. Sussman proposed that the Board consider R.P.S. a receiving district for a K-3 handicapped class. This, he hypothesized, could optimally increase revenues by \$100,000. The reason for the proposal at this time was that the Board would have to include an additional \$20,000 for a new teacher, and funds for an aide for this handicapped class which would not be permitted to include more than 8 children. It seems to me that it is highly unlikely that we would have more than one child eligible for the class. Later in the evening, Ann DeCocco and Ed Grossman questioned the educational value of such a step. The proposal after all was strictly fiscal. The Board wisely decided that this

question needed to be looked into in greater depth.

I've mentioned this event, which ultimately did not alter the proposed budget, to impart what I felt was the prevailing mood and modus operandi of the meeting. First suggest an idea which has a deadline and therefore, no time for development; second, as in other situations, invoke the greater, less disputable power, of the state.

During the second meeting, a proposal for a hot lunch program, formulated by a joint committee of the Board and interested parents, had prompted Dr. Sussman to call the State to ensure that it meets state standards. The proposed increase in cost became a monumental proposal which the Board could not consider. Because of this, the C.S.A. speculated that the lunch room should be moved to the gym. This would give us a room for the library which he indicated the State says we cannot keep in the hall. I was unable to find out who, in the State, does not want our library under our beautiful mural.

The third workshop meeting brought a new element to the budget meeting. Ed Grossman, chairman of the education committee, asked the Board for permission to investigate the possibility of sending the 6th, 7th and 8th grades to East Windsor. Permission was granted to the committee to investigate the educational benefits. Mr. Grossman explained that now is the time when East Windsor has room and the larger district would offer more options and better opportunities for socializing. In any event, this is a search for ideas which commits the committee to no more than being better informed.

The Board explained the large increases as being state mandated and/or special education expenses. Marilyn Magnes said that salaries were not legislated. After some discussion, the Board decided to change the proposed increase for the C.S.A., from 6% to 2%, which means his current salary of \$46,600 is projected to \$47,532. The secretaries' salaries were also budgeted for a 2% increase instead of 6%. The custodian's suggested increase was changed from 4% to 2%. This evening, the Board managed to reduce the tax levy from \$704,981 to \$680,040.

There is genuine concern on the Board about the size of the budget. The perennial feeling on the board is that the senior citizens will resent the increase. There was concern expressed by members of the board about the size of the municipal budget and its impact on the school budget. In real terms, however, during the four public meetings, at no time was a cost saving proposal made by anyone. When asked, Dr. Sussman repeatedly invoked the State mandated expenses. Special education is the other culprit; its tuition and transportation. While reviewing the budget for this article, I noticed that the number of students (7) sent to special education programs in '87/'88 is the same anticipated for '88/'89. Then, why such a difference in costs? Perhaps, this is due to the private school placement of 3 additional students whose transportation alone is estimated at \$45,000. Special education is expected to increase from \$73,890 to \$130,072 or 76%. This represents about 55% of the total anticipated increase of \$184,512. Dr. Sussman said that the slightest discussion on the numbers or conditions of our special education students is inappropriate. Hence, silence.

Here are some more astonishing changes:—Teaching supplies—\$17,037 to \$19,000, actual expenditure '86/'87—\$13,645. School library and audio visual—\$4,000 to \$5,800, actual expenditure '86-'87 \$2,634. Contracted services for operation—\$3,710 to \$7,900, actual expenditure '86/'87—\$500. Heat—\$16,000 suggested appropriation for '87/'88, \$10,147 was spent in '86/'87 and the price of oil was on the way down. This has been revised to \$13,000. Maintenance—contracted services—\$20,000 to \$39,500: State mandated new carpeting. What a difficult time the school administrator must have experienced with the '86/'87 budget. A transfer of funds bonanza! Nine thousand dollars of \$32,600 was transferred. Similarly, in the 600 account, (Operations) 14.11% of the appropriated funds found their way into other accounts. I hope this budget reflects more accurately how the money will be spent. Operations contracted services, from \$3,710 to \$7,900—for gardening. Actual expenditure for '86/'87—\$305 for pest control. Did garbage, boiler cleaning and



other contracted services come from another line or did we not use them that year?

What would the state do if we did not follow every minutia of the regulations clearly designed for larger districts? As Margaret Katz commented at one of the meetings, there is leeway for small schools. 85 students seems pretty small to me! The budget hearing is scheduled for 3/16/88.

P.S. I did not mention any improved educational approaches, because none were mentioned.

### Follow Up

After the above article was on its way to the press, the Board discovered it had made a mistake. While Dr. Sussman and Mrs. J. Cavalusso, Board secretary were reviewing the budget with the County, they were reminded that the law does not permit cap waivers of more than 3% of the surplus. In our case, the Board would be limited to a cap waiver of \$3000 prox.; the budget had requested \$39,688. The Board had 3 choices: a) reduce the surplus to meet those expenses they claimed they needed in the first place. b) reduce certain line items and reach into the surplus for those items which would be absolutely necessary; c) reduce \$40,000 worth of line items.

They chose the last; to reduce the budget by \$40,000. If it becomes necessary, they said they can always reach into the surplus during the year. The following lines were reduced:

Line 59—Account 240—Teaching supplies—\$2,000

Line 49—Account 130—Admin. other expenses—\$1,000

Line 78—Account 640—Operation Utilities—\$1,000

Line 83—Account 720—Contracted Services carpets \$6,000

Line 90—Account 820b—Unemployment Compensation—\$2,000

Line 95—Account 870—Tuition Special Education—\$27,000

Line 103—Account 1020—Student Body Activities—\$1,000

Dr. Sussman said he would do some sharp buying. Board Chairman, John Burghardt, said that carpets could be purchased over several years if need be. Reduction of tuition for special education was explained as "there is always a chance that a family with a special education child might move."

# SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

By Mary Alfare

*Special Correspondent*

Six Roosevelt School Board seats are up for election on April 5: three three-year terms, two two-year terms, and one one-year term. Although not all of the candidates are certain which seat they will seek, they have agreed to brief interviews. Mr. Esakoff has not made a final decision to run.

Debbie Allen believes that "parental involvement is essential" to providing our children with a "good public education." During her four years as a Board member she has served on the Personnel, Education, Negotiation, and Policy Committees. She is seeking a two year term. As chairperson of the Policy Committee, she hopes to continue her work in updating the Policy Manual. One of her children attends R.P.S., another will follow in a few years.

Anne De Cocco emphasizes that the School Board must have an "educational focus," with "decision making based on educational priorities." She plans to work for a "responsible budget which encourages innovation and creativity." Ann seeks a three-year term. She served as chairperson of the Board's Library Committee before her appointment last July to fill an unexpired Board term. One of her children attends R.P.S.; another will follow in a few years.

Louis Esakoff has given "very serious consideration to running for the School Board." He believes "The School Board must take back control of the school system." He has served on the Board for eight years in the past and seeks a two year term.

Ed Goetzman believes in "the best possible education for our children, motherhood, and the healthiest possible apple pie." He joined the School Board last July, filling an unexpired term. He brings considerable administrative experience to his bid for a three-year term.

Margaret Katz sees her role on the School Board as promoting the "best

educational programs possible for all our children while maintaining budgetary responsibility to the community." A Board member for six years, Margaret is seeking a one-year term. She has been the Board's liaison to West Windsor School District for many years and is serving a second term on the Monmouth County Executive Committee of the New Jersey School Board Association. Her three children are graduates of R.P.S.

David Keller is interested in fostering "community input to the Board concerning educational goals and related programs." During his three and one-half years on the Board he has served on a number of committees including the School Lunch Committee. David works for the Dodge Foundation supervising the "Poetry in the Schools Program." He seeks a two-year term.

Margaret Schlinski firmly believes that "Roosevelt Public School holds the potential for excellence" and in "utilizing community services and expertise to enrich our educational process." She seeks a two-year term. Her continuing involvement demonstrates her interest: 5 years directing the summer camp theater program, Youth Group advisor, membership on the Board's School Lunch and Library Committees, and regular attendance at School Board Meetings. Margaret has one child in our school; two others are R.P.S. graduates.

Steve Yeger wants to "promote teamwork between the Roosevelt Public School Administration and the public" and to "regain public confidence in the school." He will run for a three-year term. As a Board member he'd like to do research on schools with similar problems" in an effort to find solutions to our problems. Steve has two children in R.P.S.

## Roosevelt PTA

The Roosevelt P.T.A. Executive Board endorses the 1988-1989 school budget. Vote—yes—on April 5th.

# Letters

Dear Editor:

As public discussion of the school budget intensifies, I thought it would be useful to provide some facts and the perspective of one Board of Education member. The new budget shows an increase of about \$144,000 over last year's figure. The tax levy will increase by \$170,000, due to the decrease in state aid. This is no small increase, as members of the board realize. Most of this increase is unavoidable and comes from state-mandated programs:

The tuition we pay to various schools for Roosevelt students will increase by approximately \$40,000. Along with this, we anticipate and increase in transportation costs of \$49,000. Although most of this transportation will be reimbursed by the state in future years, we have to raise this money now.

As you may have heard, state inspectors found our school to be substandard in various areas. Building maintenance costs will increase by about \$20,000 to correct only the most immediate deficiencies.

Teacher salaries will increase by a total of approximately \$22,000.

The only expenses anticipated for new programs are \$10,000 to cover the cost of a part-time librarian, and \$2000-\$3000 to change our lunch program.

None of these items is frivolous or unnecessary. In facing a change of this magnitude, the Board of Education has allocated money for only a 2% increase in all other salaries and has made cuts in some expenditures.

It is true that these increases are a hardship on all of us, and particularly on residents living on fixed incomes. The Board is exploring all available alternatives, including regionalization, which might keep future costs from rising quite so rapidly. One can argue that the school costs are one of the prices we all pay for living in a small town, if we value the advantages of rural life. The real "bottom line" is that it is up to the town, including the Borough Council and the Planning

Board as well as the Board of Education, to plan for our future in such a way that will best help defray the increases in school costs that are inevitable, given the state's increasing control of schools.

In the meantime, to vote down the school budget merely on the grounds that "we can't afford it," only increases our local taxes to pay legal fees, etc. and offers no real solutions. We have a school to be proud of, judging by the children it produces, and we have to be prepared to support it. One of the advantages of a small town is that each of us can have a greater effect on the decisions that govern our lives. Several residents have already attended the meetings at which the school budget was being prepared, and I would encourage everyone to attend the public hearing on the budget, which takes place Wednesday, March 16.

Sincerely,  
David Keller

We wish to thank all our friends and neighbors who showed their care and concern.

The Francis Family

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all letters it receives.  
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## Nursery School News

### Enrollment On The Rise

By Alison Edwards Petrilla

The Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School didn't have to wait for spring—our "growing season" started in January! Since then, four new children have joined the ranks, bringing our total enrollment to 14. We're getting there!

Our list of thank you's is also growing, and we'd like to start off with an enormous cheer for Howard and Louise Prezant (YAY!), who have put in long hours with our hard-working finance chairman Dianna Moore to set up our books, get our tax situation straightened out, and wade through the (12 page!) tax exemption form. THANK YOU!

We'd also like to express our sincere gratitude to Leon and Frieda Anish for their contribution and their generous donation of a beautiful set of wooden blocks. The kids love 'em! And still more thanks go to Bernarda Shahn and Bernie and Florence Leefer for their contributions to our capital campaign. And finally, thanks (again) to our volunteer classroom aide, Honey Sochowitzky, for help "above and beyond..."

On the curriculum front, teacher Karyn Grunwald reports that this quarter's school activities will be structured around "Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?" (to quote "Sesame Street"). The nursery schoolers will visit working Roosevelt artists and artisans as well as play host to a number of local musicians who will visit the school and "do their thing." They also hope to visit the Roosevelt Deli, the Post Office, and the First Aiders and Fire Department. The youngsters have already completed their "family books" and presented them to Moms and Dads on Open School night, February 4.

That's it for now. Our committee heads are, as usual, hard at work planning fundraising events—September and the new insurance bill are looming on the horizon—, so please keep an eye out for announcements about our upcoming functions.

# THE ARTS IN ROOSEVELT

## —Arts Project—

### String Band Performs to Full House

Once again the Roosevelt String Band showed its popularity with local folks, for, like last year, it played to a full house on Saturday evening, February 6. Actually, House-Bursting-At-The Seams, is more like it, indicating again how badly this town needs a) an arts center with adequate seating for events or b) an expansion of the existing Municipal Building. Which is to say, to paraphrase a recently popular song: we need money, that's what we need!

The band, which consisted of Paul Prestopino, Ed. Cedar, Terrell Spence, Joshua Brahinsky, and David Brahinsky, presented an evening of American folk music, opening with a reading by Roosevelt Poet David Herstrom of a Woody Guthrie speech and continuing with songs of Mr. Guthrie as well as many well known and not so well known writers and performers over the last 40 years.

### Upcoming Events

Next month, on March 12, the Arts Project will present an evening of poetry featuring the Roosevelt Poets. This will be followed in April with an evening of Chamber music and in May with an exhibition of prints by Roosevelt artists.

The Arts Project is looking for ideas for future programs. If you have one and are interested in participating in the group, contact any member. The officers at this time are Jacob Landau, Alan Mallach and David Brahinsky.

## —Music—

### Altman Opera Produced

Vanuk, Vanuk, a one-act opera by Laurie Altman, was presented at Hightstown High School on February 9 by the Princeton singing group, Voices. The title is from a children's book by Guido Sperandio. The opera won the Mason Gross Fellowship Award in 1979. The performance is expected to be available on video tape.

## —Theater—

### Selden Plays Off Broadway

The American Theatre of Actors gave four performances (with Lee as Stage Manager), of three one-act plays written by Neil Selden with the late McCrea Imbrie (formerly of Roosevelt) as co-author. Neil is also working on a musical comedy for fall production.



Drawing by Stefan Martin

## Senior News

by Helga Wisowaty

Jeannette Koffler presided over the meeting of February 2, 1988, which was concerned with a few trips and the forming of a committee to nominate members to serve as officers this year. Jeanette, Lilly, Aglore, Thelma, Faye, and Gus are on the committee.

The trip to Convention Hall in Asbury Park was changed to March 30 between 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. A box lunch is available—charge if \$1.00. Anyone wanting to go can make arrangements for transportation. We will go to the Eatontown Mall and to an Art Show sometime in March.

On January 25 our President, Esther Pogrebin, was given a luncheon at the Manor. She is now living in New York. Mayor Barth, Phyllis Backover and Edith Edelson joined us. Phyllis has helped us to receive privileges available to us from the county. Edith Edelson writes for *Senior Power*—the paper put out by the New Jersey Federation of Senior Citizens. The Federation has accomplished much to benefit Seniors for many years. We appreciate Mayor Barth's taking time out from a busy day to join us. Esther has helped us to become a good, solid club through her work and her kindness to everyone. She was presented a corsage and a beautiful plaque. She was very happy that so many turned out to honor her.

Thanks for a job well done, Esther. We'll miss you.

### Little League Starts New Season

The Millstone-Roosevelt Little League baseball and softball program begins April 30.

Sign-up dates are March 5th and 19th, 10 AM - 1 PM at the Millstone School. Try-outs will take place at the Millstone School on March 26th.

Registration costs \$25.00 for the first child, \$15.00 for additional children. In addition, there is a \$20.00 work bond, refundable at the end of the season, providing you contribute your time.



## Citizens' Group Meeting March 20

By Peter Warren

When, a number of people have asked, will the Citizens' Group hold a public meeting? We have set the date of Sunday, March 20th 3pm, meeting at the Synagogue (tentative). Refreshments will be served.

Working together on projects that interest you and utilize your particular abilities, we can make visible and satisfying improvements in the Community. For example, some ideas that have been informally proposed are the following: helping the Planning Board with its impact study and the school with its five-year plan, codification of the Borough ordinances, improving the Roosevelt Memorial, picking up litter along Route 571 before poison ivy appears, helping with the Fire Company and with recycling. You may have other ideas to suggest.

Come if you can; if you can't come yourself, ask a friend to come and present your ideas. The resulting program of projects will be announced on the bulletin board, and started without delay.

## One Who Didn't Go To Florida

By Hortense Socholitsky

Esther Pogrebin has left Roosevelt for New York City, and has left an emptiness in the hearts of a large number of Rooseveltians.

In the more than forty years that she lived here, Esther demonstrated her devotion to the town in many ways. She served on the Borough Council for several terms. She was an active member of many organizations. She served as PTA president, and many current Roosevelt adults remember her well as their first teacher—in the then Cooperative Nursery School. She sang in the choral group, and took part in local theatre presentations.

As she grew older, her interests moved toward working with and representing the needs of senior citizens. She was a member of the original group that planned the senior village, and until she moved was a member of its Board of Trustees. She helped to found the Senior Citizens Club, and as its president, brought many county services to its members.

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### BABY SITTER NEEDED

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## Dear Friends and Neighbors

In town and out of town, your thoughtfulness and get well greetings were very much appreciated during my recent illness. It was so comforting to be remembered!

I thank you all and send all good wishes for happiness and good health now and always.

Clara Levinson

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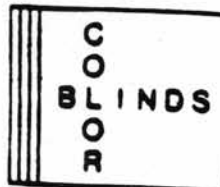
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