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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XI NO. 3

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 1988

XII

Martin Unveils Plan for the Future of RPS

by Mark Zuckerman

Arthur Martin, who served as Interim CSA at RPS until the recent appointment of Harry Groveman, and who is currently employed by the Board of Education as a consultant, introduced at the Board's business meeting of October 20 a report entitled *Planning for the Future*. The report analyzes factors Martin believes should be considered by the Board in determining the future structure of public education in Roosevelt, and recommends the creation of several committees whose function would be to gather the necessary facts by the fall of 1989 so that the Board might intelligently decide among four distinct structural options. Some of these options represent significant changes from the current structure.

Attached to the report given to the Board was a five-year facilities analysis, which purportedly responds to and analyzes the architectural and engineering report, heard last month, on the school building and grounds. The architect's report dealt with construction projects to meet code violations, district requests and architect's recommendations, and budgeted two construction programs, the larger of which would cost slightly less than \$1 million. Martin's facilities analysis was not included in the report distributed to the public. Discussion of this analysis and a recommended five-year budget for capital improvements was

promised for the November 10 Board agenda meeting.

Martin's report will be incorporated into the District's long range plan, which is required by the County Superintendent. The District has been in arrears with this plan since last school year. If approved by the State, Roosevelt School District's long range plan will govern the activity of the School Board, and performance in implementing the plan will be a significant factor in State monitoring of RPS.

The planning report was presented fairly late in the evening, occupying the last spot on the agenda prior to the

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Council Moves to Improve Borough Hall

by Adeline Weiner

An ordinance that appropriates \$23,525 of capital improvement funds for renovations to the Borough Hall received final approval at the October meeting of the Borough Council. The Borough Hall will soon have the benefit of air conditioning, an alarm system, a computer system and a renovated bathroom.

But Who Will Clean the New Bathroom?

The bathroom facility, located adjacent to the First Aid Squad and Fire Company garages, provoked a flurry of protest during the public discussion. Council member Jill Lipoti, chair of the Public Safety Committee, had been assigned by the Mayor to consult the First Aid Squad on the question of how to keep the new bathroom clean: would they consider undertaking the cost of cleaning or provide volunteers?

In reply, an indignant contingent of First Aiders turned out to support two prepared statements read by June Counterman and Irene Block, declaring that their volunteer efforts in hours of training and service were already at such maximum levels that asking for bathroom cleaning was seen as an affront to the organization. The alterna-

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

Remember Election Day, November 8

vote at the Borough Hall, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Odds and Ends

Next Issue

Our November issue will be edited by Hortense Socholtzky, and is due to appear sometime during the first week in December. The deadline, as always, is the 15th.

The November issue is the last in 1988. The *Bulletin* will publish again at the end of January. If there is any event to occur in December or January you would like made known to your neighbors, please tell the *Bulletin* before November 15 so that we can publicize it in the November issue (Box 221, Local 08555)

Polaroid Wanted

To save money, photographs which appear in these pages are scanned by a digital scanner. Only black-and-white pictures with sharp contrast show up well.

It would be helpful to us if we had the use of an old-fashioned Polaroid Land camera, the kind that uses Polaroid black-and-white, "peel-apart" film.

A new camera of this kind costs about \$200, which is beyond our means. If you have one of these cameras lying around one of your closets, and can either lend or donate it to the *Bulletin*, it would allow us to print more photographs of happenings in town.

To Our Out-of-Town Subscribers

We appreciate the large number of former residents who want to keep up with what's going on in Roosevelt by subscribing to the *Bulletin*. More than a few of them have sent in contributions as well—in fact, without their support, the *Bulletin* would not be able to publish its full volume.

Some of our subscribers have requested their copies by first class mail, to avoid the delays of third class. We would like to accommodate these subscribers, but the cost of postage would exceed the \$5.00 we charge for subscriptions. In order to send out your copy first class, we would need \$7.50 per year in addition to the basic subscription price. If you would like this, please send us a check.

To Our Current (and Future) Contributors

Please take the time to look at our Supporters and Contributors page. There you will find the names of the people who make it possible for us to bring you the news of Roosevelt each month.

The list is growing, but it needs to grow more. Although we operate on a shoestring, using volunteer labor, we still have bills to pay: printing, postage, and film.

The *Bulletin* is growing, too. We used to publish 16-page issues in typescript, including several pages of advertising. We now average 24 typeset pages—putting half again as much copy onto each page—with but two pages devoted to classifieds and contributors. This volume will contain ten issues, one more than last year's.

The explanation for our growth is that more is going on in Roosevelt. Consider what has happened just during the past year: the change in administration at RPS, the Borough Council's arranging for a new sewage plant, the work by the Planning Board on the Master Plan and Planned Community Development ordinance, the proposal by Switchel for a major housing development—not to mention the ongoing activities of the Arts Project, Nursery School, PTA, Senior Citizens' Club, First Aid Squad, Fire Company, Citizens' Group, and others.

Consider also what lies ahead—for the School Board, the Council, and the Planning Board—and the size and scope of the issues facing Roosevelt. During the next year, the people entrusted with governing our town will be asked to make significant choices. We see our role as helping to insure that these are informed choices, and that residents have the opportunity to educate themselves about them and the way they are made.

The *Bulletin* actively seeks out the facts, and provides space for opinions. We take no sides, and encourage people of all points of view to make use of our pages. We ask for no thanks but for the opportunity to continue our work.

For this, we need your help. We can print the *Bulletin*, but not the money it takes to publish it. Despite the generous response of our contributors, we are still short of our projected needs for this volume.

If you haven't done so yet, send us your contribution. You'll be in good company.
—Mark Zuckerman

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

Published by
Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.
Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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Typesetting facilities donated by MIRA

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. is a
New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

Submissions

The *Bulletin* is published nine times a year, in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May, and June. Each issue is distributed at the end of the month.

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

It saves us a lot of work if we get articles and letters in clean, double-spaced typescript (produced on a typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or in the form of files on IBM-compatible 5-1/4" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from the following programs: Microsoft Word; Displaywrite 2, 3, & 4; Multimate; Samna Word III; WordPerfect; and WordStar. Please identify program and version.

Planning Board Hears Objections to Parking Restrictions

Anonymous Leaflet Sparks Controversy

by Bob Clark

All seats were full at the Planning Board's October 5 regular monthly meeting as residents owning commercial and recreational vehicles, boats and pickup trucks attended to voice their concern that the Board might be considering banning or restricting the parking of such conveyances in town. Many were responding to an unsigned leaflet that had been circulated to households selected as likely to be opposed to any restrictive legislation.

Excerpting a portion of last month's *Borough Bulletin*, the flyer declared, "IF YOU ARE THE OWNER OF A PANEL TRUCK, PICKUP, RECREATIONAL VEHICLE, TRAILER OR BOAT, the Planning Board is now considering banning these vehicles from Roosevelt." It encouraged residents "interested in protecting your right to keep your vehicle on your own property" to attend the Planning Board meeting and voice their views. The *Bulletin* quotation had stated that Board Chair Alan Mallach had asked members "to consider if [the Board] should also determine what vehicles may be parked in town" in addition to reviewing proposed zoning revisions to deal with driveways and parking. The *Bulletin's* partial listing of vehicles (not including pickups) that could be excluded or restricted in residential zones was deemed by the handbill as signifying vehicles that the Board was presently considering banning.

Mallach emphasized that the only "very rough draft" ordinance being considered was one that would amend the zoning ordinance to clarify and improve provisions dealing with driveways, parking aprons and parking off public streets, including an existing prohibition against off-street parking of commercial vehicles of more than 9,000 lbs gross weight. The draft, which was circulated to Planning Board members but not discussed in detail at the October 5 meeting,

would also repeal existing provisions restricting the parking of so-called "seasonal vehicles," such as boats and campers, on private property. Board member Deborah Metzger asserted that there were many provisions in the current zoning ordinance that were ambiguous and "spottily enforced."

Mallach added that he was "offended" by the anonymous notice and "disappointed that it would imply that the Board is trying to put something over on the public." He noted that the Board "has always bent over backwards to give public notice" and an opportunity for discussion of its actions. Marilyn Magnes, the Borough Council's representative on the Board, stated that the Board has no intention of banning vehicles.

Mary Alfare defended the flyer as an appropriate expression of concern in light of what she termed a recent "perception of an implied threat" that the Zoning Officer would cite a recreational vehicle owner. John Parrott defended the concept of pamphleteering and stated, "If it is not going to happen, tell us and we will all go home." One man said, "The *Bulletin* article incited this." Frank DiGiorgio noted that "a few individual cases brought 90 percent of this on to start with." He lamented that "there is a new Roosevelt where people don't deal with problems among themselves" as they had in the past. Kirk Rothfuss agreed that "maybe neighbors need to talk to neighbors more" but stated that he has no problem with the Board looking at the issues "because there are problems."

Mallach stressed that the Planning Board may only make recommendations to the Council for ordinances dealing with the uses of private lands. He noted that only the Council can deal with parking on public roads in town.

Regarding the draft ordinance, Mallach said he would provide some apron configuration diagrams to the Board to

assist discussion at its next meeting on November 2. He said the ordinance "should be written so that you don't have to be a lawyer or a mystic to understand what is lawful." He added, "There is no way you can write an ordinance that is free of judgment calls" and reminded those present that "if there is a hardship, you can go to the Zoning Board to get a variance."

Other Action

In other action, Board member Anita Cervantes reported that the Farmlands Study Committee would publicize a workshop for volunteer experts to receive public input and make recommendations for planning to deal with development pressures on the approximately 500 acres of northern farmlands in town. The workshop, including a walk around the properties, was scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 29. Cervantes noted that a County ecologist had, without cost to the Borough, catalogued the vegetation on the parcels, including any plants that are sensitive from an ecological standpoint.

Cervantes also reported that representatives of the School Board, Planning Board and Council planned to meet about every two months to exchange information on issues of mutual interest. Cervantes, Magnes, School Board President Edward Grossman, and Interim Chief School Administrator Arthur Martin held the first meeting on September 22. Cervantes added that the representatives were not able to establish sufficient "clearly defined objectives" to set an agenda for a joint meeting of the three groups. They nonetheless agreed that rotating representatives of each body should continue to meet to keep the lines of communication open. Cervantes said that the next meeting will take place in the school at 7:30 PM on November 3 and will be open to the public.

Martin Unveils Plan *continued from page 1*

portion of the meeting open for public participation. Highlighting the question and answer period, which began shortly after 10:00 PM and which was cut off by the Board after roughly twenty minutes so it might ratify bills to be paid, were private conversations between Board member Art Unger and the Board Secretary during comments from the public, and Board member Ed Goetzmann's leaving the meeting after the member of the public who was speaking at the time took exception to Goetzmann interrupting.

The meeting started fifteen minutes late due to the failure to find a quorum, and the Board conducted lengthy discussions in the process of disposing of small sums: \$250 for an assembly run in conjunction with the PTA, and a \$100 annual increase for the school physician. The latter action was taken on the recommendation of Harry Groveman, CSA at RPS since October 3, who justified his request that the fee be raised 14% by pointing out that it had remained at the same level for more than five years. The school physician had not asked for the increase.

In a matter of potential significance to RPS, the Board discussed participation in the State's Drug-Free School Zone Program. The CSA had distributed to the Board brochures on the program, which calls for a compact between the school district and local law enforcement.

Board members also made a point of taking time for the second business meeting in a row to express their displeasure with bids for transportation services submitted by Roosevelt Auto. The Board had asked for bids on delivering one child daily to and from Rockport School, some forty-five minutes distant. Roosevelt Auto came in with the only bid, at a cost slightly in excess of \$21,000. Board President Ed Grossman and member Art Unger thought the number excessive, although Board consultant Arthur Martin expressed the view that the bid was "not too far out of line" given the distance involved and the number of trips per year. He added that alternatives were being researched.

Changes Possible in Two to Three Years

Despite the lateness of the hour and his long day which had preceded it, Martin carefully outlined for the Board and members of the public still present the key points in a five-page, single-spaced document, the complete text of which is reproduced in this issue [see page 14].

Martin expressed confidence in the K-6 program at RPS, and advised maintaining this program for a minimum of three years to provide adequate time for the School Board to arrive at its decision about the future structure of public education in Roosevelt and allow at least two years' notice of any anticipated change from the *status quo* to the community and RPS staff.

For the long term, continuing RPS as a K-6 school is only one of the four options outlined in the report. The others are:

- Sending K-12 to another district, on a tuition fee per student basis. This is what is done now for grades 7-12.
- Consolidating with one or more adjoining districts.
- Regionalizing with one or more adjoining districts or joining in a regionalized district.

The report points out that the latter two options could not be realized in less than three years.

Martin recommends the creation of three committees whose membership would come from the School Board and from the community, and should include representatives from the Borough Council and Planning Board. The task of these committees would be to study each of the options in detail, and provide a report to the School Board.

The burden of implementation falls most heavily on the President of the Board, who would be charged with appointing, with Board approval, the membership of the committees, and who would serve on each of them *ex-officio*.

New Faces at RPS

by Anne DeCocco

Last month I told you a little about some of the new faces to be found at Roosevelt Public School. I have two more for you this month.

JoAnne Brown works two mornings each week as a speech therapist. In addition to that, she is a full-time graduate student at Trenton State College, going for her MA in Speech Pathology. She holds a BS from that college, majoring in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Ms. Brown currently resides in Hamilton, and we welcome her to our staff.

Also new to the school is Maxine Shore. Mrs. Shore teaches art to all of our students, Gifted and Talented, Great Books, and conversational French to the fifth and sixth graders. She holds a BA in French from Chatham College, a MA in French from Middlebury College. She studied art at The Parsons School of Design and the Art Students League in New York. Mrs. Shore resides in East Windsor with her two daughters and husband. She's full of ideas for her young students interested in art and finds Roosevelt's atmosphere exciting. Her talents and background are welcome additions to our district.

Next month, more new faces!

Anne DeCocco chairs the Education/Personnel Committee of the Roosevelt Board of Education.

**Please send
your
contribution
to the
Bulletin
today**

Viewpoint: An Education for the School Board

by Anita Cervantes

Thursday night I attended my first School Board meeting in several years. It will not, I think, be my last. Too much is going on at School Board meetings for so few citizens to be there to see and hear it.

I think there's an even chance that some people will think I'm picking on the School Board in this *Viewpoint* article. What happened at the School Board meeting the other night was bad enough that I felt compelled to write this article, but I'd like to state as strongly as I can that the feelings I express here apply equally to all bodies of local government.

That said, let me tell you what disturbed me about the meeting I attended.

Based on what I saw at this meeting, this School Board is unaccustomed not only to public input of any length, but to much public input at all. The public portion of the meeting doesn't start until around 10:00 PM, in a meeting which commences at 7:30. Until that time, the public, I gather, is supposed to be seen and not heard. Delaying any public questions until an hour so late that everyone is almost brain-dead with fatigue sends a certain message, to my thinking, and it's not a very welcoming one. I myself had questions which could have taken easily another half-hour, but forebore, because the Board was clearly anxious to adjourn—and who could blame them, at that hour?

I didn't leave as early as one Board member, though. This Board member was impatient with what a member of the public had to say, declared his intention of leaving, and did so, while the member of the public was speaking. (The punch-line was that he had to be chased down and brought back, because without him there wasn't the quorum necessary to pay the bills.)

If that had happened in a Planning Board or Council meeting, there would have been outrage, both on the part of the public and, I expect, on that of the body as a whole; and, in my view, quite

rightly. Nothing like that happened here. The public speaker, in frustration, finally left. No one apologized to him. In fact, the School Board seemed relieved at not having to deal with the whole situation.

Lest anyone think that I'm making a mountain out of a molehill, let me explain why I found this so disgraceful. It's generally considered to be impolite to walk out on someone when you're engaged in a conversation—or even an argument. When the person who walks is in a position of power, it is, in my view, qualitatively different, and it is *wrong*. If you do this, you are abusing the power of your position, no two ways about it. If the public speaker is being abusive or threatening, that's one thing. But that wasn't what happened here.

In fact, what happened here was made worse by the fact that the public speaker in question hadn't even the recourse of defending himself in print. Why? Because he was the Editor of the *Bulletin*, whose policy is that it does not print editorials expressing the personal viewpoint of the Editor.

The Code of Ethics (Section 9271 of the RPS Bylaws) adopted by the School Board at this meeting says, among other things, "A member of the Board of Education shall work unremittingly to help the people of his/her community understand the importance of public education and the policies of the Roosevelt Board of Education, and the need to support both."

What I saw happen at this meeting was in no way reflective of that goal.

I anticipate that some will say, in defense of the School Board, that they work hard and long. So they do. So, I think, do most public servants in Roosevelt. I don't mean to sound harsh or unsympathetic, but that goes with the territory, and everyone serving in any public office here knows that and knew it going in.

It does not, however, go with the territory of being a citizen that the

public servants who spend your tax dollars can walk out on you while you're speaking in a public meeting. That is, in my view, simply indefensible. You can apologize for it, but I cannot in my wildest dreams think of any way to defend it.

Members of the Citizens' Group have been pretty hard on Council members who even interrupt a member of the public while he or she is speaking. I'd like to suggest that they turn their attentions to the School Board.

I think some people find the contentiousness of Roosevelt citizens disturbing. I don't. I think it's a vital sign. The day we don't have questions, arguments, and discussion during our meetings—with the public and among ourselves—is the day Roosevelt will begin to die.

I feel that when you serve in government you're not just handing down dicta on what's permitted and what's not, and you're not just "taking care of business." You should, even when you're just answering a question, try to educate the questioner about what you're doing, and why, and how. And you should allow yourself to be educated by the questioner, and by his or her concerns. This is a participative democracy we're conducting here, and it's a two-way street.

It's so much more rewarding this way, I think, because it encourages the feeling, for everyone involved, of really participating in a problem-solving process. Isn't that what serving in government is all about?

So come on, people, let's get out there. I'm sure that once the School Board becomes accustomed to public input, they'll work out a way to accommodate it—courteously, responsibly, and according to their own Code of Ethics.

Anita Cervantes is an Alternate Member of the Roosevelt Planning Board, and chairs the Board's Farmlands Study Committee.

RPS Fetes New CSA and Former School Board President

by Mary Alfare

RPS Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman, who started work October 3, and former School Board President John Burghardt were honored at a reception in the RPS lobby on October 10. Some 60 residents attended the event, which was sponsored jointly by the Roosevelt Board of Education and the PTA.

"Mr. Groveman comes to Roosevelt with administrative experience at schools in Queens, New York, and Lakewood, New Jersey. Currently, he is pursuing his Doctorate in School Administration and Special Education at Columbia University," stated Board President Ed Grossman in his introduction of the new CSA.

Groveman said he has "enjoyed immensely" his initiation to Roosevelt. "This is a great town. You have a great staff in this school," he stated. "I enjoy seeing in the students the joy of being in school. They bring this from home. This is an important part of their educational foundation."

John Burghardt, who is relocating in Hopewell, was thanked for his years of service to the community by Board President Grossman: "The Board extends its sincere appreciation for your generous contribution of time in service to the students, parents, teachers, and community members of Roosevelt." Burghardt was elected to the Board in 1983 and served as Vice President in 1985 and President in 1986 and 1987. His contributions included 5-1/2 years on the Finance and Negotiating Committees, chairing each for two years, and two years on the Policy Committee. He also served on numerous ad hoc committees and subcommittees.

Burghardt stated, "After 5-1/2 years experience, I believe that the process the Board follows is a good one. I hope the community will stay involved with the school."

Refreshments were served by the PTA.

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

This harvest season, our nursery schoolers have "reaped" a number of exciting new experiences, thanks to the generosity of some of our neighbors. First, the youngsters visited Henry Estenes' Sandy Acres Farm in East Windsor for a morning of pumpkin and apple picking and learning about farm life. Then, thanks to the efforts of professional firefighters Ed Miller and Jack Rindt, also a nursery school parent, the children enjoyed a special fire safety program, featuring "Bert" and "Ernie" from *Sesame Street* and a climb on a real fire engine. Our thanks to all of these good friends.

October was also "Indian Month" at RCNS, as teacher/director Arlene Stinson taught the children about native American life, including corn-grinding, Indian dances and an Indian song.

Acknowledgements

Back on the grownup front, we'd like to offer sincere thanks to Bill and Alice Warshaw for their generous gift to the school; to the Roosevelt Public School for its donation of play equipment and books for our used book sale; and to the whole book sale crew: to Cathy Petrilla and Dave Schwendeman, for services above and beyond; to Art and Elly Shapiro for creating and implementing such a creative answer to our leftover book problem; to the Roosevelt First Aid Squad for the use of its tables; to all those kind neighbors who donated books and all who came and bought them; and to the RCNS parents who put so much time and energy into this project and our other two fall fundraisers. You were all terrific!

We would also like to say a special "thank you" to David Brahinsky, who presented a Benefit Concert of his music for our school, and gave children and adults alike an afternoon to remember. And thanks to our sound man Ron Moore for sharing both his equipment and his expertise and helping to make David's concert such a success.

School Board Thanks Volunteers

by Mary Alfare

Thirty-three residents volunteered time, hard work, specialized skills, and/or equipment to the reorganizational efforts at RPS this past summer.

To aid the Board in forecasting potential enrollment, a population census was designed by Peter Warren and directed by Ed Cedar with the assistance of Carol Zaleski, Eileen Warner, Margaret Schlinski, Peter Rossi, Tom Patterson, Teri Nachtman, Jane Kennedy, Leonard Hillis-Guye, Dennis Connaughton, Dolores Chasan, Robin and Robert Axel, and Mary Alfare.

One team who participated in sprucing up the school yard was a group of youngsters working with Margaret Schlinski: Erik Plumb, Harris Kaufman, Anthony and Josh Estenes, Jesse and Sarah DeSanto, and Elizabeth Allen.

Frank DiGiorgio volunteered his pest control expertise to thwart the bee swarms hampering the clean up effort.

Lynn Symons and Lee Allen worked with Ed Grossman and Debra Allen on trimming back trees and hedges that impinged on access to the school. Hard-working Brian Suk carried off the wood and debris.

Richard Dalin and Mary DeFoe expended considerable time and effort in typing the revised School Board Bylaws. Joe Gale removed old iron and parallel bars from the school. Robert Francis donated his calligraphy skill to printing the diplomas for the August graduation. Stuart Kaufman came through with last minute repairs to the school's VCR.

Shelley Hatzfeld, Mary DeFoe, Robin Carroll and Dahni Barkley have helped Margaret Schlinski and Anne DeCocco in the ongoing reorganization of the school library.

"The Board extends its sincere appreciation and thanks to all who have donated their time, labor, expertise, and equipment to aid in the reorganizational efforts," stated School Board President Ed Grossman.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

The PTA kicked off the school year on September 2 with a Bagel Brunch to welcome the teachers back to school.

Then on September 19, RPS and the PTA held its annual Back to School Night. The PTA had a registration table and we were happy to sign up some new PTA members, both parents and teachers. We would like to thank all the parents who brought baked goods. The parents and teachers enjoyed mingling over cake and coffee and it was especially nice to meet the new teachers and parents at RPS.

Our first PTA meeting was held on September 27 and quite a few issues were covered. The 1988-89 PTA budget was passed unanimously. The PTA also voted in favor of underwriting the cost of reproducing the photographs in the Axelrod collection,

which is a collection of historical materials on the development of Roosevelt which former resident Sol Axelrod has loaned to RPS.

We also discussed other upcoming events like a Halloween party, with our first ever male chairperson, Lee Allen. We discussed the need for volunteers for the upcoming Holiday Shop in November and our Winter Carnival coming in February. For more information, please come to the next PTA meeting on November 15 at 7:30 PM. Our meetings are held at RPS.

We would like to extend a special thank-you to our guest speaker, Ed Miller, for enlightening us with his presentation on fire safety at the October 18 meeting.

We're very happy to have coming to our November 15 meeting Ms. Grace Benson, President of the New Jersey

State PTA and Ms. Marge Zimmer, President of the Monmouth County PTA. They will be covering the important topic, "Why PTA?" There will be a question and answer period at the end of their discussion and we hope everyone interested will attend.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make the reception for Mr. Groveman and John Burghardt such a success. We would also like to express our special thanks to everyone who helped our fundraisers. The children have enjoyed the assemblies which the fundraising has provided. Carol Miller has been working especially hard on arranging the assembly programs for our school. Thanks, Carol!

Please mark November 15, 7:30 PM on your calendar to attend the next PTA meeting. It will be a good one!

RPS Fifth and Sixth Graders Elect Student Council Representatives

by Alfred Luckenbach

On Tuesday, October 18, the fifth and sixth grade classes at Roosevelt School elected class Representatives to the newly-formed Student Council.

Victoria Estok was chosen as Representative for the fifth grade, and Holli Conover was chosen as Representative for the sixth grade.

The following students' names were placed in nomination on Thursday, October 13: Fifth grade—Victoria Estok, Christina Henderson, Stefanie Miller, Rebecca Ord, and Erica Warner; Sixth Grade—Holli Conover, Harris Kaufman, Adam Mackey, Stephen Penalver, Erik Plumb, and Richard Somma.

A vigorous campaign ensued. Posters were made and students spoke on behalf of their favorite candidates.

On Monday, October 17, Stephen Penalver, Erik Plumb, and Richard Somma announced their intentions to withdraw from the sixth grade race.

The remaining candidates made speeches [*the text of the speeches by the winning candidates is presented in the column at right, Ed.*].

Following the speeches, a mini-debate was held between Holli Conover and Harris Kaufman. Adam Mackey was absent and therefore did not participate in the debate.

The elections were held on Tuesday with Holli Conover chosen as sixth grade Representative and Adam Mackey as sixth grade Alternate. Victoria Estok was chosen as fifth grade Representative. Stefanie Miller will serve as fifth grade Alternate. Alternates will attend the meetings when a Representative is absent on the day the meeting is held.

Alfred Luckenbach teaches fifth and sixth grade at RPS.

My Speech

by Victoria Estok

If I am elected I think we could work out a lot of problems in the school. Here are some. For example, the graffiti, trying to communicate better with our new principal and to organize the school and students.

Last, but not least, I want to be class representative because together with the other kids I think I could make a difference. So vote for me.

Speech by Holli Conover

Please vote for me for class representative. I will try my best to represent our class. I will work fairly with the students *and* the principal. I am willing to give up my recess to help my class. If there is something that really upsets you I will try to get the principal to listen to our side.

I know that I won't be able to change everything. I will try very hard to change things that are very important to both students and school.

There are no bribes in my campaign. I will not make any foolish promises that can't be kept! All I can say is I will work hard for all of us!

Thank you.

Council Moves to Improve Borough Hall *continued from page 1*

tive of having the First Aid Squad pay an estimated cost of \$300 to \$500 a year from community-donated funds was considered unfair and unwarranted.

The facility itself was criticized for inadequate and/or inappropriate features. Fire Company Chief Kim Dexheimer also faulted the Council in detail for unconcern and past neglect.

At one point in the discussion First Aid Squad officer Jack Guyette contributed a welcome reminder to the effect that Council members and Mayor are also volunteers.

In the end, the Mayor acknowledged his error in assigning the problem to the Public Safety Committee instead of the Public Property Committee which has jurisdiction over Borough Hall maintenance. The Public Property Committee will undertake to deal with the matter at its meeting on October 23.

Council member Ed Moser commented that the project had been discussed for many months and no one had raised any questions or objections during that time. He went on to emphasize that the protesting organizations were highly appreciated as indispensable to community life both by the Council and the public, but that the way information is exchanged must be improved, as well as the level of participation and trust.

Other Actions

Other actions taken at the meeting were:

- Reading of an amendment to the Zoning ordinance to bring several formulations into consistency with state law.
- A motion to hire security guards for no more than the sum of \$250 (budget allocation) for Halloween was passed.
- Motions were passed to repair the copying machine, to authorize repair to storm damage on several streets, and to seek bids for next year's garbage collection contract.
- A report of the joint meeting of Borough Council with the School

and Planning Boards to discuss the future of Roosevelt stated that it was agreed that concrete planning was premature at this time. Representatives would continue to meet in small groups with alternating members, share ideas and information and prepare in time for a large public discussion.

Recent Contact with Switchel

Under Good and Welfare, Barney Sadovsky asked if the Mayor had news from Switchel. Mayor Barth mentioned a recent telephone conversation regarding a possible agreement on the impact study and its financing. Council members were sharply critical of the Mayor's continued dealing with the company. Mayor Barth claimed he was called to act as a conduit to the Borough Council, although there had apparently been no report of the call until that moment. Council members insisted on a written answer and review by the Borough attorney as the only acceptable procedure.

Challenge to PCD

Also during Good and Welfare, Lee Allen, referring to the PCD (Planned Community Development) ordinance, stated that he had heard (or read in the **Borough Bulletin**, perhaps) that the Nottermans, who own the land governed by the PCD, were asking \$7 million for this tract. [*Editor's Note: the Bulletin has never reported an asking price for this land. The Bulletin called Joseph Notterman to verify this rumor; his response is presented in the side bar to the right.*]

As an accountant, Allen said, he ran a feasibility study and determined that each of the projected 76 homes would cost about \$400,000. Even if the land were sold for \$4 million, Allen continued, the cost would still come to around \$263,000.

He felt this would have the effect of segregating the "haves" from the "have-nots" in town and that apart from creating financially infeasible standards, the limits that the PCD imposes on the number of homes which

can be built on this land would open the community to legal difficulties.

As the meeting came to a close, Ralph Seligman replied that it was the nature of zoning to set the density of dwellings. He reminded the meeting that the plan for the PCD was produced by world-famous architects and engineers who are experts on these matters. He added that the issues of cost and price would be determined, inevitably, by the familiar forces of a free market economy, and that in 30 years as a city planner, he had never seen any legal suit of this nature.

Notterman Denies Rumor

by Mark Zuckerman

Joseph Notterman calls "utterly ridiculous" the rumor made public by Lee Allen at the October business meeting of the Borough Council that the Nottermans were seeking \$7 million for the land parcel known informally as the "Notterman Tract" [see *Council Moves to Improve Borough Hall*, page 1, Ed.]. He also categorically denies asking as much as \$4 million for the land. "Even if we asked that much, I doubt if we would get it," adds Notterman.

"We have one letter of intent at the price which Switchel said was excessive," says Notterman. In addition, he expects a firm bid from another developer.

The land in question is the most likely site for the next residential expansion in Roosevelt. Although currently zoned for agricultural use, it was earmarked for future residential use by the town founders. Earlier this year the Borough Council enacted a Planned Community Development ordinance drafted by the Planning Board to govern the development of the tract.

In the News

by Peter Warren

Commemoration...

... On October 7th, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt, visited our town and the first memorial erected to the late President in the United States outside of Hyde Park [see stories on the visit in this issue's centerfold, Ed.].

Statistics...

... Of the 604 Roosevelt voters registered in July 1988, 55% are Democratic, 36% Undeclared, and 9% Republican.... In mid-October, there are 69 pupils at RPS (K-6), 10 at Rogers Middle School (7-8), and 38 in Hightstown High School.... In early October, Tati became the 133rd *chien* licensed in town this year.... About 194 of the 329 dwellings in town are the Jersey Homestead bauhaus type; 54 of these have been modified by addition of a peaked roof, 11 by addition of a second storey, and 11 by addition of a skylight or partial second storey.... Roosevelt residents have about 23 unlisted phone numbers.

Weddings...

... Krystyna Bieracka to Thomas Olejnik on October 16; Jan Terry to Errol Lawrence on August 28th.

Launching...

... NASA electrical engineer Art Unger and GE systems engineer Mike Cummings spent September at Vandenberg Air Force Base preparing the successful launch of the NOAA-11 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite which will monitor global warming, the ozone layer, and icebergs and will relay distress signals from ships.

Senior Citizens Meeting, October 4

by Helga Wisowaty

Our President, Jeanette Koffler, presided at this meeting.

Jeanette told us about "PAA" (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged) and "Lifeline" (help with utility bills for eligible seniors).

We are looking forward to our annual holiday dinner and show. We'll go to Lily Langtree's in Valley Forge, King of Prussia, PA. We'll leave at 10 AM on

Orchids...

... Wayne Cokeley, who raises endangered species of orchids, helped organize the nationwide orchid show at the Meadowland Hilton October 21-23.

Vocational Training...

... In October, John Ord directed the 6th annual conference of the Trade and Industrial Education Association of New Jersey, of which he is President: workshops included construction, cosmetology, electronics, graphic arts, metal trades and transportation.

Art...

... Examples of Stefan Martin's collages and small prints were displayed at Rider College's art gallery from October 2 through November 2.

Music...

... Dave Brahinsky has been retained by Young Audiences of America to present songs of New Jersey and songs of social awareness in New Jersey Schools.... Harry Warner is guitarist with Dreampeace which performed at a Trenton Museum concert on October 21.

Theatre...

... Presentation of Neil Selden's musical drama, *Ocean in a Teacup*, scheduled for performances November 2-20 at New York's American Theatre of Actors, has been temporarily postponed.

Samaritan...

... Lee Allen is taking his annual refresher course for Ski Rescue Patrol to provide first aid to stricken skiers and to enjoy the snowy slopes himself.

the 19th of November. We'll be picked up at the Borough Hall. We have permission to park there, too.

We always enjoy coffee and refreshments. This was particularly pleasant for Marguerite and me as our birthdays are in October (we found we share the same date). Our delicious cake was served with a big candle and the singing of *Happy Birthday*.

Helga Wisowaty is Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens' Club.

If You Want to Build on Your Property...

by Mark Zuckerman

According to Roosevelt Zoning Board Chair Lou Esakoff, recent months have seen an increase in requests for "after the fact" zoning variances—asking the Zoning Board to approve variances for structures already built.

Esakoff attributes this phenomenon to the public's ignorance of proper procedure. "The procedures are a matter of law, and are designed to protect residents, not harass them," says Esakoff. "People wishing to modify their property will save a lot of trouble if they obtain the proper permits."

Esakoff advises residents wanting to build to check with the Borough's Zoning Officer, Paul Eichler, for guidance and instruction on required permits and procedures. Depending on the nature of the construction, you may have to seek approval from the Planning or Zoning Boards. Construction plans which call for modifying the external appearance of an existing structure or for building closer to the side and rear boundaries of the property than allowed by the Borough's zoning ordinance require a variance from the Zoning Board.

According to law, variances may be granted for only two reasons: for relief of hardship to the individual, or for the betterment of the community. Residents may call the Zoning Board Secretary, Ann Kassahun (443-4155), for a packet of information on how to apply for a variance.

When a variance is in order, it must be obtained prior to the start of construction. "The Zoning Board discourages after the fact variances," says Esakoff. Residents who fail to secure a necessary variance run the risk of having to move, remove, or modify the offending structure.

The Zoning Board meets in the Borough Hall at 8:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month. No meeting is held if there is no business before the Board. In such an event, notices are posted in the post office and on the bulletin board.

A Current Generation Roosevelt Visits Town

by Mary Alfare

"This is Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of the President for whom your school and your town were named," Harry Groveman, RPS principal, told the students gathered in the school lobby on October 7. Ms. Roosevelt pulled over a chair and sat, leaning forward, to talk with the students about her famous grandparents.

Sharing family stories about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, she explained that her grandfather had died before she was born but that she had learned about him from her family. "I know he loved to have children around. He had five of his own. His favorite holiday was Thanksgiving when he would always invite 50 children to the White House for dinner. He loved the children of this country and started a lot of programs to help them."

She asked the students if any of them had grandparents who had died before they were born. Several raised their hands and told of grandparents they'd never met. "Learning about deceased family members helps you to understand who you are and will help you make decisions about how you're going to be," she added.

In response to Kate Freedman, Ms. Roosevelt told about Eleanor and her brothers being orphaned at an early age and raised by an elderly grandmother. She explained that Eleanor, not getting much attention, had grown up not feeling very good about herself. "It took her a long time to figure out that she was a good person... She had to take a look at herself and decide what she could do well and then do that." Ms. Roosevelt told them of how Eleanor went on to do important work, including helping to write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights while a delegate to the United Nations 40 years ago.

She described Eleanor as a "wonderful grandmother who always listened carefully" and who made time for the children even if it kept dignitaries waiting. Following the discussion, the students accompanied Ms. Roosevelt to the FDR memorial for photographs.



photograph by Jeff Klein

The students loved her. Richard Ladue stated, "Her visit made today a special day." Jeannett Castro and Jack Cummings found her to be "a nice lady." Lauren Kaufman and Danielle Przychocki thought she was pretty and loved her red hair. Stephani Miller whispered that she'd gotten her autograph. Harris Kaufman and Erik Plumb thought "it was great to have the granddaughter of FDR here in Roosevelt." Kristen Yarber remembered, "FDR loved kids a lot. She [Anna] had great timing—when she came we were in social studies." Katie Alfare remembered that Ms. Roosevelt had told them, "It's important to know about the past so you can make a better future." One child told his mother excitedly after school, "A President is moving to Roosevelt!"

The teachers were delighted with the visit. They saw it as a piece of history come alive for the children. CSA Harry Groveman described Ms. Roosevelt's visit as a "wonderful experience for the children, giving them the opportunity to experience a lesson in history and social studies that was

brought out of the abstract... to the reality of a person who is a vivid part of that history."

Prior to her school visit, Ms. Roosevelt had walked to the memorial with Mayor Leon Barth. There she spoke informally with the 30 residents who had found out about the last-minute, unpublicized visit. Jonathan Shahn, sculptor of the bronze head honoring FDR, presented Ms. Roosevelt with a portrait of her grandmother.

In New Jersey to promote the Eleanor Roosevelt Birthday Telethon for the Democratic Party, Ms. Roosevelt had made last-minute plans for this visit. Hearing of these plans, Joan Grossman, an RPS parent, felt it was important that the school children be included. CSA Groveman, Mayor Barth, and Democratic campaign officials cooperated with Ms. Grossman's successful efforts. "Anna Roosevelt shared the story of FDR and Eleanor in a way our children could understand. She humanized history and brought it to life for them," stated Ms. Grossman.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt's Visit

by the Third and Fourth Graders at RPS

Unexpectedly, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt came to our school on Friday, October 7, 1988. We met her in the lobby under the mural. Ms. Roosevelt had short red curly hair and blue eyes. She wore a gray and white skirt, and on her sweater, she wore a Dukakis-Bentsen button. She had a purple coat and red gloves.

First Ms. Roosevelt asked a few questions, and then she started talking about her grandfather, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and her grandmother, Eleanor Roosevelt, who she was named after. She was interesting, and she was nice to us. She called on people to say things. She listened closely to everyone and then brought up a subject about what we had said.

Here is what we learned. Franklin Delano Roosevelt died three years before Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born. But Anna learned all about her grandfather from photographs and from her relatives. (She had about 27 cousins.) When he was alive, every Thanksgiving, President Roosevelt invited about fifty kids to the White House and fed them all dinner because he loved kids. He did not ever come to Roosevelt, our town, but Mrs. Roosevelt once did.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that every Sunday they had to have scrambled eggs for dinner whether they liked it or not! Every time someone spoke to Mrs. Roosevelt, she would put her ear up to them and listen very closely. She would always go to bed after everyone



drawing by Sarah Henry

was asleep and wake up before everyone woke up. Eleanor Roosevelt helped to get human rights for all people. She set a good example for her granddaughter, Anna.

Last we went outside to the Memorial. There were newspaper reporters who took the whole school's picture with Anna Roosevelt explaining the Memorial to us. The Memorial is of Ms. Roosevelt's grandfather, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Everybody crowded around the Memorial to hear Ms. Roosevelt and because they wanted the newspaper reporters to get them in the picture.

The third and fourth grades at RPS are taught by Ilene Levine.

Additional Math Tutors Urgently Needed

by Mary King

During the past three years I have been offering free tutoring in math to any student in Roosevelt who wanted some extra help. Over the past two years I have tutored one student each year—one in high school algebra and the other in eighth grade algebra. This experience has been a lot of fun for me and, I hope, help to the students.

I was very fortunate to have had two marvelous teachers in math when I was in high school. One taught algebra and the other plane and solid geometry. They asked a lot of their students, but they also made solving problems (even word problems!) challenging and fun. I would like to see Roosevelt kids have the same experience.

This year there has been a tremendous increase in the number of students asking for help, and I find that there are too many students for one tutor to handle.

There are currently students needing help with eighth grade math, high school and college algebra and geometry. If you can volunteer an hour a week to meet with a student and answer questions, review homework, and explain topics covered in textbooks, I would like to hear from you (evenings at 448-5096). Previous teaching experience is not necessary.

Jewish Family Education Program Going Strong

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

The Alef Bet Families have already celebrated two Jewish holidays together this fall, and are now hard at work preparing for a Chanukah party on December 4. Our first holiday festival was held at Eitan and Karyn Grunwald's home, and the children and their parents celebrated the High Holy Days by discussing the holidays, baking challah, making our own

shofars (and trying to play a real one, too!), eating the traditional apples dipped in honey, and singing holiday songs.

Ed and Joan Grossman and Arlene Stinson co-hosted our next celebration, Succoth. To prepare for this gathering, the Grossmans constructed a beautiful *sukkah* booth in their back yard. The children helped decorate the *sukkah*, learned about the harvest holiday and even held its symbols, the

lulav and the *esrog*, and enjoyed a mammoth salad of fall fruits.

The Alef Bet Families is an informal, family-oriented Jewish education program open to all our neighbors, especially those with young children. Interested? Then please contact Karyn Grunwald (426-9064) and learn more about our upcoming Chanukah celebration at the Borough Hall. We hope we'll see you December 4!

Art Notes

by Bob Mueller

Jacob Landau will occupy the Rider College Student Center Art Gallery next. He will have a massive retrospective exhibition containing over 150 of his drawings. The show is from November 13th to December 14th, and everyone is invited to the reception from 3 to 6 PM on November 19th. Calling the show "Old Man Mad About Drawing" after Hokusai's phrase, it begins with small sketches Jay did during World War II, and extends to the present... **Bernarda Bryson Shahn** is currently working on a comprehensive book of Ben Shahn's drawings for Harry Abrams, Inc., equal to the lush publication of his paintings she completed in 1972. This latter book was also printed in a Japanese version in 1982, and a second edition is being prepared in Japan. She also has a painting on exhibition at a current group show at the Midtown Galleries (11 East 57th Street, Tues-Sat 10-5:30 PM)... **Abby Shahn** will be showing her work there also, from November 2nd until December 3rd... Recently in Princeton **Laurie Altman** gave the premier of a work for soprano and piano, entitled *Monologues*, at the Westminster Choir College where he teaches. It is based on excerpts from the journals of Sylvia Plath, and was sung by the soprano, Judith Nicosia Civitano, with Laurie at the piano. The work will also be performed at Wellesley, Rutgers and the University of North Carolina... **Alan Mallach** will give a solo piano recital at the Princeton Unitarian Church November 19th at 8 PM. He will play works by Bach, Chopin and two novelties: a group of waltzes by Moritz Moszkowski, and a sonata in F minor, Op. 70, by the Bohemian composer Ladislav Dussek, one of the most renowned pianists and composers for the piano of the latter part of the 18th century.

— Arts in Roosevelt "Renaissance Man" to Exhibit His Art

Robert E. Mueller, called by some the "Roosevelt Renaissance Man," is being given a one-person show by the Roosevelt Arts Project. Two sides of this multifaceted person will be exhibited in the Borough Hall from November 12th through the 20th. The exhibition includes abstract paintings and social-imagery woodcuts.

The seeds of Mueller's art were planted when he was a boy in St. Louis, Missouri. But none of his Midwestern teachers encouraged his then apparent artistic talent. He was also an amateur radio enthusiast, and science was a more obviously practical pursuit. Throughout the years, however, he oscillated back and forth between science and art—the former as a living, the latter as a passion. An M.I.T. degree established his credentials as a scientist, and a BA degree in Philosophy and Fine Arts from N.Y.U. built the foundations for his arts.

Along the way Mueller's restless spirit drove him to explore all of the arts. He has written many poems, and completed eight novels and several plays. He has also written articles on aesthetics and creativity, the latest appearing, appropriately enough, in a recent issue of *Leonardo*. He has published four non-fiction books, all with his own illustrations. He is also an accomplished flutist, playing half time first flutist in the Princeton Community Orchestra, where he also serves as assistant conductor. He has composed for the flute throughout the years, and recently he began learning the violin.

As a scientist he did early research on color television, and has several patents, one on a cathode-ray tube and another on a video-drawing system. Most recently he worked at Bell Labs and Bellcore, its research spinoff after divestiture.

Bob Mueller has had many exhibitions of his paintings and woodcuts. His prints are in museums here and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts, the New Jersey State Museum, the Rutgers Zimmerman Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum of London, and the State Museums of Vienna, Munich and Berlin, among others.

On Saturday evening at 8 PM, November 12, 1988, the artist will present a video made by his son Erik. It shows the development of an art form Mueller calls "schemas," a non-computer generated visual music. This evening will also give the public an opportunity to interact with the artist in an intimate setting at the Roosevelt Borough Hall. The closing day of the week-long exhibition will be on Sunday, November 20th, at which time Mueller's art and video will be on exhibition from 11 AM to 5 PM in conjunction with the Roosevelt First Aid Squad Art Fair.

Concert Enlivens

by Bob Mueller

If you were walking along the star-covered streets of Roosevelt on the night of October 15, you might have wondered where the extra-terrestrial sounds were coming from. Blame it on the Roosevelt Arts Project, and Brad Garton. He was up to his old tricks with computers—but this time with a difference. Sitting behind a maze of instruments and electronic equipment, and looking more like a scientist than a musician, Brad twiddled knobs, played keyboards (both piano and computer ones), and out came beautiful music! It was an unusual evening that mixed computer music with human performers. Brad's fresh, enthusiastic commentary laid out the current electronic music scene with unusual examples of sound.

To illustrate the power of the computer Brad turned on a wave of sounds that were built up from the tooting of his child's toy whistle—but it came out with all the majesty of a cathedral organ. Intermixed with this light-hearted accompaniment, Brad placed David Brahinsky singing Amazing Grace—both in pitch, and moved up an octave or so. The next piece was evolved from the statistical analysis of Bach chorales by an up-state professor, who presented his analysis to a computer and told it to do more of the same. Alan Mallach picked out the best one, and began

Roosevelt —

Martin Shows Mixed Media

by Bob Mueller

This is a show not to be missed. Stefan Martin is one of the few modern masters left of an ancient craft: wood engraving, a technique that began in the middle ages and was raised to impressive heights by Albrecht Durer. Wood engravings are essentially a hand-made printing process that employs end-grain boxwood, a hard wood which requires extraordinary skill and patience to cut. Stefan learned the technique while studying at the Art Institute of Chicago, and he perfected his craft as an apprentice at the Sandor Wood Engraving Company. He is one of the few artists in the world still practicing this art form. First a drawing is made directly on the wood; the background areas are then cut away; finally the block is inked with a roller and placed in a press with rice paper receiving the image. It sometimes takes days to cut a block because of the sheer number and delicateness of the lines.

Stefan's biography is impressive—the number of museums and private collections in which he is represented, and the shows he has had, would fill the next two pages. They include MOMA, the Met, the Boston Museum, and other major US museums. He has also received many prestigious prizes and awards, and done many book illustrations.

Stefan's expertise as an engraver, and his magnificent sense of tonality, has led him to evolve a startling new painting technique he calls "incised collages." These are essentially large pastiches of multi-toned papers and painted cardboard surfaces, stripped away at delicately incised lines that create the imagery. The viewer will be able to follow Stefan Martin's love of the medium he has evolved, and appreciate his sense of wonder at discovering new and unusual meanings within the intricacies of his craft.

But this is anything but a show of craft: it is a show that reflects a deep sense of humanity. His larger works are figurative. For example, Martin's recent painting *Take It Easy*, wraps the imagery of two figures within the dynamism of startling shades of leaf and sienna. The juxtaposition of these paintings with a group of delicate wood engravings makes this show a comprehensive look at Stefan Martin's artistry throughout the years. His wood engravings are mostly bucolic scenes that evoke the tranquility of nature.

The show is currently at the Rider College Student Center Art Gallery, located in Lawrenceville just the other side of Route 295. After you turn into the college, follow the red arrows to the student parking lot. The show will be up until November 2. The hours are daily from 1 to 10 PM Monday through Thursday, and 1 to 5 PM Friday and Sunday (not open Saturday).

Roosevelt Night

to play it on the new Kimball Grand—all of which was fed to the computer "in real time," as Brad said (meaning that the piano sounds were being piped into the computer, and Brad, with his fingers on a software program was manipulating it "now"). Suddenly, however, the music began to soar—and as we found out later, it was because Alan has applied his definitely non-computer imagination to making variations on the computer variations of Bach!

Brad played several interesting pieces and gave a demonstration of the two main current trends in modern computer music: the one doing everything entirely electronically (creating the sounds, manipulating it with computer software, and modulating it in unusual or startling ways), and secondly, conventionally-produced music, using orchestral instruments, but in concert with electronic computer-produced music. The finale of this stimulating concert was a work in which Laurie Altman sat at the piano and began to improvise in his inimitable style, all to the accompaniment of various chord and tone patterns created on the spot by Brad at the Macintosh computer keyboard. It was a rewarding evening for all—including any extra terrestrials that happened to swoop down from above to take a listen.

Annual Art Fair to be Held November 20

by Gloria Hazell

Once more the Roosevelt First Aid Squad is proud to present its annual Art and Craft Fair on Sunday, November 20th, 11 AM to 5 PM at RPS.

As usual local artists and artisans including Stefan Martin, Jacob Landau, Jonathan Shahn, Ralph Warnick, Tony Wisowaty, Bernarda Bryson Shahn, and Aaron Datz will be presenting their work for sale. Out of town artists will also be participating.

This year tickets will be on sale for a limited raffle of a signed Gregorio Prestopino print.

For a small charge, as in previous years, children will be kept happily occupied by supervised activities while their parents browse around the array of varied works available.

A donation of \$1.00 (Seniors and children over 6 \$.50) will be collected at the door. All children *must* be accompanied by an adult.

Do come along, enjoy the wonderful assortment of goods for sale, buy all your holiday gifts and then afterwards relax over coffee and something to eat in the cafe area. Before you leave the school, don't forget to buy one of the lush plants available.

Note to Artists/Writers/Musicians:

Please call or write Bob Mueller (448-2605 or Local 08555) with information about your current shows or concerts or publications outside Roosevelt for inclusion in future **Art Notes**.

Planning for

by Arthur G. Martin

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the portion of the report distributed to the public:

The Roosevelt Board of Education was requested by the County Superintendent to provide short range and long range plans for the education of Roosevelt students. Short range is interpreted to mean two or three years plan and long range is considered five to six years.

Short Range Objective: To review the plan of organization for the Roosevelt Elementary School and revise it in order that all students enrolled in the Roosevelt Elementary School shall receive a quality school program at the school.

The review and revision of the elementary school began in July, 1988. It was determined by the Board of Education on advice of the consultant that the Roosevelt Elementary School could not provide an adequate education program for students in grades 7 and 8 and that negotiations should begin immediately to endeavor to send 7th and 8th grade students to a middle school in East Windsor Township. Resolutions were adopted by the Roosevelt Board of Education on August 1, 1988 with approval by the East Windsor Superintendent to send nine students in grades 7 and 8 to Rogers Middle School. Parents were informed in two public meetings, an August graduation was arranged for 7th and 8th graders and student and parent orientation sessions were held at Rogers School in East Windsor.

The 1988-89 school year began with a Kindergarten through grade six organization plan for sixty nine students distributed among the grades as follows:

Kindergarten - 9 students taught by Mrs. Hawthorne

First Grade - 15 students taught by Mrs. Mayberg

Second Grade - 11 students taught by Mrs. Gagliardi

Third and Fourth Grades - 16 students taught by Ms. Levine

Fifth and Sixth Grades - 18 students taught by Mr. Luckenbach

All the above teachers are experienced and taught at Roosevelt in the 1987-88 school year.

In addition to the above self-contained classroom teachers, the program was enriched by an art program taught by Mrs. Shore, a music program (vocal and instrumental) taught by Mrs. Simone, a physical education and health program (180 minutes per week) taught by Mr. Franklin and a basic skills program taught by Mrs. Sacharoff. The services of a nurse, speech correctionist, a learning disability teacher consultant and social worker were available on a part-time basis.

French is being offered to 5th and 6th grade students by a certified French teacher and plans are being evaluated to offer Spanish to 3rd and 4th grade students. Computer awareness and instruction is being handled by the classroom teachers and the school library is available to all students.

These resources and experienced staff provide Roosevelt School with a very good K-6 program at this time.

A school census was completed in July, 1988 for the Roosevelt School District. A review of the census indicates that Roosevelt Elementary School can accommodate K-6 students and provide them with a very good program for the foreseeable future.

A study of housing tracts was reviewed with representatives of the Planning Board, the Borough Council and the Board of Education in September and there are no surprises on the horizon. In any event Roosevelt School District could almost double its enrollment in the future and provide a good program for the students in grades K-6.

Plans have been made by the three official groups to meet bi-monthly to discuss planning for the future for the Borough of Roosevelt.

Two negative factors must be taken into account as we continue to plan for the future.

All students grades 1 to 6 eat lunch in the gymnasium (used as a multi-purpose room). The school makes milk available and students bring bag lunches. There is no room to provide for hot foods and kitchen facilities are not available in the present building. However, the school provides milk and sandwiches for any student who does not have a lunch on a given day.

The second negative factor is the fifty year old building. The Board of Educa-

tion has upgraded the school plant and play facilities tremendously during the past six months. Attached is a Five-Year Facility Plan for Roosevelt School [*not distributed to the public, Ed.*].

Fire detection equipment and the fire alarm system are inspected annually and are in excellent condition. Next June the school will be tied into a twenty-four hour surveillance program for fire protection.

The fire inspection from the Department of Community Affairs gave the school fire and safety clearance for the school year 1988-89. The new Retro-fit law will come into effect June 16, 1989 and we will be able to meet the new fire code. We are preparing for this law.

The boiler inspector gave us clearance on the use of the heating boiler and our maintenance contractor indicates that the boiler may have a life of five to ten years.

The inspection team from the County Superintendent's office has visited us twice during the summer and fall and noted the progress Roosevelt has made in upgrading the school plant.

The Board of Education should be committed at this time to the continued use of Roosevelt Elementary School for the short range of approximately three or four years by virtue of the fact that a viable K-6 program is being offered at Roosevelt.

Long Range Objectives are more difficult to project and one must look carefully at all the alternatives over the next five to ten years for Roosevelt Borough and School.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to study all alternatives before any action or any position be taken relative to a change of the organization pattern (K-6) or proposing the continuance or closing of the Roosevelt Elementary School. Comprehensive studies of the alternatives will take two to three years to complete and study in regard to their effect on the community of Roosevelt and/or its neighbors.

Serious consideration must be given to the obligation of the community to present tenured staff, the impact of any decision on real estate values in the community, the continual identification of Roosevelt as a viable community without an elementary school within its boundaries.

the Future

Some of the alternatives which exist and must be considered are:

1. Continue to operate Roosevelt School as a K-5 or K-6 school dependent on enrollment and costs.
2. Establish a sending-receiving relationship with a nearby school district.
3. Establish with adjoining school and municipal authorities the feasibility of annexing Roosevelt and/or consolidation with the adjoining municipalities.
4. Determine if nearby communities would be interested in regionalization of several school districts or admitting Roosevelt into an existing regionalization.

Continue to operate Roosevelt School as a K-5 or K-6 school:

It is true that Roosevelt School as a K-6 operation with 69 students is more costly than sending students to an adjoining school and paying tuition. However, the difference will get less and be approximately the same as enrollment increases because Roosevelt can accept almost double the number of students without increasing the total budget except as inflation is a factor. We have heard much discussion in the Borough about, at least, two sizable tracts of land being studied for development. It is inevitable with growth in the Route 1 corridor as it is that some of the population increase will come to Roosevelt.

There is no question that the proposed incinerator in Millstone Township may have a negative effect on the growth and lifestyle of Roosevelt so in-depth study is necessary before steps are taken on a position for the continuance of the school five years hence.

The age and condition of the present elementary building is a major factor in long range planning and could make one of the alternatives necessary.

The convenience of a neighborhood school is a big factor to families with children and does impact real estate values and ready sale of property.

Loss of governance of the school as it applies to policy making, administration, costs and program is a fact in at least one of the alternatives.

State statutes and rules and regulations in the future may make one of the alternatives necessary.

So, based on the above the Board of Education should plan to maintain the present school for at least three years and during that time be ready to follow through with an alternative as dictated by careful study.

Establish a sending-receiving relationship with a nearby school district:

Roosevelt has a sending-receiving relationship for grades 7 to 12 with the East Windsor Regional School District at the present time. This relationship could be extended to include K-12 within a year or two. However, I believe it unwise to act without studying all the alternatives and this will take about three years.

Employees of the school district would be unemployed and in some cases due to length of experience and/or age would become unemployed.

The school district would become a nonoperating school district but would maintain a Board of Education with responsibility for budgeting, transportation, special education, elections, and tuition students. Office space would be necessary with at least a secretary to the Board of Education as employed staff.

The building would have to be torn down or sold. It would be unwise to sell this prime piece of property in the center of Roosevelt. Someone indicated the building could be a community center. If this were so, the expense of maintaining the building and meeting public building code requirements would continue at a cost to the taxpayer somewhat equivalent to the present cost of operation as an elementary school.

Explore with adjoining schools and municipal authorities the feasibility of annexing Roosevelt and/or consolidation with the adjoining municipality:

This alternative may seem the most objectionable at first because acceptance would have to be achieved by referendum and approval by all communities involved. Roosevelt would lose its identity and governance. But if

residents are concerned about taxes, a community with a more diversified tax base willing to take in Roosevelt would reduce taxes paid by Roosevelt taxpayers. Even though this alternative does not look good at first glance, a study of the opportunity should take place before a final decision is made on the future of Roosevelt School. It must be noted that the consolidated district would need over 2000 students in K-12 to provide an adequate program. It would also be necessary to obtain approval of the Commissioner of Education to terminate the highschool sending-receiving relationship with East Windsor.

Determine if nearby communities would be interested in regionalization of several school districts or admitting Roosevelt into an existing regional school district:

Two nearby school districts could be approached on regionalization - East Windsor Regional School District and Upper Freehold Township Regional School District. If a school district were interested, such a proposal would have to have the approval of all constituent districts and would take a period of at least three years to propose. It would also be possible to explore with any or all nearby K-6 or K-8 school districts about the possibility of regionalization.

Regionalization in some instances implies establishing a regional high school, transportation, and probably a building program. This kind of planning would take three to five years to achieve.

It is a more acceptable plan because Roosevelt retains governance on the regional board of education and the regional district takes care of all administration, transportation and special education. There would be no need for a local board of education. Roosevelt would have representation on the regional board of education elected by Roosevelt voters.

Recommendations:

1. Make a commitment to maintain the K-6 elementary school concept for at least three years and provide the

continued on following page

Planning for the Future

continued from previous page

staff and community with at least a two year advance notice of any change of governance as dictated by the studies proposed.

2. Establish at least two committees to investigate and research within the applicable statutes the wisdom of a change in school system organization based on housing trends, enrollment patterns, updated census, condition and capacity of the building, community ratables, costs and community pride. Committees appointed should each have two members of the Board of Education and members at large from the community including representation from the Borough Council and the Planning Board. The President of the Roosevelt Board of Education should be an ex-officio member of each committee and be responsible for appointing all committees with approval of the Board of Education.

Committee appointments should be made by mid-winter and progress reports ready for the Board of Education in May or June, 1989. Final reports should be scheduled for Summer or Fall, 1989.

Proposed committees are: (You might charge each committee with two plans.)

- Continue the K-6 school organization plan in the present building for the next five years.
- Extend the sending-receiving relationship at East Windsor from Kindergarten to grade 12.
- Consolidation and/or regionalization with nearby communities.

It is imperative that a very clear charge be given to each committee and everyone understand that all committee decisions are advisory and are not binding on the Board of Education.

Arthur Martin served as Interim CSA from late June until October 3. He is a consultant to the Roosevelt Board of Education until December 1.

First Place!

by Richard Francis

On October 1, the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company took our fire truck to the Washington Township 25th Anniversary Celebration combined with the annual Mercer County Fire Prevention Parade.

The day started with the judging of the fire trucks, rescue squads, ladder trucks, and water tankers. Judges inspected the vehicles for cleanliness, condition of tools, and overall maintenance (e.g., rust, engine).

A five-mile parade followed from the inspection area to the celebration grounds where food, beverages, and music were supplied. Souvenir mugs were bought, stories and ideas were exchanged, and people danced. Fire trucks, antique—some from the 1800's—and new, from Mercer and surrounding counties (including a company from New York) impressively filled a long field. This allowed the public to browse at the emergency vehicles maintained to the best possible condition by volunteers devoted to saving lives and property.

The awarding of the trophies was the highlight of the day. All of the time and work pays off in that moment. The Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company won first place in the category of out-of-county, 0-1,000 gallon pumper, 11 years and older (our truck is 28 years old). The large first place trophy can be seen in the Roosevelt Post Office.

The fire company is desperately seeking men or women willing to give a little time to continue fire protection in Roosevelt. An application can be obtained in the Borough Hall. If you are interested, please write or speak to RVFC Chief Kim Dexheimer (Box 490, Local 08555) or to Richard Francis at 448-4064.

Richard Francis is President of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company.

Geese Turn Phoenix

by Hortense Socholitzy

Soon after our story about Jack and Peggy Guyette's two Egyptian geese in the June issue [*Hail the Honkering Heroes*, June 1988 *Bulletin*, Ed.], tragedy struck the pair, which had served as sentinels on the road into town.

"What happened to them?" "What did you do with them?" "Where are they?" These and many other questions were asked of Jack and Peggy Guyette after the geese disappeared.

One man, who drives from Princeton to work in Toms River every day, stopped at Roosevelt Auto to complain that after a two week stint with the National Guard, he missed the geese. "Seeing them every day was the high point of my trip," he said.

When Jack Guyette explained that one of the geese had been stolen, and that the other pined away at the loss of his mate, the traveler was sad, but felt better when Jack assured him he planned to get more.

And now, the promise has been fulfilled. The Guyettes have four geese: two mated pairs, younger than the previous ones. These are not yet ready to lay eggs. Perhaps by spring, say Peggy and Jack.

For now, the geese are not being encouraged to leave the Guyette's lawn. They are fed there and their small pool is kept there. No outsiders are bringing bags of bread crumbs. The geese's only close friend is Jessie, the family dog, who sleeps near them, and keeps them at home.

These geese are of a different breed from the earlier ones. They are said to be of a more aggressive nature, but so far they have not shown much aggressiveness. They are quiet, even when strangers approach—no watch "dogs" they.

I'm glad they're here, and I think many other people in Roosevelt feel the same way. Many physical changes in the town seem to be in the offing. Some of us like the "good old times," including geese at the Roosevelt Auto station on Route 571. We wish them a long and happy stay.

Grace Kaufman is proud to announce her recent achievement in passing the State of New Jersey Real Estate licensing examination. She wishes to inform her neighbors that she is now a Realtor Associate with ERA Homes of Quality in East Windsor, New Jersey.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

Four years ago we chose to build in Roosevelt over the Millstone, and East and West Windsor communities because we thought we could have an affordable home, live in a rural community, and still keep our cost of living at a reasonable level.

This is not the case.

In the past two years our real estate taxes have increased 71.5% (They are now in excess of \$5000.00 annually). It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep our home, a home which we literally built ourselves in order to keep down our costs. If we try to sell our home, the usual questions are: How much are your taxes here? What is the school system like? What type of services do you get?

Who is going to buy a home where the taxes are out of control, where the school system leaves something to be desired, where there is no local police department, where the fire department is ill-equipped and understaffed, where the homeowner

provides his own water and sewerage, where there is no mail delivery, where there is a dirt road that constantly needs repair? Who? We have a dilemma! We can't afford to keep our home and we wouldn't be able to sell it!

What about those people in this community who are on fixed incomes? What is going to happen in two more years? Will our taxes continue to rise the way they have in the past?

We know the biggest reason for our tax increases are due to the rising costs of maintaining the Roosevelt Public School. We've visited the school, attended a School Board meeting, and are not satisfied with what we see. The school needs a complete overhaul inside and out. The desks, chairs, and other facilities look like something out of a 1940's movie. The convenience of a cafeteria, especially for working parents, has been eliminated. Are we (the community) getting the most for our money?

Sure it would be nice if our son Stephan, now 2-1/2, could walk to

school each day. But we do not object to him being bussed a few miles away to a neighboring community where he could reap the benefits of a modern school system: a school system with better facilities and extra-curricular activities; a system that would also provide many other students to help him develop socially. We realize that RPS has a long tradition in this community, but we should not let our emotions stand in the way of good sound economic decisions.

We are looking to the citizens of this community for help.

Do we keep RPS open or do we shut it down? Do we try to bring in more families to Roosevelt to share the burden? What can all of us do to improve the situation? One thing is for sure: if our taxes continue to rise as they have in the past, we, and we're sure many others, will be driven from this town.

Ed & Paula Haemmerle
6 Eleanor Lane

To the Editor:

As a result of the report in September's *Bulletin* regarding the Planning Board's proposed Zoning Board revisions, the October meeting of the Planning Board was attended by an unusually large number of concerned residents.

According to the *Bulletin* report, the proposed revisions would deal with driveways and parking in the Borough. Board Chairman Alan Mallach also reportedly asked the Board members to consider ideas about what vehicles should be excluded from parking in the residential areas of Roosevelt. A partial list he gave of vehicles to be considered for exclusion were recreational vehicles, boats, panel trucks, pick-up trucks, trailers, etc. Board members were asked to think about it and come prepared to discuss these matters at the October meeting.

In the face of the unexpected crowd, Mallach stated that the *Bulletin* report was "a flat, total untruth," that such a

thing had never been mentioned, that everybody should go home with the assurance that nothing along those lines would be done.

In order to determine the facts, and if the report was true, I listened to and copied the audio tape record of the September Planning Board meeting. The tape confirms that not only is the *Borough Bulletin* report accurate and true, it is essentially a verbatim report of Mallach's own words.

It seems that the Board is being somewhat less than honest with us, and this tactic is not unprecedented. It also seems that Board business is conducted differently depending on who and how many are paying attention.

I, as one of the targets of the proposed ban, intend to pay attention. I would recommend that all owners of recreational vehicles, boats, panel trucks, pick-up trucks, trailers—indeed the owners of any vehicle other than 2-wheel drive, conventional passenger vehicles—do the same.

The Board has stated that it prides itself on its claim of being open and honest. But now, as one of the attendees at the October meeting suggested, its integrity is under a cloud and I believe it will bear watching.

Bernie Leefer
12 Homestead Lane

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the RPS room mothers and class parents who gave their time and culinary expertise during the opening of the 1988-89 school year.

This group effort made the back to school night and recent welcome for the new CSA, Mr. Groveman, a warm and enthusiastic success.

Continuing group involvement insures a bright future for our school.

Grace Kaufman,
Head Room Mother

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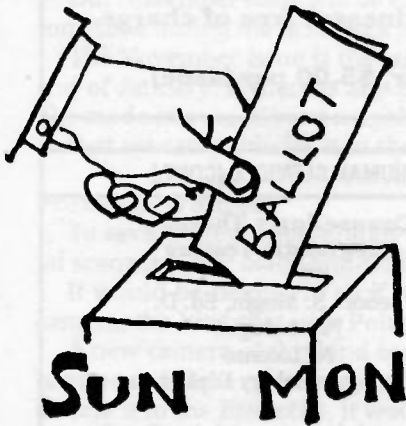
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NOVEMBER



TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

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|---|---|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| | | 1 Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2 PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Bulletin Staff MIRA, 7:30 PM Mark Zuckerman, Editor (443-5915) | 2 Food Co-op Ordering 8 Schl Ln, 7:30 PM Judith Goetzmann (443-4948) Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach, chair (448-4616) | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Deborah Borough Hall 2:00 PM Rose Corman, Pres. Frieda Rockoff (448-0674) Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM | 8 Election Day Borough Hall 6 AM to 8 PM | 9 Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Carol Watchler, Council President (448-5215) | 10 No School at RPS Board of Education Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Zoning Board Boro Hall, 8 PM Lou Esakoff, Chair (448-3166) | 11 No School at RPS | 12 Arts Project Exhibit Borough Hall 8:00 PM (see page ?) |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Blood Pressure Check, 1-3 PM Solar Village Community Rm PTA RPS, 7:30 PM Food Co-op Distribution Boro Hall 8:00 PM | 16 First Aid Squad Drill Borough Hall 7:30 PM Nancy Bauerle, Pres. (448-8725) | 17 Board of Education Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Board Pres. (448-9385) | 18 | 19 Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner at Lily Langtree Leave 10 AM from Borough Hall Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) |
| 20 Art Fair RPS, 11 AM-5 PM Nancy Bauerle (448-8275) Irene Block (448-9123) | 21 Half Day at RPS Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363) | 22 Half Day at RPS Nursery School Arlene Stinson, Director (426-9523) | 23 Half Day at RPS | 24 No School at RPS | 25 No School at RPS | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Nancy Bauerle, Pres. (448-8725) | 30 | | | |

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