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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XVI NO. 9

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

MAY 1991

XIV

Historic District Council Established Community Residence to be Auctioned

by Michael Ticktin

At its meeting of May 13, the borough council adopted an ordinance creating the Jersey Homesteads Historic District Advisory Council, to be chaired by a member, to be designated by the mayor, who will have the statutory title of local historian. The mission of the advisory council will be to educate the public, both here and elsewhere, regarding the history of Roosevelt and its significance in the history of New Jersey and the country. The local historian and the advisory council will collect, preserve and make available materials of historic importance, prepare publications and assist in projects of commemoration, including the erection of monuments, markers and guide signs. The following residents were appointed to membership on the advisory council: Jeanette Koffler, Louise Prezant, Helen Barth, Dolores Chasan, Margaret Schlinski, Arthur Shapiro and Michael Ticktin. No appointment of a local historian has yet been made.

In a related development, the borough council, acting upon a recommendation of the parks commission, adopted a resolution formally designating the triangle at the intersection of Homestead Lane and North Valley Road as Jersey Homesteads Park, thereby symbolically reviving the original name of the borough. The renaming ceremony will take place in conjunction with the 55th anniversary reunion.

Mayor Barth announced the appointment of Paul Henry to the vacant alternate position on the planning board. The position was held by Peter Warren prior to his election to the council. Mayor Barth also announced that he had received and accepted the resignation of Dennis Connaughton from the planning board, but that he had not yet selected a replacement.

Administrative committee chairman Bill Counterman announced that an ad hoc committee on the Roosevelt Public School had been organized and that it was inviting community groups to submit a "wish list" of ways in which the school building could be used by the community. He also announced that the council would ask Monmouth County

to take an active role in animal control, rather than leaving the individual municipalities to their own devices.

Finance committee chairman Howard Prezant announced that a new computer system has been installed in the borough offices and that it is being used already for financial reports. Streets and Public Property committee chairman Rose Murphy reported that Eleanor and Spruce Lanes had been graded and that an open storm drain at newly-named Jersey Homesteads Park had been made safe.

Utilities committee chairman Lee Allen reported that the local office of the Farmers Home Administration had recommended approval of financing for the sewer system project. He also said that pilings have been driven for the new structure at the sewage treatment plant, that the contract for the work on the plant is being amended to require completion by the May 1, 1992 deadline set by the administrative consent order of DEP, that 6,000 feet of pipe have been replaced and that 800 feet of pipe between Pine Drive and the trunkline near the creek have been abandoned. He asked that residents with chain saws cut up the trees that have been felled, so that the bottom portions of the stumps can be recycled.

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

A Word of Caution

With the advent of Spring and associated outdoor activities, it is important to bring to everyone's attention the dangers of the current construction activities within the Borough.

First of all, everyone should be aware of the increase in vehicular traffic on the streets due to the sewer system construction. In particular, caution should be advised to all children, who, in the focus of play, may run into the street without looking for traffic. In addition, children (and adults for that matter) should be cautioned to stay clear of the active construction taking place at the sewage treatment facility and throughout the Borough with sewer piping replacement. Operators of equipment are cautious, however, due to the size of these vehicles, visibility is sometimes limited. Drivers have been advised to heed the speed limits and to be aware of the residential nature of the area.

Register Now for Summer Camp

The Roosevelt Community Summer Camp, Inc. is now accepting registrations for the 1991 summer program which will run from July 8 through August 9. The hours for the regular summer program are weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The nursery program which is designed for toilet-trained children, ages 3-4 will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Financial aid is available and information can be obtained by calling Margaret Schlinski at 443-5180.

For general information please call Margaret Schlinski, 443-5180 or Howard Kaufman, 448-4282.

—From a Press Release

**Support
the
Bulletin**

All of the construction at the Sewage Treatment Plant, which is at the end of Pine Drive, will be within the fenced area. This area will be locked following the day's work activities and on weekends, so access to any open excavation or equipment is restricted.

We know there is a magnetism that construction activities have on some children. Therefore, parents, please advise your children that this area is not an appropriate place for play, whether construction activities are in progress or not.

We look forward to the safe and successful completion of all the sewage treatment facility construction activities in the Borough.

Gregg Barkley, P.E.
Project Engineer
Tony Pierik
Construction Inspector
Applied Wastewater Technology

Still Counting...

The borough council is still looking for residents who were not counted in the 1990 census.

So far, only one uncounted person has come forward, but there are probably more.

It is in everyone's interest to have a complete count. If you weren't counted, please call Borough Clerk Krystyna Bieracki-Olejnik at 448-0539.

—Michael Ticktin

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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

Council *(continued from page 1)*

The more work we can do ourselves, the less we have to pay to contractors, and wood for next winter is there for the taking. The need for this work to be done is particularly acute on Brown Street.

Community relations committee chairman Peter Warren reported that the New Jersey Department of Human Services has finally approved the sale of the community residence for the developmentally disabled at 40 Pine Drive to the highest bidder at an auction to be conducted sometime after July 1. This sale will put a large home back on the tax rolls. The building has been vacant in recent years. It was purchased as a home for autistic young people, one of the very few owned by the State directly rather than by a State-funded nonprofit organization. Staffing problems reportedly led to its closing.

Environment, health and safety committee chairman Stu Kaufman reported on last month's Earth Day celebration and indicated that it would be a regular annual event, with more participation in the future by the school board. He also reported that 40 animals were inoculated at the rabies clinic and that a fuel oil spill at an industrial property on North Valley Road is being cleaned up by the owner. Recycling coordinator David Donnelly reported that 30 tons of material were recycled in the first quarter, equivalent to 22.6 pounds per person per month, which was an improvement over previous performance. He also announced that junk mail and magazines can now be recycled at the small structure in the rear of the borough hall parking lot.

During the public portion, Arlene Stinson asked what more she could do

to get action taken against alleged use and nuisance violations at a nearby industrial property. Mayor Barth told her that Zoning Officer Paul Eichler was awaiting a letter from the planning board attorney before taking action, but that he would take whatever action might be appropriate. Mr. Eichler, he added, is responsible to the mayor and council for the proper discharge of his duties. Henry John-Alder asked if infiltration had been reduced yet as a result of all of the pipe work. Councilman Allen replied that the flow appeared to be going down despite the fact that we are now in the peak flow period of the year. The measurement on May 10 was 275,000 gpd., as opposed to an average of 350,000 gpd. at this time of year in the past. In response to another question by Mr. John-Alder, Mr. Allen also stated that funds in the operating budget were sufficient for the additional pipe work that has been done.

In addition to the historic district advisory council ordinance, the council also adopted a water emergency ordinance required by DEP. It authorizes the mayor and council to take necessary action in an emergency to reduce water consumption, including bans on car washing, watering of plants and flushing of hydrants. Arrangements may also be made for use of alternate sources of water and interconnection of private and public systems.

An ordinance was introduced raising the annual fee for a liquor license to \$475.00. Though Roosevelt's fee is quite low, the maximum annual percentage increase is set by State law and this is therefore the highest fee that can be charged this year.

A View from a Council Seat

by Stu Kaufman

Sorry I missed you last month. I didn't wake up till half past April.

I don't know if anyone noticed but there was a lot of construction equipment floating around town. Also, the streets seem a little bumpier than usual. I guess it's a sure sign that spring has arrived; I can't wait for summer.

I received a letter the other day asking me what I think the most dangerous thing is facing parents today. I would have to say it's addiction and the most addictive thing is video games. Kids, if you want to keep seeing your parents, don't let them near your games. Take it from one who knows. I hate to admit it, but I'm an addicted to video games father.

While watching my dog digging holes all over my lawn, I began to wonder about something that has puzzled me for years. How come, when you try to put back into a hole what your dog took out, there never is enough. I want to know where the missing dirt went. Do you know?

I've been accused by some people of never taking a stand on issues. Well, I want to dispel that rumor by taking a stand on cat licensing, I'm in favor of it.

Till next month, stay well.

Wayne Kim Dexheimer : Roosevelt's Volunteer of the Year

Kim Dexheimer, a clerk for the Roosevelt Post Office, has been selected the local postal Volunteer of the Year. Postmaster Millar presented Dexheimer with a certificate of appreciation signed by U.S. Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank during a ceremony at the Roosevelt Post Office on April 24, 1991 at 11:30 a.m.

The award and similar presentations made at post offices throughout the country, are intended to honor the spirit of volunteerism during National Volunteer Week, April 21-28.

"The Roosevelt Post Office, like all of our post offices and thousands of our postal employees nationwide, is committed to volunteerism and community service," says Geraldine Millar.

"Through his dedicated service, we feel Kim Dexheimer truly represents what volunteerism is all about. On behalf of the Postmaster General and the community of Roosevelt, I salute Wayne Kim Dexheimer for contributing his time to our community as our Fire Chief."

—From a Press Release

School Board Reorganizes

John Ord Elected President

By Bob Clark

At its May 15 reorganization meeting, the Roosevelt School Board unanimously elected John Ord President, replacing Edward Grossman, who remains a member of the Board. The only contest was for the election of Vice President, with Margaret Schlinski obtaining the position over Michael Hamilton by a vote of six to two. Incumbent Board members sworn to new three-year terms as winners of the April 30 election were Mrs. Schlinski, Mr. Hamilton and Harry Parker. Howard Kaufman was sworn to serve in a seat with a two-year term remaining. Incumbent Allen Newrath was elected to a position with one year remaining, but he was absent from the meeting and will have to be sworn another time. Mr. Ord tabled committee appointments until the next meeting so that he could obtain more feedback from members regarding their preferences.

The Board changed its regular meeting dates for the coming year. Agenda meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month, and action meetings will be held on the second Thursday. All regular meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M. The meetings are held at the Roosevelt Public School (RPS).

Official results of the April 30 election showed 301 voters at the polls (six ballots voided) and 12 absentee voters. Voters approved the 1991-92 budget tax levy of \$829,605 by 175 votes to 121. In the election for three 3-year terms, Mrs. Schlinski was the top vote getter with 190, followed by Mr. Hamilton (182), Mr. Parker (157), Dolores Chasan (141), Patricia Moser (122), Lauralynne Cokely (30) and Louis Esakoff (11 write-in votes). Mr. Kaufman defeated Henry John-Alder for the single two-year unexpired term by a vote of 172 to 99. Finally, Mr. Newrath was elected to the single one-year unexpired term over write-in candidate Esakoff by 166 votes to 86. The Board approved Sylvia Gale as an election worker replacement for Mildred Di Giorgio, retroactive to the April 30 election date.

Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman said the Board

received auditor notification that the cost per pupil for the 1989-90 school year was \$7,445, down from the previous year. Regarding the controversial school "report cards" recently issued by the Business Roundtable, the State of New Jersey and the Public Education Institute (a private organization) for all districts in the state, the Board indicated that it did not intend to distribute copies of Roosevelt's card to households in the community. Mr. Groveman explained that this decision adhered to the recommendations of various associations of educators and administrators, which had questioned the accuracy and value of the information contained in the report cards. It was noted, for example, that Roosevelt's card reported a 1989-90 per pupil cost of \$9,282, while the audited figure was \$7,445. Sponsors of the reports have admitted certain errors but nonetheless maintained that they provide some useful information for evaluating of a school district's performance.

Mr. Groveman reported that about 200 people had applied for the fourth grade teacher position. The position was created when the Board decided to split the combined third and fourth grade class to accommodate increasing enrollment.

The Board approved the RPS staff's selection of sixth-graders Meira Yeger and Kristen Yarber as recipients of the 1991 Academic Achievement Awards. The awards, in the form of a \$50 bond for each recipient donated by the Rossi family in honor of the late Dominic J. Rossi, will be presented at this year's sixth grade graduation ceremony to be held on June 15. Mrs. Schlinski abstained from the vote, saying that, while both recipients were deserving, she disapproved of that kind of award. The Rossis began sponsoring the award at last year's graduation.

Mr. Groveman noted that RPS will hold a Field Day of athletic and academic activities on June 11. On June 17 there will be a special assembly in the morning for students to give their African study presentations. On June 18 a special awards assembly will be held and students will join their

new teachers for the coming year. The Board and Mr. Groveman encouraged members of the community to attend these events.

The Board approved a stipend of \$300 to Maxine Shore for a summer project to complete revisions to the K-6 art curriculum. It also appointed Ilene Levine to serve as RPS's Affirmative Action Compliance Officer and to assume Mr. Groveman's responsibilities in his absence, all for an annual stipend of \$1,000. Finally, the Board appointed Alfred Luckenbach as the school's audio-visual chair at a stipend of \$500.

The Board appointed David Rubin, Esq., of the law firm of Rubin, Rubin and Malgran to serve as Board legal counsel for the 1991-92 school year. It also engaged Seaman & Co. to conduct the annual audit. It approved deposits of district funds at the Yardville Bank and Midlantic National Bank. Howard Prezant was appointed as Custodian of School Monies at an annual fee of \$1,550. Finally, the Board appointed Dr. M. Lupovici as School Physician at an annual fee of \$800.

The Board accepted the proposal from Smitty's Door Service to replace the rear gym doors and framework at a cost of \$1,430. It also accepted (Mrs. Schlinski voting against) the proposal submitted by Dave Perna Plumbing Company to remove fixtures and rethread and cap pipes in the bathroom located in the physical education and child study team offices at a cost of \$650. The school will gain some increased storage space from the work. The Board approved the attendance of up to five members to attend a new board member orientation offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association at a commuter rate of \$220 per person. Other members who have attended the seminars said they were useful and offered a perspective not attainable from the limited experience gained merely by sitting for a few months on the Roosevelt Board.

During the public portion of the meeting, Dolores Chasan said the Board should do more to help members of the public understand its activities. She was informed that an Ad

RPS Facility Planning Committee Meets

By Bob Clark

Hoc Committee for Public Relations was being formed to explore ways to do just that. Mrs. Chasan also asked for job descriptions of the clerical staff. School Board Secretary Debra Allen said she would give her copies. Mrs. Chasan also asked for clarification concerning the positions of School Business Administrator (SBA) and School Board Secretary. Mr. Groveman and Mrs. Allen explained that a school board secretary may serve as a district's financial manager. Effective September 1991, the position will have to be occupied by an SBA, a certified position, except in those districts where school board secretaries were already serving, as is the case in Roosevelt. Although the Roosevelt District is paying tuition for Mrs. Allen to obtain the SBA certification (\$680 for the 1990-91 school year), her salary is less than that of her predecessor, an SBA who left Roosevelt to receive a substantial pay increase from another district.

Lenore Mogin, who taught at RPS from 1952-56, attended the May 15 meeting as a member of the public. Mrs. Mogin moved from Roosevelt in 1956. She said that since that time she had served elsewhere in New Jersey as a school psychologist and director of child study teams. She added that she now intended to take an active interest in RPS and Board meetings. She returned to Roosevelt five years ago. One of her children, Erica, attended RPS, and another, Paul, was born in Roosevelt.

An Ad Hoc Committee for Facility Planning held its first meeting on May 1. The Committee will present to the School Board plans for upgrading Roosevelt Public School (RPS) facilities to meet state mandates, improve the educational environment at the school and serve the needs of the community within the confines of available funding from state grants and local financing.

Members of the Committee are Board President and Committee Chair John Ord, Board Vice President Margaret Schlinski, Board members Jan Plumb, Harry Parker (also a member of the Planning Board) and Allen Newrath, Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman, Mayor Leon Barth (also a member of the Planning Board), Council member William Counterman and Planning Board Chair Gail Hunton. Present at the May 1 meeting were representatives of the architectural firm of L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Russell Micciche, Regional Vice President, Edward Kirkbride, Vice President, Eldon Swensson, Senior Architect, and Mary Jo Hopton, Architectural Design. In March the Board selected the Kimball firm to prepare the actual drawings to be submitted to the State Education Department for approval. The Committee and Board have been acting on the assumption that the Board will eventually hold a public referendum to seek voter approval of financing for capital improvements called for in the plan. The Committee scheduled further meetings as follows:

- May 29—Work session to determine needs, set priorities and

determine a structure for public comment.

- June 18—Public hearing to receive input from invited community groups and members of the general public.
- June 20—Work session to finalize program requirements to be presented to the architects.
- July 31—Work session to review architects' preliminary drawings and select a single course of action to be recommended to the School Board.
- September—Public hearing.
- December—Earliest date for public referendum (only after state approval of plans).

All meetings will be held at RPS at 7:30 PM. and will be open to the public.

All this activity would put the Board in a position to take advantage of state grants that would become available should the Legislature pass the \$600 million School Rebuilding, Refurbishing and Revitalization Act. It was anticipated that Roosevelt might be eligible for a state grant of as much as 40 percent of a qualifying project's cost.

Groups which will be invited to give presentations at the June 18 meeting include teachers and students attending RPS, PTA, Senior Citizens, Roosevelt Arts Project, Drama Group, Youth Group, Sports Group, Roosevelt Community Nursery School, First Aid Squad, Fire Department, Roosevelt Community Summer Camp, Community Librarian and Millstone/Roosevelt Little League.

Girl Scout Eco-Action at RPS

Mary Alfare

Seven Girl Scouts from Roosevelt Troop 904 were joined by a member of Cadet Troop 913 of Hightstown in a litter pickup of the RPS grounds on Saturday, May 11. "The cleanup is part of a community service project in cooperation with the Shade Tree Commission" explained Scout Leader, Carol Miller, "and one step toward the

Scouts' Eco-Action Badges." Carol Miller and Adeenah Yeger supervised the Scouts' activity.

Dawn Miller, Dylana Possiel, Elizabeth Carroll, Jessica Hamilton, Kate Freedman, Katie Alfare and Ronit Yeger were assisted by Meira Yeger in accumulating six bags of litter.

School Administrator Harry Groveman praised the work done by the Scouts, "They did a wonderful job!"

Girls entering Grades One through Twelve next September, who wish to become Scouts, can call Carol Miller at 426-0057, or Diane Rocchia at 443-5557.

PTA News Nursery School News

by Adeenah Yeger

At the April PTA meeting, the Nominating Committee was formed. This is the committee whose duty it is to seek out individuals who are interested in running for PTA office for the 1991-92 school year. The members elected were Vinnie Jackson, JoAnn Parker and Sally Conover. Elections for PTA officers will be held at the June 13th meeting.

On May 1 the PTA sponsored an assembly program called "Ozzie Alive!" This exciting show featured slides, puppets and a pretend voyage to teach students about whales.

As part of RPS Earth Day activities on May 7, the PTA helped students and staff plant flowers in the island by the parking lot. We thank Carol Miller and Diane Rocchia for their help with this activity and the Parks Commission for donating some of the flowers. We especially thank kindergartener Christopher Wong for all the marigolds he grew from seed and donated to the school, and Gregg Possiel for the hours he spent on a hot Sunday afternoon with a roto-tiller preparing the ground for the planting.

Also on May 7 the PTA sponsored its annual Teachers Luncheon for the staff of RPS in honor of National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week. Many students wore our school colors of green and gold to show their school spirit. Special thanks go out to Shelley Hatzfeld and Liz Possiel for all their work on this project.

May 9 was Kindergarten Round-Up. The PTA provided refreshments and welcomed next years' kindergarteners. Thanks again to Liz Possiel for her help.

At our May 22 meeting, we were pleased to show another video from the series on Effective Parenting. We appreciate Lorraine Reimbold for making all the arrangements for this video.

The Annual Health Fair was held on May 23. The PTA provided a nutritious lunch for all. We hope everyone had a good time. Thank-you Terry Lepore for coordinating all the room mothers for this event, and thanks to all the parents who donated their time and food to make this a special occasion.

by Joan Grossman

Students at RCNS began the month of May studying the letter M through projects such as marble paintings and making the letter M from magazine clippings. They planted marigolds for Mother's Day gifts which the children presented to their moms during a special Mother's Day tea, complete with teapot motif Mother's Day cards.

Crazy quilts and Q-tip paintings highlighted study of the letter Q and yellow yarn projects were a hit as the students mastered the sound and recognition of the letter Y.

During a special Hawaiian day, children made and wore leis, learned to dance the hula and enjoyed fresh pineapple during a luau snack. Upcoming is a special potato week complete with potato puppets, potato prints and, of course, French fries!

As the school year winds down, the focus in the classroom will shift to talk of summer, vacations, and the changing weather. Several special days are planned to ease the transition and just to enjoy the final few weeks of school. These include a pasta party, peanut day, pizza day and a special picnic at Etra Lake Park. They all lead up to graduation, on June 19, for 13 of our students who will go on to kindergarten in September.

Registration Continues for September

Registration for the next school year continues as this year winds down. There are still some slots open in our morning program as well as in our planned Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoon nursery school session. These, coupled with the new day care program for nursery school and grade school children, will offer part-time as well as full-time working parents a local option for their children.

For information, call the school at 426-9523. Also, see accompanying article for more details.

Fundraising Update

Special thanks to all who visited our first children's art exhibit, RCNS Gallery '91, on April 28. We've decided to make it an annual event and wish to again acknowledge the contributions of Bob Mueller, Bob Husth, Barbara Garton (Brad's mom and Lian's

grandma) and Stefan Martin, whose RCNS print "World in Their Hands" was raffled off during the event.

Our gratitude, too, to all who are contributing to our upcoming Used Book Sale, scheduled for October. The barrel will stay in Borough Hall through the summer and into the fall for those who would like to leave their used books for us. If we can help by collecting them from you, please call either Dianna Moore at 448-7742 or Joan Grossman at 448-9385. Receipts are available.

Our Spring Tupperware Sale in April, which became a Tupperware Bingo, attracted a record crowd and we'd like to also thank all who bought and all who participated. We're currently selling boxes of greeting cards and hope to spend a couple of Saturdays at the Post Office with them. If you miss us and would like to order some, please call Lauralynne Cokeley at 443-6287.

Contributions Fund

Our new Contributions Fund Committee, chaired by Gail Tickin, is actively soliciting support to help provide financial assistance for current and prospective RCNS families who might otherwise not be able to afford a nursery school experience for their children. For more information, or to contribute, please contact Gail at 443-8007.

Thanks Again

Words of thanks this month to Bernarda Shahn, Bob and Alison Petrilla, Emily and Lou Reid and Dick Reill for their generous contributions. Also to Maureen Clark for her technical assistance with operations, to Brad Garton for coordinating Gallery '91 and to Faye Nulman for our Tupperware Bingo. And, to Congregation Anshei Roosevelt and our liaisons, Manny and Jeanette Koffler, for a particularly busy several weeks.

Programs of RCNS are made possible, in part, by a grant from MIRA.

.....*Et Nos in Illis*— And We Change Too!

by Peter Warren

Just Married... Luci DiMuro and Joseph Caruso, and just moved to Lake Drive.

On the Market... As of May 11, 14 houses.

Cooking... Debbie Fischer and Ellen Silverman, in gourmet cooking club, first meeting May 31; all *finis bouches* welcome.

Speaking... Jayne Henry in San Francisco at the Biotechnology and Biology Section of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association, on "The API System for Microbial Identification."

Creating... Her eleventh tapestry, Ellie Bermowitz.

Honored... Kim Dexheimer, Postal Department award for volunteer service; Our House Tavern, Jim McKernan, assistant chef, four star rating from Asbury Park Press; Business and Professional Club Women of Distinction award to Bettie Witherspoon.

Honor Role... At Rogers Middle School, Holly Conover, Harris Kaufman in 8th Grade; Victoria Estok, Christopher Henderson, Rebecca Ord in 7th Grade.

Found... Fifty years ago in 1941, by amateur archaeologists, bones of Lenape adult and child and paleolithic relics near Jersey Homesteads.

Unlisted... Twenty-two of the 384 numbers in the 1991 Roosevelt phone book.

Taxed... Four highest taxpayers, a total of \$68,416 in Roosevelt property taxes.

Farming... Eleven farms in Roosevelt, assessed at \$728,000, totalling 565 acres, ranging in size from 136 acres to eight acres.

Recycled... 30 tons 1st Q 1991, compared to 17 tons in 1st Q 1990 and 20 tons 1990 average.

On Schedule... Thomas Proctor, Inc. (APT, inspecting engineers) for December 1991 completion of sewer plant upgrading.

Repiped... By May 15, 6,084 linear feet of sewer line replaced and 800 feet of unneeded line shut off by Marvec Construction Company (DeMuro Assoc., inspecting engineers), compared to 4,000 feet originally contracted for, with funds available for 1,280 feet more.

Flowing... In April, water for domestic usage 122,000 gpd (goal: reduction to ceiling of 90,000 gpd); sewage (meter calibrated April 24, found accurate) 327,000 gpd (goal: reduction to peak of 250,000 gpd including water for domestic use); flow May 1-15 average: 261,000.

Community Day Care Program Accepting Registrations

The Roosevelt Community Day Care Program, sponsored by the Roosevelt Community Nursery School, is now accepting registrations.

This new program, scheduled to open in September of 1991 will provide extended day care for children ages 2 1/2 thru 6th grade. The program will run until 6:00 p.m. and will be held at RPS. Registration materials have been distributed to all RPS and RCNS students. If you need registra-

tion forms or additional information, please contact the Program Coordinator, Lauralynne Cokeley at (609) 443-6287.

The registration deadline is May 31. If we do not receive sufficient enrollment to cover expenses, we will not be able to run the program. So please mail yours today!

—From a Press Release

Senior Citizens News

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

We were happy to have Ted Freeman (Under Sheriff of Monmouth County) speak to us at the May 7 meeting. He came to inform us about the "refrigerator" card (orange) and ID cards (red). Thousands have been distributed in Monmouth County and also (later) in Canada. When this "refrigerator" card is filled out and placed on the refrigerator, it will give information that will help the First Aid. Our area code with the telephone number, our doctor's name and number, any insurance that we have (such as Medicare and supplements), their telephone and ID numbers. Allergies, date of birth, Social Security number and major illnesses should be listed. All police departments and First Aids in Monmouth County are aware of this program. Mr. Freeman will inform Hightstown of it too.

We (many members) took a bus to the Monmouth Mall in Eatontown and then to Tinton Falls to see the art displayed at the Jewish Temple. We enjoyed that and were served refreshments after the tour. While we waited for the bus, I mentioned the lovely yellow tulips in front of the Borough Hall. After that we were picked up at the Solar Village and when we approached the triangle between North Valley Road and Homestead Lane we noticed all the trees that had been planted. We were told that the Parks Commission with help in designing the landscaping from Kate John-Alder did this. A good job.

We have a luncheon planned for July 2 and are considering a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in September if it all works out.

Marguerite Blake and Betty Perrine furnished the refreshments which everyone enjoyed.

Till next month.

Recycling News

by David Donnelly

Recycling Survey Results

There are three types of people in this world. The first are those who recycle for the good of the environment. These people are enlightened. The second are those who, aware that it is cheaper to recycle something than it is to throw it away, recycle because of the economic concerns. Let's call these people practical. The third group doesn't care to recycle. We can't print what these people are called because this is a nice paper.

The results of the recent recycling survey indicate that the majority of Rooseveltians belong to group number one. This is good news because enlightened people are the most zealous recyclers of all. They not only adhere to Roosevelt's two recovery programs but are anxious to participate in addi-

tional processes (re: plastics, cardboard, etc.).

The diligence of the practical types is also much appreciated. Garbage landfill fees are expensive these days—roughly 12 times those of recycling fees. This is as good a rationale as any to recycle everything possible.

New Program Could Save Thousands in Garbage Fees

Previously, I spoke of two programs. One is the curbside collection of aluminum and tin cans, glass and newspaper. There are no changes here.

The second program, started about four weeks ago, could go a long way to solving Roosevelt's refuse problems. It involves recycling of a number of paper products, including:

- magazines

- catalogs
- coupons and color newspaper inserts
- notebook and school paper
- junk mail and envelopes
- phone books (white pages only)

These materials can be dropped off at the shed in Borough Hall parking lot. They must be bundled and tied, but this is a small price to pay. The savings from this program could stretch into the five figure range if we get full compliance.

Soon the recycling committee will be going on a door to door campaign to explain this program, but we want everyone to start now. Call me at 426-1315 if you have any questions.

Upcoming curbside pickup dates are Friday May 31, Thursday June 13 and Thursday June 27.

Environmental Awareness

by Gloria Hazell

Did the people of the World know that it was Earth Day on the 22nd April? If so, did they do anything about it? Andy and I were on the planning committee of the East Windsor celebrations at Etra Lake again this year, and we noticed that there was no hype from the media as there was in 1990, when to be Green was the "in" thing. Our event was rained out on the 21st; the Great Spirit crying maybe? The raindate was the 28th, the same day as Roosevelt's was held. Attendance at Etra Lake was very sparse, the children's nature walk had only about 12 kids this year compared to 50 last time. David Brahinsky sang for us, after performing here to the home crowd, and he informed us that Roosevelt had a nice turnout. Thanks again David, next year may be better!

The apathy of the public is rubbing off onto me. As I sit here writing this I feel as if I am a Garrison Keillor, reporting on a boring Minnesota. Yet I love Minnesota, it's not really boring at all, just peaceful. So maybe the apathy I feel from people isn't that at all but a strange sense of crisis fatigue, after reading all the books and articles (such

as this one) which tell us how terrible the world's environment is becoming and how we should do this and that to assist our ailing planet.

I feel like that myself sometimes. Here we are doing the best we can to save resources, and yet in other parts of the world, oil-wells are set alight, without thought (or I guess it is really a lack of sensibilities,) of how that one action is going to affect the ecosystem of the planet. Already the affects are being felt far from that area, and eventually we will feel it here, and I don't mean with oil prices. The air could become even more polluted than it is now, and the acid rain may get worse, isn't that a nice thought. No wonder there's all the apathy. I wonder if the same fatigue has fallen on our politicians, well not ours in New Jersey, but others. Let me explain. I was recently shown a report on how the House and the Senate voted on strengthening the Clean Air act, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that NJ Senators voted 100% for the bill, ours was the only state which did. Could it be that others such as those in Wyoming or Oklahoma, where only 8% voted

don't want clean air to breathe? I know in those particular states it is already pretty clean, but surely they realize that the bad air from other states drifts over to them. Maybe they don't! **And**, in Virginia in February, (where incidentally the temperature was 70 degrees, not quite normal,) the U.S. projected a 15% **increase** in CO2 emissions in the next 9 years. All other industrialized countries are willing to reduce theirs. American politicians really have to wake up and see that the time to do things is now. They cannot afford to play financial games with our planet. It was said in 1853, by Chief Seattle, "The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes... Contaminate your bed, and you will suffocate in your own waste." No wonder there is so much apathy about, we've been hearing about environmental destruction for over 100 years, what a shame we didn't listen.

So, my article didn't get written last month; not through apathy but because of work commitments. I wonder how many people noticed!

Composting

by Ann Goldman

Compost is a solution to our solid waste woes and offers gardeners a source of soil nutrients. Rich, crumbly compost conditions the soil and improves aeration, drainage and soil structure. It also encourages beneficial microorganisms, insects and earthworms to inhabit the ground, thus furthering the build-up of an invaluable nutrient rich humusy loam. It's "Gardener's Gold"!

Building a compost pile is simple! The following are commonly used ingredients: Leaves, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, wood ashes, hay or straw, pine needles, sawdust, sod, weeds, kitchen scraps (excluding meats, grease, oil or any animal fats). The following are materials to avoid: Coal, charcoal, diseased plants, pet litter, toxic chemicals, meat, animal fats, pressure treated sawdust, pesticide treated grass clippings.

Four easy steps to successful "hot" compost:

1. Choose a well drained shady spot you can make a loose pile, a wire enclosure or a wooden compost bin (see "sources" for bin plans)

2. Alternate layers of available materials with pulverized lime and an "activator". Activators are sources of nitrogen and protein that help the microorganisms and bacteria break down the pile. Activators include: rich soil, finished compost, manure, alfalfa meal, bone meal, blood meal.

3. Moisten the pile thoroughly. The pile should be neither too wet nor too dry.

4. If correctly made, the temperature of the pile should reach 140°-150°F in 2-3 days. Turn the pile in one week. After 15 days you will have a coarse but usable compost. You can also allow the pile to work longer for a more crumbly compost.

Making "cold compost": Let nature do all the work by piling your fall leaves in an enclosure (or loosely). Come back in 2-3 years to finished compost.

Uses for finished compost:

1. General soil improvement before planting a garden.

2. Add to potting soil for a potting and seed starting mixture.

3. Side dressing for vegetables, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs and vines.

4. Screen finely and apply lightly to the top of the lawn.

5. Mulch around plants.

6. Mix equal parts compost and water to make compost tea for your plants.

Sources: For more information, see the library for these books.

Let it Rot: A Gardeners Guide to Composting by Stu Campbell

Crockett's Victory Garden by James Underwood Crockett

The Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening by the Staff of **Organic Gardening Magazine**

Joy of Gardening by Dick Raymond

Environmental Commission Joins in Earth Day Celebration

The newly-formed Environmental Commission of Roosevelt had its public debut at the Earth Day celebration on April 27, 1991. A table staffed by members of the commission handed out literature on water conservation and kits of assorted washers to restrict water on household fixtures, and conducted a water conservation survey. This survey, to be conducted on every house in the borough, is needed so that the commission can provide water usage data to the State of NJ DEP to fulfill their requirements.

The kits are available at the Borough Hall complete with full instructions for installation. The surveys are also available to fill out.

The commission meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. **Please come!** Your ideas and concerns about the environment are important to the commission.

Thank you for your support.

—Jim Carnevale

Planning Board Recommends Changes in Parking Area Requirements

by Michael Ticktin

At its May meeting, the planning board reviewed, and voted to send on to the borough council, a set of proposed amendments, mostly editorial or technical in nature, concerning zoning ordinance requirements for parking areas.

The major recommended change, prepared in response to Zoning Officer Paul Eichler's request for clarification, concerns the location of the parking area at corner lots. The regulation of these parking areas has been the subject of some confusion because the ordinance says that parking is only allowed in front yards, and defines the "front yard" as the side of the property facing the wider street. However, many corner houses that have frontage on Rochdale Avenue have their parking areas on the intersecting streets. The proposed amendment provides that the parking area of a corner property may be in either of the yards that face a street.

The proposed amendments would also delete the requirement that a driveway be no more than 20 feet in width, while retaining the requirement that the exterior parking area cover no more than twenty percent of the area of the yard in which it is located. This change will also be of particular importance for corner lots, since side yards used for parking are generally both wider and shallower than front yards.

The planning board's role in the approval of zoning ordinance amendments is purely advisory. Only the borough council can enact ordinances, but it is required to refer all proposed land use ordinances to the planning board for comment prior to taking final action.

Viewpoint

Character Assassination, Avarice, and the Failure of Democracy

By Henry B. John-Alder

On Wednesday, 3 April 1991, I received in my mail a disturbing, anonymous "document" that had been mailed locally. Several other political adversaries of recently-elected councilmen also received the "document". By Thursday, Mayor Barth had received a copy, and on Friday, 5 April, multiple copies were left at the post office for public dispensation. Subsequently, I learned who mailed the "document", and I sent him a personal copy of this column prior to press time.

The "document" to which I refer consisted largely of a series of personal attacks directed against outspoken critics of the council. Although the author(s) ostensibly relied on the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* for his/her/their information, many of the items in the "document" could have been known only by a regular attendant of council meetings. As the man who mailed the document rarely attends these meetings (I have seen him only once in the past 10 months or so), it seems clear that the "document" must have been written either by a team of conspirators or with the advice of one or several members or supporters of the current council. In any event, a flurry of unflattering rumors quickly circulated concerning alleged writers. Interestingly, the true identity of the mailer came as a complete surprise.

My lasting response to the "document" is one of sadness, for the cowardly, anonymous, attacking "document" signifies the prominent role of character assassination in local politics. To be sure, we in Roosevelt are not alone in this respect, and personal attacks thrive at higher levels of politics. It seems to me, however, that local politics would be the political forum in which character assassination could be overcome most easily, especially in a small town such as ours in which we can become familiar, perhaps even friendly, with each other. Instead, we allow ourselves to succumb to malicious temptation, and in so doing we subvert the role of in-

formed debate as a fundamental mechanism in our democratic system of government.

A second saddening theme of the attacking "document" is the notion that residential development would begin our financial salvation. This theme was also central in a letter written to the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* (April, 1991) by Mr. Gilbert C. de Malvilain, in which the author asserted that "the only reality is cold, hard cash". It seems to me that such a notion is based largely on avarice, miscalculation, and insensitivity to the nature of Roosevelt. Those who persist in this misguided belief are doomed to disappointment, disillusionment, and disenchantment. Additionally, the idea of cash through growth subverts our community interest in the Trust for Public Land, which is primarily to preserve as much open space as possible.

As Mr. de Malvilain correctly noted, "there is really no way of knowing how much more money is going to be needed" to meet state mandated objectives of the sewer project. Thus, Roosevelt is engaging in various studies. However, it is very unlikely that our utility bills could be reduced by development to a level that would not still be exceptionally high. With development having little effect on utility bills, the major financial impact would be felt in the school system. In this regard, newspapers are full of articles about communities torn asunder by having to expand school systems due to an influx of new families. Would we be different? I doubt it. At what point would we have to double the size of our school? How would we resist the temptation to build a library, a cafeteria, a computer lab, etc.? When would we need to enlarge the academic staff? Who would be the first to stop defending our small class sizes?

There is something even more worrisome than greed in the notion of cash through growth. It seems to me that the avaricious desire to develop reflects a failure of our democratic

process at a higher level than community government. Proponents of "cash through growth" commonly refer to expensive state and federal mandates in arguing that we must broaden our tax base. (Note that broadening the tax base is often erroneously equated with a reduction in individual tax burdens.) However, we do not need to allow the state and/or federal governments to issue unreasonably oppressive mandates. In our system of government, we are part of the government, and we have statutory and social processes of appeal. We should follow these appeals, just as our council is rightly participating in a general appeal of threatened costs for clean-up of landfills. We need to explain to our higher levels of government that we simply cannot pay for some of the things they tell us to buy. State and federal governments and their agencies are in business to improve society, not to oppress and destroy small towns. If expensive mandates have real societal value, then we should slowly be able to spread the burden of payment to the more resourceful and more equitable tax bases of higher levels of government. This strategy is the only way for us to make a substantial reduction in our local financial burden.

In its appeal to greed, Reaganomics eliminated many centralized governmental services. In so doing, however, Reaganomics inadvertently created a new opportunity, and I am optimistic. I think we are just about ready to recognize as a society that the solutions to local problems are often bigger than the localities, are often in the interest of society at large, and should therefore be funded by society as a whole. To force localities to pay their own way is economically, thus socially, divisive and harmful to the common good. It seems to me that a properly functioning democratic system could articulate these arguments as self-evident truths.

Viewpoint

Raccoons and Politics

by Mike Hamilton

Recently, several seemingly unrelated "events" were thrust upon me, and it became clear that the lessons learned were the same.

About a month ago, (I don't remember the exact date, sometimes life just seems to flow, and is not deposited into memory in neat little boxes of days) there was a clean up day in town where everyone pitched in to clean the curbs and the woods of any debris that had accumulated there. All kinds of people were there, and it was a beautiful day. I decided that my job would be to go into the woods and pick up any trash that could easily be seen from the road. I had brought a small trash bag with me and after about 5 minutes it became full, so I went back home to get a trash can. I found the usual assortment of trash, candy wrappers, soda cans, empty boxes of cookies, and half empty bottle of (non-vintage) wine and beer, and some other objects that I will not mention here. It occurred to me that the woods were being used by some kids to experiment with the kind of things that adolescents do, but I remember wondering if we had as bad taste as these kids had (the bottles found were mostly of the Boones Farm variety). Then I remembered the Cold Duck that I had after that one dance... Anyhow, I also remember thinking that some people in this town are real slobs, to have such a beautiful town as this, and throw garbage into the woods, shame on them!

About a week later I was driving home late from a School Board meeting, about 11:30, on a trash night, when I saw something peculiar. It was a raccoon family, four of them. The largest one had a box of Chocolate Teddy Grahams in his mouth and was dragging it into the woods! The others had other treasures, like half eaten Twinkees, which they had found in the trash. As I watched in silent amazement, they made many successful forays from the trash at the curbside to the woods, where they reached their little paws into the boxes of Teddy Grahams or whatever and left the con-

tainers in the woods. Their version of eating out with the family.

The second event which occurred this past month was a School Board Election which I was involved in, and which became a very heated affair. I learned a lot being involved in this election. I learned to listen to the voices and opinions of others, and I came away with a greater understanding of their educational concerns. I realized that this is part of the process, and if you are to benefit from the experience, you must learn to hear what the people say whom you represent, and not just the voices of your own supporters. There were times when I felt myself getting sucked into the Us vs Them mentality, where you draw nice little boxes mentally around Them and look at Them as something less than Us. In essence it is the same thing that you do to the enemy in war (you dehumanize them by calling them a Jap or a Kraut or, in Roosevelt a Non-pro educational or a pro-development person). This enables you to brutalize the enemy by seeing them as something less than you, a necessary pre-condition for aggression.

During the "Meet the Candidates Night" I came to the realization, in mid-sentence, that we are all part of a community...a family of sorts. I knew the people there; I had seen them and talked to them on many occasions, in the Post Office, at the Deli, or on our walks. What I mean to say is that I actually realized that we were all part of a whole, and that we were all related by that fact. Reader-please don't mistake this as mere sentimentality. This is not unimportant! At that moment, (frozen in time and space like a surrealist painting), when Mark Zuckerman...previously a member of Them was asking me a question, he became, as did the whole group in the school (opposing candidates as well), part of Us, the community! I remember stopping for a moment to look at the other members in the audience, and feeling a fondness, and a sense of belonging. Perhaps I was looking to see if they

actually looked different than they did a moment or two before; in hindsight I think you did. Then I remembered that I was in mid-sentence somewhere, but where?...and so I asked Mark if he would repeat his question. Sounds corny doesn't it? It wasn't! It was a revelation and object lesson to me. For some reason I assumed that the rest of the members of the audience shared the same revelation as I, but when Jane Rothfuss, armed with two years of the *Bulletin's* back issues, asked the next zinger I realized all too soon, that only I was chosen for this revelation, and that the others had not shared in my experience. It was O.K.: she's a friend (even though that has never stopped her from asking those piercing questions), and is one of Us now!

The rest of the electioneering was actually enjoyable. I enjoyed the walks through town and the sharing of an "intense event" with other candidates. I appreciated the many conversations I had with the members of the community, even those whose viewpoints were different from mine. I had a delightful conversation with Dolores Chasan. As challengers at the election, we shared some recipes, and she told me some wonderful stories about this town. It strikes me that I wouldn't have enjoyed this event and the people involved in it, and I wouldn't have learned anything, if I hadn't had this "mini-revelation" at candidates night. It would have been easy to draw a box around Them and simply write them off.

These episodes, the raccoons and the trash, and the School Board election, taught me some valuable lessons, which I think we could all profit from as a town:

If we are to succeed as a town and, (in many ways Roosevelt is still just an experiment; it is unique), in these trying times (the water/sewer crisis as well as others), we must stop this infighting...This drawing of boxes around those of us with differing viewpoints, the Us vs Them mentality that permits us to brutalize one another.

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Deed Restrictions Prevent Nonpublic Uses of the School

by Michael Ticktin

From time to time, someone suggests, or reports that someone else has suggested, that the Roosevelt Public School be sold for use as a nonpublic school, an office building or something else.

Any such alternative use, however, would be in direct violation of restrictions and covenants contained in the December 31, 1936 deed from the United States of America to the Jersey Homesteads School District, which states that the property is to belong to the school district only for as long as it is used for public school and community purposes and subject to the conditions in the deed. These conditions include the requirement that the school district, and its successors and assigns (which could include a regional school district if we were ever to become part of one), must maintain the property solely for educational and community purposes.

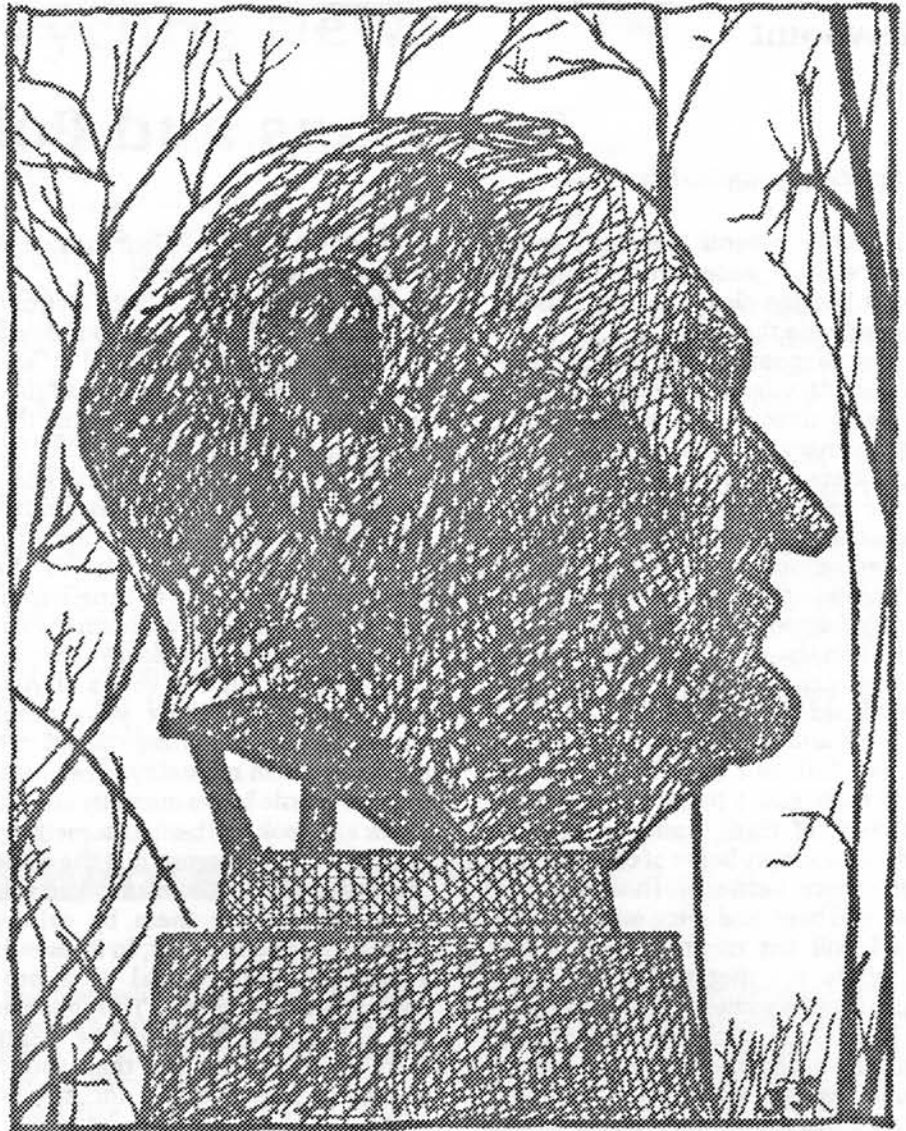
There is also a covenant requiring that all children in the community be afforded an equal opportunity to avail themselves of the use of the facilities for educational purposes. This latter covenant is interesting because it dates from a period when the federal government was not yet taking an active role in promoting equal opportunity and when racial segregation was as much the norm in many places in New Jersey and elsewhere in the North as it was in the Southern states.

Synagogue News

The annual membership meeting of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt will be held on Monday, June 17, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. Elections will be held for three trustees, to serve for four years. The incumbent trustees whose terms are expiring are Leon Anish, Jeanette Koffler and Michael Ticktin. Officers for the year will be elected by the board of trustees at the July meeting.

The Congregation salutes those who have worked hard to organize the 55th anniversary reunion and is happy to welcome back many old members and friends.

—Michael Ticktin, President



drawing by Jonathan Shahn

Bulletin to Hold Annual Meeting

by Mark Zuckerman

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc., the non-profit corporation which publishes the **Borough Bulletin**, will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 19, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at MIRA, which is in the factory on Oscar Drive.

The main business on the agenda is the election of a board of five trustees to serve for one year, beginning in July. The term corresponds to one volume of the paper.

Three of the trustees are the officers: Editor, Managing Editor, and Treasurer. All five trustees are elected by the current board from a slate of nominees selected by a nominating committee. Anyone serving on the **Bulletin** staff is eligible.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone who wants to serve on the staff is especially invited to attend.

Viewpoint

Why Develop?

by Brad Garton

It seems that development is in the air again—the Master Plan is being revised and amended to allow even more residential development; the Borough Council is commissioning study after study to determine how to deal with the “underdeveloped” parts of the Borough; the Trust for Public Land is being turned into a tool for the construction of new luxury condos and townhouses. All that’s missing is the inevitable presentation from the 1990’s version of Switchel, Inc. and we’ll be happily eliminating those unsightly undeveloped areas surrounding our town.

But is residential development something good? Why should we push for it? Obviously, I don’t believe that further residential development is the sort of goal we should be pursuing. With one exception, the arguments for additional residential development fall far short of building any sort of case for the pro-developers. In fact, the reasons given for promoting development actually demonstrate that we should be doing everything in our power to limit residential growth. Some of the main arguments I have heard “supporting” development are:

“Residential development will have economic benefits for Roosevelt”

This is the most pervasive and persuasive argument used by the pro-developers (especially if you buy into the pathetically dim view of humanity that “the only reality is cold, hard cash”). We are suffering from an enormous debt burden. It only makes sense that spreading the suffering over a larger number of people (increasing the ratables) will ease the individual pain, right? Wrong. What is left out of this equation is the increased cost of services a residential development brings with it. I remembered from my days as a staff member of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns that municipalities look to industrial and commercial development to increase ratables, not to residential development. I wanted to confirm my recollec-

tion, so I called up Kevin Dogan at IACT, a former colleague and the planning and zoning expert in Indiana. Here’s what Kevin said about Indiana: “There are almost always more direct costs than direct benefits associated with residential development”.

Realizing that there are very real interstate differences, I contacted the New Jersey League of Municipalities and got an even stronger statement from Bert Wolfe, their development expert: Development is *at best* a break-even proposition, “definitely in the case of residential development.” Most towns look for industrial/commercial development to increase ratables, but even that is now “questionable how much of a plus” it will be for contemporary New Jersey boroughs.

But hey, these guys are all basing their expertise on only assumptions and suppositions, right? Wrong. Cornell University did a recent study of the impact of residential development on two small towns in Dutchess County, New York. One town was slightly larger than Roosevelt, the other was very similar to Roosevelt. Increased residential development demanded \$1.12 of services for every \$1 generated for the slightly larger town, and required \$1.36 for every \$1 in the town similar to Roosevelt. The conclusion of this study was that “the residential sector is demanding more in services than it is contributing in revenues. This fact should caution communities to think twice about development proposals which will not only increase the demand for services, but which may remove valuable farmland as well.”

2. “Residential development will do wonders for the school”

The faulty equation here is that increased enrollment in the school will naturally improve the quality of education at RPS. If the municipal development experts and case studies of residential development are to be believed, then we will be paying more for the same level of service after further development. What does this

mean for the school? Well, if you don’t buy into the more-students-automatically-equals-better-education-idea, it means that we will be paying more *just to maintain the level of education we currently have*. My daughter will be entering RPS next fall, and I would rather spend money directly to improve the quality of education than spend money just to keep up with increasing enrollment. I think we have the potential to develop a terrific educational program here in Roosevelt, but we won’t be able to do this if our debt burden is increased by further residential development. It seems to me that the true “pro-school” stance should emphasize quality instead of quantity.

3. “Development is inevitable”

This statement, often accompanied by some sort of scare tactic (you know, the good old “a developer may sue us and bleed us dry with legal fees” school of Rational Thinking), may be true. But does this mean we must actively encourage development? We had a solid Master Plan in place which allowed for limited growth. Why shoot for more? Why spend even more money on silly studies designed to help a potential developer when we should be working to prevent residential development? If we cannot afford to support additional development, then I certainly don’t think that it is inevitable. Recent Council rhetoric and actions seem to suggest otherwise, however. Too bad, considering how much it will cost us.

Personally, this statement comes across to me the same way that assertions like “destruction of the rain forests is inevitable” and “depletion of the ozone layer is inevitable” do. And when this is coupled with incredible remarks such as “we must develop to preserve open space”, then I really have to sit back and ponder why “this sentence is false”. Geez, talk about your “peace-keeping missiles”...

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Why Develop?

(continued from previous page)

4. "Residential development is aesthetically pleasing"

This is the single argument I cannot rebut. I also cannot imagine the mind of the person who believes that the beauty of a development outweighs the natural beauty of the land. I would like for this person to drive with me through the traffic in Plainsboro at 5 p.m. and explain why development is desirable. I would like for this person to read with me the police reports of vandalism and theft at Twin Rivers and explain why development is desirable. I would like for this person to explain the aesthetic appeal of a field full of cookie-cutter condos. No, I cannot argue the point with this person. We literally have no common ground.

Why did I write this article? Because through our own actions development is indeed beginning to appear inevitable. Sadly, it doesn't have to be; and tragically, it shouldn't be. I wanted to show that there are no good, sound reasons to actively pursue and encourage residential development. To be sure, those in favor of further residential development will trot out assumptions and projections showing how wonderful life in Roosevelt will be after 200 or 300 new "units" are added—some amazing spreadsheet program must give them omniscient powers and knowledge far beyond the overwhelming majority of planning and zoning experts. I can easily trot out assumptions and projections showing the opposite. When confronted by this mass of data, however, please gently remind yourself that this experiment has already been done all across America, and the results have been dismal. Case study after case study verifies this: Residential development simply does not pay.

Drive around New Jersey some day. How much open space can you find? Can you find the pastoral scenes which have inspired that American imagination for the past several centuries? Can you see the beauty of the land? Self-interested developers have been raping this land for the past decade. It is now time to stop.

— Letters —

To the Editor

A letter appeared in the April Bulletin which suggested that not only would development of many new homes help to reduce our taxes, but that the Borough Council at one time had turned down a proposal to develop the Beer-Kugler tract (the area north and east of Oscar Drive) despite the offer of \$750,000 to fix our sewer system. Having been a member of Council from late 1985 through 1989, I can tell you that the Switchel Company, the presumed developers, did not offer \$750,000 for our sewage treatment plant upgrade, nor even 750,000 cents.

The Council held an open meeting on July 5, 1988, permitting the developer's representatives to make a presentation before a packed house in the Borough hall, and the public and the developers were given the opportunity for a full exchange. When asked what they were prepared to contribute to help with our sewage treatment crisis, the answer was: they would pay for their own development, but would not help to remedy pre-existing deficiencies (that's almost a quote).

At its next regular meeting, the Council sent a letter to Switchel asking for a written proposal, and for \$10,000 to help fund an "impact study": we needed about \$20,000 to find out what effect large, rapid development would have on the Borough, including its water supply, public safety (police, fire and ambulance), the effect on the school, on traffic, on various borough services. The Borough budget could only handle \$10,000 of such a study.

A serious developer would have given the \$10,000 in a minute. Anyone serious about giving the borough \$750,000 for sewage treatment could have given \$10,000 for an impact study and \$740,000 for sewage treatment.

At any rate, no reply was made to the Council's letter. Then Switchel wrote to Mayor Barth withdrawing its proposal (which it had never made to the governing body). That was August 1988.

No one ever offered the Borough of Roosevelt anything for our sewage treatment plant in return for rezoning or any other development scheme. We know that the story was spread by the Citizens Group (now New Dawn), if not originated with them. Where in the official records of the Borough for 1988 is such a proposal from Switchel?

What purpose would anyone have to make up such a fantastic story and to spread it so assiduously that it is being told and retold today?

Furthermore, it is not clear (which is why we wanted an impact study) that development would have lowered our taxes. Most communities in New Jersey which have had rapid development have also had rapid increases in taxes. There are one or two special cases where taxes have actually gone down. There is no obvious reason to believe that Roosevelt falls into the second category.

What the Citizens Group/New Dawn clique leaves out is that the so-called "anti-development" Council in 1987 passed the Planned Community Development Ordinance which provided for the orderly, planned development of the Notterman tract with 76 new homes. Why has Citizens Group/New Dawn always ignored or attacked the PCD ordinance? Why have they fixated on the Beer-Kugler tract? We passed in 1987 a plan which would have made the biggest development in Roosevelt since the original homes were built. Is this being "against development"? In fact it was against haphazard development such as that supported by Citizens Group/New Dawn.

Finally, in its passionate effort to pat itself on the back and take credit for the work of previous Councils, the Citizens Group/New Dawn Council has so far failed to answer the questions I posed to it in February about the appointment of the DeMuro Company to supervise the engineering of the sewage treatment and collection work. I pointed out that DeMuro had experience mainly in sidewalks and roads. Why was it picked to supervise sewage treatment work? If I was wrong, I said, I wanted to be corrected. I asked, "Specifically, in which municipalities has DeMuro done sewage pipe and sewage treatment work? How big were the contracts? Did he do the construction or merely cover the repair work with roads and sidewalks? And if he has no such experience, why was he chosen?"

I'd still like to know.

Very Truly yours,
Ed Moser

— Letters —

To the Editor

It's all over now, but the ugliness and bad feelings linger on. While dirty politics is a fact of national life, it's still upsetting to realize that our local school board election, which should center on the critical issue of our children's future education, could have been the occasion for so many distortions, misrepresentations, and scare tactics.

One piece of campaign literature in particular was most disturbing to me because it quoted from the Roosevelt School Report Card. Pat Moser's "Pop Quiz" at first glance appeared to call attention to some facts and figures which showed our school in a very negative fashion. On further study, however, it was evident that many of the items were presented with an apparently distorted view. Hopefully these misrepresentations were a simple matter of not understanding how the report card is set up rather than a deliberate attempt to frighten our overtaxed citizens into a revolt at the voting booth. Mrs. Moser addressed several issues of the Report Card and the following is an attempt to clarify the statistics.

1. According to Mrs. Moser, "Roosevelt has 27% fewer teachers per pupil than the state average".

The staff figures offered in the Report Card show only full-time teachers. RPS employs 5 full-time teachers and 9 part-time teachers. The full-time teacher equivalent, which is based on total number of hours, is 9.1 for last year. This means that our teacher/student ratio is 1:9. East Windsor's elementary school has a ratio of 1:26. The parents there tried to have it reduced to 1:22, because many educators believe that class size is a crucial factor in early childhood education. However, their budget was defeated, so the ratio will remain the same.

2. According to Mrs. Moser, "Roosevelt has twice as many administrative staff as similar districts".

According to the Report Card, similar districts have .7 administrators per 100 students. In order for RPS to have .7 administrators, with only 85 students enrolled, we would have six tenths of one administrator. As confusing as this sounds, I think most people will agree that we do need one whole

person as an administrator, which is exactly what we have.

It should also be noted that a "similar district" is defined as a district with the same grade plan. For RPS this means we were compared with all school districts that have a K-6 program, regardless of the size of the school population.

3. According to Mrs. Moser, "Roosevelt pays the highest cost per pupil in the state".

I do not know where this information was obtained. In reading the Report Cards of about 40 other districts in this vicinity in NJ, at least six had higher rates and about 15 had almost the same rate that Roosevelt does. Therefore, this statement is incorrect.

According to the State Department of Education, RPS cost per pupil for 1989-90 was \$7,445. Incidentally East Windsor's cost was \$7,679.

4. According to Mrs. Moser, "Only 2% of that increase went toward instruction, while the statewide average was 9%".

This was a reference to the increase in our school budget. The Report Card showed a graph which represented the increase in spending, broken into two categories, instructional and non-instructional. RPS spending for instructional expenses had an increase of 2%, while the statewide average increase was 9%. The Report Card noted that the rate of inflation was 4%. So, in other words, RPS kept its budget from growing out of control, unlike other districts in the state.

5. According to Mrs. Moser, "More than 18% of the increase went for other purposes".

This again refers to the school budget. The Report Card showed that RPS spending for non-instructional expenses had an increase of 18.4%, while the statewide average increase was 14%. "Non-instructional costs" were defined as administrative, transportation, insurance, utilities and food service costs. It should be noted that these figures are based on a per pupil cost. Since we have only 85 students at RPS, the cost per pupil will naturally be higher than for larger districts.

It is my hope that this explanation will clear up some of the misunderstandings regarding the School Report card. I would urge all of

your readers to investigate the information received in campaign literature before accepting it as fact. It is indeed unfortunate, but you cannot afford to be naive, especially when our children's future depends on it.

In closing, I would like to thank all of my supporters during the recent campaign. I made a lot of new acquaintances, and hopefully some new friends. The campaign and election process was certainly an educational experience for me.

Sincerely,
Lauralynne Cokeley

Raccoons & Politics

(continued from page 11)

We should not be quick to judge or assume that our viewpoint is the only viable one, (It made an ass of me with the raccoons when I assumed the town's people were to blame for the trash in the woods, and it may be making an ass of you). We must stop this in-fighting and begin a meaningful dialogue on the issues of Development vs Non-development. Who among you will start a committee or discussion group to rationally discuss these issues...? Yes, this is a challenge! Wouldn't it help if we could actually define our positions and our logic, (That's part of the problem, all too often the logic is left at home, and the passion instead is heard), instead of yelling at each other during council meetings? (I've been guilty of this also.) Who will be the first to stop these nasty letters in the **Bulletin**, and waive the right to reply in order to break the chain of brutalizing that has been occurring in this town, and which inhibits other good folks from getting involved in the issues? Gandhi once said, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."

Yes, we are all to blame!...You, too, hypocrite reader!...The healing begins, with the mini-revelation that we are all Us, all members of the extended family of Roosevelt! I don't think that I was the only person in Roosevelt deemed worthy of such realizations! We are all capable of seeing, if we care to see, that we are part of a family of man, and on a smaller scale, all part of a community.

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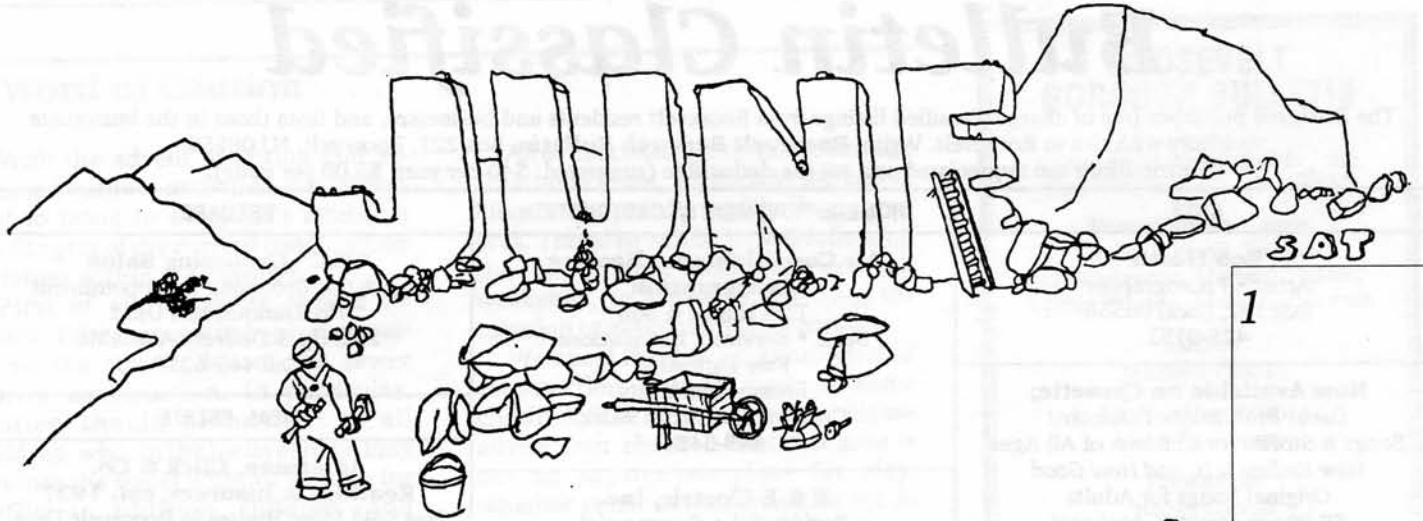
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The **Bulletin** publishes free of charge classified listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin**, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions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

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SUN. MON. TUES. WED. THUR. FRI

1						
2 Water Action 11:30 AM	3 Deborah 2:00 PM Frieda Rockoff, Pres. (443-2869) Boro Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 7:30 PM FAS Auxiliary Boro Hall, 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias	4 Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Environmental Commission Boro Hall, 8 PM Stuart Kaufman, Chair	5	6 Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM John Ord, Pres. (443-1744)	7 Natives of the Earth Borough Hall 7:00 PM Gloria Hazell (443-2869)	8
9	10 Borough Council Borough Hall 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President (448-3182)	11	12 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Gail Hunton, Chair (426-4338)	13 Recyclables Collected	14 Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM John Ord, Pres. (443-1744)	15
16 Water Action 11:30 AM	17 Borough Council Committees Boro Hall 7:30 PM Cong. Anshei Roosevelt Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Tickin, Pres. (448-0363)	18 Blood Pressure Check Solar Village 12:30-2:00 PM	19 Borough Bulletin Annual Meeting MIRA 7:30 PM Michael Tickin, Editor (448-0363)	20 PTA RPS, 8 PM Adeenah Yeger, Pres. (443-5848)	21	22
23	24 Borough Council Committees Boro Hall 7:30 PM	25 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525)	26	27 Recyclables Collected	28	29
30 Water Action 11:30 AM						

The RPS Library is open each Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 PM (Margaret Schlinski, Librarian)

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