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ROOSEVELT
BOROUGH



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ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 1987

Council Letter to Traffic

Safety Engineer

Mr. Richard Sweet
Traffic Engineer
Monmouth County Traffic Safety
Hall of Records Annex
Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Dear Mr. Sweet

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roosevelt. Although this letter was planned before the recent tragic accident in which three teenagers were killed, clearly that event underscores the urgency of our need for traffic safety in a number of areas. As I related to you in our recent telephone conversation we are extremely concerned about the speed of traffic throughout town; as the nice weather begins, our fears increase, particularly regarding Rte. 571 as it cuts directly through the center of town.

We understand that you are in the process of arranging, on our behalf, the regular 5-year re-survey.

At this time, we urge you to take into account- both during your survey, and for purposes of your final judgment and recommendations- the following unusual factors unique to our town:

1. We have an unusually large number of pedestrians-on foot, on bicycles, babies in prams, young children holding on to their parents' hands- walking and riding on the "shoulders" of the roadway itself. We do not have, nor have we ever had, paved sidewalks in Roosevelt.

2. This unusually heavy pedestrian traffic is generated by the fact that the integral part of Roosevelt's history- as you know it has been designated and historic community- is its purposeful design to encourage people to walk and bicycle. This includes not only many younger people, but senior citizens and the disabled as well.

3. The town "center" - a Post Office and a combined pizza parlor/deli/liquor store - is the one and only "meeting"- "hanging out" place in Roosevelt. This "center" is within a mile of every

house in town and in warm weather and cold weather alike, there are many people walking to it - often taking their exercise for the day.

4. Directly across the street from the town "center" is the public school - the only centralized playground in town. Once again, children walk or ride back and forth across Rte. 571 to reach the playground, go to the store, go back home again.

As they do so, traffic zips along, car after car, at - and of course often above - the posted speed of 40 mph.

An interesting point of information is that between 2/10 and 3/10 of a mile past the "center" as you travel South on 571, the road makes a sharp, approximately 90 degree turn East, effectively necessitating a sharp decrease in speed, certainly below 25 mph, in order to negotiate the turn. Since cars, trucks, etc. must slow down at this corner turn, why not have them slow down 1/2 mile before the turn in this direction, and perhaps 1/10 of a mile before the "center" in the opposite direction? This not only seems eminently reasonable, but considering the blatant danger to "life and limb" - literally - at the present time, it seems a monumental blunder not to take this step.

Finally, as you may or may not know, Roosevelt does not have its own police force - we depend entirely on the State Police who, though responsive to our needs, can only spot check infrequently for speeders and other traffic violators as they go through town. Roosevelt is, therefore, extremely vulnerable to speeders, since we have not radar and no police force - whatever speed is posted, invariably a 5,10 or 15 mph increase is tagged on routinely by the majority of cars and trucks as they pass through town.

We desperately need your help in order to avoid a tragic accident - one time is all it takes, and there are many times a day - with the current speed limits - where the potential for disaster is present and immediate.

Another issue of grave concern to us is that of deer, crossing Rte 571 at two major points:

1. just South of where Nurko Road joins Rte 571
2. just East of the junction of Rte 571 and Clarksburg Road; between the beginning of Clarksburg Road and the turn into Lake Drive.

I know you are aware of the recent accident where three teenagers were killed in an attempt to avoid a deer; this is not however, unfortunately, an isolated incident. There are numerous reports of deer, sometimes one or two (which seems more often the case in the area of Nurko Road), sometimes in clusters (which seems more often the case on Clarksburg Road). At any rate, the sightings are always the same two specific areas described above. Occasionally I hear reports of deer crossings closer to the Perrineville/Windsor roads intersections, but the most numerous reports are as stated previously. One or two people, who live in houses directly at the site of the crossing near Nurko Road, have described many brake screechings and tire squealings at odd hours of the night. Suffice it to say that there are certainly more than enough happenings at these two sites, in our opinion, to warrant "deer crossing" signs to be posted.

I would be delighted to speak with you regarding any questions this letter may bring to mind. My home telephone number is (609)-426-0292, or you may leave messages at the Borough Hall (609) 448-0539.

We look forward to your comments and action regarding the above, and would deeply appreciate your early response to this letter when the survey is completed.

Sincerely,
Lee I. Selden

Council Report**Council Acts on Water/Sewer Needs**

By Adeline Weiner

At the regular June 10th meeting of the Roosevelt Council, several major actions were taken to repair and improve the water/sewer system, all of them based on proposals from Borough Engineer Birdsall in line with the overall draft plan under negotiation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Decisions concerning emergency repairs and short term improvements were required in view of the impending deadline, June 15th. When queried, Birdsall said that he expected that these steps would fulfill preliminary requirements and allow for acceptance within the Administrative Consent Order.

Paying the Piper

Among resolutions passed were the authorization of emergency pump repairs (not to exceed \$2000), payment for work done on Trickle Filters (1715) and assignment of funds for further contracted work (2367). Additional amounts were authorized for a portable ph meter (\$395), safety repairs required by Public Employees Occupational Safety (\$1500 or less), for repair of leaking roof in the lime room (\$1000 or less), for a contract with William Leech, of Roosevelt, to paint the sewer plant for the amount of \$4800. This represents a marked saving over the nearest bidder as well as over a previous estimate.

A long-pending proposal to close off the Brown Street sewer and to install a pump station at this location was made official at this meeting (5-0) / Leefler left earlier).

Mayor Freda Hepner announced that the next hydrant-flushing event will take place under Steve Yeger's charge with the assistance of volunteers Esakoff, Chasan and Alt who are the recruits to date.

Poor Roads and Streets

A survey of road conditions by Engineer Birdsall accompanied by members of the Streets and Roads Committee, produced a detailed minimal schedule of repairs that came to a total cost of \$43,527. Chair Bernard Leefler reported that these proposals will have to be considered against a budget allotment of only \$8000.

Preparing to Recycle

The administrative Committee report by Chair Carol Watchler proposed an increase in hourly rate to \$5 for Nancy Warnick, Deputy Borough Clerk (5-0). In view of the October 1st date for mandated recycling of newspapers, glass and aluminum, Ms. Watchler asked coordinator Lou Esakoff to report further. He announced the imminent possibility of connecting with Millstone to receive our materials and plans for building a platform and shed in the Borough Hall parking lot for receipt of our separated waste here in town. He also spoke of a public meeting and ample notification in writing to the community well beforehand.

Mr. Esakoff and Mayor Hepner expressed strong confidence that Roosevelt residents would exhibit a high degree of voluntary participation in the recycling program. The penalty for failure to cooperate will lie, in addition to fines, in the fact that garbage collectors are instructed not to pick up unsorted refuse. In the public discussion period Nina Burghardt asked about help for senior citizens without cars to transport stuff to the collection bins. Leslie Weiner suggested an organized volunteer buddy system to which Mr. Esakoff readily agreed. Mark Bianchi suggested more

than one pick-up during the hot summer months, but was assured by Ms. Watchler that the extra cost (as much as \$10,000) is prohibitive. For particularly smelly waste, sealed containers or compost heaps were mentioned.

Other Work

Councilmember Lee Selden reported for the Safety Committee that Roosevelt is due for a re-survey of our speed limits on Route 571; that she is seeking, in addition to a reduced limit, at least two "deer-crossing" signs at each end of Rochdale Ave. (see letter below); that security has been hired for the July 4th celebration (\$100); and asked for authorization of several expenditures for the Fire Department (5-0).

Requests for activating two more light standards on Eleanor Lane will be made by Public Property Committee Chair Jim Alt. He replied to an inquiry about the lights at the Roosevelt Memorial Park that these unfortunately are consistently vandalized.

The Council passed after a final reading the ordinance amendment (97-11) re-zoning the Oscar Drive property to residential half-acre status, requiring that structures thereon be connected to the Boro water/sewer system and conform to Borough environmental constraints. Another amendment for future central water/sewer connections was tabled for more precise language excluding agricultural zones.

The Council passed a motion (5-0) to censure one of its members (Bernard Leefer) for violating Sunshine Law rules that prohibit public discussion of personnel matters. They were concerned to keep such infractions of the law from repetition in the future.

It was also agreed to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$700 for attendance at the League of Municipalities Convention of Borough Treasurer, Tax collector and clerk (4-0), Moser abstained).

Primary Election Results

In Roosevelt, 237 Democrats and 39 Republicans cast votes. For State Senator: Finan (D) 159; Gagliano (R) 24. For General Assembly: Anthony (D) 153; Massa (D) 153; Bennett (R) 25; Farragher (R) 24. For Freeholders: Pekarsky (D) 140; English (D) 139; Williams (d) 29; Larrison (R) 24; Powers (R) 25.

For Mayor: Moser (D) 133; Leefer (D) 71. Write-ins: Moser (R) 8; Leefer (R) 5; Katz (D) 6, (R) 2; King (D) 1.

For Borough Council: Magnes (D) 173; Alt (D) 177; Connaughton (R) 25; Winters (R) 23.

For Executive Committee: Warren (D) 84; Esakoff (D) 142; Koffler (D) 199; Eichler (R) 27.



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Issues in Town Government

By Peter Warren

Last fall, when I started criticizing the Borough Council in these pages for what I thought were isolated mistakes, I little imagined that I would find what I believe to be a consistent pattern of mismanagement by the Council and indifference to public affairs by the public.

Three new findings have come as a shock to me this month.

First of all, the increase in municipal tax revenues spent by the Council which rose from \$59000 in 1983 to \$133000 in 1987. This year, the Council is spending \$73,000 more than it spent in 1983. Where did all this money go? The increase in the municipal tax is actually larger than the increase in the school tax!

Secondly, at the end of 1983, we had a Federal grant for sewer plant rehabilitation. Roosevelt was inscribed by DEP as grantee under Federal Project No. c340761-01, Step 1, identified for priority completion in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 1984. Since then, the Council, in my opinion, has been less than candid with information on the sewer rehabilitation and what it will eventually cost us in increased water fees. (What happened to the grant? Did we lose it?)

Thirdly, in both May and June, the Council has called public meetings in violation of the Sunshine Law - once with the School Board over the school budget and once with residents of Eleanor Lane over the condition of that roadway. Like other public bodies, the Council should be bound by State laws and borough ordinances.

On these three counts, the record of the Council is one of deplorable mismanagement. Why should this be?

I am not quite sure, but I would suggest three possible factors.

The first factor is historical. Until his untimely death in 1978, Isadore Sachowitz had been de facto Borough Manager for many years. He made things run smoothly. After he

died, the borough operations needed to be restudied and reorganized. They weren't. Without a thorough reorganization, no Council can make the machine work well.

The second factor is that in Roosevelt as in many other small towns (or small countries), the objective process of public administration is distorted by personal politics into a savage Capulet-Montague rivalry, White Hats against Black Hats: only We are good - You are bad. Public welfare gets lost in the scuffle.

The third factor - probably the most important one - is public apathy. The Council operates in a vacuum of public opinion. Despite the record turn-out for the June primary, the prevailing pattern has been one of uncontested elections, absence from public meetings, and lack of any watchdog committee to monitor the Council.

Pressures are building up which will determine our future quality of life: residential construction in Millstone, decline in our school enrollment, the sewer rehabilitation. What Roosevelt will be like in ten years depends on how many people become politically active today.

Editor's Note:

Based on a comparison of the budgets for 1983 and 1987, some of the increased revenue is for the following: administrative salaries, up \$3,500; insurance, up \$3,300; sanitation, up \$12,500; legal services, up \$2,000; municipal court, up \$2,300; engineering, up \$3,400; building inspector, up \$589; snow removal, up \$5,400; and so on. The town also has been saving for a much needed new Borough truck to be purchased this year. Also needed is budgeting for the new recycling program which is outside the cap. There is no revenue sharing this year and our cap was reduced from 5% to 3 1/2%.

According to the Mayor, we have a 5% loan from D.E.P. for the water system which has been used for repairs to the hydrants and water plant. As for any grant, regarding the sewer system, this may refer to a 201 Study that was carried out and predicated on the basis that there would be federal funding for sewer plant repairs. At this time the funding has not come through and we are 109 or 110 on the priority list for New Jersey.

The Sunshine Law says that if an unadvertized committee meeting is held there must be less than a majority of the members of the governing body present to mitigate the possibility of passing legislation without proper public notification. In the case of the meeting with the Eleanor Lane citizens, the Mayor decided to meet with them prior to a regular Council meeting because of the urgency of their concerns and because the chairperson of the Roads Committee had not met with them as instructed by the Council. Three Councilpeople showed up independently which did constitute a technical although inadvertent violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law. No legislation was introduced, however.

Regarding the meeting with the School Board, the Council was under the pressure of a strict deadline (a matter of days) and did announce a second meeting (the one under dispute) at the first public meeting (not the meeting under dispute) and posted it as well. However, because of the deadline the Council had no way of announcing the meeting in the newspapers. The Council believed this was an emergency situation which is provided for under the Sunshine Law.

Roosevelt Crime

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

By Michael Ticktin

From time to time, I have written articles calling attention to statistics showing that we consistently have one of the highest effective school tax rates in the State and to the need to try to do something to correct the problem.

This time, however, I am happy to be able to report a very positive statistic taken from the annual report published by the State Police, namely that we are in the bottom 5% of New Jersey municipalities as far as our crime rate is concerned. This, of course, is despite our lack of a local police force!

In 1986, there were 9 reported crimes in Roosevelt, a 25% decrease from the 12 reported in 1985. Of these, five were larcenies, two were burglaries, one was a motor vehicle theft and one was an aggravated assault. The previous year, there were six larcenies and six burglaries. The 1986 Roosevelt crime rate per 1,000 population was 10.4. This compares quite favorably with the rates for the State as a whole (52.7), Monmouth County as a whole (41.6) and the nearby municipalities of Millstone (20.5), Upper Freehold (22.8), Allentown (25.7), East Windsor (33.6) and Hightstown (42.5).

In a society in which fear of crime is clearly one of the most common concerns of most people, it is reassuring to know that, despite all the problems with which we, as a municipality, must deal, we continue to do exceptionally well in this one very important aspect of the quality of community life.



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EDITH ERNSTEIN

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Nursery School News

By Allison Edwards Petrilla

After months of planning and preparation, the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School is open for business, and kicked off its official school calendar with an Open House for all parents of preschoolers.

On Thursday evening, June 25, from 6 to 9 p.m., RCNS staff and organizers met at the Roosevelt Jewish Center on Homestead Lane with parents of youngsters 2 1/2 to 5 years old.

A last Bake Sale was held on June 27 and the sale of Stefan Martin prints and Summer Raffle will be held at the July 4th festivities. A \$1 raffle ticket offers the holder a chance to take home a portable gas grill, 2-piece Coleman cooler set, or Tupperware "All American" picnic set. The Stefan Martin woodcuts, issued in a limited edition of 100 numbered and signed prints, will be on display at the nursery's July 4th table and priced at \$40. Your support support is much needed and greatly appreciated.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Tom Karpick, who has contributed a wonderful collection of toys to the Nursery-- they'll really help get our school off to a good start! Thanks also to the Repro Center on Rte. 130, which donated and printed our raffle tickets.

If you haven't received our brochure and would like to learn more about the Nursery, please phone the school at 426-9523.

Our Kids Need You!

Now that the Roosevelt nursery has actually begun enrolling students, September seems closer than ever, and the need for your help is even more crucial.

The following is our start-up budget, so you can see how much money the school needs and what materials must be purchased before we can open our doors.

Classroom Supplies (Consumables)

Watercolors	\$30.00
Tempera	\$110.00

Capital Expenditures/Long-Term Supplies

Telephone Installation	\$180.00
Telephone Answering	\$125.00

Classroom Supplies

Watercolors	\$30
Tempera	\$110
Finger Paint	\$35
Paper	\$35
Crayons	\$50
Constr. Paper	\$50
Paste	\$10
Glue	\$20
Tape	\$20
Playdough	\$20
Sand/water	\$25
Story Paper	\$40
Chalk	\$20
Eraser	\$2
Records	\$40
Games	\$50
Film	\$200
Small Manipulatives	\$200

Capital Expenditures/Long Term Supplies

File Cabinet	\$150
Chairs	\$315
Tables	\$300
Clock	\$20
Record Player.	\$110

We'll gladly and gratefully accept contributions of items or funds earmarked for a special purchase. (Wouldn't you like to be known as "the crayon lady" or "the magnet man"). Or, as always, feel free to send a check to our general fund. We'll use it for our most pressing need.

All checks may be made out to Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School and sent to Box 153, Roosevelt, NJ 08555, attention Fundraisers. Please attach a note if you have a special purchase in mind. Our kids thank you!

To Health

Citizens seek local environment/cancer study

By Becky Russell

A number of Roosevelt residents are concerned that the recent unusual cluster of Hodgkin's disease involving one adult and two children might have an environmental cause. A meeting was arranged on Thursday, May 28 at the school gym to discuss this topic. The speaker was Mike Meddis, from the Mercer County Department of Health, and he spoke briefly about environmental causes of cancer, how cancer cluster studies are conducted in New Jersey and what is currently being done by the New Jersey Department of Health concerning Roosevelt's situation.

Hodgkin's disease is a type of lymphoma, a malignancy of the lymphatic tissues. The peak incidence is in children and adults in the 40 to 50 year age group. Causes have been linked to radiation exposure (Hiroshima victims had a high incidence of lymphomas), heredity and a compromised immune system.

Mr Meddis said that he has been in communication with Michael Berry, epidemiologist with the New Jersey Department of Health, who is now compiling data from Roosevelt. New Jersey has a cancer registry, which collects information on all newly diagnosed cancers. This includes demographics, medical data, workplace information, etc. The register indicated that two cases of Hodgkin's disease occurred in Roosevelt during the period of 1979 to 1984. The Bureau of Safe Drinking Water was consulted and no unacceptable levels of bacteria or toxins has occurred in Roosevelt's water. Mr. Meddis confirmed that Roosevelt's water has been checked monthly for bacteria and every 6 months

for chemical toxins, in accordance with federal regulations.

Residents voiced concern that in addition to the Hodgkin's outbreak, there have been many other forms of cancer in Roosevelt. Mr. Meddis pointed out that concerns due to environmental causes tend to be of one type, i.e., bladder cancer due to a water-borne toxin, or lung cancer due to radon in housing. He also said that most cancer cluster studies prove to be statistically insignificant.

The concerned citizens wish to strongly encourage residents to participate in the study being conducted by Mr. Berry at the New Jersey Department of Health. Forms will be mailed which are to be filled out by anyone who has had a history of cancer, and returned to Mr. Berry. They will be kept strictly confidential, however Social Security numbers must be included for record-keeping purposes. By participating in this survey, any environmental cause that might be discovered would provide a basis for protecting the health of other Roosevelt residents. Future meetings with Mr. Meddis will be announced.

609-448-4885
Becky Russell
Denise Douros



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A word in Praise of the First Aid Squad

They are not unsung in the community but no one who has not been the beneficiary of their expertise can really know how good they are. I recently fell dislocating my hip in the upstairs small bedroom of one of the original Roosevelt houses. Very little room to maneuver in the room and less in the narrow hall outside. Not to mention the narrow stairs with little turning space top or bottom. They came promptly but I remember feeling some dismay when first they appeared: five women and one man, none of them precisely a Hercules. I am not a midget and not what you'd call feather light. And yet in what seemed no time at all they had me strapped to a

stretcher, down the stairs and into the ambulance without my having felt a moment's uneasiness, no titling on the stairs, no bumping as they turned, no pain nor sensation at all of being handled.

Though I hope you will not, you or a member of your family may need their services sometime. You should consider it a privilege to live in a community where such efficient and careful services are available. But they do need your financial support. I hope, Friends, you will dig deep whenever they have their next collection drive.

Mary Jane Berlinrut

First Aid Auxillary

The Roosevelt First Aid Squad would like to take this opportunity to thank all the unofficial First Aid Auxillaries that have been an invaluable help to the squad in the past. At the same time, we would like to ask these same people, and any others who may be interested, if they would like to become a part of the official Roosevelt First Aid Auxillary.

Those people (the more the merrier) who would like to assist the squad by being a part of the auxillary should call Lee Selden: 426-0292.

The Roosevelt Arts Project would like to thank Mr. Bauman, a Roosevelt resident, for helping to secure the \$5000 grant of the Herman Goldman Foundation.

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Go Health

By Becky Russell

Most authorities are in agreement that the best diet for a healthier heart must have reduced fat, animal protein, sugar and salt. Where they disagree is in how much these foods should be reduced. As usual, moderation is probably the key.

The old advice of using lots of polyunsaturated oils is not wise because they are highly susceptible to rancidity, and have been linked to cancer. Animal fats, in addition to cholesterol, contain a fatty acid which contributes to the formation of blood clots. The best type of fat to consume is monounsaturated, as in olive oil, since it is more resistant to oxidation and also lowers LDL cholesterol. All fats, however, should be kept to a minimum.

Animal protein has been linked with elevated triglycerides and reduced HDL cholesterol levels, while vegetable proteins usually contain fibers which can reduce cholesterol, and sterols which block its absorption. Adding soluble fibers to the diet (oat bran, guar gum, pectin) can lower cholesterol and slow the rate that sugar enters the bloodstream. Preventing rapid rises in blood sugar is important because this triggers insulin release, and insulin is believed to cause cholesterol and other fats to be deposited in arterial walls. Therefore, restricting concentrated sugars is also necessary.

Salt is a well-known contributor to high blood pressure which damages arterial walls. Reducing or eliminating salt, and increasing high potassium foods (fruits and vegetables) are critical in the treatment of hypertension.

Other than fiber, fish, garlic and onions are also known for their beneficial effects on the cardiovascular system. Fish contains the important essential fatty acids EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) which lower LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, and

prevent excessive blood clotting. Also known as Omega 3 fatty acids, or fish oils, these are available in concentrated supplemental form. Onions, and particularly garlic also have anti-clotting factors, as well as the cholesterol and triglyceride lowering effect. Garlic is also effective in reducing blood pressure. For those who fear being social outcasts, deodorized garlic capsules are available.

Many supplements can be valuable in treating heart disease. The antioxidants, vitamins A,C,E, beta-carotene and selenium can help prevent the mutations that cause arterial plaques, and help prevent clotting. Niacin lowers VLDL (very low density lipoprotein) cholesterol, and increases circulation, however can cause a flush which some people find unpleasant. Potassium and magnesium in the form of orotates, with the pineapple enzyme bromelain, is a treatment pioneered by the Berman doctor Hans Nieper, who claims that this therapy was 95% successful in preventing new heart attacks. Chromium in the form of GTF (glucose tolerance factor) increases the ratio of HDL to LDL cholesterol, as well as lowering total serum cholesterol.

The most dramatic recent discovery is Coenzyme Q10, or CoQ103, a nutrient which is a key catalyst in the creation of energy within the cells. CoQ10 is more concentrated in the heart than any other part of the body. Administration of CoQ10 in cases of congestive heart failure, angina, and high blood pressure is giving excellent results. Another newcomer is L-carnitine, and amino acid which stimulates fat metabolism and reduces triglycerides.

Diet and supplements are not a panacea if stress, exercise and smoking are not taken into account. Smoking triggers the formation of arterial plaques and reduces oxygen to the

heart, therefore stopping is essential. Stress management is critical for the "type A" personality -- aggressive, impatient -- which is so susceptible to heart disease. Exercise helps to relieve stress, increase circulation and oxygen to the heart.

A complete program involving nutrition, exercise and stress management can turn the tables for someone with heart disease. The key is that it requires active participation. The passive or last emergency resort is drugs and surgery, with all the risks involved. The choice is yours.

PARK COMMISSION ACTIVE AGAIN

The annual Roosevelt Clean-up Day was held on May 14th, on the Thursday before the town's big garbage pick-up. The public spirited anti-litter campaign was coordinated by Anita Schwendeman, Catherine Carter and Terrell Spence with additional guidance and support from Bernarda Shahn and Peter Berlinut.

This effort was initiate to help clean up Roosevelt's public areas and some of the major roadways to help enhance the town's appearance. Volunteers included Peter Warren, Nina Burghardt, David Schwendeman and Roosevelt Students Benjamin Burghardt, Peter Burghardt, Xantha Burghardt, Harris Kaufman, Erik Plumb, Richie Somma, Traci Connaughton, Katy Bauerle, Abe Schlinski, Jeremy Young, and Stephen Penalver.

After filling 24 trash bags with litter, the group was treated to pizza and soda at the amphitheater. (The refreshments were donated by grateful borough residents).

A sincere thank you to all who participated!

The Roosevelt Park Commission was/is responsible for the many flowers and plants that 'mysteriously' sprouted around the Roosevelt Memorial and the Post Office for last years 50th anniversary celebration. Most of the plants are perennials that continue to grow and blossom year after year and so continue to beautify our town just that little bit more that makes living here so enjoyable.



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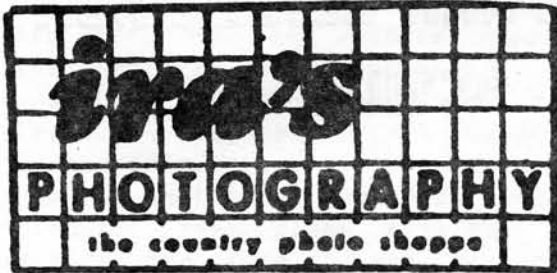
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Printing Fund Thank You

The Bulletin staff would like to thank all who contributed to our printing fund for 1986-87 (September to June). Time marches on, however and we must begin again in September if we wish (and you wish us) to stay, as it is said, "in business". So, to those who contributed, thank you, and to those who shall contribute again, thank you too. The following is a list of contributors. We hope it is complete. If we left anyone off we apologize beforehand.

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Note- The following were inadvertently left off a previous list of Handbook contributors: Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Leifer.

Letter to Editor

To the Editor,

I am writing to thank you, first of all, for assigning a reporter to cover our school board meetings. It is very important that the community, in particular the parents of school children, be kept abreast of what happens in terms of policy and implementation at RPS.

In addition, I would like to urge community attendance at meetings. We who have been there during the past couple of meetings have experienced the satisfaction of being able to make a difference in the way the board addresses our concerns because we were there in person to present them. In turn, we have learned more about the goings-on in our school, putting us in a position to question and make requests when necessary. Board members have said that we have added to their understanding of our concerns and needs, as well. In some cases, we have prompted action which otherwise might not have been taken or not in so timely a fashion.

I would now like to clarify your report of the May 7 school board meeting which included my concern that on the morning of Monday, May 4, a fire door was bolted and the office locked tight at the beginning of the school day when children were present.

Dr. Sussman was not on the premises and the teacher who was supposed to be in charge in his absence had not been furnished a set of keys, the basic tools to properly open the school for business. In addition, she had classroom responsibilities of her own, putting her, I felt, in a kind of "catch 22" situation when it came to running both her own classroom and the entire school. Margaret Schlinski, who happened to be dropping off her own children that morning, had the presence of mind to get a set of keys from secretary Helen Barth, who was at home ill, with which the fire door was unbolted and the office opened.

Among my concerns were the safety of the children had an emergency

evacuation of the building been necessary as well as the very basic questions about who would have received and handled calls from teachers who were late or absent that morning, who would have assured adequate coverage of those classes, and who would have handled any emergency situation which arose.

Dr. Sussman, not I, said that this is the first such occurrence in the past five years. I simply do not know whether similar incidents went unnoticed. The fact that this situation occurred even once, however, was enough to raise serious concerns about the safe, effective administration of the school on a daily basis. It brought to light the fact that Dr. Sussman was rarely on the premises at the start of school and prompted us to demand of the school board that the principal be in the building early each morning, before the children arrive, to assure that the day gets off to a safe and orderly beginning. And that, in the rare event that he cannot be in before the start of the school day, there be an adequate plan in place which included furnishing his stand-in with the basic tools needed to open the school. In addition, we wanted the parents to be made aware of these backup plans so that on any given day we know who is running the school.

At a subsequent meeting, the board did address these concerns by authorizing Dr. Sussman to be tardy only five days per month when he has to attend county or other professional education morning meetings. On those days, and on days when he is not in the building due to illness or legitimate reasons, an assistant to the principal was to be assigned, from among current members without regular classroom and homeroom responsibilities, to assure the smooth opening and administration of the school. The parents were to be informed of this decision.

Needless to say, we are watching to see that this policy is implemented. There are some questions about how close to the letter of the agreement it has been to date. In addition, we expect that this policy will carry through to subsequent school years.

Hiroshima Day Meditation

That I can love my only son,
Though it will not save the world from suicide this August,
I slake the cracked blackened ceiling of his room with
chlorox-dripping red rags.
His fifteenth birthday days away, he'll soon return
from India, how changed?
Would he walk with us this year for peace, were he here?
Black blooming mildew disappears from the ceiling as I
scrub,
One day before the Hiroshima Peace Walk of our town,
I scrape the peeling windowpanes, the dreary peach paint,
I deepen and debride the wounds in the walls,
Though it will not save the world from suicide,
Remembering sorrow, I trowel fresh plaster on the crazes,
Make four virgins of the walls with wet white strokes of a
roller,
Knowing that no one can stop me from loving.
The brush weeps white on the woodwork.
I cannot read reverently every drop of this homecoming gift
for my son.
Though it will not save the world from suicide,
Tomorrow I shall walk for peace and Hiroshima,
People trapped burning in my mind in fallen buildings
calling out politely, "Help, if you please!"
Welcome to your newly painted room, son.

Neil R. Selden

