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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XIII NO. 6

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 1991

XIV

Sewer Rehab Started Temporary Financing to Come from Local Bank

by Adeline Weiner

While permanent financing of the borough's sewer rehabilitation project awaits a decision from the Farmers' Home Administration, the Council voted to withdraw its application for a temporary loan from the Monmouth County Improvement Authority. Because of a shift in the source of MCIA funds to a Swiss bank, the borough would have had to make a "principal paydown" of \$92,000 at the end of the first year. The borough attorney's recommendation to borrow from a local bank doing business with the borough was adopted with little disagreement. The initial amount will be \$500,000 at an interest rate likely to be around 6 1/4 percent, according to experience with other such loans.

Editor's Note:

As the *Bulletin* went to press, we learned that Councilman Kirk Rothfuss had resigned his office, citing time commitments that made it possible for him to continue.

His resignation letter appears on page 17.

Work Under Way

The committee report that received major attention from the public was Utility Committee Chair Lee Allen's. He described the current activity of the two inspecting engineering firms that had been hired to replace T&M Engineers authors of the DEP-accepted rehab program for the borough. They are DeMuro Associates, who is our regular borough engineer as well, to oversee the sewerline work and Ap-
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Sewer System Rehabilitation: A Status Report

by Lee Allen

This is the first in a series of reports to update the residents on the decisions being made and the problems being addressed by the Mayor and Council as we proceed with the sewer system rehabilitation.

Our concerns include maintaining cost controls and getting the most for every dollar spent. We are also concerned that, when we have completed this expensive project, it will not only satisfy the DEP requirements, but will also serve the anticipated needs of this community.

Our new Borough Engineer, Jim DeMuro, comes to us highly recommended by our own Mayor on the basis of his previous service here. His accomplishments include street and road design, storm and sanitary sewer design, site planning and design, tax map maintenance, water systems, and feasibility studies. He has served in municipal capacities for Bound Brook, Middlesex, Millstone (Somerset County), and Raritan Boroughs. He has also served the likes of McDonalds Corp., E.R. Squibb & Son, Mennen Company, and Carter Wallace. He performed commendably during the 1970's and early 1980's as the resident engineer

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Remember the First Aid Squad Pancake Breakfast, March 3

Borough Hall, 9 AM-1 PM

The *Borough Bulletin* is
mailed free of charge to
Roosevelt residents.
Out-of-town subscriptions
are \$5.00 per year.

55th Anniversary Celebration

Dear Neighbors:

Plans have been finalized for the 55th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of Roosevelt, New Jersey (formerly Jersey Homesteads). Two days of activities have been planned for Memorial Day weekend, May 25, and May 26, 1991.

An ongoing registration will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Borough Hall for former residents. Many will tour the town to see their original homes and changes that have taken place in town since they left. There will be a display of memorabilia including films and tapes at the school. Saturday's program also includes dinner and entertainment at the school starting at 7 p.m.

Sunday's activities will be brunch at the school from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those who missed the displays and film will have an opportunity to view them during the afternoon.

The prepaid registration for both Saturday evening and/or brunch on

Sunday must be returned no later than April 15, 1991. Tickets can be picked up at the borough hall on Saturday or at the school on Sunday.

If you have any questions call Helen Barth (448-1870), Dolores Chasan (448-2062), or Jeanette Koffler (448-2259).

To make your reservation, please send your check to Irving Bach, 846 Fox Meadow Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. Dinner reservations are \$15.00 per person and brunch reservations are \$6.50 per person. Checks should be made payable to Irving Bach. Please mail your reservations no later than April 15, 1991. Thank you.

Join The Fun

If you would like to join in the fun of preparing for the celebration of Roosevelt's 55th birthday, find out about our next meeting date. Call Helen Barth (448-1870), Dolores Chasan (448-2062), or Jeanette Koffler (448-2259).

If You Want to Run for School Board

by Bess Tremper

A number of seats on our local school board will become available in the election to take place on April 30, 1991. Anyone wishing to file a nominating petition for board membership must do so on or before the *54th day preceding the election*.

An application therefore, should be obtained from the Board Secretary's office in the school as soon as possible as the Election Board has decreed that the final date for filing will be 4:00 p.m. on March 7th. Bear in mind that time will be needed to secure the

necessary ten endorsers to nominate a candidate as well as to have the nominating petition notarized so that the candidate's name will be printed on the official ballot. Both candidate and endorsers must be registered voters who have lived in Roosevelt for at least a year preceding the date of the election.

The elections will fill three seats for full three-year terms, one unexpired seat for two years and one unexpired seat for one year.

New Roosevelt Phone Books Available

by Margaret Schlinski

Get the easier-to-read January 1991 edition of your Roosevelt Phone Book. This is the third edition since 1986, with over 100 changes since the 1988 edition. The price is still five dollars. All proceeds over the printing cost will be donated to the Roosevelt Community Summer Camp, Inc.

RCSC, Inc is a nonprofit five week, five days a week camp for Roosevelt children ages three to thirteen.

We will be stopping by your home on evenings and weekends so you can purchase this important book.

I always carry copies with me. For information, please call me at 443-5180. We will deliver a copy to you if you miss us on our door-to-door sales.

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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The deadline is the 15th of the month, except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

Please send all articles and letters in **clean typescript** (typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or as files on IBM-compatible 5¼" or 3½" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from most word processors.

Planning Board Sets Two March Meetings

Master Plan Amendment Hearing Scheduled

Rutgers Project to be Presented

by Susan Oxford

The Planning Board met on February 13 and took two steps toward the realization of the proposed limited development/farmland preservation plan for Roosevelt's northern agricultural acres. This plan is currently under discussion between the Borough Council, the Planning Board and the non-profit Trust for Public Land ("TPL"). First, the Board voted to authorize establishment of an ad hoc fundraising committee, chaired by former Council President and former Planning Board member Marilyn Magnes. This committee will have the job of raising the initial funds needed for the various planning studies that will

form the foundation of any limited development/preservation proposal for the northern agricultural acres. The Board also voted to hold a public hearing in March on proposed amendments to Roosevelt's Master Plan that would make the Master Plan consistent with the TPL proposal. (The proposal appears in this issue.)

Fundraising Committee Organized

Marilyn Magnes presented the Board with her ideas for engaging a small but broad-based group of Rooseveltians to help raise the \$60,000 needed for the various plan-

ning studies identified by Alan Mallach as a prerequisite for moving ahead with the TPL proposal. (Mr. Mallach outlined the necessary studies in a document prepared last fall and presented to the Planning Board prior to his resignation from the Board in October.)

Judy Trachtenberg was also present to share some of her fundraising expertise with the Board. She explained several different aspects that fundraising might entail, and agreed to act as an adviser to the fundraising committee when it got underway. Ms. Magnes indicated that once she has pulled

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Proposed Master Plan Amendment

In December of 1990, the Roosevelt Borough Council adopted Resolution #53/90, by which it stated that it "recognizes that a substantial planning effort is required in order to establish the basis for future development that best balances the goals of development with open space and farmland preservation, while maintaining the distinctive character of the community and to the extent possible improving its fiscal position" and that it "endorses the goal of developing a plan for limited development and open space preservation with respect to the remaining privately owned farmlands and undeveloped lands in the Borough, such plan to seek to balance development and open space in a manner best consistent with the environmental, landscape, social and economic character of the community."

This resolution was adopted for the purpose of requesting the support of the Trust for Public Land for support in the development and implementation of a plan for limited development and open space preservation. The Trust for Public Land requires such a resolution as a clear statement of community support for its efforts, which is a precondition for its assistance to the Borough.

The area that is to be the subject of this plan is the agricultural land in the northern part of the Borough, most of which is zoned R/Ag-400 and a portion of which is zoned I-80. With regard to the I-80 land, the current Master Plan, as set forth in the Master Plan Reexamination Report dated October 1987, leaves open the possibility that a feasibility study will conclude that "it is unrealistic to expect that any nonresidential facility of reasonable quality can be attracted to the community" and that the zoning ought, in that case, to be changed to R/Ag-400.

With regard to agricultural land use, however, the current Master Plan categorically states that "there is no reason to recommend any changes in zoning designation with respect to the agricultural area north of Oscar Drive," and that "there appears to be no compelling reason why the Borough should plan to accommodate more development, with respect to the immediate future, than can be provided through the development of the Notterman Tract."

These conclusions, set forth in the Master Plan under "Agricultural Land Use," are clearly in conflict with Resolution #53/90. The involvement of the

Trust for Public Land in helping to guide the future development of the Borough is predicated on the ability of the Trust to be sure that, once it succeeds in acquiring control of properties in the northern area of the Borough, it will be able to sell some of the land to developers in order to recover its investment and its costs. The current Master Plan would not allow this to be done. It must therefore be amended to be consistent with Resolution #53/90 in order that the goals of the community may be unequivocally stated.

It is therefore proposed that the text of the section of the Master Plan Reexamination Report entitled "Agricultural Land Use" be deleted and that the following be substituted:

Fifty-six percent of the land area of the Borough of Roosevelt is in privately-owned agricultural or open space lands. These lands, in particular the agricultural lands along North Rochdale Avenue and Nurko Road, represent a vitally important element in establishing and maintaining the visual, economic, social and environmental character of the community. Limited residential development, on lots substantially smaller than the 10-acre min-

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School Renovation Plans Proceed

By Bob Clark

At its March 6 meeting (beginning at 7:00 P.M.), the Roosevelt School Board will hear presentations from two architectural firms. At its March 12 meeting (beginning at 7:30 P.M.), the Board will select one of the firms to prepare a plan to meet renovation and expansion needs of the Roosevelt Public School (RPS). The two firms were among eight screened by the Board's Finance and Operations Committee and Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman. The Committee members —John Ord, Chair, Jan Plumb and Harry Parker—each devoted at least seven days to the screening process, prompting Board member Edward Goetzmann to commend the committee for its "outstanding efforts."

The full scope of the work and estimated costs would be determined before the Board decides how to finance the project. State grants might be available under pending legislation. The project could also be presented to the public for approval by referendum as capital improvements. Finally, Dr. Goetzmann suggested that the Board consider a lease-purchase arrangement that would not require a referendum.

The project would allow the Board to comply with state mandates, offer new programs to the community, preserve and improve the RPS building and deal with anticipated district enrollment increases. The Board must bring the RPS health suite and library up to state space and facility standards. The Board may also decide to deal with increasing enrollments by splitting the combined 3-4 and 5-6 classes. This would require two additional classrooms from either new construction or use of the space currently occupied by the library and specialty areas—resource room, basic skills and speech. If their space were occupied by classrooms, different library and specialty area locations would have to be developed. The Board must also address its antiquated heating system and added costs associated with allied asbestos removal.

CSA Groveman listed several other things the Board may also wish to include in the project, requiring "many

decisions ... over the next few months":

1. A prekindergarten program
2. A cafeteria (room that serves as a lunch room and multipurpose room), perhaps with a kitchen area.
3. Special areas for art and music.
4. Storage space.
5. Centralized offices.
6. Building improvements, such as replacement of gymnasium windows, roof work and the upgrading of classroom lighting.

The District is planning for a possible After-school Child Care Program for 1991-92. Mr. Groveman reported that such a program would not interfere with present after-school activities and would include tutorial activities and play. He said the program would be supported by tuition, but the District might incur some expenses connected with supplies and facility operation. Mr. Groveman estimated that the program would have to enroll 18 to 20 children in order to break even. Board member Robert Petrilla said he would like to see the costs broken out so that the Board could ensure that taxpayers would not have to support the program.

Mr. Groveman reported that five parents had volunteered to help the District conduct a definitive determination of the need for child care in Roosevelt. The volunteers are Joan Grossman, Dianna Moore, Lauralynne Cokeley, Deborah Toto and Paula Haemmerle. Mr. Groveman said a survey form has been developed, and volunteers will go house-to-house to gather the information. He added that the group planned to summarize the information by March 11.

The annual school district election will be held on April 30 from 2:30 to 9:00 P.M. at RPS. Governor Jim Florio signed a bill on February 6 postponing this year's local school board elections from the original April 2 date. The delay was necessitated by legislative efforts to overhaul the Quality of Education Act (QEA) of 1990. The delay will also encourage greater voter participation, because the new date will not be near the beginning of Passover—March 30—and Easter Sun-

day—March 31, a time when many families are vacationing.

Dr. Goetzmann noted that some districts will plan displays of student science and art projects on April 30 as a means of encouraging the parents of students to come to the school polling places on election day. He added that parents with students in a district's schools tend to vote in favor of its budget more often than members of the public without children in school. Mr. Groveman indicated that as CSA he wished to maintain a posture of political neutrality and would schedule activities accordingly.

As a result of the law delaying the election date, school boards will have until March 28 to prepare their tentative budgets for the 1991-92 school year and submit them to county education officials. The Roosevelt Board has scheduled a special meeting on March 27 at 7:30 P.M. to accomplish this. State aid figures for school districts, originally promised for December 15, were not expected until March 15 as the *Bulletin* went to press. The new schedule also calls for school board candidates to file their nominating petitions by 4:00 P.M. on March 7. The original deadline was February 7. People must register to vote by April 1.

The tentative list of election officials includes:

Mildred Di Giorgio—Chairman and Judge of Election

Geraldine Millar —Secretary and Inspector

Diana Klein—Worker

Paul Eichler—Worker

Rose Murphy—Worker Alternate

Board President Edward Grossman said the Board remembered with appreciation the service by the late David Bulkin as an official during many previous School Board elections.

A public hearing on the published 1991-92 budget is scheduled to be held at 7:00 P.M. on April 16 in RPS. The Board's regular meeting for April will follow the public hearing on the budget. The April agenda meeting will take place at 7:30 P.M. on April 10. On May 15 at 7:30, the Board will hold its post-election reorganization and business meeting.

Prior to a closed personnel session at the Board's February 6 meeting, several teachers and parents expressed support for fifth-sixth grade teacher Alfred Luckenbach. After the closed portion, the Board passed a resolution stating: "Based on the unfortunate and awkward situation that the school community found itself in with regard to an incident in which Mr. Luckenbach's conduct was questioned, the Board directs its school administrator to offer support and guidance to its school community. Pursuant to this particular incident, the Board considers this matter closed." CSA Groveman stated at the Board's February 12 meeting that a State Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) inquiry had concluded without any action being taken. He and Board members indicated that nothing existed that should concern parents.

The Board approved a newly revised Language Arts Curriculum. Mr. Groveman expressed satisfaction with the project, which began last summer and had significant teacher participation.

Mr. Groveman said he was pleased to report that 25 students in grades 3-6 earned honor roll for the second marking period. They are:

Grade 6: Kristen Yarber, Meira Yeger, Jessie Hermann, Jessica Hague, Dawn DiGiorgio.

Grade 5: Sarah Henry, Holly Connaughton.

Grade 4: Christopher DeCocco, Zoe Czyzewski, Shoshanna Grunwald, Aaron Grossman, Dawn Miller, Jessica Hamilton, Kathleen Alfare, Julia Prusik.

Grade 3: Alison Henry, Dylana Posiel, Cassie Hatzfeld, Michael Hague, Kate Freedman, Elizabeth Carroll, Jeremiah Barkley, Colleen Dugan, Crystal DiGiorgio, Jesse Warner.

Mr. Groveman reported that Kristen Yarber would be the RPS representative for Monmouth County's Student Achievers of the Year. Two other sixth graders—Meira Yeger and Michael Cedar—were finalists.

The Board expressed appreciation for the recent production of "Our Town" by the Roosevelt Community Players. The play was produced by

Board member Margaret Schlinski and staged at RPS. The Board noted in the minutes of its February 6 meeting that the production on January 25 and 26 "brought many members of the community into the school who might not otherwise visit. This type of community involvement with the school is very positive and is encouraged by the Board. Mrs. Schlinski is to be commended for the success of her efforts."

Joanne Cohen thanked Mr. Groveman at the Board's February 6 meeting for his support of the Child Study Team. She told the Board that his knowledge was very helpful to Social Worker Fran Gerber and herself.

Safety Committee Makes Improvements at RPS

by Mike Hamilton

The school board's Ad-Hoc Safety Committee has made several improvements to note around the school grounds. School Board members Harry Parker and John Ord removed a tree on School Lane to facilitate the traffic patterns during pick up and drop off times. Councilman Stuart Kaufman and Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman moved the dumpster to a less hazardous and more aesthetically pleasing location across from the school. The school board's Safety Committee has met twice over the last few months with the Borough Council's Safety Committee. The meetings have been very productive, and many other improvements are on the agenda in the months ahead. The School Board's Ad-Hoc Safety Committee consists of Board members Robert Petrilla, Margaret Schlinski, John Ord and Mike Hamilton. The School Board welcomes community input concerning any safety concerns that you may have or any suggestions for improvements.

RPS Hosts Visiting Students

Two groups of students from two different school districts visited the Roosevelt School in February. A group of five specially selected fifth and sixth graders from Upper Freehold Township Elementary School's Project Adventure/Discovery Group came to study the mural and learn about the history of Roosevelt. They had been to the Jewish Museum in Philadelphia and their visit to Roosevelt completed their study of Jewish immigrants. Led by Adele Bourne, their instructor, the students learned about our town's history by viewing the mural and visiting the memorial.

Bernarda Shahn addressed twenty-four honors students from Spotswood High School and explained the history of Roosevelt through the mural. The students then visited the memorial, returned to the school for lunch and to view "Visions of Utopia." They later broke up into smaller groups to interview Gus Chasan, Sara and Irving Goldberg, and Fay and Leo Libove who graciously received them in their homes.

Visiting our school, learning about the mural from Bernarda Shahn, and taking an oral history from Gus Chasan, the Goldbergs, and the Liboves made the students' study of the New Deal a real-life experience. Bill Marshall, their teacher, said, "They really did learn a lot, and for me it was a teacher's dream activity."

—From an RPS press release

RPS Musical Groups to Perform

On March 13th the Roosevelt Public School senior chorus will present the musical "Tall Tales and Heroes." There will be two performances to allow for dual roles. Performance times are 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The RPS instrumental and recorder students will also be performing at both these sessions.

All members of the community are invited to either the day performance or evening performance.

—From an RPS press release

Nursery School News

by Joan Grossman

This month, with its richness of holidays, provided a good backdrop for the students to study the letters H, V, Z, and D. They made hippos, and funny hats on a special Hat Day. Valentine projects, parties and card exchanges highlighted that holiday. And making Abe Lincoln's log cabin and George Washington's cherry tree enabled the students to better understand a facet of these men's lives as they observed Presidents' Days.

By month's end, a special Sesame Street Day, complete with projects on the famous television characters, will have taken place. And the activities of Dinosaur Week and Dental Health Week will soon give way to the children's greeting of Spring as March approaches.

Recruitment for next school year is continuing. RCNS enrollment is open to children 2 1/2 to 5 years of age; potty training is not required. The 1991-92 school year will offer morning sessions from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and afternoon sessions from noon to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Roosevelt residents and children of people employed in the borough are given preference, but enrollment is open to residents of neighboring communities as well. For information, contact Donna Ventola, head teacher, at 426-9523.

This month, thank you's are extended to Deborah Metzger, a long-time supporter of RCNS, for her surprise appearance with David Brahinsky at our annual "Concert for Young Children" January 27. David's performance, as always, left the audience wishing for more and we look forward to his return next year.

A couple of important corrections to a press release which appeared in last month's **Bulletin** acknowledging a much-appreciated year-end grant of \$4,000 from MIRA.

Because we have always taken in less than our actual operating costs, due to a number of factors (among them the size of the facility and the number of children we are allowed to serve according to state regulations, as well as our commitment to keep tuition costs in line with those in programs operated in surrounding communities), fundraising has been essential in order for us to meet our

basic operating expenses. These include the monthly fee we pay to Congregation Anshei Roosevelt to offset the costs incurred as a result of our use of the space, staff salaries and taxes, phone, supplies and equipment, and our annual insurance bill.

We had already taken many austerity measures to keep the program afloat financially and the MIRA grant helped us to offset a large deficit in our operating budget this school year, which is what prompted us to seek it.

We took a small percentage of the funds, less than \$100, to treat students to a children's play at Mercer County Community College's Kelsey Theatre. Usually, we take free trips or parents are asked to ante up the admission charge and provide the transportation, when required. In the case of the Kelsey Theatre trip, parent and Management Team member Dianna Moore, who is a professional bus driver, has donated her driving skills, and her boss has donated the use of the school bus, to make this trip truly special for our students. And we continue to operate the school as a management team, not a board of directors. At a very grassroots level, we are a group of parents and community members who are required to make policy as well as get into the trenches. We deal with state and federal government offices and we also clean toilets, mow lawns and take out the garbage. As always, we invite new recruits.

For more information, contact any management team member. We are charter members Dianna Moore, Alison Petrilla, and Joan Grossman, and Lauralynne Cokley, Jill Lipoti and Brad Garton, who joined our team last school year.

Activities of the Roosevelt Community Nursery School are made possible, in part, by a grant from MIRA. We also thank, as always, Congregation Anshei Roosevelt and Roosevelt Printing. This month, special thanks to Bette and Steve Koffler and to Carlo and Mary Alfare for their donations of toys to RCNS.

Special thanks, too, to all those past and present who have offered us not only financial but moral support, and in-kind donations of materials and equipment as well as time, energy and expertise.

Youth Basketball at RPS

by Mike Hamilton

Youth in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to develop and polish their basketball skills on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at RPS. This program was originated by community youth and organized by board member Mike Hamilton. Mike, Harry Parker and other volunteers will provide supervision during the games which are scheduled to begin on February 19th.

Students are invited to practice in a non-game atmosphere during the first and last half hours of the evening. Choose-up games will begin at 7:00. Baskets will be available for shooting practice throughout the evening.

Volunteers are still needed for supervision. Please call Mike Hamilton at 443-5227 if you're interested.

Better Beginnings Accepting Applications

Better Beginnings Child Care Center is now accepting applications for its Summer Program, ages six to eleven. The program will begin June 24, through August 23, 1991.

This program is open to all regardless of income, and fees are based on income and family size. Discounts are given to families with more than one child enrolled.

The full day of supervised activities includes, use of Computers, Science Discovery, Performing Arts, Cooking, self-help skills, meals and field trips.

The theme this year is "World Cruise" with stops in countries of origin where campers will enjoy arts and crafts, folk stories, folk songs, and folk dances.

To apply call (609) 448-6226.

—From a press release.

**Support the
Bulletin**

Parks Commission Needs Volunteers

by Gayle Donnelly

The Parks Commission is in need of volunteers to help trim trees and clean up the area around Tamara Drive at Elm Court and the end of Pine Drive. Our efforts will help raise funds to plant trees in the triangles. We will meet at the Pine and Tamara triangle at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, March 17. Please bring a tool. If you come, a party to kick off St. Patrick's Day will follow.

On Saturday, March 23, at 10:00 a.m., we need volunteers to plant

trees. We will be planting approximately 20 cherry trees in the Homestead/N. Valley triangle. Please meet at the triangle and bring a shovel. Question...call Gayle Donnelly at 426-1315.

Also, mark your calendars for an Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration in the weekend of April 27. More details to follow.

Recycling News

by David Donnelly

Gale force winds blew through Roosevelt on January 31, soon after our garbage and recyclables were picked up. The result was widespread scattering of empty containers. We found our buckets in the vicinity of what seemed like Ocean County. I trust you've all recovered from the big winds.

The Borough's 4th quarter tonnage reports have been completed, showing average recycled amounts of 15 pounds per person per month. This is a bit shy of the 18.5 lbs. that state authorities have mandated for Roosevelt. Although we are not in imminent danger of being fined or reprimanded, this situation must be addressed as soon as possible.

In the coming months we plan to augment our current recycling program to include the following materials: magazines, junk mail, color newspaper inserts, cardboard and cardboard packaging. Initially compliance will be voluntary, but get used to it. The message from the state is clear: a mandatory recycling rate of 60% by 1995. Currently the rate is 23%.

Our projections are that we will meet our 1991 quotas when this program is instituted, if we get full cooperation. This means both from you and from the guy next door who did not read this article. So tell him or her to look for a revamped recycling program, to be implemented in late April. More details will follow next month.

Upcoming curbside pickup dates are: February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11.

Environmental Awareness

by Gloria Hazell

Natives of the Earth, Inc., is an organization founded by myself and Andy in 1989. Our aim is to educate the public about environmental awareness in the cheapest and easiest ways we can. We had a booth at the Earth Day celebrations at Etra Lake last year where we gave out information from environmental organizations, including our own version of "Ten Ways to Help the Earth." Since then we have been seen at various fairs around the area, our next being in Princeton at the HHAPA festival in April. "Natives" consists of a board of nine men and women who are willing to give their time to assimilate information which can be passed along to people in order to help our world recover from the disastrous way we humans have been treating it. We are a non-political, non-profit, and non-activist group. We realize that something has to be done **now** to end the desecration of our planet, which in turn says we care about our fellow natives, be they animal, vegetable or mineral. There is too much destruction and ambivalence everywhere these days, and we have to stop that or the world and we as inhabitants of it will cease to exist.

Right now "Natives" is working on a gathering which we are holding in June. It will be in Pipestone, Minnesota. You may have read about it in the Hightstown paper recently. The event is being likened to the film "Dances with Wolves," because we are holding it in the same area, the Sioux In-

dians are helping us, and some of the people from the film will be attending.

Andy and I went out to Pipestone last week, and on our journey we saw trees which are being affected by the acid rain. (See last month's environmental awareness column.) In Pennsylvania, the devastation is really noticeable, and quite scary. We noticed a few things which upset us on our trip: one was the massive chimneys spewing black, and white smoke into the air. At one place it looked like a town of chimneys and the air stank of the foul stuff. We hope that, by our giving out enough information on such things, awareness will be heightened, along with a wish to see things alter. After all is said and done, we **all** have to live on this planet; there is no other one to move out to. At present, with the way we humans are, I feel that we'd do exactly the same as we have done right here at home!

A brochure giving details of the Gathering, including travel details, will be available mid-March. If you would like a copy, please call me. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of each month in the Borough hall, at 7 p.m. Do feel free to join us.

Why am I writing about Natives of the Earth this month? Just to let Roosevelt know that it does have its own environmental organization right here in town. We would be pleased to assist the newly formed Environmental Commission in any way we can.

**Don't
just
grumble...**

**Write for the
Bulletin!**

Demography

Census Finds 884 Residents

by Michael Ticktin

Last month, the Census Bureau released final 1990 census figures for New Jersey municipalities. Roosevelt's population was found to be 884, a net gain of 49, or 5.89%, over the 835 reported in 1980. The census shows just over half the net gain that had been estimated by the Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research of the New Jersey Department of Labor, which, apparently underestimating the decline in average household size, had projected a population of 925.

What makes the modest size of this increase remarkable is that it took place over a decade in which more dwelling units (houses and apartments) were built in Roosevelt than in any decade since the 1930's. Between 1980 and 1990, 27 houses and 22 apartments were built, while one unit was eliminated by the combining of two houses into one, for a net gain of 48. While it is true that many of the apartments in the Solar Village have only one resident, it is also true that most of the new houses are occupied by families with children. We may therefore safely say that the population increase attributable to the new houses and apartments is probably at least twice the increase in the total population and that, without the new units, Roosevelt would have lost at least as many people as the new census figures show it to have gained. A population loss of this proportion occurred in the nearby Borough of Allentown, which went from 1,962 residents in 1980 to 1,828 in 1990, a decline of 6.83%. (Allentown's population decline is not indicative of the Western Monmouth region, however. During the decade, Upper Freehold grew by 19.2%, while Millstone grew by 29.3%.)

I find interesting the extent to which the population and the number of housing units have varied independently of each other over the period covered by our six censuses.

Between 1940 and 1950, hardly any units were added, but the population grew because young families moved in when the homes were sold in the late 1940's. Population growth was nearly as great as the increase in the housing stock during the 1950's and the 1960's. Both were mainly due to the construction of the Roosevelt Estates development on Lake Drive and Clarksburg Road, which accounted for 14 of the 18 houses built in each decade. Roosevelt Estates attracted young families with children, so the population increased even while older households were losing members.

It was only in the 1970's and, to a lesser extent, in the 1980's, that the rate of creation of new dwelling units more than doubled over the previous two decades, but the rate of population growth declined sharply. The accompanying chart shows that there has been a decline in average household size of nearly 21% over the past 20 years.

While the introduction of senior citizen housing units during the 1980's was certainly a factor in this change locally, it does not fully account for it,

especially since average household size declined by 12.5% during the 1970's, before the Solar Village was built, but only by 9.5% during the 1980's. If we disregard the Solar Village, where the average household size is obviously smaller than that of the community as a whole, and subtract those 21 units and the 29 people living in them from the 1990 totals, we have remaining 311 units housing 855 people, or an average of 2.75 people per unit, a decline of only 6.5% in average household size over the last decade.

The real cause is that the changes in the structure of American households over the past 20 years, which have resulted in only one household in four fitting the "traditional" model of two parents and children, have been evident here too. The average American household size was 3.14 in 1970, 2.76 in 1980 and 2.63 in 1990. This represents a decline of 12.1% during the 1970's and 4.7% during the 1980's. "Unique community" or not, Roosevelt's pattern is clearly consistent.

Roosevelt Censuses Over Six Decades

Census	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Population	698	720	764	814	835	884
Increase	—	3.15%	6.11%	6.54%	2.58%	5.89%
Housing Units	202*	206	224	242	284	332
Increase	—	.20%	8.74%	8.04%	17.36%	16.90%
Population/Unit	3.46	3.50	3.41	3.36	2.94	2.66

*In 1940, there were 206 buildings designed as dwellings in Jersey Homesteads. Of these, 200 were the Jersey Homesteads houses and the other six were the pre-existing farmhouses. Four of these buildings were used for non-residential purposes. These were: the Government administration building (5 Homestead), the borough hall/post office (4 Homestead), the factory outlet store (Britton house) and the "tea house" (1 Homestead).

RAP News

by David Keller

On Sunday, March 17, at 11:00 a.m., the Roosevelt Arts Project will hold an open meeting in the Borough Hall to seek proposals for its next season.

The Arts Project has several aims in the events it sponsors. For the past several years, it has offered community members involved in arts such as painting, writing, and music a chance to bring new works to the public. Its emphasis has been on collaboration and cross-fertilization between artists, and the past years' programming have demonstrated that. In addition to providing Roosevelt with events during the winter season, the project hopes to contribute to the town's cultural resources.

In the past, proposed events have been put to the Arts Project for approval by individual members of the Arts Project Board, according to their areas of expertise. The board has decided that, beginning with the coming season, events will be selected by the board as a whole

Members of the Arts Project Board are:

Laurie Altman
David Brahinsky
David Herrstrom
David Keller
Jacob Landau
Alan Mallach
Saliba Sarsar
Bernarda Bryson Shahn
Judith Trachtenberg
Leslie Weiner

The March 17 meeting is open to all artists and members of the community. It is hoped that many future projects and ideas for coming events will be discussed. Proposals for future events are due during March.

"Sort-of Spring," an evening of poetry on March 2, presented by Dina Coe, David Herrstrom, David Keller, Tod Tulloss, and Wes Czyzewski, at the Borough Hall, will be the next event of the current RAP series.

Activities of The Roosevelt Arts Project are made possible, in part, by a grant from MIRA.

Anita Cervantes to Perform in Concert

Roosevelt pianist Anita Cervantes will perform as a featured soloist on both piano and harpsichord in a concert of chamber works presented by The New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra at the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 1991. Other featured soloists include the Orchestra's conductor, clarinetist William Berz. The Unitarian Society is located at 176 Tice's Lane in East Brunswick, NJ.

At press time, the program included the Brahms *Sonata in E-flat major* for clarinet and piano; "*Runes*" for clarinet and harpsichord by New Jersey composer Timothy Broege; and jazz preludes for solo piano by New Jersey composer Laurence Altman. Altman will speak briefly about his works.

Born in and raised in Washington, DC, Cervantes studied with, among others, Joan Tower of the Da Capo Chamber Players, J.K. Randall of Princeton University, and Robert Black of the New York New Music Ensemble. She has premiered and played solo and ensemble works of such composers as Laurie Altman, Steven Gerber, Brad Garton, and Mark Zuckerman. Ensemble partners include the Concord String Quartet and Bethany Beardslee.

Cervantes performed previously with the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra in the Bach Family program presented last fall in the New Brunswick Cultural Center.

Tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the event, and cost \$8 for General Admission, \$6 for students and Seniors. To obtain tickets in advance of the concert, call (609)924-6287 and speak with Ann Patterson.

**What are you
doing?**

**Write for the
Bulletin**

Omnia Mutantur... Everything Changes...

by Peter Warren

Bar Mitzvah... Harris Kaufman, at Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, on January 19.

Retired... Princeton Professor (of Psychology) Joseph Notterman, becoming professor emeritus on 1/31.

Say, Can You See... About 30 American flags flying over Roosevelt residences, and many yellow ribbons.

Moving In & Out... No one, this month.

Switching... Dawn Korzenok & Jon Block from Elm Court to the Johnson House on Lake Drive.

Decided Not To Move... For now, Deborah and Angel Lentz.

On the Market... As of February 10, 15 houses.

On Safari... To Paris, Karen Block and her niece; Rebecca Rowe and Tal Littman, returned from Jerusalem on January 15.

On the Phone... Rooseveltians using the new 1991 Roosevelt Phone Book, sold by Margaret Schlinski and cohorts to benefit the summer camp.

On the Curb... Some garbage pails, not taken in as quickly as they might be.

On the License List... As of January 31, 65 dogs, about half of the total; as of February 15, 95 or so; about 45 to go.

Recycled... 20.85 tons of newsprint, bottles, cans in the 4th Quarter, a total of 79.9 tons for the year 1990.

Peaked... Roofs added to on one in three of Roosevelt's original 199 Bauhaus-design flat roofed houses, with second storeys added to another dozen.

Opened... A passable lane connecting Lake Drive with South Rochdale Avenue.

Started... FmHA financed (we hope) reconstruction of sewer lines by Marvec to meet DEP requirements; final negotiations soon after February 15th with Thomas Proctor for sewer plant improvements.

Flowing... In January [uncalibrated meters], water for domestic usage 115,000; sewerage 329,000 gpd.

Water Action Group News

Senator Van Wagner to Sponsor Legislation and Visit Roosevelt

by Anita Cervantes

Bulletin readers will remember the encouraging letter sent by Senator Richard Van Wagner to Denise Frazier a couple of months ago regarding his proposed legislation to help towns like Roosevelt with the dollar impact of water-sewer infrastructure upgrades. We're still pursuing efforts with regard to this legislation. The critical issue, of course, is that the legislation be worded in such a way as to be certain that it covers Roosevelt. Water Action members Brad Garton, Richard Lloyd, and Addie Weiner have been in touch with Gene Farrell, Senator Van Wagner's legislative aide, to ensure just this: assessing the impact of the proposed legislation to be sure it would constitute significant relief for our community. Also in the works is a visit by Senator Van Wagner to Roosevelt, under the auspices of the Water Action group, to meet with concerned residents.

Research Into Grants

Water Action member Bess Tremper has been actively researching private foundations who might have an interest in providing grants for small communities faced with the problem of preservation in the face of massive infrastructure-upgrade costs. Preliminary results indicate that, although there is little money for municipalities, Roosevelt's special status as a town on the National Historic Register, and its distinctive character from a planning/landscape-architecture vantagepoint may put us in a more advantageous position to obtain such funding.

Hot Letter Topic of the Month

An article in the New York Times on Sunday, February 10, described a new proposal by the Bush Administration to return Federal funds to the states. Of

particular interest here is that the third largest category of funds for which this was proposed—and the only environmental one—was grants for municipal sewage-treatment plants, problems, and upgrades. The proposed return of these grant moneys to the states would be directed to the governors. It's important, therefore, for us to write to Governor Florio as well as to our two senators to find out what moneys might exist through this avenue, to find out what use of these funds is being contemplated, were they actually to be returned to New Jersey and, last but not least, urging Messrs. Florio, Lautenberg, and Bradley to do all they can to have at least some of this money made available to small municipalities like Roosevelt.

Here are the addresses for these individuals:

Governor Jim Florio
State House
Trenton, NJ 08625
Senator Bill Bradley
Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

For sample letter copy, contact Brad Garton (448-9214) or Denise Frazier (448-9040). For postage paid envelopes, contact Anita Cervantes (448-4068).

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March Water Action meetings will be on March 10 and 24. As always, Water Action meets at 11:30 on Sunday mornings in the Boro Hall. For further information, contact Anita Cervantes (448-4068), Jane Rothfuss (448-3713), Judith McNally (448-4580), or Brad Garton (448-9214).

Synagogue News

by Michael Ticktin, President

On the evening of February 27, we celebrate the feast of Purim by reading the Book of Esther, which tells of the defeat of a plot to destroy the Jewish People in ancient Persia. Hamentashen will be served as part of our celebration.

The first Passover seder will be Friday evening, March 29. Morning services will be held at 9:00 on March 30 and 31. Those wishing to participate in the sale of chametz before Passover should contact Director Shlomo Weiss.

We hope and pray for a speedy and successful end to the current fighting in the Middle East and express our appreciation for the courageous efforts of our armed forces and those of our allies.

Senior Citizens' News

We are now well into 1991 and we extend our wishes for a very good new year to everyone. We had no column in January but want to say that December was a month for celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas. Helen and Betty were our hostesses. The refreshments were delicious and Betty baked a cake with icing honoring both holidays.

We also lost longtime residents and friends. Our condolences go to Josie Drapola and her family in the loss of Joe and to Essie Oberlander in her loss of Mort. Our family suffered the loss of Brenda's (Bill's wife) mother, Nancy Lou Huff, and a long time friend, Jimmy McCauley. They will be well remembered and sorely missed.

In December, Peg Cleary, a representative of Star-Tours, informed us about the trips available and gave us pertinent information. Sounds great.

We received a lovely letter from Sue Schmidt's son telling us of her progress. Many things were discussed—the Millstone Fire Company Auxiliary gave us the dates of various trips and invited us to join them. Jeanette distributed pamphlets titled "Questions to ask your doctor and pharmacist". Very helpful. Income tax rebates, alternative shopping days and a covered dish luncheon in the future were resolved.

Nick and Nettie were our hosts at this luncheon. A great variety of goodies for everyone to enjoy.

—Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

Viewpoints

The View From Pine Drive

by Henry John-Alder

Do you want to pay an additional \$500,000 to \$750,000 for sewer improvements that are not presently required? I know I don't! Any further improvements at our expense are simply unconscionable. Incredibly, however, some of our councilmen are contemplating this very question. The simple and resounding answer, **NO!**, has escaped them.

The final order of business at the council meeting of 11 February 1991 was an introductory discussion with engineers from Applied Wastewater Technology (AWT), the firm that was retained to oversee construction of the sewage treatment plant. The discussion centered on the engineer's memo of 11 February 1991 to the Borough of Roosevelt, which summarized AWT's review of the improvement plan for the sewage treatment plant. The memo was written partly in response to questions from councilmen about the ability of the new design to accommodate residential development. Many of these questions were voiced again by councilmen during the discussion. It became clear that some councilmen are actively working to facilitate, and possibly to solicit, residential development. As part of their effort, these councilmen are contemplating additional construction at an expense of \$500,000 to \$750,000 so that our sewage treatment plant will have enough capacity for about 900 people more than currently live in Roosevelt. These councilmen are contemplating a costly and presently unnecessary addition that would accommodate a doubling of the population of Roosevelt!

The engineer's memo is replete with references of development. To wit, the first conclusion notes that "the plant... will service a population of 900" and "will therefore [have] no available capacity for additional customers". The second conclusion anticipates that our DEP permit renewal "could possibly" require additional ammonia nitrogen control (ANC). The third conclusion returns to the theme of

development in noting that "the cost to add ANC and filtration is approximately \$500,000 to \$750,000... and may add the capacity to accommodate an additional 900 people". Later, the memo states that "it has been indicated that an additional 75 dwelling units will be built in the near future... and a possible future 225 units for a total of 300 units". Finally, the memo states that even were the sewage treatment plant to be expanded to add ANC, "approximately 90,000 gallons per day (gpd) of additional infiltration will have to be removed to accommodate the new service units. The costs and difficulty of achieving this is really not known at this time". (For context, the current \$600,000 sewer rehabilitation is expected to eliminate about 50,000 gpd.)

In the ensuing discussion, the question on the floor concerned, in essence, the advisability of adding ANC to the present job, as it will certainly be needed to accommodate more houses and it "could possibly" be required for permit renewal.

In either case, to contemplate saddling this borough with 40% to 60% more costs for upgrade of the sewage treatment plant is sheer folly. On one hand, if NJ DEP requires ANC (or any other additions) for permit renewal, we must politely but firmly respond that no further improvements will be possible without state or federal aid. We have little choice here, because our current burden is already grossly unfair. To do otherwise would be the moral equivalent of appeasement. (On a larger scale, appeasement failed in 1938 and was rejected in 1990.)

On the other hand, when councilmen contemplate costly additions to facilitate development, they do so without having assessed the likelihood that development will ease our financial burden.

The question of whether development could help with our infrastructure problems was addressed briefly in 1987 when the Planning Board submitted its revision recommendations

for the master plan. The Board noted that "at some point during the coming years, the Borough may find the resources to upgrade the municipal sewer system. At that point, it might well become economically feasible for a prospective developer to make the remaining improvements needed in order to develop the [Notterman] site." The Planning Board's intent was clearly that the Borough may find external financial resources.

Our councilmen have evidently chosen to look inward for those resources. I leave it to you to evaluate the economic feasibility of our paying an additional \$500,000 to \$750,000 for improvements to the sewage treatment plant, improvements that would make it cheaper at our expense for a developer to build houses in Roosevelt.

A View from a Council Seat

by Stu Kaufman

It feels strange to be sitting at the Council table with the public looking at me. The past three years I had become used (I would have said comfortable but borough hall chairs are anything but comfortable) to sitting in the audience and listening to the council members. I guess, I'll have to get used to sitting on those soft and comfortable Council seats.

I always wondered what Council members did in their spare time. Now I know; we meet. We have agenda meetings, Council meetings, committee meetings, meetings with engineers, lawyers and employees. If you happen to see my family, tell them I'm alive and well.

Now if it happens that you see me one night going home, and I have a far away look in my eyes, please stop and say hello, because a friendly smile and a little advice will soon set me in the right direction again.

Until next month stay well.

Council *(continued from page 1)*

plied Wastewater Technology (AWT) for inspection of the sewer plant during construction. Flow meters have been rented (\$7,000) and new televising of sewer lines (\$3,000) has begun in suspect areas. Mr. Allen reported finding that certain sections, missed in earlier studies, were in dire need of repair while others were less damaged than previously thought. He was confident that one section of the sewer line (from Tamara to Rochdale) could be treated with Insituform at a saving of some \$50,000. The new findings indicate that it will be necessary to move the pipe work around, departing from the former design, which Allen says is agreeable to the Marvec construction people in charge. The borough engineer also advises that the manholes do not need replacing after all, thus allowing more pipe repair instead. The intention is to provide DEP with this information promptly in order to get permit modifications in place.

Dangers Ahead?

Discussion of these council decisions of the past month regarding the change in supervisory engineers and the proposed modifications in sewer pipe repair mainly centered on the issues of cost, the dangers of further delay and the methods of making these decisions. As for cost, Henry John-Alder claimed that the two companies' estimates were, according to available documents, 30 or 35 thousand dollars in excess of T&M's proposal. Where were the savings? Brad Garton argued that we simply cannot afford the "Cadillac" type program that is now being proposed. Councilman Kirk Rothfuss was concerned with a possible huge overcharge. He observed that if it were possible to save \$50,000 in one Insituformed area, this will be cancelled out by the cost of flow meters (\$7,000), television inspection (\$3,000) and the \$30,000 extra for engineering fees. He said that it all looks like a vague fishing expedition to him.

Confident Replies

The answers to these objections given by Mr. Allen were mainly that there was no "Cadillac type" program, but there was also no point in failing to find where the problems really are

when a "scientific search" can lead to making the kind of repairs that will hold for the future. He stated that the rates charged by the present borough Engineer were 15 1/2% lower than formerly. Also, he said that the kind of concern with detail shown by the DeMuro firm as, for example, in finding that some of the pipe line set for removal had been repaired in 1974, and their attitude of "social commitment", was of very great value to the community. In reply to worries about fulfilling the DEP mandate on time, Mr. Allen said he felt assured that the engineer would be in frequent contact with DEP and that John Ross, the borough attorney, was also attending to DEP matters closely and, when necessary, would have the assistance of George Tyler, a prominent environmental lawyer.

Further Criticism

Council Member Stuart Kaufman suggested that the issue really was one of faith and trust on the part of the public toward the present council. Jane Rothfuss took issue with this statement, pointing out that trust and faith must be earned and were not automatically given, especially after only 6 weeks of serving in office. Mr. Kaufman said if she were offended, then he apologized. Others challenged the lack of public participation in major decisions and the absence of open criteria for making choices. Mr. Rothfuss pointed out that two months was originally needed to choose T&M as the supervisory firm but only 7 or 8 days were taken for the latest choices. This reporter stated that some of these appointments were based on the kind of personal connections that she said were admitted to by the Mayor and can fairly be characterized as "cronyism".

There was general acknowledgement that the council was clearly committed to the welfare of the community and that everyone had been working very hard indeed, especially Mr. Allen. On the other hand, open and full discussion was supposed to be the aim of the new council and this was needed for proper decision-making. "We want you to really listen and not just pretend to" was the way Brad Garton put it.

Clairvoyant?

A statement by Mr. Garton during the public segment had unexpected pertinence at a later point in the meeting. He had said that it would be totally unacceptable to commit the town to further expenditures for the sewer system beyond the present plan in order to attract housing developers. This stirred a buzz of protest and disapproval. He went on to say that any additional improvements in the future must be paid for entirely by the developers themselves. Then toward the end of a long and late session, two representatives of AWT presented a detailed memorandum dealing with this very matter of the cost of expanding the sewer plant to accommodate an additional 900 residents. No one explained the origin of this presentation.

The engineers did not recommend undertaking the expansion at this time in view of the demands of our consent order. They would however encourage making some relatively minor changes in the present design to facilitate later additions.

Other Committee Reports

Other matters considered included reports from the Environmental Committee in which Chairman Kaufman discussed the goal of an environmental resource inventory, the projected survey of the town as a basis for a water conservation program, the need to reduce the 1 million pounds of solid waste per year that our small community produces, through further recycling efforts. Peter Warren, Chairman of Community Relations talked about a water audit and the hopes for a major reduction in water usage to help meet the goal of 250,000 gallons per day in our sewer lines. He related the creation of a Roosevelt Bar Association to organize the codification of borough ordinances. A report on the census for the borough showed what Mr. Warren deemed a serious undercount in population: a total of 884 in 1990, as reported in the Asbury Park Press, "a problem that needs looking into," he said. He is contacting the Department of Human Services regarding the state home for the autistic on Pine Drive that is now empty,

Planning Board *(continued from page 3)*

and he urged the Council to offer congratulations for the excellent concerts and the fine production of "Our Town".

A Bit Short

David Donnelly, recycling coordinator, was able to report figures on tonnage recycled last year: 20.85 tons that comes to an average of 15 1/2 lbs. per person per month. This is 3 lbs. short of the state guide line. He is proposing both tighter recycling measures in each household and the addition of two more types of materials: colored paper and cardboard. At the Park Commission's Arbor Day celebration in April, an educational program will be launched to promote this next step.

A Special Bill

In the public portion Brad Garton reported, for Roosevelt Water Action, that special legislation has been formulated by Senator Van Wagner's office to include the Borough of Roosevelt in the bill to aid small towns burdened with excessive sewer costs. He urged the council to become involved and to contact both state and federal representatives on the new budget proposals affecting waste water problems. Councilman Prezant said that the borough attorney, Mr. Ross, was to contact Senator Van Wagner's office and Mr. Ticktin suggested that our State Senator, John Bennett, be informed and included in these efforts.

New Appointees

Appointments by Mayor Barth include that of Ed Miller as Emergency Management Coordinator for three years; three further appointments to the Environmental Committee: Jim Carnevale, Chris Travis and Dave Kichula. A resolution to authorize entry into a contract for John Blackwell to be borough consultant operator-engineer for one year, and another to authorize the County Mosquito Extermination Commission to resume the annual aerial spray within Roosevelt, were passed.

together the initial group, the fundraising committee will begin its efforts immediately, and will report on a monthly basis to the Planning Board. The Board will adopt guidelines for the committee at a special meeting to be held on March 20th.

Master Plan Amendments Presented

Michael Ticktin then presented proposed amendments to the Master Plan that would eliminate the present inconsistency between the Master Plan and the TPL proposal. Currently, the undeveloped acres in the northern part of the Borough are zoned either R/Ag-400 (residential development on 10 acre lots or agricultural use) or I-80 (commercial development). The proposed Master Plan amendment states that these lands "represent a vitally important element in establishing and maintaining the visual, economic, social and environmental character of the community." The amendment states, further, that limited residential development should be permitted, provided it is balanced with land from this area that is permanently set aside and legally restricted as undeveloped open space.

To accomplish this, the proposed Master Plan amendment would provide that limited development should be undertaken only in accordance with a comprehensive plan for this portion of Roosevelt that would, among other things, distinguish between those lands that can be developed consistent with the character of Roosevelt and those lands that, although technically developable, should be "left undeveloped in order to preserve significant characteristics of the community landscape, to avoid traffic hazards, to extend the historic greenbelt design of the community, or for other reasons..." The comprehensive plan contemplated by the amendment would also have to provide for the fair compensation of owners of any developable land that is to be restricted from development, which is one of the goals that the TPL plan seeks to accomplish. Finally, the amendment would provide that, if a feasibility study shows that it is not reasonable to expect any nonresidential development in the area north of Oscar Drive

zoned I-80, then this area would also be included in the limited development/open space preservation plan for the northern R/Ag-400 zone.

Board member Harry Parker expressed concern that changing the Master Plan in this way would permit property owners to immediately develop smaller portions of this land without the cohesiveness of a comprehensive development plan. Michael Ticktin explained that amending the Master Plan does not change the current zoning; only the Council can amend the zoning ordinance. Moreover, the Council is not obligated to take any immediate steps in response to a revision of the Master Plan. Once the Master Plan is amended, however, any future zoning code amendments must be consistent with the revised Master Plan or the Council must provide an explanation of why it is acting contrary to the Master Plan.

Two March Meetings Scheduled

The Board voted to hold a public hearing on the proposed Master Plan amendments at a special meeting to be held on March 20th at 8:00 p.m. Although by law the only special notice the Board needs to provide, in addition to its general public notice, is to the neighboring Township of Millstone and to the Monmouth County Planning Board, the Board decided as a courtesy to send notice of the hearing to the landowners whose property would be affected by the change.

The Board's next regular meeting, scheduled for March 13th, will be devoted to a presentation of the projects completed by the Rutgers Landscaping students who studied Roosevelt last fall as part of an advanced course in community design. The Board will invite the students to display their work and present a short synopsis of each design proposal, with a more in-depth presentation of a few of the works. The members of the Borough Council, as well as the general public, will be invited to join the Board in hearing these presentations.

Sewer System Status *(continued from page 1)*

for Howard Schoor. This included the successful upgrade of our water supply system.

Mr. DeMuro has also been awarded the sewer line construction inspection and contract administration professional services contract. He has taken charge of the project and is keeping it on track.

Recognizing our special needs with the sewer treatment plant, we awarded Applied Wastewater Technology (AWT) in Belle Meade the treatment plant construction inspection and contract administration professional services contract. AWT designs, builds and, in some instances, operates sewer treatment systems such as those in Lambertville (1,000,000 GPD), Flemington (300,000 GPD), and Delaware Township (60,000 GPD).

AWT is also in the business of privatizing essential sanitary services

by owning and managing small treatment systems. AWT comes uniquely qualified to supervise the construction of our plant, test, certify, and start up our new facility, including the training of our borough employees.

The Mayor and Council have formed a formidable team of dynamic individuals to deal with the project. There are currently four concerns that the Mayor and Council are addressing immediately.

The first concern was discovered by AWT. It appears that the treatment plant designed by the previous engineer would cut the capacity of our current plant by 64%. Upon completion, it would serve our current population, but would not allow any additional homes to be connected.

It is the opinion of several Council Members that this situation would condemn the current users of the sys-

tem to extraordinarily high service costs with no hope of relief that additional homes could provide in the future. Prudent planning is necessary to make possible the success of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) project. If the capacity can be increased without significant additional costs being incurred, it would certainly seem reasonable to do so.

The second concern came with the reemergence of the long lost television study of the sewer lines performed in 1980 by Oswald Services. A careful review of this study, compared with current information, shows major areas of sewer lines needing rehabilitation far more than some of those in the contract awarded last year. In fact, some of the lines T&M had scheduled to replace are the best in the whole system.

The third concern is in the Birdsall Report on I&I that T&M was told to

Proposed Master Plan Amendment *(continued from page 3)*

imum allowed by current zoning in the R/Ag-400 zone, should be permitted, provided that it is balanced with land that is legally restricted from development in order to insure its permanent preservation as undeveloped open space, thereby preserving and enhancing this community character.

This limited development should be undertaken in accordance with a comprehensive plan for the northern agricultural area of the Borough that will:

1. Identify those lands that do and do not appear to be developable in accordance with applicable State and local laws and regulations;

2. Distinguish between those developable lands that are suitable for development and those that, despite their physical suitability, ought to be left undeveloped in order to preserve significant characteristics of the community landscape, to avoid traffic hazards, to extend the historic green-

belt design of the community, or for other reasons.

3. Provide for the fair compensation of owners of developable land that is to be restricted from development, preferable through acquisition of all developable lands, or of the development rights thereto, by a land trust that is committed to reselling for development purposes only those lands deemed appropriate for that purpose. Should this not prove feasible for any reason, consideration should be given to providing for the transfer of development rights or some other means of requiring a developer to acquire control over, and permanently restrict from development, a specified amount of developable land in order to build elsewhere in the zone;

4. Provide guidance as to the amount and type, or types, of development most likely to benefit the community financially by allowing for increased economies of scale in public services, without creating a demand

for services that are not now provided or a disproportionate demand for services already provided, and to enhance and perpetuate the small-town character of the community.

Insofar as the current Master Plan contemplates a feasibility study for industrial development north of Oscar Drive, it is not inconsistent with Resolution #53/90. However, it is necessary to amend the sentences, "If the study concludes that it is unreasonable to expect that any non-residential facility of reasonable quality can be attracted to the community, it may be appropriate to rezone the I-80 area north of Oscar Drive to R-Ag, to conform to the zoning of the other tracts to the north and east of that area," by adding the words, "so that the said I-80 area can be included in the limited development and open space preservation plan for the northern R/Ag-400 zone."

— Letters —

follow. Birdsall seems to be indicating that the majority of the I&I on Farm Lane originates near the Solar Village, not the entire length of the street. The television study by Insituform Metropolitan shows that most of the problems are on North Valley Road. Elimination of the I&I at its North Valley source is far more cost effective and efficient than replacing relatively new and secure pipes on Farm Lane.

The fourth concern is that 538 feet of sewer line, 80 feet of laterals, and three manholes on Farm Lane were replaced as recently as 1974. As these are basically sound, it makes no sense to replace them.

We have also learned that these same pipes are made of asbestos concrete. Removing them would lead to extensive cost overruns - using special technicians and hazardous waste disposal. It is far more cost-effective to leave these very sound pipes in the ground and seal them up with some sort of liner when funds become available.

In summary, the sewer lines needing structural repairs will be repaired first. We must accept the fact that infiltration is a serious problem. We have been advised that the infiltration can ruin the new equipment in the treatment plant as well as destroy the structural integrity of the remaining leaking sewer lines and our roads.

These concerns are in the process of evaluation even as we begin work on the projects. We'll do our best, within time and dollar constraints, to find resolutions that serve the needs of the community at the least possible cost.

On February 12, the Mayor and Council were informed by the DEP that Roosevelt has been granted an extension to the February 1, 1992 deadline. We now have until May 1, 1992 to complete the construction and September 1, 1992 to meet our permit requirements. Work on the sewer lines began on February 13 and is progressing faster than expected. Work on the sewer plant should have started by the time you read this issue of the *Bulletin*. At this rate we can be confident of meeting the remaining DEP ACO deadlines.

To the Editor

I read with some surprise in the January *Bulletin* that the DeMuro firm had been awarded to post of Borough Engineer. My recollection is that the DeMuro firm has little or no experience in sewage treatment construction. Their public contracts in the past, I understand, have largely been concerned with roads and sidewalks.

This Borough is spending in excess of \$1 million dollars (and probably it will be more) to upgrade its sewage treatment and wastewater collection facilities (sewer pipes and plant). Why would we pick a novice to cut his teeth on our project? Even though most of what he will be doing will be inspection of contractors' work, it would be nice if he were experienced in what the contractors were doing.

If I am mistaken about DeMuro's experience, I would (along with the rest of the community) like to be enlightened.

Specifically, in which municipalities has DeMuro done sewage pipe and sewage treatment work? How big were the contracts? Did he do the construction or merely cover the repair work with roads and sidewalks?

And if he has no such experience, why was he chosen? An answer from any councilman or the mayor would be welcome.

Very truly yours,
Ed Moser

To the Editor:

I went to the Borough Council meeting last night, Monday the 11th. I don't attend them as often as I should. None of us do.

I have been noticing that since the new Council has come in that things are really moving. I see trucks all over looking into sewer lines and trucks with sand going down to North Valley Road where apparently sewer lines are being replaced. There is a new sign out in front of the Borough Hall that says **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program**.

There's something else. There seem to be changes in efficiency, for when I turned in my hours for crossing guard, I was told they must be in a day before the last day of the month. Now I'm waiting to see if I have to wait several months to get paid as was the case sometimes in the old days.

Well, after noticing all this activity I really wanted to see how the meetings were running. Everyone was present; that's a good sign! What impressed me most was the committee reports. Every Council member showed how hard he had worked by the completeness of his report. Mr. Allen even came prepared with a diagram of Farm Lane in answer to one of Ms. Weiner's questions. The Council members reports were thorough and knowledgeable. Each had obviously put many hours into helping to pull out town through these times of crisis. I want to thank them; it makes me want to work harder.

Sincerely,
Margaret Schlinski

**What do you think?
Write the
Bulletin**

— Letters —

To the Editor:

At the February 11th Borough Council meeting, Council member Stu Kaufman encouraged critical members of the public (I certainly count myself in this group) to "trust us" (the members of the Council). Several people felt somewhat offended by Stu's comment. I didn't, mainly because I don't trust the current Council one iota. As I see it, the Council seems hell-bent on "developing" Roosevelt with no regard for either the environmental or the financial repercussions. Make no mistake! At this past Council meeting, members of the Council debated—in all seriousness—whether it might be more "cost-effective" to upgrade the design of the new sewage treatment plant to accommodate up to 300 new units in town. "Cost-effective"? What about the sheer "cost" involved (\$500,000—750,000)? Can **your** household afford to drop \$4-5,000 **on top of the \$140/month we're already paying** in order to make some future developer's life easier?

Why do I say this? What is the basis for these accusations? During the course of the meeting, Council member Lee Allen had been saying that his justification for running a bit loose with the political rules in re-doing the design work of the current sewer project was that "if I'm going to do a job, I'm going to do it the **right** way." I asked Lee what his concept of the **right** was, since it didn't seem to align perfectly with mine. I figured that a significant part of the **right** job would be striving to ease our incredible water/sewer rate. Lee went on to state, however, that he wanted to see "every single piece of sewer pipe in this town replaced." Ye gods! This is an **expensive** proposition, and one that I think far exceeds the current financial resources of our town.

I had to ask myself, what could justify this position? Why plan to spend additional money when we can barely afford to do the minimum job necessary to meet the DEP mandate? What sort of prudent fiscal policy is this? And then it hit me—this Council wants a

crackerjack sewer system in order to make further development possible. **And they're gonna make us pay for it!** So I said to the Council: "You guys are trying to set this town up for development." Imagine the outcry! Imagine the protestations and denials! Peter Warren asked me why I was constantly dredging up that "tiresome old argument."

Well, I dredge it up because it's true, I dredge it up because it's going to cost each of us a lot of money, and I dredge it up because I think that development will do far more harm than good to this town. I bring development up because this issue is very much alive: the last item discussed by the Council that night was a report by the newly-hired engineering firm Applied Wastewater Technology about the design of the sewage treatment plant. The very same "why-are-you-always-bringing-up-the-development-issue" Council members spent about 3/4 of the discussion with the AWT engineers asking what modifications should be made to the plant design to provide for future development in the Borough (the current design will support the current population). In the four-page written report by AWT, further development of the Borough is specifically discussed on every page except one (with such "why-are-you-bringing-this-up" lines like "It has been indicated that an additional 75 dwelling units will be built in the near future...and a possible 225 units..."). Perhaps I'm way off-base and development is far from the minds of the Council. Sure seems that way, don't it?

The real kicker is the cost of the modifications to allow these 300 new dwelling units to be added to the plant. AWT estimated that it would be at least \$500,000 to \$650,000. During the discussion about this upgrade, not once—not **once**—was the idea that the cost should be paid by the developer even mentioned. Mark my words, some rationale will be manufactured justifying the "cost-effectiveness" of this expensive plan, and you and I will be paying money (\$20-

30 more each month!) now so that some future Hovnanian can show a slight increase on the bottom line.

That's one of the reasons I don't trust you guys, Stu. To even contemplate saddling our over-taxed and financially strapped population with this additional work in order to support future development is reprehensible. Even if you feel that putting condos on every inch of land surrounding our Borough is the One True Way to Glorify Man's Accomplishments, the simple fact is that we cannot now afford it.

I encourage each person reading this to attend the absurd theater that the Council meetings have become. (There's another issue of "trust" for you Stu; why does the Council constantly have to seek out legal loopholes to justify "emergency" meetings held with little or no public advertisement? Why was the very first Council meeting so remarkably orchestrated? Why the preponderance of closed sessions? Why does Kirk Rothfuss feel totally left out of the decision-making process, and he's even a member of the Council? This is "public involvement"? I should warn you, however, that if your opinion runs counter to the a-priori "we-know-what's-best" decisions made by the Council majority, then your words become meaningless exercises in communication, and soon Mayor Barth will close (without warning) the public portion of the Council meeting (as was done at the past Council meeting—the first time I recall this happening since I've been a Roosevelt resident). But if the words seem meaningless now, then the water bills of the future will provide them with a dismal contextual grounding. Trust you, Stu? **Trust** you??

—Brad Garton

— Letters —

To the Editor:

The following letter was sent on February 21 to the Mayor and Council:

Regretfully, I must offer my resignation from my position as Councilperson, effective immediately.

Unfortunately, current time commitments outside the Council make it impossible for me to continue to devote time during the evenings and workdays necessary to effectively serve our residents.

My decision has been extremely difficult in light of the monumental decisions now being made regarding Roosevelt's future. It comes at a time when I feel a questioning voice and dissenting opinion are critical to our government, and I had hoped to fill that role in 1991.

While I must resign, I will take this last formal opportunity to express my concerns on Council actions taken since January.

After years of open public meetings and discussion leading to the sewer contracts that were signed last year, the current Council has—in less than two months—begun to dismantle this work. While new Councilmen such as Mr. Allen and Mr. Warren have criticized past councils for allegedly not studying issues in depth prior to making decisions, decisions contrary to past studies are now being made by Council in a matter of weeks. Presumably, these decisions are based on advice from our new engineers, on the job since January, 1991.

On January 1, 1991, this Council was the first to start a new year with the opportunity to get this town out from under the stranglehold of the past decade and a half. You were given the means to lift this burden; instead, you choose to modify the projects with no adequate explanation of the process used to arrive at these decisions. The contracts, while not perfect, *do* reflect plans approved by NJDEP *after* years of studies, design and permit submissions. The process you are following is contrary to your stated commitment to planning and analysis.

In my opinion, you have already lost the opportunity to get this project completed to DEP's satisfaction. The smooth transition into the start of construction which could have led to a reasonable completion date, completion within budget and possible DEP leniency has been lost in confusion over who is responsible for engineering, field inspections, preconstruction meetings, preparation of documents, etc.—all due to your apparent distrust of our former engineer and past Councilmembers.

I believe you are leading this town down a road on which the contractors will make more money than are entitled to, the attorneys will make money we didn't have to spend, and the Borough and the ratepayers will foot the bill.

You have rejected the \$116,428 for inspection and general engineering services offered by T & M Associates, who designed the project and secured DEP approval, for two new firms whose proposals total \$147,600. You accuse the design engineer of overcharges and faulty engineering, while your new engineer concurs that T & M did a commendable job on the treatment plant. You focus on one apparent T & M plant design deficiency found by the new engineer, only to find that had the new engineer had enough time to read all of T & M's work, they would have found this inadequacy did not exist.

T & M, for the last two years, has been telling the Council what we didn't want to hear but had to accept after a decade of looking for low cost alternatives. They told us that a standard treatment plant design was what was needed to gain DEP approval in time to meet our ACO, that cheaper spot pipe repair such as you are now proposing will not do the job adequately, and that complete basin replacement or our sewer lines is the only way to have reasonable confidence in the results of I/I reduction efforts.

I have been told by residents who have lived here much longer that I that 1990 was one of the most contentious and upsetting periods that our town

and its Council have experienced. While this was uncomfortable for all Councilpersons, I believe this was the result of both the magnitude of the sewer issue, and the previous Council's belief in the importance of allowing opinions to be heard. And heard they were, at meeting after special meeting. The issues were debated and the public expressed their concerns. I hope you will follow the same path before making your decisions.

While we have differences of opinion, I wish you all well and would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding utility committee matters from 1990.

Sincerely,
Kirk Rothfuss

To the Editor

Thorton Wilder's **Our Town** came to life in the Roosevelt Players' production on January 25 and 26. Every member of the cast and crew can be proud of their part in creating a theater experience, so alive, that members of the audience became participants in this timeless drama about the basic rhythms of life and death.

Having seen five productions, both amateur and professional, of this play, I agree with one audience member who said, "I'm glad I came; I almost didn't. I thought I didn't like this play."

I look forward to future productions by the Roosevelt Players

Sincerely,
Mary Alfare

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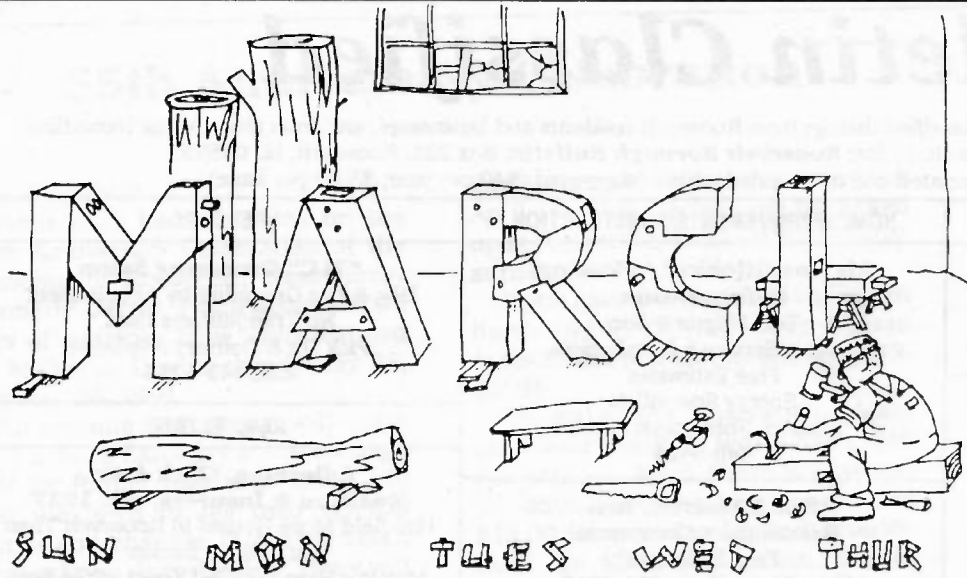
***Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
Box 221***

Roosevelt, New Jersey 08555-0221

Bulletin Classified

The **Bulletin** publishes free of charge classified listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin**, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40 per year, \$5.00 per issue).

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FRI SAT

1	2
	Arts Project Poetry Reading Borough Hall 8:00 PM

3 First Aid Squad Pancake Breakfast Borough Hall 9:00 AM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525)	4 Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President	5 Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Environmental Commission Borough Hall Stu Kaufman, Chair (443-4049)	6 Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Pres. (448-9385) Food Co-Op Ordering 8 Sch. Ln., 7:30 PM Judith Goetzmann (448-0363)	7	8	9
10 Water Action Borough Hall 11:30 AM Judith McNally (448-4580) Anita Cervantes (448-4068)	11 Borough Council Borough Hall 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President (448-3182)	12 Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Pres. (448-9385)	13 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Gail Hunton, Chair (426-4338)	14 <i>Recyclables Collected</i>	15	16
17	18 Cong. Anshei Roosevelt Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Tickin, Pres. (448-0363) Boro Council Committees Boro Hall, 7:30 PM Utilities, Finance, Environment	19 Blood Pressure Check Solar Village 12:30-2:00 PM Food Co-Op Ordering Borough Hall Bobbi Teich (448-5036)	20 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Gail Hunton, Chair (426-4338)	21 PTA RPS, 8 PM Adeenah Yeger, Pres. (443-5848)	22	23 PTA Winter Carnival RPS 10 AM-12 noon Adeenah Yeger, Pres. (443-5848)
24 Water Action Borough Hall 11:30 AM	25 Boro Council Committees Boro Hall, 7:30 PM Streets & Properties, Administration, Community Relations	26 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525)	27	28 <i>Recyclables Collected</i>	29	30
31						

There are free exercise classes for residents at the Borough Hall each Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
 The RPS Library is open each Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 PM (Margaret Schlinski, Librarian)

Is your organization having a meeting or event? Write the **Bulletin** (Box 221, Local) or call Helga Wisowaty (448-0049)