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# ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME X NO. 3

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 1988

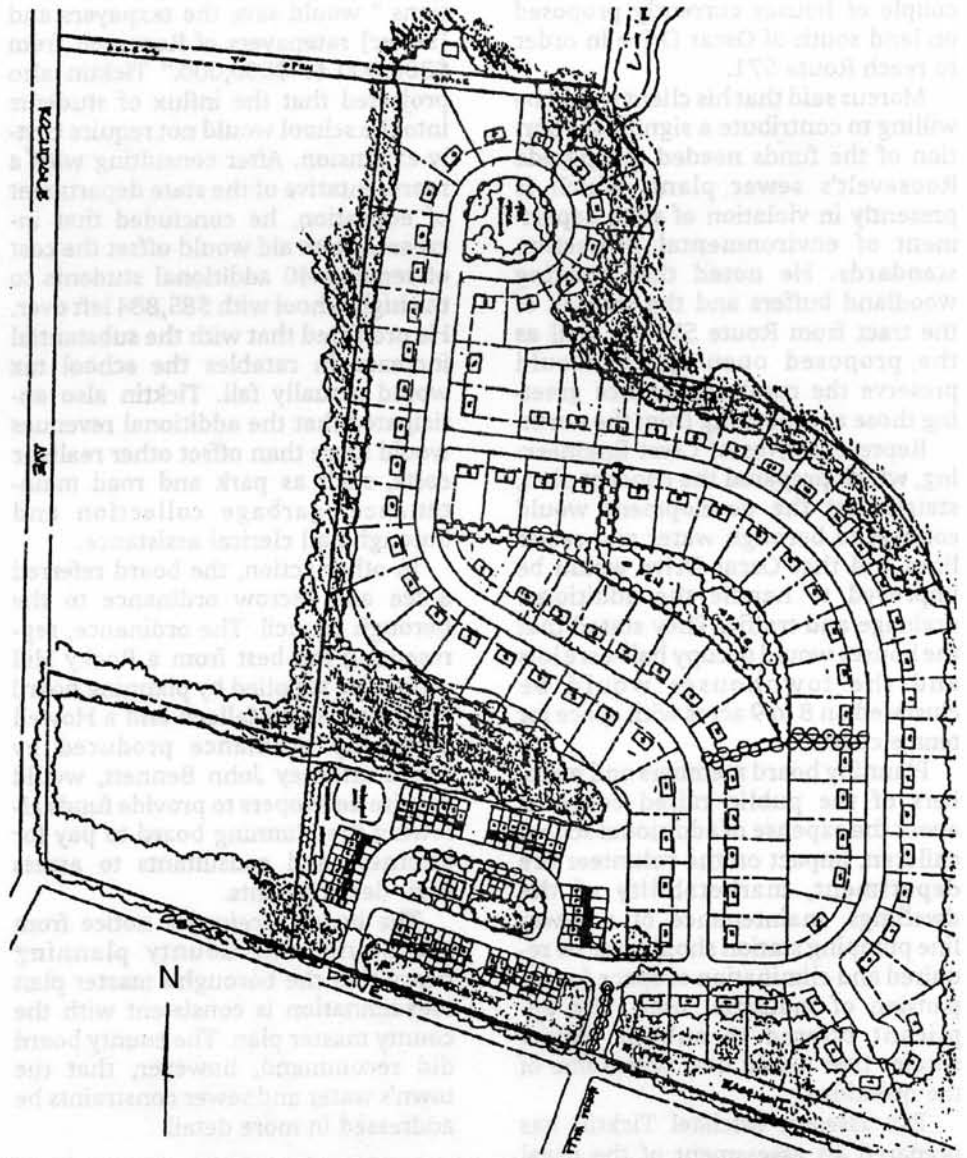
## DEVELOPER EYES ROOSEVELT

### Wants to Build 94 Single Family Houses and 45 Townhouses

by Bob Clark

At the March planning board meeting a developer informally proposed construction of 139 residences on a tract bordering the northern side of Oscar Drive. Representatives of Switchel, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Federal Savings & Loan of Rochester, produced an aerial photograph of the property and displayed a detailed concept drawing showing possible locations for houses, townhouses, roads and open space.

Some of the land is presently zoned industrial and some is in the agricultural zone. Any zoning change to residential would have to be made by the borough council, but the council would receive recommendations from the planning board. Switchel, Inc., which has a two-year option to purchase most of the land known as the Beer-Kugler tract, proposed to build 94 single family houses and 45 townhouses on about 57 acres of the 123-acre site. Attorney Ira Marcus said that the company was seeking guidance and feedback from the planning board before proceeding with a formal application.



Concept Drawing for Proposed Housing Development  
Oscar Dr. forms the southern boundary  
(courtesy of Crest Engineering)

A fact that concerned many in attendance was that the planning board had, after many months of work, just adopted a master plan reexamination report that calls for the property to remain in agricultural use. Marcus contended, however, that the proposal was consistent with the underlying rationale of the new plan and would benefit the community. He noted that development of the Notterman tract, the area designated by the revised plan for future residential growth, would generate substantial additional traffic on roads traversing existing residential neighborhoods. Residents of the proposed development, entering Oscar Drive from a road opposite North Valley Road and another road a few hundred yards to the west, would usually just pass by the factory and a couple of houses currently proposed on land south of Oscar Drive in order to reach Route 571.

Marcus said that his client would be willing to contribute a significant portion of the funds needed to upgrade Roosevelt's sewer plant, which is presently in violation of state department of environmental protection standards. He noted that existing woodland buffers and the setback of the tract from Route 571, as well as the proposed open space, would preserve the rural appearance greeting those approaching from the north.

Representatives of Crest Engineering, which prepared the concept plan, stated that the development would connect to borough water and sewer lines and that Oscar Drive would be improved to handle the additional drainage and traffic. They stated that the houses would occupy half-acre lots and the townhouses would be clustered on 8 to 9 acres with space for tennis courts.

Planning board members and members of the public raised concerns about the expense of additional school children, impact on the volunteer fire department, marketability of the dwellings, maintenance of a sewer line pumping station should one be required and elimination of space for expansion of industrial uses. The applicant offered to submit expert studies that would deal with some of the questions.

Tax assessor Michael Ticktin has prepared an assessment of the fiscal impact of the proposed project. Basing

his calculations on 100 houses of 2,200 square feet (Switchel proposed units that would measure between 2,000 and 2,500 square feet), Ticktin reasoned that the houses would sell for approximately \$200,000 each. He figured that if each house added \$106,000 to taxable ratables, total ratables in the town would increase nearly 46% from \$23,000,000 to \$33,700,000. Using the 1987 tax rate, a 100-unit development would annually produce \$343,440 in additional tax revenues.

Ticktin wrote that his preliminary investigation of the costs to the community "gives reason to believe that the benefit would far outweigh the costs." He based this assessment on the fact that the developer's agreement to pay for sewer plant renovations "would save the taxpayers and [sewer] ratepayers of Roosevelt from \$300,000 to \$600,000." Ticktin also projected that the influx of students into the school would not require costly expansion. After consulting with a representative of the state department of education, he concluded that increased state aid would offset the cost of sending 40 additional students to the high school with \$85,884 left over. He predicted that with the substantial increase in ratables the school tax would actually fall. Ticktin also anticipated that the additional revenues would more than offset other realistic costs, such as park and road maintenance, garbage collection and borough hall clerical assistance.

In other action, the board referred a fee and escrow ordinance to the borough council. The ordinance, representing the best from a Rocky Hill ordinance supplied by planning board chairman Alan Mallach and a Howell Township ordinance produced by board attorney John Bennett, would require developers to provide funds allowing the planning board to pay for attorneys and consultants to assess their developments.

The board received a notice from the Monmouth County planning board that the borough's master plan reexamination is consistent with the county master plan. The county board did recommend, however, that the town's water and sewer constraints be addressed in more detail.

## ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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Typesetting facilities donated by MIRA

## Our Apologies...

*[When we printed last month's article on Esther Pogrebin (by Hortense Socholitsky), we inadvertently omitted the last two paragraphs. Here they are.]*

There are thousands of clubs and organizations in New York just waiting for a new member with Esther's energy and enthusiasm. We're sure she'll find her niche.

Enjoy New York, Esther. Come visit us and share your experiences with us.

## Deadline

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



# In the News

## Seventy two New Voters

The PTA/Citizens' Group registration campaign, timed to meet the deadline for the school board election, registered 60 new voters. Of the 99 unregistered persons contacted, another 12 had already registered, seven declined to register on the understandable ground that they are not citizens, 14 refused for religious or other reasons, and six were not at home.

## Gold Medal for Pete

Detective Pete Rossi has been awarded the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Gold Medal for outstanding service, and particularly for his work in solving the cyanide tea tampering case.

## It Pays to Advertise

Edythe DiTursi received, with a dozen roses, the hint that she should read attentively the *Hightstown Gazette*, wherein duly appeared the question "Eddie, will you marry me?" And the paper subsequently reported "Dave, yes I will." The wedding is planned for April.

## Return of the Prodigal Son

Jonathan Duckett was born and raised on Farm Lane. After his family moved away, he studied in Arizona and France. He has come back—speaking flawless French—to MCC to study music composition—and to Roosevelt because his roots are here. Of course, he is not alone in coming home. Frank Di Giorgio has come back to the street where he was born, and Betsy Shally has returned from faraway islands—the tropical Canaries and chilly Iceland. Who else can we welcome back from distant shores?

## Gotcha!

Lynn Friedman, former part-time truant officer at R.P.S., has taken a full-time position with HHS. This could be cost-effective for Roosevelt taxpayers who would continue paying tuition for a Roosevelt child whose permanent absence from high school had gone unnoticed and unreported.

## Eighth Grader Honored

Traci Connaughton was chosen by the Board of Education and the School Administrator to represent R.P.S. on March 31 at a county-wide gathering of Monmouth County primary schools held at Holmdel High School, where she received an achievement award.

## Nursery School Write-Up

The Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School is one of five area preschools described in the *Allentown Messenger-Press* on February 18th. The school is supported by local business as well as by the parents. The children have the usual play school activities and also see the work of Roosevelt artists and craftsmen and hear the melodies of Roosevelt musicians.

## The Mail Gets Through

Despite economy measures closing the Post Office Tuesday afternoons, Postmaster Gerry Millar will phone recipients of Express Mail which arrives on Tuesday afternoon.

## Professor Weiner, I presume?

Leslie Weiner is teaching a Playwriting Workshop at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ, for ten sessions, Mondays and Wednesdays, April 18 through May 18, 7-9:00 PM.

Nobody is born a playwright. Constructing a play is a technical skill that is learned and applied to the special material which only the writer knows. Students will write scenes in class, will read and analyze four great plays, and will start to fashion the progression of dramatic events which make up a play.

The class is limited to twelve participants, assuring each individual attention. There are no requirements for entrance other than, alas, the payment of a \$90.00 fee. Registration forms may be obtained from Mr. Weiner (448-2358).

## Chris Gould Wins Fellowship

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 23—The American Medical Student Association Foundation has selected Carolyn Wolf and Christopher Gould, third-year students at the Yale University

School of Medicine, as fellows in its newly established international health fellowship program.

Mr. Gould, son of Mrs. Robin Gould of Roosevelt, NJ, is a 1981 graduate of Oberlin College.

Ms. Wolf and Mr. Gould are among 14 medical students nationally selected for their leadership skills, their commitment to the medically underserved and their interest in international health. During the eight-month program, which begins in August, they will participate in clinical service, community health promotion and disease prevention projects at one of four medical schools in Ghana or Nigeria, West Africa.

The fellowship program, supported by U.S.A. for Africa and The Pew Memorial Trust, seeks to promote U.S. physician leadership in international health by providing medical students and residents opportunities to study health problems and health care systems in developing countries.

## Senior News

### Senior Citizens' Meeting March 2, 1988

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

The nominating committee presented their candidates for 1988. Jeannette Koffler will be acting president with various members taking over her duties from month to month. Millie DiGiorgio accepted the position of treasurer; Helga Wisowaty will remain as Secretary. The office of vice president has not been filled.

A few trips are on the agenda—one to the Freehold Raceway and one to Mercer County Community College in March. The "Greening of the Grey" will be the topic of interest. There is a \$2.00 charge. Reservations must be in by March 21. The club was treated to a musical afternoon. Alan Mallach and David Brahinsky played piano (Mallach) and guitar (Brahinsky). Everyone enjoyed this very much and hope they'll return again.

# Borough Council Report

by Adeline Weiner

The subject that provoked lively debate at the March 9th meeting of the Borough Council was an amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance, 66-1. Councilmember Jill Lipoti introduced a measure that calls for registration of animals over seven months old for a yearly fee of \$12.00, with certification of appropriate vaccinations given by a veterinary physician. Also required will be a written manure management plan, that includes provision for neutralization of waste with a description of the substance used and method of collection. A limit of 10 feet from property lines, removal of scent glands (from male goat) and inspection by zoning officer are also designated.

## Differing Views

There were dozens of suggestions for additions and changes during public discussion, such as objections to the amount of the registration fee, requirement of rabies shots, who should be notified of inspection, transfer of registration to another animal, provision for penalties for offenders other than fines, prohibition against commercial use etc. Councilmember Seligman, however, raised a more basic problem: He strongly urged adoption of the recommendations from the *Guidelines for Home Animal Agriculture in Residential Areas*, issued by Cook College Extension Service, Rutgers University. These center around the concept of an "animal unit," whereby the lot size per type of animal is specified. For example, for a one acre lot (including dwelling site), only one animal unit would be allowed (one horse, 6 months or older; or, 10 kids, 3 months to 1 year; or, 2 two-year old swine, etc.). They also offer a table of minimum areas for each type, for example:

horse = 1000 square feet  
 cattle = 300 square feet  
 sheep, goats = 300 square feet  
 swine = 100 square feet  
 (Poultry has its own chart.)

Seligman praised the Rutgers guide-lines as necessary not only to human health and comfort but as basic to a humane treatment of domestic livestock.

## Whose Rights?

Lipoti explained that the wording of the ordinance is open to changes and that many of the particulars raised will come before the committee for incorporation. However, in view of the one-half acre lot size of Roosevelt houses, she is unwilling to propose such strict limitations on the freedom of Roosevelt residents to keep animals. Her proposal, she believes, deals with the major issues of concern to the community, the questions of odor, manure management and public health.

Responses offered by several speakers agreed that freedom and liberty are, of course, entirely defensible, but only up to the point of injustice and injury to the rights of others, including the rights of the animals themselves. These rights require limits on number and proper spacing in every case. A motion to adopt (with minor changes) was passed 4 to 2 (Alt and Seligman opposed). Residents will have an opportunity to join the discussion at the public hearing, next Council meeting, April 13th.

## Sewage System, Continued

Earlier in the meeting, Public Utilities Chair Ed Moser reported on projected revisions in the sewage treatment plans that were suggested to Engineer Birdsall by his committee, with Jill Lipoti's contribution especially noted by Mr. Moser. Also, as a result of two contradictory regulations out of DEP, a substitute for gaseous chlorine is now being sought in order to avoid a \$4,000 license required by the Toxic Catastrophic Protection Act. Due to failure by a previous contractor to remove grit from the Imhoff tank, a matter now under litigation, a motion was passed to advertise for new methods to clean and upgrade the ef-

iciency of the tank. With DEP having finally responded to our sewage/water upgrading plan, Moser asked for a motion to make application to the Monmouth County Improvement Association for a bonding loan, which passed (6-0).

## Old Truck Trouble

Streets and Roads Chair, Marilyn Magnes, announced coming repairs for Spruce Lane and Eleanor Lane. Jim Alt, Public Property Chair, discussed a series of improvements to the Borough Hall under the heading of capital gains, if bond counsel recommends this step. He also related the saga of the old borough truck, which, through a series of mishaps and misfortunes, is being held hostage to an allegedly fraudulent \$3,000 storage bill by Millstone Auto Service. Visitors offered many cautionary, critical comments on this point during the public portion.

## New Recycles et al

Mr. Seligman reported some progress in obtaining insurance coverage to allow the Council to sponsor the Summer Program, but a few snags remain. Lou Esakoff, recycling coordinator, announced plans to include the new recycleables by April first: tin, bimetals, cardboard (boxes must be flattened), and high-grade paper. Letters and posters will be distributed as soon as the procedures for collecting have been worked out with Mr. Abbott of Millstone Township.

Salary ordinance to fix Zoning Officer's salary at \$799 was adopted, as was an ordinance to increase the budget cap from 4.5% to 5% for 1988. Jeanette Koffler was appointed liaison officer to the Office on Aging. Sunday, March 20th is Annual Cleanup Day. Everyone is asked to join Catherine Carter in picking up the year's trash from all over town.



# School Election April 5th

## New Budget and Board to be Decided by Voters

by Mary Alfare

Special Correspondent

On April 5, between 5-9 PM, at the Roosevelt Public School, voters will decide whether to accept or reject the school budget. The budget is accepted or rejected by marking "yes" or "no" on the referendum.

Voters will also pick six out of the eight candidates for Board seats. Seven candidates are on the ballot: one is a write-in. The candidates on the ballot stated their views in the February *Bulletin*.

A sample ballot is posted at the Post Office.

The candidates on the ballot are listed under the specific term sought. Candidates receiving the most votes in each term are elected. Vote by marking the box before the name of the candidate(s) of your choice which is printed on the ballot. The box preced-

ing the name of a write-in candidate *must* be marked for the vote to count.

The terms and the candidates running for each term are given in the order shown on the ballot.

Steven Yeger, Ann DeCocco, Edward Goetzman and Debra Allen (as a write-in) are running for the three "unexpired full term (3 Year)" seats.

Louis Esakoff, Margaret Schlinski and David Keller are running for the two "unexpired (2 year) term" seats.

Margaret Katz is running for the one "unexpired (1 year) term" seat.

## See Statements from Candidates on Following Page

### Nursery School Enrolling For September

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

The calendar says spring, but the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School is already looking toward fall. We are now accepting applications for September enrollments for children in the 2-1/2 to 5 year old range. Our classes, once again, will be offered Monday-Friday, from 9 AM til 12 noon.

Interested? Come visit us and check out our program any Tuesday morning (that's our regular "Community Drop-In Day") or arrange with our Director Arlene Stinson (426-9523) to stop by at your convenience.

Meanwhile, back in the classroom, a variety of our neighbors have shared their talents with our nursery-schoolers this month. Many thanks to David Brahinsky (guitar), Ron Moore (percussion), "Miss Elly" Bermowitz (tapestry), and Ilse Reisenfeld (concertina) for their separate visits to our school, and to our flautist Bob Mueller for entertaining us so royally at his home. You've given our children some very special mornings!

Our parents, too, recently "shared their talents" in another way—by attending an in-house "Games Night"

where they constructed some of the pieces of equipment that our program needs so desperately. Thank you all!

### Tupperware and Used Books

For RCNS parents and friends, April is fast becoming synonymous with Tupperware, and this year's new line of products is ready for sale. We will be hosting a gala Tupperware party on April 13 (see Bulletin Board for details), or if you'd rather examine the catalog and place your order beforehand, please call Dianna Moore at 448-7742.

The newest addition to our fundraising calendar is a Used Book Sale, and we're collecting old books NOW and right up 'til our October sale date. If you'd like to donate any books (hardbacks, paperbacks, kids' books—anything in reasonable shape), we will be glad to come to your home and pick them up. Just call us at 426-9523, leave a message on the machine, and we'll be in touch right away to set up a time. We also have a large collection barrel in the entranceway of the Borough Hall if you prefer to drop them off yourself. We will provide you with a receipt for tax purposes if requested.

Please help us make this an exciting, worthwhile event for all Rooseveltians. (And clean out your bookshelves, closets, and garages at the same time. What more could a person ask?)

### Synagogue News

The Sisterhood of Roosevelt is sponsoring a "Lower East Side" Flea Market for Sunday May 15, 1988 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Those interested in selling merchandise may rent tables or space at \$10.00 per table.

First come; first served basis so please call your reservation in early; 426-1560 or 448-9123. There will be indoor or outdoor availability, but if inclement weather prevails the market will be indoors only.

Fifty Fifties will be sold that day as well as refreshments. Why not bring a friend; stop by, shop or browse or sit down in our snack bar and have a cup of coffee.

### Little League to Start Season

The Millstone-Roosevelt Little League Season will begin on April 30th. Instructional Clinics for ages 7 and 8 will begin on April 5th.

There is still room in the league for more children. Contact Gloria Hazell (448-5146) for details.

# Statements from School Board Candidates

The *Bulletin* requested statements from all candidates for the school board. The following are those we received at the time we went to press.

Prior to our request, Debra Allen submitted a Viewpoint article, and Margaret Schlinski submitted a relevant Letter to the Editor. These appear elsewhere in this issue.

—Editor

## Debra Allen

It is my belief that Roosevelt is entering the most challenging period of its history. Our water and sewer systems require major renovations, our school building is sub-standard as well as in need of constant repair and maintenance, teachers salaries are experiencing a relative revolution, and our tax base is not keeping pace with the demands being placed upon it.

The coming years are going to stir the emotions of every taxpayer in Roosevelt. As a ten year resident of our beautiful borough and a four year veteran of the school board, I feel qualified to represent the best Roosevelt has to offer. I am running on a platform built upon fiscal and administrative control fostered through community cooperation. Please write in my name, Debra Allen, in a space under the three year term and do not forget to place a mark in the box next to where you write in my name.

## Anne DeCocco

I've been a member of the Roosevelt Board of Education since July, 1987. Some of the issues I will continue to work on are an updated library, a nutritious lunch program, improved in-service for our staff, positive and frequent recognition of teachers, and better communication among everyone concerned. I believe in a budget that is responsible to the taxpayers as well as the children, and decision making based on educational priorities. I'm running for a three year term and look forward to your support.

## Lou Esakoff

Please note that I am a candidate for a two year term on the Board of Education.

## Margaret Katz

My name is Margaret Katz. I am running for the one year term on the Roosevelt School Board. For those of you who do not know me, I will give you some background information which I hope will help win your support.

My husband George and I moved into Roosevelt sixteen years ago. We felt, and still feel, that Roosevelt was a special place where our children would acquire a superior education. All three of our children are graduates of RPS, and the youngest one is currently attending Hightstown High School.

I have been an involved parent for the past six years. During my tenure on the Board, I have served on various committees. I am currently serving as the Vice President of our Board. I am a member of the NJSBA Monmouth County Executive Board. It is my second term in both of these positions. I believe that one of my main functions on the Board is to serve as our Board's liaison to Hightstown High School (where we send our high school students).

I would like to continue to serve on our School Board to try to help provide the best environment and education possible for our students. I believe that my past knowledge and experience will be helpful to our school and community. Thank you for your support.

## Steve Yeger

When first moving into town, I had very little confidence in the school and had sent my children to a local parochial school. After seeing certain changes upon investigation of the school and the curriculum, we had a change of attitude and sent our children to the Roosevelt Public School. I am happy to say that we are very satisfied with the education our children have received.

What I would like to do is to regain the public's confidence in the school by making people more aware of the same facts that changed my mind.

The Board of Education had done a fine job with the school under difficult conditions. I feel I can be an asset by adding fresh outlooks to problem solving and policy making.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** The school is very important to the community. We should keep it as long as we are a community. Sending our children to another district means a loss of control over their education and of the price we pay for it. In keeping the school we have control of what happens with the children's education. Terminating the school should be a last resort and should be looked at with extreme caution. We have to give our kids the best educational environment possible.

**Teamwork:** I want to interact more with the public and promote relations between the administration and the townspeople. I am very interested in what people want out of the school and would like to represent those aspects. I would like to use the public more in problem solving.

**Research and Development:** New ideas are always coming around. It is important to be aware of them and to utilize them to enhance the school's curriculum. I am very interested in the cause for the future.

It is because of these desires that I want a seat on the Board of Education. I look forward to serving you.



## Land Development and the Art of Bicycle Racing: An Interview with Thomas Olejnik

by A. Weiner

"Roosevelt is a town with a priceless resource: green land and abundant trees," says Tom Olejnik with the quiet assurance that is his style. "But we are under constant siege by people trying to turn us into another Plainsboro." He adds, drily, that that's just what he fled when he moved here eight years ago to 31 Farm Lane. What he loves about this town, he says, is its rough-hewn aspect: the absence of regulation-paved curbs, uniformly manicured lawns, constant traffic.

He acknowledges the problems we face but explains, in the clear, logical fashion befitting the highly trained research physicist he is, that submitting to new housing development will never solve, but only multiply our difficulties. Providing the necessary infrastructure alone, along with added fire and police protection, would raise all our costs. Just as in Plainsboro, where taxes went way up, not down. We all dream of an ideal business or industry that will come in and save us. "Well," says Tom, and begins to discuss the proposal he first made at a recent Borough Council meeting for a development scheme that would help to meet our needs.

### Clean and Wholesome

His innovative plan is to build an outdoor velodrome, a structure of paved oval track, one-third of a kilometer long, raked for bicycle racing. His reasons are persuasive: "The sport of bicycle racing attracts mature, sporting individuals who don't drink, don't do drugs, and don't even eat hot dogs." He describes the scene at the nearest velodrome, at Trexlerstown, PA (there are only five in the country and none in New Jersey) where they serve only juices, de-caf coffee, bean-sprouts on pita bread and strawberry yogurt, at the snack bar. No Coke, no Pepsi and Tom says he doesn't dare smoke during the races. After 1500 people leave the place, there is, amazingly, no litter. Most of the parking, by the way, is on grass behind the churchyard. The crowd is so conservative that the announcer has to goad them to applaud. "Bicyclers are people of unadulterated wholesomeness," says Tom, who, as a cycling enthusiast himself, is both amused and in earnest.

This Spring, he is willing to charter a bus to take all interested folks to opening day at Trexlerstown (near Allentown) to see for themselves. Cost will be the bus fare and \$4.00 for a ticket to see world class Olympic athletes compete in a safe, quiet, but exciting, elegant sport. He invites everyone to call him at 443-3853.

### Popular and Safe

Besides being entirely non-polluting and free of rowdy crowds, the sport of bicycling is rapidly gaining popularity; every Spring sees more cyclers going down the roads, often in family groups. A velodrome project can raise support in a dozen different ways: by selling facility time for example, to nearby schools, colleges and universities. Its use for practice by high school and college students would cost the schools a lot less than a football stadium and about the same as an appropriation to the tennis club. And bicycle racing is a lot safer and cheaper than football.

Our velodrome, as the only one in NJ, would be centrally placed and accessible to the whole state. Sponsorship by local corporations, by state-wide bicycle-riding advocacy groups, by the bicycle industry and its many branches, by sport-clothing outfitters and companies like Air Products, all these are likely possibilities. Rental of the velodrome to professional bicyclists for practice sessions or for partial competitions would also be a reasonable expectation. And, there are plenty of hotels around to accommodate such visitors.

### Opportunity Abounds

On the business end, Olejnik had several ideas: In view of Roosevelt's above-average income, there might be some who would like to invest in a private corporation to take up the now restricted IRA contributions; or there may be those who are looking for a non-profit tax-exempt shelter (with opportunities for giving the newly required 100 hours service). Or, the town council might want to acquire development rights by leasing or buying a large tract of land, then itself put up and run the facility with hired management. By its nature, a velodrome does not require a lot of care and attention.

Or, a citizens group might put the package together and manage it for the municipality; or, an individual landowner, who says to himself, "Alright, so I don't need to make all that money building condos," and who just might be willing to develop a more modest enterprise for the benefit of the community. Since one mile of new road costs about a million dollars, an 1/8 mile (1/3 km) structure with bleachers and rest rooms might cost in the region of a 1/2 million. It would not be difficult, with admissions, sponsors and contracts to cover costs and financing and at the very least break even, he thinks.

### All Gain

Tom again: "This town has engineers, architects, real-estate planners, lawyers, teachers, doctors, a heap of professional talent, surely enough to realize such a project. There is really nothing here but plusses." Then he adds, for those who rejoice that Roosevelt is the "only civilized extension of the Assunpink," they should know that the wildlife preserve not only provides trails for horse-riders but also off-the-road paths for bicyclists, as well. You can be sure that they too will be attracted to a velodrome in the area. And for those who care deeply about the environment, it could be that building another popular facility alongside Great Adventure, so to speak, may add some weight to our battle against a toxic waste dump in our area.

Olejnik winds up our talk with the thought that Roosevelt has had a dynamic history, knows what it is to act in a communal spirit, but is also a town of rugged individualists...admirable, but sometimes difficult. He feels sure, though, that the people who really care about living in peaceful, quiet, rural environs will want to act to preserve the present and safeguard the future. "The longer we keep the land non-residential, the longer we maintain an island of undeveloped land, the more profitable it's going to be, in all ways, down the road. Doubling our population will only make more problems. Let's try something new!"

## —Letters—

To the Editor:

The following letter was presented to the School Board on February 11. I am submitting it for publication in the **Bulletin** at this time.

Dear Board President John Burghardt and Board Members,

I am writing to you concerning a serious problem which needs readdressing. Beginning in September through November of this school year I have been keeping note as to the punctuality of our administrator. As you will recall last spring several parents came to the board very concerned about finding our school unattended by the administrator when the children arrived in the morning. It took a crisis to provoke their letter of complaint. You as a board addressed the problem by directing the administrator to be in by 8:15 AM and hiring Peggy Ostrove to serve as an assistant to the principal on the few days monthly that the administrator was scheduled to attend meetings elsewhere. Is that not correct?

I noted that starting from the very first day of school (which by the way our administrator was late for) through to November 18 our administrator was either late or absent every day except for five mornings. This, remember, is for the 8:15 time you agreed upon. I find that being on time for only five out of sixty days is downright insubordination.

Originally I was going to keep this information to myself and the other parents who were aware of this daily problem. Dr. Sussman resented being checked on and there certainly is a nasty taste about this for all of us. So that is why I've said nothing to the Board until now.

Yesterday I went into the school on business. It was 8:35. There was a tractor trailer tilting at a dangerous and awkward angle in the school driveway. It had tried to make too short a circle and was caught on the hill at a bad tilt. I went in to find our administrator was still not in. What I saw after going out to talk to the driver

was Mr. Jones offering some suggestions as children and cars were still arriving on the scene. The cars were making u-turns in the road. It was also the morning of a class trip, so many parents were awaiting a school bus to take them and the children to Maguire Air Force Base. If the truck had turned over injuring children or parents what defense would the School Board have considering the absence of the Chief School Administrator? Why tractor trailers are arriving at the same time in the morning as the children is a question that also needs looking into.

In the normal world of business and education if you hire someone to run that business and in this case it's a big business in a small town, a million dollar business, you have every right to expect your employee to arrive at work on time. Your administrator is late 99% of the time for his job. It should also be of concern to you that his absences are more frequent now and average out at least once a week.

Sincerely,

Margaret Schlinski

Note: This letter was presented to the school board on Thursday, February 11th. I was told that they (the school board) had readdressed the problem in a closed session meeting with Dr. Sussman. What was said I do not know but I do know this—in the month that has passed since that "closed session" Dr. Sussman has not once come to work on time and not only that, he was absent twice a week at least.

This is an unacceptable situation. It is an impasse that is indicative of a norm in our school between our administrator, our school board, our community and our children. This must stop. We must work on how.

*Margaret Schlinski is a candidate for the School Board.*

To the Editor:

Even though I attended the Wednesday Council meeting, I still don't understand what happened. All I know is that the big orange Borough truck has been left at an out-of-town garage since August 4th and (up to February 24th), has incurred \$3,000 in storage charges. It seems to me that in local government administration, that accountability falls on someone's shoulders.

1. Is the truck still at the garage and is the Council still being charged for storage?

2. Why wasn't the truck serviced at our local garage, Roosevelt Auto?

3. Who is responsible for supervising the maintenance of Borough equipment? Is it the Borough Clerk, or a Council member?

4. Does the Council operate under a set of written regulations which assign responsibilities to Council members and Borough employees?

5. When the sewer operator, who left it at the garage, resigned on August 12th, why didn't either the Borough Clerk or a Council member ask him for the keys?

6. When the Council purchased a new Borough truck, why didn't they think of trading in the orange truck?

7. If what seems like clear-cut negligence is, indeed, the fault of a Council member, who is he, and why doesn't he resign?

Yours truly,  
Peter Warren

---

**The Bulletin tries to print all letters it receives.**

**Please address correspondence to:**

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# Viewpoints

## Viewpoint: Who's In Charge?

by Debra Leigh Allen, School Board Member

"State of New Jersey initiates takeover of Roosevelt Public School District by removing the Board of Education, The Chief School Administrator, and the Administrative staff." We could have been reading these headlines if the current Board had not recognized the deplorable condition of our policy manual and had not taken action to rectify the situation. How, you ask, can a seemingly innocuous piece of bureaucracy create such drastic consequences?

The New Jersey Constitution places responsibility for education upon the State Legislature. The State Legislature then makes the law and delegates the supervision and control to the local district School Board. The local Board is created by statute to perform a State function at the local level. The local Board of Education is viewed by the State as elected State officials. If the Board fails to perform its legally defined functions which are required to help to provide a thorough and effective education, the Board can be dissolved by the Commissioner of Education.

In order for the Board to fulfill this obligation it becomes one of the Board's most important functions to make the district's policies which are the guidelines that govern the operation of the district's programs. The Chief School Administrator (CSA) develops rules and regulations to implement the philosophy and goals of the policy statements. The rules and regulations are subject to Board approval and should include methods of evaluating their performance. Clearly defined policy reduces ambiguity and misunderstandings between the Board and its CSA. The CSA then has a solid basis for decision making and authorization for action.

The Roosevelt Public School District has struggled for years with an inadequate set of policies, a fact confirmed by a study of our policies con-

ducted by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) at the request of the Roosevelt Board in 1986. This study indicated that almost 80% of the required and critical policy statements were either non-existent or in need of revision. Most (98 of 144) were non-existent. This leads us to why the Board has pushed aggressively to improve our policy manual.

First, the Board has been remiss in not providing clear guidance to our Administrator. Second, members of the community have been questioning how our district is governed. Third, our district is due to be monitored by the state next year and our policy book will be examined to ensure that the Board is providing guidance in the areas where required by law. That brings us to what have we done about it.

The drive and dedication of the members of the Policy Committee has produced great progress during the past few months. We have completed 80% of the tasks identified with assistance from the NJSBA. While the job is not yet finished, with continued energy it now appears within our grasp. A year ago it appeared overwhelming. There is another job which will follow the completion of the policies which is even more important. That being to review the policies every year to ensure their compliance to both legal requirements and community needs.

To summarize, it is the Board's intent to include the community in the development and review of policies, to require the review of all procedures, to measure the effectiveness of the Administration performing these tasks, and insure that the community will retain control of the performance of our district through its elective process.

*Debra Allen is a candidate for the School Board.*

## Viewpoint: On the Coming Development

by David Brahinsky

I don't have anything very profound or important to say about development in Roosevelt. Just a feeling to express. It's about the death of this town, as we know it. Yes, it has been sick in some ways for a while. No, not AIDS, but WSS (water/sewer sickness) among other difficulties. And yes, the traffic on 571 is increasing dramatically through no fault of our own. Will there soon be a traffic light at 571 and Perrineville Rd.? You bet.

I know there are some who believe a drastic increase in population is the only solution to our financial and educational problems. I don't know. I keep seeing myself driving through Old Bridge and Clifton, Elizabeth and Cherry Hill—houses and houses and traffic lights and traffic ... And I feel sad. Depressed.

It's just a feeling—nothing grandiose. I have no solution, no ideas. I'm not much help. I just feel sad. I'm in mourning, I guess, prematurely perhaps, but in mourning none-the-less.

Should I say: "The Town is Dead, Long Live the Town"? There are those who think this way—new town, double, triple in population, new money ... Or should I be a little nasty and say that those who think this way don't understand the value of open fields before their eyes, open air to breathe, land for wildlife to flourish—some quiet in an ever increasingly noisy world? And why? Why don't they value these? I shall be nasty and theorize that they spend too much time in closed spaces viewing screens. The vision is narrow, there is no need for openness.

We who still wish for openness are suffering. We are losing a long, mostly silent war. The Developers are coming! The Developers are coming! In their wake they leave the corpse (of this and many, many other places and towns as they were when the quality of the environment was considered essential to the quality of life). And we mourn.

## Viewpoints (continued)

### Viewpoint: Budgets in Perspective

by Peter Warren

In the spring, Roosevelt prepares its new budgets—for the school, the municipality, the water/sewer utility and county tax. As of now, the taxpayer should prepare to pay higher taxes and w/s rates. 1988 budget costs are eight percent higher than 1987 and 65% higher than 1983. They will be about \$1,766,000 in 1988.

The school budget is the largest—59% of the total. It is followed by the municipal budget at 18% and the w/s budget at 15%. The budget we pay to the county is eight percent of the total cost.

Since 1983, the municipal and w/s budgets (controlled, of course, by the Borough Council) have risen the most rapidly. The municipal budget is 82% higher, and the w/s budget, 84%. We will soon feel an increase in w/s fees from \$30 a month in 1983 to about \$75 (150%) to repay DEP-mandated improvements.

The school budget gets the most attention. It is the only part of the total budget which is fully explained to the public and on which the public can vote—although rejection is costly in legal fees. It also risks the rejection being overruled by the Department of Education.

Since 1983, the school budget has risen 63%—much less than the other budgets; but it is 16% higher than in 1987, for reasons which, by now, I believe, have been thoroughly discussed.

The school budget is \$1,049,000 in 1988. \$680,000 of this amount comes from our property taxes, followed at a discreet distance by \$234,000 from equalization aid, and \$135,000 from other state and Federal grants.

What is perhaps not thoroughly understood is that the fewer children there are in R.P.S., the more our taxes go up. In 1983, there were 112 children in R.P.S.; only 85 are expected in September. Since the state donates a fixed sum per child in

equalization aid (currently about \$2000), a decline in enrollment increases taxes to meet costs which are largely fixed.

Total equalization aid is almost dollar for dollar the same as it was in 1983. In the meantime, our taxes for education have increased from \$390,000 to \$680,000. I estimate that the average household paid \$1,300 in 1983, \$1,600 in 1987, and will pay \$2,300 in the new budget. The only meager consolation is that our taxes would be much higher if the State had not instituted the equalization tax in the Seventies.

Conversely, our taxes would go down if R.P.S. were used more fully. It is now running, I think, at about 50% of capacity. I believe it could educate another 80 children without needing additional construction or teachers. At that level, it would average 17-18 pupils per grade.

This reflection led me to hypothesize what our school taxes would have been if 100 new families had moved into town over the five-year period 1983 and 1987, each with 1.2 school age children per household—admittedly a much higher ratio than now obtains in Roosevelt.

In that hypothetical case, between increased equalization aid and increased ratables—assuming the school budget to be the same as it has been in each year—the average Roosevelt household would have paid lower taxes, ranging from \$100 in 1983 to \$900 in 1988, for a total saving of \$2,400 over the six year period—even though I have assumed that a third of the pupils would pay tuition in high school—a much higher ratio than we have now.

This approach to examining the school budget shows that the answer to high school taxes lies not in a fruitless and frustrating effort to cut costs, but in planned community development which takes into account the under-utilized capacity of the school which is at the heart of our fiscal problem, insofar as education is concerned.

### The Way We Were

by Ilse Riesenfeld

Since I taught school in Roosevelt for many years, I follow up on your invitation and let you know the way we were then at R.P.S.

As it was a small school, we teachers all worked closely together. As a music teacher I coordinated my program much around a class's social studies program; for instance, if they learned about our various States, we lustily sang "I'm leaving Old Texas now", or "Oh, Susannah, I come from Alabama" to enrich the curriculum.

Each teacher was responsible for one assembly program during the school year. They did their best to produce a play or other presentation with their students and the whole town attended the show. Often we all, including the principal, stayed after school hours to practice for such a performance. Sometimes, too, we had a spring festival or a winter holiday program for all eight grades.

I can not remember that we ever had less than 100 students in that school, mostly more than that. In comparison to surrounding schools, R.P.S. had an excellent reputation, which our county supervisor proudly pointed out to us. One year, a group of our children was asked to perform at the N.J. Teachers' Convention in Atlantic City, and proud parents helped in this endeavor. Older children auditioned for the AllShore Band, and again, parents assisted a great deal.

Of course, we teachers did more than sing and dance. Every Friday, we had to hand in our planbook to our principal, and every Monday, we got it back, initialled and commented on by the principal, and we had better have had it right! Also he came to observe our classes, as did the county supervisor; he held general meetings once a month, and individual meetings more often. We had to bring written proof we had attended the N.J. Teachers Convention, or else we were docked the day's pay, and we had to close up the attendance register for the year before we received our June pay check. Life was not always easy at R.P.S., but I loved it and will always remember it fondly!



# Roosevelt Arts

## Theater

### A Fugue for Sirens

... was given a play reading at the Theatre Studio in Manhattan on February 25th. It is Richard Lloyd's fifth three-act play. Richard, who received an MFA in playwriting from Rutgers, has also written 30 one-act plays. He is, *inter alia*, artistic director of the New Jersey Playwriters' Workshop. We look forward to a Roosevelt performance of his work.

## Music

### Concert to Benefit Homeless

Alan Mallach, piano, and Jack Zamboni, tenor, will repeat their performance of Schubert's song cycle *Die Schöne Müllerin* on Saturday night, April 23, at 8 PM in the Little Theater, St. John Vianney School on Line Road in Holmdel (near Colts Neck). This performance of what many consider one of Schubert's masterpieces and one of the greatest works of German song will benefit Homes for All, an organization working for affordable housing and for aid to the homeless in the New Jersey shore area.

## Photography

### In America

... is an exhibit of the work of Sol Libsohn at the Photofind Gallery, 138 Spring Street, New York City (212-334-0010). The showing will run from March 23 through April 23. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

## Poetry

### Poetry Reading Thrills, Sobers, Delights

Four Roosevelt poets, Rod Tulloss, Neil Selden, David Keller, and David Herrstrom read poems of protest at the Borough Hall on March 12. The poems, from ancient China to contemporary America, protested war, bad parenting, ignorance, those who do not value the body, and so many other things.

The poems made us laugh as well as cry inside; gave us pause to think; forced us to feel even as we may have resisted. They were rare and exquisite, subtle, peaceful, and enraging.

## Arts Project

### Chamber Music on April 10th

The Roosevelt Arts Project will sponsor a concert of chamber music for piano and wind instruments on Sunday, April 10th, at 8 PM at the Borough Hall.

The evening will feature works by Beethoven, Saint-Saëns, and Reinecke, as well as the world premiere of a trio for clarinet, horn, and piano by Roosevelt composer Alan Mallach, who will be at the piano.

For more details, please see the back page of this issue.

### Arts Project Wants You

After over a season and a half of bringing our town a series of premiere events—from now to next wave music, from verbs to visuals—the ragtag band of people from The Roosevelt Arts Project want to hear from you. Our intent is to foster collaboration among Roosevelt artists and to present new work to the community. We know there are other painters, musicians, poets, playwrights, novelists, composers, *et al.*, out there, and we would like to get in touch. If you would like to join our project, or help in any way, please contact Jacob Landau (443-4638 or David Herrstrom (443-4421) directly or drop a note (08555) indicating your activities and interests.

### Tell the Bulletin

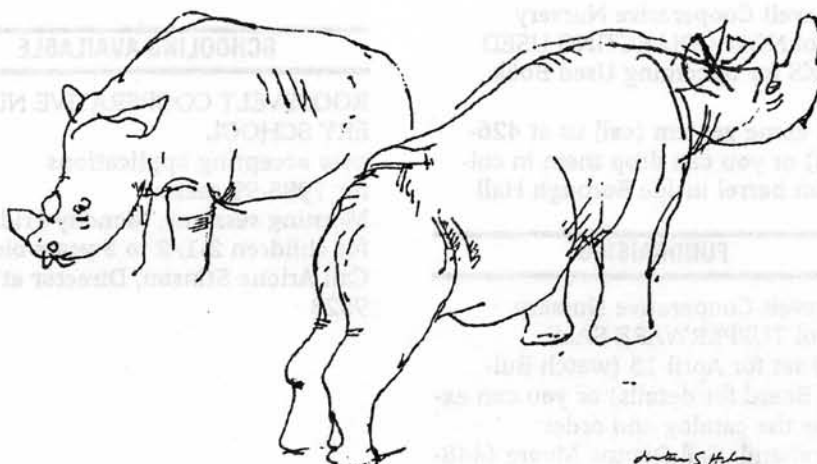
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Drawing by Jonathan Shah

# Former Yale Chaplain and Two Rooseveltians speak at Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament Dinner

by Herb Johnson

William Sloane Coffin was the main speaker at the Annual Membership Dinner of the Princeton area Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament. Millions know him as a leader in anti-Vietnam War protests while he was Yale University's chaplain, and in recent years as a prominent disarmament advocate while the senior minister of New York's Riverside Church. Very few know he majored in music and then worked for the C.I.A. in Europe before he became a minister. In November he left the Riverside Church to become President of Sane/Freeze, America's largest peace, justice and arms reduction organization.

Before Coffin spoke, Bob Moore and other leaders of the Coalition reported on progress this year, plans for next year, and the pros and cons of becoming an affiliate of this new national center for disarmament advocacy, Sane/Freeze. In response to a request for a short description, Coffin said this stands for "international disarmament and development."

Being aware of some doubts about affiliation, Coffin stressed how important working together as a huge national group was for success at achieving nuclear disarmament, peace and the kind of effective bi-partisan foreign policy our nation needs. He claimed he did not want us to think he considered us to be "birds", or his "flock"; but he wanted us to be a part of Sane/Freeze and to be mindful of the image of Canadian geese flying in a V formation. That V formation and the effort to maintain it enables those birds to fly 180% faster than usual. In conclusion, Coffin emphasized that people seriously engaged in the effort to get their nation and the other nations of the world to develop and adhere to policies that promote social justice and "Common Security" for all, are engaged in a very exhausting life-struggle. He mentioned that a famous scientist friend of Goethe's, upon hearing that Goethe's last words before dying were, "Light, light, I need more light," remarked, "He was wrong; we

don't die from lack of light; we die from lack of warmth." So Coffin urged us to keep close together to stay warm. His speech was quite a plug for joining with Sane/Freeze. Jay Bleiman, chair of CND's Steering Committee, had reported that the committee favored affiliation but it wanted input from members about ways to respect any member's desire to be kept off Sane/Freeze's mailing list.

Among the five people who got a chance to challenge or question Coffin in public were two from Roosevelt. I asked if Coffin would urge us to elect as many delegates as possible to support the nomination of Jesse Jackson for President. Answer: Yes, but 3 other democrats have good positions too. Ann Baker asked, "If repression has always followed reform in Russia, what are the chances of history not repeating?" Coffin said, "Good, if we build enough support in the U.S. for the Soviet reformation."

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Written by Peter Warren, Insert, March Bulletin

RESIDENTS POLLED ON RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Seventy-nine ballots with 121 responses were returned in the March 14 poll on attitudes toward residential development. Forty-two percent of the responses oppose residential development, 29 percent want more information before making up their mind, and 27 percent favor residential development. One person doesn't care one way or the other and one merely stated that it was inevitable.

Sixteen ballots showed a division of opinion within the family. Other couples used one checkmark for both opinions.

Thirty-two ballots were returned with comments. These comments will be printed verbatim in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The comments show that people tend to oppose certain types of residential development or to favor residential development under certain conditions.

On March 14-15, the Citizens' Group distributed door-to-door - skipping only houses that were for sale - a questionnaire asking residents their attitude toward residential growth in Roosevelt.

The survey was the idea of Mel Friedman, a member of the Planning Board. The questionnaires were distributed by Peter Warren and Christopher and Keith Suk. Results were tabulated by Sol Metzger, an administrative law judge and Debbie Metzger, a member of the Planning Board.

Letter to Editor, March Bulletin

Fifteen community members were present at the aborted public municipal budget hearing on March 21.

Because the printed budget which had been made available at Borough Hall for public study was incomplete, the Council opted to read the budget in its entirety and to proceed with the public hearing.

Halfway through the budget reading, the Council abruptly terminated the reading and voted, three to one, to postpone the budget hearing until the next regular Council meeting on April 13th.

Only four of the six Council members were present. Only one of those present had the courage to vote against postponement. The reason given for the postponement was to allow the public ample time to study the budget.

Why, halfway through the budget reading did the Council change options? Considering the timing, was the proposed postponement legal?

The public attending the budget hearing was clearly prepared and had made no objection to the Council's initial decision to proceed.

Did some Council members need more time to prepare themselves? Was the hearing postponed in an effort to avoid the line-by-line reading? Did the Council hope that the IRS deadline might keep some of the public from attending the April 13th Council meeting and budget hearing?

Shortly before the budget reading was interrupted, two members of the public left the meeting and went into another part of the building. One by one, three Council members took turns also leaving the public meeting and heading in the same direction. It was after these five returned to the meeting that the same three members voted to postpone the budget hearing. Why?

Just before the March 21st meeting, all taxpayers received an unofficial municipal budget presentation prepared by a private citizen.

You have had time to read this presentation, which shows the trends in our municipal revenues and expenditures - not just for 1987 and 1988 but for the six years from 1983 to 1988 - and to formulate your own questions about the Council's management of your tax dollars.

A similar presentation of the Utility budget is also being prepared and will soon be in your hands.

The FINAL final budget hearing has been rescheduled to April 13th at 7 pm. We will be there. Will you join us?

*Mary Alfare*

Mary Alfare

*Mary De Foe*

Mary De Foe

*Donna Suk*

Donna Suk



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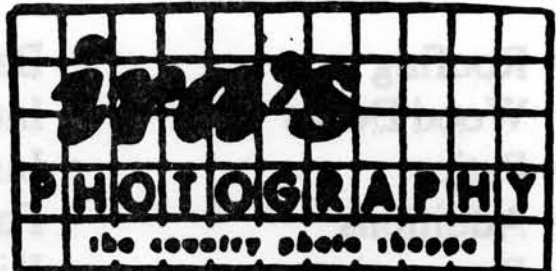
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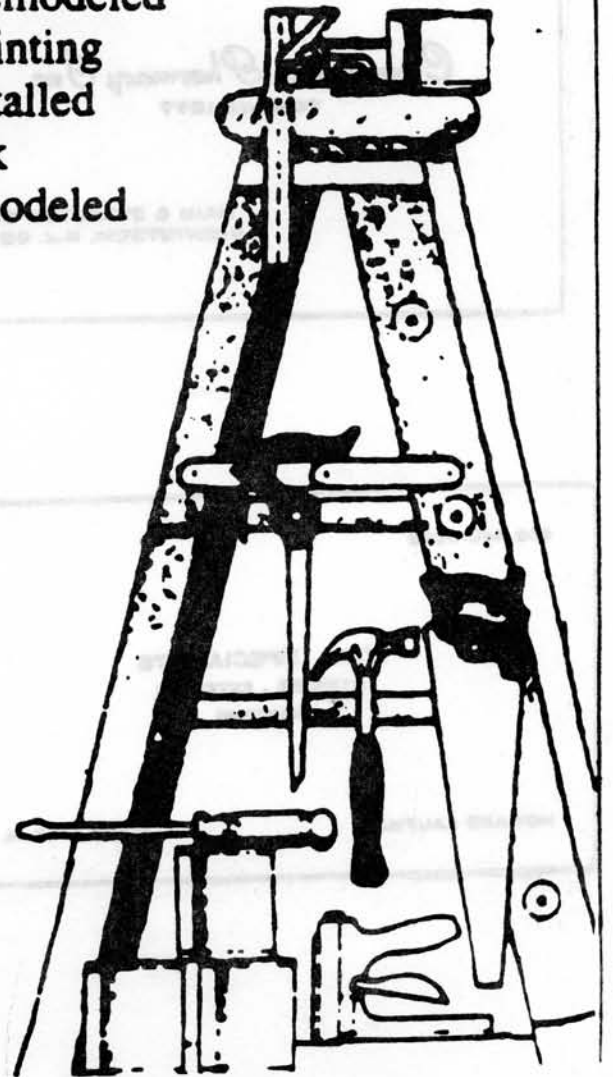
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# CONCERT

SUNDAY APRIL 10 AT 8 PM  
Roosevelt Borough Hall  
Rochdale Avenue (Route 571)  
Roosevelt, New Jersey

## CHAMBER MUSIC FOR PIANO AND WINDS

TRIO FOR OBOE, FRENCH HORN AND PIANO

CARL REINECKE  
(1824-1910)

Allegro Moderato  
Scherzo - Molto Vivace  
Adagio  
Finale - Allegro ma non troppo

TRIO FOR CLARINET, FRENCH HORN AND PIANO  
(FIRST PERFORMANCE)

ALAN MALLACH

Allegro Moderato  
Lento  
Fugue - Allegro Moderato

### INTERMISSION

CAPRICE ON DANISH AND RUSSIAN AIRS FOR FLUTE,  
OBOE, CLARINET AND PIANO

CAMILLE SAINT-  
SAENS (1835-1921)

QUINTET FOR OBOE, CLARINET, FRENCH HORN,  
BASSOON AND PIANO

LUDWIG VON  
BEETHOVEN  
(1770-1827)

Grave/Allegro, ma non troppo  
Andante Cantabile  
Rondo - Allegro, ma non troppo

Robert Cayne, Oboe  
Dominic Ferrara, Basson and Clarinet  
Alan Mallach, Piano  
Robert Meyer, Clarinet and Flute  
Richard Scott, French Horn

Contribution \$2 Students and senior citizens \$1  
Supported by a grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation

# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT