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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

XVII
VOLUME XVIII NO. 5

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 1994

Borough Council Report

by Adeline Weiner

From Snow to Grease

The doughty Borough truck-cum-snow plow, driven by Public Works Chair George Vasseur and Operator Ed Davis, was able to contend with the first February storm. But the small truck's transmission failed just as the next heavier snowfall arrived, which meant calling in the snow removal contractor at a possible cost of \$2,000.

At the regular meeting on February 14, Councilman Vasseur suggested the purchase of a heavy duty plow to attach to the Borough's large dump truck as a prudent investment against future winter storms. The estimated cost would be around \$3,700 installed.

Emergency Arrangements

The Council voted to adopt an ordinance that authorizes an agreement with Monmouth County regarding the Borough's participation in the new emergency 9-1-1 system. (Passed 5-1) This enhanced service however has a price tag: for this year it is \$2,543.67. Councilman David Donnelly reported that the county prorated its costs in new hi-tech equipment plus installation and training of personnel according to the size of the community and the average number of emergency calls made during the

year. The Council adopted a resolution of protest claiming that the amount of our share was unfair to communities as small as ours and with so few calls for emergency assistance (155).

The Cost of Using Grant Money

The Council passed a resolution to approve a change order in the amount of \$31,569 to extend improvements along Tamara Drive all the way to Route 571. This was made possible by the additional \$85,000 in supplementary grant money awarded recently.

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During the discussion on the engineering costs and other ancillary professional services, Mr. Donnelly, Borough Finance Chair, noted that "there is no such thing as "free" grant funds." Every grant awarded brings with it engineering, surveilling and other such expenses that the Borough treasury must pay. Although he had no specific recommendation, he indicated that the Council should consider this problem in the future.

Utility Expenditures

The report from Utilities Chair Rose Murphy proposed a series of resolutions including authorization to pay \$1,400 for cleaning out blockages on North Valley Road, South Rochdale Avenue and Elm Court. Councilman Vasseur urged the Council to set up stricter procedures for supervising work by outside companies such as requiring reporting to the Borough Hall Office, signing a ledger on arrival and departure, having a Borough official or staff member observe at the work site.

Resolutions were passed to authorize payment of laboratory tests at the wastewater and water plants and to purchase chemicals for the year for both utilities (\$50,500). The contract with AWS Inc. for the operation and maintenance of the sewer plant was extended for one more month, in the amount of \$2,400.

(Continued on Page 4)

BulletinBoard

School Board Election Report

The following is a report of the results of the drawing which was held Thursday, February 24, 1994 to determine the position of the names of candidates who filed nominating petitions.

1. Date of Drawing:
February 24, 1994 at 4:15 PM
2. Meeting Place where
Drawing was Held: Roosevelt School Lobby

Name and Address - Full Three-Year Term - (Elect 3)

1. Teri Skye
(609) 443-4011
4 Eleanor Lane
Roosevelt, NJ
2. Harry W. Parker
(609) 448-5619
7 Oscar Drive
Roosevelt, NJ
3. Diana Monroe
(609) 426-8832
2 Homestead Lane
Roosevelt, NJ
4. Michael B. Hamilton
(609) 443-5227
82 Pine Drive
Roosevelt, NJ

Debra Leigh Allen
Secretary of the Board of Education

The deadline for submissions of material
to the Bulletin is the 15th of the month,
except by prior arrangement with the Editor.

Please send all articles and letters in clean typescript,
or as ASCII files on 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 inch diskettes to:
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Environmental Commission

by Gayle A. Donnelly

Yard Waste or Natural Resource?

Last year I attended the Middlesex Master Gardener and Environmental Stewardship program. One of my favorite speakers was Jonathan H. Forsell who is the Agricultural Resources Management Agent at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County. Mr. Forsell's belief is that we should not have to remove yard waste from our property. For some of us gardeners, yard waste is considered an asset, we actively collect other people's yard waste and add it to our own for use as a mulch.

This Winter with nature's pruning, branches and tree trunks abound and need to be dealt with. Following Mr. Forsell's advice I have moved the branches from my front yard to a long term wood/composting pile in the far corner of my lot. This wood pile provides shelter for birds and animals and is not unsightly. I jump on it once or twice a year and it slowly breaks down.

Of course limbs and trunks can be cut for firewood or chipped to make an organic mulch for use in landscaping. When we had a cedar tree cut down we turned it into outdoor benches and closet blocks for

moth protection. Locust is a very hard wood and good for fence posts or arbor poles. So depending on the tree species, the uses are many.

I quote from Mr. Forsell: "Since all vegetative waste is either recyclable or compostable, it is a prudent measure for government, business and individuals to initiate and follow best management practices toward the reduction of such waste. By dramatically reducing vegetative waste, we accomplish much in the quest to reduce overall solid waste in New Jersey."

The responsibility to manage our natural resources is difficult, expensive, and only achievable over a long period of time. If we are going to have a healthy environment and a healthy economy they can no longer be exclusive pursuits. Sustainable practices are crucial to reduce the strain on the Earth. Going forward, who knows, vegetative waste could be considered one of our natural resources.

Upcoming Events

We have an opportunity to start testing our stream water and are looking for high school students to help. This project is sponsored by the Pan-handle Regional Environmental Planning Council, which includes Allentown, Millstone, Upper Freehold and

Roosevelt. It is an advisory body to the Monmouth County Planning Board. The Environmental Council has established a forum that has opened the lines of communication between municipalities to discuss the impact of developments on the environment.

Allentown High School students have been testing eight sites and we are ready to expand the test area. We need high school volunteers to go out once every two weeks to gather water and run the tests. On March 7 and 8 the Allentown students will be testing, so if you would like to join them or have any interest in this project please call me, 426-1315.

In March the Pan-handle Regional Environmental Planning Council will meet at the Roosevelt Borough Hall. This meeting will be on Thursday the 17th at 7:30.

We have planned the Spring litter pick-up for Sunday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m., so mark your calendars. Also watch for information for Earth Day activities being planned for April.

Support the Bulletin

Please send your Tax Deductible Contribution to:

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
Box 221
Roosevelt, NJ
08555-0221

Don't Speed in Town!

Pas si Vite, Alors!

Nicht zu schnell

fahren, bitte!

Lente, lente currite!

Presentation of Visual Preference Survey

by Leslie Carnevale

At the February meeting of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission, Rutgers University's Dr. Jean-Marie Hartman presented the Commission with the completed Visual Preference Survey. A comprehensive resource analysis of Roosevelt involved two phases. Phase I was the completion of a Natural Resource Index, which included a series of overlay maps featuring wetlands, soils, topography and flora and fauna. Phase II, the Visual Preference Survey, consisted of a team of ecology and landscape architecture students from Rutgers. This team collected information on two categories; natural resources and cultural resources. Whenever possible, this information was translated to maps in the report.

Dr. Hartman spoke at length on the conclusions of the report: (1) great care needs to be given to subdivision and building design, (2) that changes in the visual corridor (roads entering and exiting town) will severely impact

the rural character of the community and (3) that the interior areas of the wetlands and forests are in excellent condition. However, the forest edges have constant need for upgrade from trash dumping, littering, and invasive vines and woody species that are beginning to take over the woodlands. Copies of the report will be given to the Planning Board and Borough Council.

In other news, the REC was recognized along with the commissions from Upper Freehold, Allentown and Millstone for joining together to form the first Regional Environmental Commission in Monmouth County. This Commission, named the Panhandle, is working with a science class at the Allentown High School to test for water quality in local streams.

Also, the REC will begin work to create a local wildlife field guide with interviews for a photographer to be held at the March meeting.

Save the Tree Committee

by Katy Hamilton

The third grade class made a presentation at the February 17th School Board meeting, to tell the School Board reasons why we don't want a special tree cut down. We've made a book all about why we don't want it cut down and signed a petition. On that petition we got 113 people to sign. Call 443-5227 if you want your name to go on this petition. The reason why they might cut the beautiful Gum Tree down is because they have to build a new Kindergarten room. They've said that we might be able to save it. But we need more help! We need adults too. Get involved, we really love this tree! Thank you.

Editor's Note: The February 23 issue of the Examiner picked up the above story on their page 3, but mistakenly named the tree a "Sugar Plum."

Borough Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

Grease Watch

Mrs. Murphy stated that some residents have lately been discarding grease into the water/sewer lines causing serious blockages. She suggested the Council find ways to warn residents against this practice suggesting the use of old coffee cans, for example as receptacles for collecting greasy waste.

Important Decision Ahead

A sample contract has been drawn by the Borough engineering company to which the firms applying for man-

agement and or purchasing contracts are in process of responding. Discussion and decisions as to the comparative benefits of privatization versus hired management services will take place at the March 14th meeting of the Borough Council.

Other Business

Authorization was given to the county to perform aerial spraying to control mosquitoes if and when it is found to be necessary.

The resignation of Deborah Metzger, for personal reasons, from

the Planning Board was accepted by the Mayor and Council.

Street signs and posts, ordered to restrict parking at the cemetery for the purpose of discouraging unlawful hunting in the area, were paid for in the amount of \$1,037.95.

An ordinance to adopt a personnel code for the Borough was passed to serve as a framework for detailed specifications so that these can be adopted as resolutions in the future. The code proper will be introduced at the next meeting.

Viewpoint

The greying of Roosevelt; opportunity or nightmare?

by Lee Allen

\$135 a month is unacceptable. It is a simple statement that reveals an important objective of the Borough Council. It is a positive statement that allows any and all options to be evaluated in the most important way possible, reduce the cost of living in Roosevelt. The question on many minds is how are we going to do it.

First, an understanding of the economics of our water/sewer utility is necessary to fairly assess opportunities. 80% of the costs of operating the utility are fixed. Things like permits, insurance, testing, labor, administration and debt repayment have to be paid without a single drop of water being pumped or treated. On the sewer side, every gallon of waste costs approximately \$.002 in chemicals and electricity to be treated. Labor costs are centered around the daily maintenance and testing which are not directly related to the volume of waste treated.

Second, the rehabilitation of the sewer lines to reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I) has shown that had we done any less, we would have had at least one or two months a year that we consistently would not be in compliance with our operating permit, every year. That notwithstanding, it is prudent and reasonable management and operations to maintain a good working system. What that translates into is that during low flow months the system is operating at only 48% of capacity. What is important to remember is that we now have approximately 26 million gallons of unused capacity that can be used to generate revenue.

There are those in our community that think that development would provide some relief and there is some

validity to that perspective. Understanding that we currently need to drill a new well and that if more homes are added to our community we will need to build a larger water tower to provide adequate storage, it is still possible that the addition of 200 new homes could reduce the monthly cost per household by about \$30, or \$360 per year.

That being said, the question that must be asked is whether or not the

Council is in a position to dictate to landowners that they must develop their property? Realistically, the Council has the authority to rezone, but that provides no assurances. Further, current philosophies controlling the placement of these additional homes to preserve open space may be in contradiction to the goal of having all new development attached to the water/sewer system.

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Treating Other People's Waste

by Gilbert C. de Malvilain

Where Are We Going With That?

Introduction-

For the better part of the last nine months, I have been looking into the Borough Administration's plan to process other people's septage or so-called greywater, through our treatment plant.

During that time, a good deal of information has been gathered, first, by Peter Warren's in-depth analysis of what other plants are doing - by actually talking to them -, second, my own analysis of the project last November, third, AWT's proposal that naturally favors the program and last, U.S. Water's opposing views.

When Applied Waste Technology or their subsidiary, Applied Waste Services, first suggested the idea to our administration sometime early in 1993, the proposition seemed so simple that it was accepted without condition, relying on AWT's "expert reasoning" that it

could be easily done.

In spite of the fact that no viable feasibility study or cost analysis was performed in the ensuing months, budgetary projections for 1994/95 included \$150,000 in revenue from a project that existed only in minds that had been "Svengalized" by the prospect of gold-laden sewerage and Peter Warren's work was not going to be allowed to shatter that vision.

What Other Municipalities Are Doing-

Appropriately, and without any support from the administration, Peter Warren took it upon himself to define the situation by contacting all of the nearby sewerage utilities involved in the processing of septage, to achieve a reasonable comparison of the impact on our small treatment plant.

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School Board News

Regionalization Report Deadline Extended

by Joann San Nicola

The regular meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education was called to order on February 17th at 7:45. All members, Dr. Lobman, and Mrs. Allen were present.

Dr. Lobman told the Board that the consultant looking into regionalization has asked for an extension on their April 1 deadline for a preliminary report. Due to the recent school closures, they had trouble getting into schools for evaluation. May 1 is the new deadline. Dr. Lobman also read a letter from the Environmental Commission pertaining to the clearance of a semi-wooded area behind the school. It was suggested that, after clearance, the students would then adopt the remaining flora, learning about its form, purpose and preservation.

Mrs. Cokely raised the issue of final disposition on the rental of the storage trailer. Mr. Parker and Mr. Hatzfeld reported that the investigation on the possible purchase of said trailer is on-going.

An extended discussion was held on the most viable dates for making up lost school days. Striving to achieve sensible and productive time frames, the Board decided that March 4 would be a half school, half teacher in-service day, June 17 would be a full day, and June 22 would be a half day.

But enough of these vital but mundane discussions! The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an impassioned plea to save the sweetgum tree on the school grounds. Katy Hamilton, Jamison Parker, and Jessica Drewitz, on behalf of the entire third grade, explained why the tree (which will have to be sacrificed to build the new classroom) should be

preserved. The class compiled collages, a book, and drafted a petition to this end. Even after the "grown ups" explained about historical societies, state mandates, etc., the young students kept coming back to the same penetratingly simple question—why should you kill our favorite tree? The Board tried to assure them that all alternate avenues will be explored, but perhaps they should begin to think about planting a new tree.

The children were not convinced!

PTA News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

We're keeping our fingers crossed about the weather, but PTA members are forging ahead with big plans for March.

Although one winter meeting after another had to be canceled, our Executive Board members finally got together at the end of January and were able to reschedule the annual Winter Carnival for Saturday, March 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. As always, this much-anticipated RPS event will feature games galore, delicious food, a wide range of prizes for all, an exciting Chinese Auction, and fun for children of all ages. Since our wonderful long-time chairperson Carol Miller has "graduated" from the group, her job will be shared among several committees. Helpers are still needed, especially for Nancy Hamilton's Games Committee, so please contact the school or any PTA member if you're able to donate some time. It's actually fun—honest! In addition, Teri Skye reports that the Chinese Auction Committee is still accepting donations of goods, ser-

Recycling Dates to Remember

**March
9, 23**

**April
6, 20**

**May
4, 18**

vices, handicraft items, etc. Please help if you can!

The PTA's other March venture is sponsorship of a special "Founding Fathers" assembly where RPS students will learn "first-hand" about our country's early days. The date is Monday, March 7, the time is 9:00 a.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

This issue's sincere "thank you's" go to Sally Conover, Shelley Hatzfeld, Dianna Moore, Teri Skye and Adeenah Yeger for the work they put in on making our Valentine's Day Flower Sale a success. Also, a big round of applause goes to Mike and Nancy Hamilton, Jim and Shelley Hatzfeld, Dianna Moore, Diane Rocchia, and George and Kathy Vasseur for taking charge of the refreshments at the evening performance of the RPS Winter Concert. Thank you all!

Finally, the PTA's regular March meeting is set for Wednesday, March 9, with the Winter Carnival at the top of the agenda.

Nursery School News

by Sandy Wolk, Head Teacher

As March approaches, we are all anxiously awaiting the arrival of Spring. Our lion mask will usher in the windy month of March as we learn the letters L, W, and M. Our diamond shaped kite will reinforce our shape for the month, the letter K will help to teach us about wind.

Our special topic this month will take us exploring deep in the ocean as we learn about our friends in the sea such as the octopus, dolphin and shark. The children will use our colors for the month of purple and yellow to make beautiful fish pictures.

We hope to make this month especially fun for those children born dur-

ing the summer by celebrating their birthdays. Each child will have his or her own special day to share treats and wear a birthday crown.

Plants and flowers will be the focus of our Science Week. We will plant shoebox greenhouses, use sponges to plant sprouts and dye flowers to show how plants use water to grow. I think this will be a very exciting week as we witness the beginning of life for many plants.

We will help March "go out like a lamb" by making our cotton ball lamb puppets. I hope our Spring recess will be filled with sunny days and lots of fun. I'll be busy working on plans for our next few months of exciting adventures in learning.

Important Don'ts

(Somewhat Belatedly): Don't pour grease down the drain (especially when it's cold); it costs the taxpayers money.

Don't embarrass your dog in front of other dogs - get his/her 1994 license.

Senior Citizen Meeting and News

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

Before our regular meeting, the nurse took blood pressures and checked the heart and lungs. Diane (the nurse) is very thorough and helpful to everyone. She is at the Borough Hall from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. before each meeting.

At 2:00 Jeanette called the meeting to order.

The Senior Newsline and "Pro" Brochure were distributed, "Senior News" keeps us up to date on subjects important to us. "Pro" (Peer Review Organization of N.J.), telephone - 800-624-4557, checks into complaints of hospital stays being limited unfairly.

Our member, Dessie Carter, fell recently and was at Princeton Hospital and then transferred to the Lawrenceville Rehabilitation Center. She is doing well and we are looking forward to her return to the Solar Village.

Many "outings" are on the agenda. Jeanette is checking places and dates.

We enjoyed going to lunch at the Americana Restaurant on February 14 (Valentine's Day).

A group of the Senior Citizen Club enjoyed a play put on by students at Roosevelt Public School - they were great. The children playing different instruments are getting much help from their music teacher.

Jean and Toby were the hostesses at our meeting. Everything was delicious. By the way, Jean is still collecting old eyeglasses. Until next month.

Be psychic - don't park your car on the street when it's going to snow.

If you can think of any other "Important Don'ts", please let us know.

Letter From the CSA

Frances Lobman, Ed.D.
Chief School Administrator

Last Month, I reported on the status of the building project. I described some of the factors beyond our control that have held us up until now and mentioned the fact that we were about to solicit bids from the various contractors (general, electric, plumbing, heating/ventilation). The bids were opened on February 4. They were higher than expected, which means that selected components will not be included. That is, we should still have the basic project as outlined in February's Bulletin, but some lighting, carpeting and other "extras" will have to wait until some day in the perhaps distant future.

Our commitment to enhancing Roosevelt Public School as a community school will continue. That is, we envision using the school library as an adult library for citizens, volunteers permitting. We see our new classroom, complete with handicapped-accessible restroom facilities, as an additional place for you to meet in the late afternoon or evening. If you have other suggestions, ideas, or needs, please let me know. In the meantime, thank you for attending our Winter Concert. The children are always thrilled to see family at such events. They were positively exhilarated to

see that neighbors turned out as well.

Budget completion time is fast approaching. This year we will not receive our State aid figures until March 16. Neither will East Windsor, receiving district to our grades 7-12 students. In terms of budget development, we do not know how much tuition East Windsor will need to charge us, nor do we know if State and Federal aid will be drastically reduced as compared with last year. Tuition will no doubt be higher and State aid will no doubt be lower. We, as do all other districts, depend on this aid to help defray the taxpayers' expense. In our case, with few rateables to supplement government aid, a disproportionate burden is placed on you.

Our Board of Education is working hard to prepare a lean budget. Prices go up, however. We have put off purchasing new maps and globes. We are looking for hardware contributions on the theory that older computers are better than none. (Did you see our advertisement in last month's Bulletin?) Paper and pencils cost more today than they did last year. We have reduced the amount of student supplies we order, but we are reaching our limit. The budget barely subsidizes the sixth grade yearbook and field trip

subsidies are greatly reduced. Try as we might, however, our projected expenses for 1994-95 will be higher than they were for 1993-94.

We realize that rising costs have to stop somewhere and we are actively exploring alternate possibilities. Our regionalization study with Upper Freehold, Plumsted and Millstone is in progress and should be complete by the end of the year. In addition, the Board of Education, Educational Alternatives Committee has met with similar committees in East Windsor and Monroe and have visited the Middle School and High School of each district. As soon as the regionalization study is complete, we will re-examine our feasible alternatives and involve the public in the decision process. Any decision would affect the 1995-96 budget. (You will be voting on the 1994-95 budget in April.)

This building is a community building. This budget is a community budget. As always, we welcome your involvement fully realizing that, at least as far as budget development goes, we may not always agree but our dialogue will be both lively and productive.

Other People's

(continued from page 5)

What he found was that there are five sewer treatment plants within an economic radius (15-20 miles) of Roosevelt that treat septage. They are as follows:

Middlesex County UA, 143 million gpd capacity- 25,000 gpd septage. (.017% of cap.) Ocean County MUA, 28 million gpd capacity- 50,000 gpd septage. (.18% of cap.) Stony Brook RSA, 11 million gpd capacity- 30,000 gpd septage. (.27% of cap.) Middletown

SA, 10.8 million gpd capacity- 10,000 gpd septage. (.09% of cap.) Mount Holly SA, 3.3 million gpd capacity- 36,000 gpd septage. (1.1% of cap.)

Comparison: Roosevelt STP, 250,000 gpd capacity- 20,000 gpd septage. (8% of cap.)

In addition, there are nine other sewer plants in the same area - larger than ours - that are approved by DEPE to treat septage, but who do not and have no intention of doing so. They simply

feel that the risks are not worth the potential income.

It is obvious that with the size of the plants involved, processing up to 50,000 gpd of septage - as is the case with Ocean County - has a minimal impact on plant operation, with the haulers dropping their load at a rate of 600 gals./min. directly into the stream.

As to the economics - income or cost of processing - they are not even

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Council Explores Privatization Of Utilities

by Mary Alfare

Can privatization improve operation and management of the water/sewer utilities while reducing costs? An answer to this question was the goal of two recent Borough Council special meetings. On January 25, Borough officials met to review two proposals for the operation and management of both utilities, on a contractual basis, as presented by U.S. Water, Inc., of Somerville, and Applied Wastewater Services, Inc. of Belle Mead. New Jersey-American Water Company of Shrewsbury, interested in purchasing one or both utilities, presented its audit of both systems on January 31.

In a prior interview, Chair of Utilities, Rose Murphy outlined the difference between privatization of operation and management, and outright

sale of the utilities: "By selling the utilities, the Council, and therefore the rate-payers, lose all control over rates, uses, hookups, and service areas; users pay the new owner. In privatization by contract, a professional company takes over the daily operations and supervision for a set fee. Council retains control of the utility budget and rates. We can try a one year contract to see if it's effective." She added, "Council doesn't have the technical expertise to oversee the daily operations of the utilities. The mechanics of our new sewer plant are much more complicated, more labor intensive. All the new rules and regulations coming from DEPE and EPA require that professionals manage the plants. And there will continue to be more and more regulations that must be addressed;

failure to meet requirements will cause massive mandatory fines that will cost the ratepayers."

As Ms. Murphy has learned from experience, "keeping up with new regulations, attending seminars, and reading legislation is time consuming. I do read proposed legislation which often means reading technical journals, 100 pages at a time, but I don't have the expertise to predict the impact on the operation of our facilities. Awarding a contract to a professional company, with experts and specialists to follow up on these issues is much more efficient in getting required information and even in fighting proposed regulations that might be detrimental to managing our plants. Professional management could save us both time and money.

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Greying

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So, what can we control that can fulfill the objective of lowering user fees so that a more reasonable cost is shouldered by the ratepayers.

One opportunity that remains is generating revenue from sources outside of our community. This is not a new idea in the industry although it is relatively new to Roosevelt. Various office campuses and food industries as well as residences surrounding our community all provide sources of waste that is consistent with what you, our residents, currently deposit into the sewer system. Most of the criticisms directed at this proposal focus on the risks associated with unknowns; can we trust the hauler, can we test the waste appropriately, and can the Council act prudently and diligently managing this process?

I would like to draw your attention to a major problem that was rectified in 1992. Our sludge was showing high concentrations of Mercury which was

threatening our ability to dispose of the sludge in a cost effective manner. The feeling of hopelessness experienced by your governing body was quite depressing when we were trying to determine where this hazardous substance was coming from. We were faced with the reality that we have 307 homes that have virtually no controls over what is dumped into the sewer system and no way to trace hazardous substances back to the source. This is a significant risk that would not be present in the treatment of grey water or any other substance introduced in a controlled manner as is being proposed. By the way, the mercury that we had found in the sludge was put there when the contractor spilled mercury from a seal during previous repairs to the trickling filters at the sewer treatment plant.

It is the uniqueness of Roosevelt that makes treating outside waste an alternative worth looking into. Most facilities

that process this kind of waste are much larger than ours and consequently do not derive significant revenues when compared to the whole picture. Our small size means that possibly 52% of our processed waste can come from outside the community which will have a significant impact on the economics of our costs.

The Council is working closely with the NJDEP&E and other professionals trying to put together a plan that will address all of the risks presented by this type of operation. No risk will be ignored and all citizens should see for themselves the thoroughness and diligence being focused on this opportunity.

I want to leave you with a thought that has been attributed to Henry Ford. If you believe that you can do something or if you believe that you can not do something, you will be right.

Omnia Mutantur...Everything Changes...

by Peter Warren

New Kids on the Block... Savanna Leigh Carnevale.

Married... Carmen Lemieux to Donald Vetick of Hightstown.

Moving Out... Richard and Linda Jenney, after 7 years, to Millstone; Carmen Vetick to Hightstown.

Moving In... Gerben Zylstra, to the Najecki house on Lake Drive; Anthony and Michelle Murano, to the Hill house on Farm Lane.

Switching... Bob & Susan Dermody to the Crozier house on Homestead.

On the Market... As of January 15, 11 houses for sale, one for rent, one lot for sale.

Visiting... Bob and Ann Rector, from Dallas, staying with the Barths.

On Safari... To Marco Island, Florida (not homestead as previously reported), the Haemmerles; Adeline Weiner, to Merida, Mexico; Carmen and Donald Vetick, to Paris.

Awards... On the Honor Roll at Kreps School, Susan Skillman, who also won the Golden Stick for field hockey.

Improved... Between 1991 and end-1994, 43% of Roosevelt's streets by length, 40% of sewer line by length.

Still Circulating... Myths that Jersey Homesteaders were originally mostly Communist (actually about 1% were) and that the original houses were designed for Arizona (actually designed for Jersey Homesteads by world-famous architect Louis Kahn and Alfred Kastner.)

Grin and Bare It... 40 years ago, Sunny Heights Lodge nudist club opened adjacent to Roosevelt, closing in 1980.

Confiscated... In 1984, thousands of counterfeit Cabbage Patch Kids T-Shirts, manufactured in Roosevelt.

Newish... 56% of Monmouth County housing units, build since 1960.

Poorish... In 1989, Monmouth County poverty rate (\$12,674 for a family of four) of 3% compared to 6% in New Jersey and 10% in the U.S.

Average Family Income... In 1989, \$53,590 in Monmouth County, \$47,589 in New Jersey, \$35,225 in U.S.

Flowing... January: Sewage 259,000 gpd (DEPE ceiling 250,000 gpd); water 120,000 gpd, respectively.

Council Explores Privatization

(continued from page 9)

North Brunswick has used professional management for ten years and have experienced yearly reductions."

She continued, "One of the advantages of Atlantic City (the convention we attended) was the opportunity to approach other community officials to find out how they're coping. We discussed the pros and cons of both privatization and selling. Selling of utilities invariably led to rate hikes where contracted privatization usually resulted in lowered or at least stabilized rates."

"Another advantage was the ability to meet with management companies, to assay their interest in our small utilities, discuss what reasonable expectations might be, with the company reps, pitfalls and necessary oversight, and what to look for in contracts," she added. "The information we gathered in Atlantic City would have taken months of research otherwise, and many leads might have been missed."

The Mayor and Council interviewed Applied Wastewater Services and U.S. Water on January 25 in an effort to better define the contents of their proposals for contracted operations and management of the utilities.

The AWS proposal at \$104,000 per year, included seven day week coverage, with a 48 hour/wk total, and no extra charge for emergency response. They also included 3 day/wk and 5 day/wk alternatives. The proposal by U.S. Water came in at \$71,000, with seven day week coverage and a total of 30 hours/wk. However, their rate for emergency response coverage is \$45 per manhour with a minimum of two hours per call.

Both Firms agreed to assume payment for fines and penalties that fall within areas of their responsibility and control. Both say they can save money on operations and management. While U.S. Water advised against treating

grey water as too risky, AWS offered to assist the Borough in fully exploring this option, at "no extra cost." In addition, AWS "will offer the Borough's present operator a similar job." In other words they would absorb our employee.

Although both proposals were for full service, there were differences in what would fall within "routine" functions, and those that would fall outside, therefore incurring additional expense to the Borough.

At the January 31 meeting, Mr. William Pearce, Operations Manager for New Jersey-American Water Company presented an overview of his company and what they had to offer Roosevelt as utilities purchaser: 100 years experience in the water business; 650 employees and four operational centers with emergency response just 30 to 40 minutes away; availability of parts and equipment; absorption of cost and related street repair; and the Borough Council would "be out of the water/sewer business." Additionally, American Water's recently formed consortium with Anglican, Inc. of Great Britain could mean savings from "economies of scale" in operations and management of Roosevelt's utilities, with "some slight reduction in operating costs." Roosevelt "would still have to pay the costs of repairs." Later in the meeting he said "consumers would own, and be responsible for utility lines all the way to the center of the street."

Utilities Chair, Rose Murphy questioned Pearce on whether the rates proposed as "similar to Lakewood" at \$20.23/month for water service and \$32.41/month for sewer included an allocation for the utility debt service. He responded that in purchasing the sewer system, American Water would "take the debt" but that "the debt for Roosevelt would stay in Roosevelt", i.e. Roosevelt ratepayers would still be

responsible for the payoff of the \$2.5 million debt incurred in building the new sewer plant. Users would receive a bill with an additional amount for debt service. He agreed with Murphy's estimate of \$1300/year as the average minimum bill per household which would include the debt service charge.

Pearce stated that the \$16,000 in franchise and property taxes that would be paid by American Water to Roosevelt would offset the yearly cost to taxpayers for the water/sewer fees that would be paid by the school and Borough Hall and the "excise taxes on the Borough's fire hydrants."

Questioned later, Mayor Allen explained that Franchise and Gross Receipt Taxes are paid directly to the State and that the State does not return 100% of those monies to Roosevelt.

Pearce also stated that American Water would sell excess water outside the community and treat greywater if customers could be found.

Throughout the meeting there was discussion of an 11 page response from the Mayor and Council to American Water's audit of our utilities. The response outlined audit errors and requested timely corrections of the misinformation including: listing utility debt as \$5 million instead of the actual \$2.5 million; user rates at \$1800 rather than \$1620/year; significant undervaluation of utility assets; as well as numerous other errors. While Pearce apologized for the "embarrassing" mistake concerning the utility debt, he dismissed others as "typos" and less important errors.

According to Mayor Allen, "We still have a lot of homework to do before making any final decisions." The Council agrees.

Roosevelt Weather Almanac

by Ron Filepp

A weather question sent me off to the Manalapan branch of the Monmouth County Library. The library has several volumes of weather data collected from around the state in the reference section. The National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina gathers data from stations all over the country and compiles the information into state by state monthly reports. The closest recording station to Roosevelt is about two miles west of Hightstown. It has been in operation for about 100 years.

How many inches of snow did we have in February 1983? What were the high and low temperature readings on July 12, 1985? Was last winter colder than average? How did last summer's heat wave stack up statistically? The answers to these and many more questions can be found in the reports.

The question that prompted me to visit the library was: How many days, on average, have a temperature of 32 degrees or less in the period from December first to the end of February? The answer, calculated from data in the monthly reports, is 73.8 days. These days may or may not be consecutive.

What can't always be found in selected statistics is a larger truth. An ice skater might conclude that with over ten and a half weeks worth of days with temperatures that register 32 degrees or lower, an average winter would bring almost as many days of skating on local lakes and ponds. But, our skater has overlooked another statistic, on average there are only 18.9 days from December first through the end of February that the daytime high temperature is not above freezing.

If the skater wants to have a better idea of how often he can skate on a particular lake he should also have the

answers to the following questions: How long has the temperature been at 32 degrees or below? Is the lake exposed to the sunshine? Official temperature readings are taken in the shade and are not usually the same as temperature readings in the sunshine. Is there a flow of water in the lake where this skater wants to practice his sport? That would certainly slow freezing. What is the temperature of the water when the air temperature falls to 32 degrees or below? What is the volume and depth of the water?

Someone who wanted to skate on a tidal river or bay should also be concerned with the content of the water before assuming it is frozen to a safe depth. Thirty-two degrees is the freezing point of pure, fresh water, not water with salt or some other materials in it.

Most importantly, the ice should be tested by someone qualified to do so before a skater steps out on it.

There are many variables to take into account before assuming a volume of water will freeze simply because the temperature on a given day, or a given number of days, reaches 32 degrees or below. Lacking a grasp of all the pertinent statistics and properly applying those statistics in an analysis may leave our skater and his assumptions all wet.

The Winter of Our Discontent Continues

Late January to late February brought plenty of winter weather to Roosevelt. January 20th brought a light dusting of snow. On the 25th we received about 5 inches of snow overnight and on the 27th we had more light snow. The light snow on the 27th was reported to be "ocean effect" snow,

snow that was the result of moisture coming in off the ocean.

On the evening of the 27th light freezing rain began to fall as the temperature rose. On the 28th heavy rain fell and the temperature rose to 55 degrees melting the month long accumulation of frozen precipitation. Flooding became a problem in many areas of the state.

February started with a snowfall on the 1st that left little accumulation. As many wished for an end to our severe weather the groundhog promised more winter weather when he saw his shadow. Six more weeks of winter was the forecast. But the rest of the first week of February was quiet.

On the 8th snow began falling in the morning and accumulated quickly. Before it changed to sleet we had six inches on the ground. There is a weather proverb that says "The first thunder of the year awakens all the frogs and snakes." The first thunder I heard in Roosevelt this year was during the snowfall on February 8th. It was about 11am during a snow shoveling session when a bright flash was seen and loud thunder was heard. The frogs and snakes gave no evidence of stirring, but a weather observer found himself wide awake.

All was quiet again until the 11th when another six inches of snow fell. The snow changed to sleet and freezing rain. We were left with about 10.5 inches on the ground on the 12th from the storms of the 8th and 11th.

During a walk around town on the 13th two snowmen were seen under construction. One on North Valley Road. The other on Pine

Drive. A snow sculpture of a seated woman with sprigs of holly for hair was being sculpted from a pile of snow at the end of a driveway on Homestead Lane.

Partly cloudy to clear skies were with us from Valentine's Day until the night of the 20th. Daytime temperatures in or near the 50's from the 18th through the 21st and bright sunshine on the 19th and 20th melted a great deal of snow.

The 21st was a cloudy day with thick fog. The fog was intensified by rain in the afternoon. On the 23rd more snow began to fall. By 11am there was a bit over 3 inches on the ground. The snow changed to rain around noon. Overnight on the 26th a light dusting of snow fell.

Last March In Roosevelt

The major weather event last March was the "Storm of the Century." This winter has brought more weather related hardship to town than the legendary storm of last year but it is still worth recalling the huge storm. It covered most of the eastern United States. It dropped about 10 to 12 inches in Roosevelt on the 13th and 14th. Official barometric pressure readings were said to be among the lowest ever recorded in such a storm.

Weather Word

"Nimbostratus" is a type of cloud. In "Peterson First Guides -Clouds and Weather" John A. Day and Vincent J. Schaefer describe the nimbostratus cloud as "a thick mass of cloud with no well-defined base, usually covering the entire sky. The color is dark gray." Nimbostratus clouds produce continuous precipitation and can cover an area the size of one or more states.

**ROOSEVELT WEATHER
TABLE
February 1994**

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Precip inches
1	33.0	18.0	25.5	0.00
2	27.0	11.0	19.0	0.00
3	40.0	13.0	26.5	0.00
4	41.0	16.0	28.5	0.00
5	38.0	24.5	31.3	0.00
6	44.0	24.0	34.0	0.00
7	45.0	24.0	34.5	0.00
8	24.0	22.0	23.0	0.00
9	23.0	18.0	20.5	0.83
10	22.0	9.5	15.8	0.15
11	25.0	16.0	20.5	0.00
12	24.0	23.0	23.5	0.97
13	41.0	30.0	35.5	0.07
14	29.0	23.0	26.0	0.00
15	46.0	9.5	27.8	0.00
16	40.0	27.0	33.5	0.00
17	42.0	15.0	28.5	0.00
18	52.0	24.0	38.0	0.00
19	55.0	26.0	40.5	0.00
20	58.0	34.0	46.0	0.00
21	49.5	41.0	45.3	0.00
22	46.0	32.0	39.0	0.20
23	35.0	32.0	33.5	0.00
24	43.5	30.0	36.8	0.40
25	35.0	27.0	31.0	0.72
26	32.0	28.0	30.0	0.10
27	27.0	12.0	19.5	0.00
28	31.5	12.0	21.8	0.00
Total Precip				3.54

Crumbs From My Table

A Good Egg

Rebecca Reuter

The birds are skittering over the snow, trying to scratch out a meal from the seeds and corn I've tossed out the window for them. It's a hard time to be a bird. Eight inches of snow cover the ground, warmed over and refrozen into a slick hard surface. A mourning dove has pecked a hole through the crust and stuck its head down, looking for something else, something fresher under the snow. A beautiful bird, plump and well-shaped, it looks good enough to eat. Unmoving on the porcelain-smooth snow, the bird appears headless, ready to serve. With a green sauce, maybe? A head pops up and the bird draws in its feathers and waddles off primly through lilacs, as if indignantly aware of my daydream. The sparrows are left behind with a handful of juncos, some finches, and a grackle.

The thing about being a bird is, if you can get a warm place for the winter, with chow, you're probably going to have to work for your keep. Most commercial laying hens never even know when it's winter. Artificial lights simulate the long days of summer year round, and meals are served directly into the personal apartments. This kind of service costs about 250 eggs per hen, payable over one year. Of course the rooms are kind of small. Some items on eggs:

* According to my favorite kitchen scientist, Harold McGee, author of *On Food and Cooking*, one day at room temperature causes more deterioration in an egg than a week of refrigeration.

* To test a suspect egg for freshness set it in a pot of cold water. A fresh egg will fall quickly to the bottom of the pot but a rotten egg will float. An egg that stays suspended midway down

the pot is probably all right. Crack it into a separate bowl before adding it to a recipe to be sure it doesn't smell or show other signs of decay.

* Very fresh, AA grade eggs are choice for separating and for whipping whites. This is because older eggs, and lower grade fresh eggs (A or B grade), have a thinner yolk membrane, which allows traces of fat to cross into the white. Even these tiny amounts of yolk can reduce the whipped volume of the whites by two thirds. To use whites for whipping, always separate the eggs one at a time, letting the individual white fall into a small bowl before adding it to the recipe bowl. This way, if one yolk breaks or a white is thin and obviously not fresh you

won't spoil all the others in the bowl.

* Breaking open an egg reveals a yolk and two kinds of white: thick white and thin white. A protein called ovomucin is more abundant in the thick white and in the yolk cord. This protein coagulates at a higher temperature than the other protein components of the egg. Thin white sets up more quickly than thick white, and thick white sets up more quickly than ovomucin-rich yolk cords. What this means in the frying pan is that scrambled and fried eggs often get over cooked and rubbery while the chef waits for everything to set up consistently. For tender eggs, stop cooking before they're uniformly set. It's just ovomucin. Really.

Little Brown Birds (Cocoa Meringues)

Wait for a clear day. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Cover two baking sheets with parchment paper or foil. Wash a large bowl very thoroughly, dry with a clean cloth and put into it:

5 large egg whites, at room temperature

1 cup granulated sugar whisked in a bowl with

1/2 cup confectioners sugar

Whip at high speed till the whites are very stiff. As the eggs thicken, stop the beater occasionally and dip in a spoon, drawing it straight up from the eggs. Stop beating as soon as you can form stiff peaks this way. Sprinkle over the mixture and gently but quickly fold in with a spatula or with the side of your (clean) hand:

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa

(optionally, mix with the cocoa: 1/2 cup toasted, chopped hazelnuts or almonds, or 1/3 cup grated coconut)

Gently scoop the mixture into a large Ziplock bag and snip off one corner. Hold the bag with both hands over the cookie sheet and squeeze out the meringue into balls or peaks about two inches across and 1 inch apart. Bake approximately 30 minutes, till the meringues are firm and dry but not brown. Cool, peel off the paper, and store in a closed container.

But what do you do with all those egg yolks? You can whip up a zabaglione and kill someone with kindness. You can make egg temperas and start another mural. For healthy dining, you can put them in a container and freeze them till the next garbage day. If you want to freeze them to use in another dessert recipe, mix in two teaspoons of sugar to five yolks to keep them from coagulating. When you defrost them remember that the yolk of one egg is equal to four teaspoons.

A View From A Council Seat

by Stuart Kaufman

Henry John-Alder has an interesting slant on our utility problems, but I would like to give you an inside view. About six years ago our elected Council was faced with making decisions that were going to be very unpopular. DEPE was holding a gun to Roosevelt's head by means of a consent order. That consent order mandated the Council to come up with solutions to Roosevelt's waste water problems.

The Council, after going through a lengthy process, came up with a solution to get DEPE off our backs. It meant building a new sewer plant to deal with our discharge into the Assunpink and reducing the I&I in our sewer lines to meet maximum limits by replacing leaking 60 year old sewer lines. The cost of this project was around 2.5 million dollars. Unfortunately there wasn't that kind of money laying around in the utility piggy bank, so they had to borrow the money and raise rates to 140 dollars a month, not a very popular decision. (that took guts)

Let me make this very clear: no Council past or present has ever used taxpayers' money to fund utility projects; those costs have always come from utility rates. Three years ago, I was elected to the Council, that Council was given the charge of completing the construction phase of the project set in motion by the previous Council. We also made decisions that were not popular.

One decision we made was to expand the scope of sewer line replacement by taking money in the original contract for street paving and using it for sewer lines instead. We took a calculated risk that we could get grant money for street reconstruction; that gamble paid off. (thank god!)

Why did we do this, what was the motivating factor - deteriorating 60 year old sewer lines. The whole system has to be replaced eventually, it outlived its useful life years ago. We have done the most we could with the money we were able to use. It is not a matter of whether more sewer line replacement is neces-

sary to meet I&I limits, replacing 60 year old deteriorating sewer lines is standard operating procedure for any utility. It's impossible not to have excess capacity.

The sewer plant was designed to handle three hundred thousand gallons a day. Right now users account for about 90 to 140 thousand gallons per day, infiltration can be anywhere from 40 to 200 thousand gallons per day depending on the rain fall. So there are times when the sewer plant runs under capacity. Of course the Council is exploring ways to use that excess. Why shouldn't we turn a negative into a plus?

I don't know about Henry, but when something is broken you fix it. When a watermain breaks you fix it, when a water valve no longer functions you replace it and when sewer lines have more holes than a spaghetti drainer you replace them. Henry might think we should wait for developers to fix everything, but I'm not going to put my hopes on some developer saving our town.

Letter to the Editor

March 1994

Dear Sir:

Our town faces a deepening financial crisis and the Council won't be much help in getting us out of the mess because it is currently a shambles itself. Our situation will get worse unless Council members restore the competence, dedication and teamwork that brought results in the brief halcyon year of 1991.

The only way out of our deepening crisis is to put two qualified people on the Council next January. This process starts now. Two Council seats will be open in the June 7th primary election. The deadline to file for them is April 14th. Ideally, the primary

election will see four Council candidates - two Democrats and two Republicans - contesting each seat. Out of these eight, four - two Democrats and two Republicans - will contest the November election, and two of these will be elected to take office in January 1995. In the meantime, this means, at least, that eight people will have given serious thought to our problems and brought new ideas before the voters.

The present Democratic and Republican committees are also moribund. Four candidates - a male and female Democrat and a male and female Republican - who are willing to work hard to revitalize the council - are needed to run for these positions,

which, unlike the Council seats, are filled in June, not in November. These are four more people to bring ideas before the voters.

Are there a dozen adults in our little town who are willing to sacrifice the time and energy to study and discuss, between now and June, the very serious issues that confront us, and six among them willing to make a continuing commitment to involving voters in our public concerns between June 7th and November 8th?

And, out of this dozen people, are there two who will run for mayor in 1995 and be willing to put service before ego if they are elected?

Sincerely,
Peter B. Warren

Other People's

(continued from page 8)

a consideration. In fact, Middletown charges haulers only one cent/gal. and Trenton, 1.25 cent/gal. for processing and keep no records.

By comparison, the proposed processing of 20,000 gpd with our 250,000 gpd capacity creates a situation where plant operation could likely be in constant crisis. There are enough current problems in operating that system, without adding a new set of conditions.

Supply-

According to the figures given in the analysis, there appears to be about 151,000 gpd of septage available in the area of concern, with fifteen contractors in Mercer County and eleven in Monmouth hauling an average of 5,800 gpd, to be processed under long standing and satisfactory arrangements with the plants in question.

It is improbable that any of these people could be weaned away from established relationships just to provide us with a source of income, since there would be no real incentive for them to do so, unless our charge to them was lower than the competition's.

AWT's Proposal-

It is not my intent here to cover all of the details of their plan, but to simply highlight some operational problems and details of set-up, administrative and operational costs as they relate to potential income.

Operational Problems-

1) In addition to high infiltration in the sewer system during periods of heavy rain, having the storage tank consisting of 1470 square feet of steel surface exposed to the elements, there is the potential for the septage to freeze solid. Consequently, the prospect is that for as much as three months out of the year, the treating of septage would not be possible.

2) Adequate provisions for the control of spillages have not been taken into consideration, either in terms of installation or cost. What is required and universally used in that sort of storage situation, is a shallow box platform connected to a sewer drain.

3) The introduction of septage at a constant flow rate with the valving system described, cannot be achieved. Chemical treatment of the charge would have to be constantly adjusted to keep up with diminishing introduction.

4) Treatment operations are not monitored 24 hours a day.

Set-up Costs-

Due to the expressed resistance to placing the storage tank in the Sewer Treatment Plant area, this analysis assumes that the industrial area would be used, designated as item B. in the proposal. AWS' is as follows:

a) Monthly storage tank rental	
\$ 850	
b) Set-up of tank	
\$ 5,200	
c) Electrical service	
\$ 3,000	
d) Chain link fence	
\$ 5,600	
e) Phone	
\$ 500	
Total	\$ 15,150
f) Box platform (My estimate)	
\$ 2,500	
g) Property rental cost/mo.	
\$ 500	
Grand Total-	\$ 18,150

Operation & Administration Costs-

The cost AWS proposes for the handling of 5 loads (15,000 gals.) is \$175/day. I believe that to be a "look good" estimate, noted in small print as being approximate. Taking into consideration all of the additional work proposed, a good deal more operator time will be involved.

My estimate:
For 15,000 gpd

Operator, testing and unloading - 1.0 hr/load x 5 loads/day x \$25/hr=\$125
Record keeping, filing -
1.0 hr/day x \$25=\$25
Plant operation & testing - 2.0 hr/day x \$50/hr=\$100
Total \$250/day
For 20,000 gpd-
7 loads/day x \$25/hr=\$175
Other as above- \$125
Total \$300/day

Income Potential-

According to AWS' estimate we see the following:

15,000 gpd @ .025/gal. \$375/day x 26 days=\$9,750/mo.

A&O costs \$175/day x 26 days=\$4,550/mo.

Tank rental \$850/mo. Total-\$5,400/mo.

Net- \$4,350/month

With Property rental - \$500/mo.

Actual net- \$3,850/mo.

With an installation investment of \$15,150 and a probable net of \$3,850, it would take 102 days to be amortized, even when three additional months of tank, property rental and chemical costs are ignored. If installation costs were less than quoted, the 26 day trial period would still not come near covering such an investment, particularly if the \$.025/gal charge is not realized.

Taking the best possible view by proposing a look at the treatment of 20,000 gpd, - meaning more revenue - some increase in the basic A&O costs, as well as property rental, the following emerges:

20,000 gpd @ .025/gal. \$500/day x 26 days=\$13,000/mo.

A&O costs \$300/day x 26 days= \$ 7,800/mo.

Tank rental \$ 850/mo. \$ 850/mo

Property rental \$ 500/mo. \$ 500/mo

Total- \$ 9,150/mo.

Net- \$ 3,850/mo.

Effectively, the processing of more material does not do anything for the bottom line.

If we were to accept Murphy's Law (Not Rose Murphy) where " Anything that can go wrong, probably will", we can not expect such a project to be trouble free and a revenue of around \$35,000/yr. - barely 6% of the STP budget - hardly seems worth the risks involved.

According to the Utilities Committee's estimate (Published in the December *Borough Bulletin*) that treatment plant operation presently requires 80 hours a week of trained hands-on manpower. If that is so, how could the present staff handle another 30-35 hours of work without an additional full-time operator? That would call for a minimum of \$30,000 per year in added costs - not counting pension and benefits - bringing the net revenue down to something approximating zilch.

Plant Management-

AWT's Approach-

AWT took the easy way out by basing their proposal strictly on our 1993 budget estimates that have little to do with actual costs. They take, for example, a \$130,000 budget estimate for Contractual and other Services, increase it to \$173,000, when the actual costs in 1993 for the items they include in that category, amounted to \$121,002, or \$51,998 less than their estimate for the same services.

In all other aspects, it is business as it has been conducted up to now, 80 hours/week, at a contract cost of \$104,000 for hands-on operation, with a proposed saving of \$16,000 in 1994. In spite of this low return and a recent \$40,000 faux pas,

they have our administration's attention because they favor - since they proposed it in the first place - the treatment of outside septage.

U.S. Water's Proposal-

The foregoing manpower estimates however, must be questioned when compared to the U.S. Water proposal. This company presently manages 35 water/sewer treatment plants and it would seem to me that they are in a position to know what they are talking about.

They estimate that our plant requires 30 hours a week on-site, 52 weeks/yr., at a cost of \$71,000, with needed emergency service at \$ 45.00/hr. They cite a first year saving of \$ 30,000. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to see the differences and this brings up the possibility that our utilities are not being efficiently managed, either by the Borough or AWS.

But - and this is an important "but" - U.S. Water provides quite a detailed analysis on the risks of processing outside septage in our small plant, showing that they far outweigh any benefits. That bit of negativism - similar to other factual information by others on the subject - is not going to improve their chances, seeing that where it counts, minds have already been made up.

The only conclusion I can come to, is that no matter who manages the treatment plant - the Borough, AWS/AWT, U.S. Water or New Jersey-American - the treatment of outside septage is a foolish venture that can only create more problems than we already have.

from

"Laments of the Homeless Women"

I remember snow,
the city flakes
licking our faces
all over like kittens.
My little brother
wrapped himself up
like a package
to shut them out,
but I showed him
how to loosen his arms
and shake the shivers
out of himself,
be a rag doll
never cold
or hungry but he
was forever begging.
We ordered,
and I told my mother
when she went
to get the burgers:
we'll yell
if anybody
tries to steal us
I always knew
what was what.
Rocks are stronger
than trees, a lake
stronger than rock,
I told him, always
giving advice,
cities stronger than lakes.
A penny, please,
for my thoughts?

When I walk the city
I don't hunch
against its strength.
I open up and let the winter
whine through me
and find nobody.

David S. Herrstrom

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILIES,
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

CONTACT
KIM DEXHEIMER
OR ANY VOLUNTEER
FIREMAN

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE

Review

LAURIE ALTMAN AND FRIENDS CHASING THE WINTER BLUES

by David Herrstrom

The cold breaks. We're ready. And in perfect accidental timing, the Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) at Peddie's Swig Arts Center in Hightstown brings us jazz breaks from Laurie Altman and friends.

On Saturday night, February 5, after 16-hour blackouts and the flu, after chipping my car out of an ice block morning and evening for a week, the weather in my head changed. Not your noodling-around-till-you-decide-what-to-say jazz, the gift we got from Laurie Altman, with Ed Schuller on acoustic bass and Bob Hanlon on tenor sax, was a deliberate jazz carved out of silence.

Wonderfully made compositions shimmered with spontaneity, some serene and some ferocious, all brought up from the depths of winter to blossom in the body. Our lucky break. And the pieces while varied worked together, leaving me with the sense of a coherent whole.

All equally clean-edged, the core of four Altman originals making up the first set varied greatly in mood, from the sharp contrast of tight riffs against dense chords in a tribute to Miles Davis, "It Never Entered My Mind," to the calm expansiveness of "As Far As the Eye Can See"; from the hard-driving, always verging on the out-of-control memorial for "Stevie Ray Vaughn and Willie D" to the aching elegy of "Sarajevo Winter."

A single insistent note opens Altman's tune for Miles Davis, "It Never Entered My Mind." The bass soon embraces it, and then the piano breaks into dense knocking chords of joy. Yet we're returned to that insistent note, a lick like a nagging question, which is answered by the buzz-voiced bass.

Taken over by the piece, we join in its celebration, at once cerebral and gutsy. At the same time, this homage to a great jazz artist is two-edged. Joy, yes, but always the question, as if asserting that creative power always comes with self doubt. A river of notes on the piano, but left hand against the right as if frothing around a rock. Fluid, metallic, now aggressively percussive, the piano abruptly halts. Then that note again jabbing us in the same tender spot. We participate in the joy, but a part of us is never allowed to relax.

By contrast, another homage is all celebration, full of humor and dance. "For Stevie Ray Vaughn and Willie D" begins with a joke, a mishmash of classical strains. We heard the title of the piece but find ourselves in a completely different world than we expected, as if the DJ put on the wrong CD. Stevie Ray plays Rachmaninoff? Willie Dixon, the great blues composer, boxer and bassist, blowing the oboe? So we wander around bewildered, not knowing what to expect, when we're

hit with pure pushing-the-envelope jazz with a severe case of the blues. What would in a rock band be the lead guitar part is given to the sax, and Bob Hanlon takes it like he owns it screaming into the stratosphere. Stevie and Willie would be proud.

The tone changes dramatically with "Sarajevo Winter": from a celebration of two particular lives which have been lost to a meditation on the loss so many lives. In this elegy it is the silences that speak most eloquently. It dawns on us that the ensemble doesn't include drums, and we realize what expressive possibilities this allows.

The piano begins tentatively, but the bass takes the opening plaint. The rhythm remains elusive, as the sax picks up the lament, breathed it seems from the bowels of a mountain beyond our sight. Then the whole ensemble breaks into a choral weeping, open vowels keening up and down. Silence. We are left

(continued on page 20)



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get home in
time for my

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Roosevelt Arts Project 1993-1994 Season

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1993-1994 calendar of events, featuring two artists never presented before by RAP, the premiere of a new play by Leslie Weiner, a group show by Roosevelt visual artists and the return of your favorite musicians and poets.

At all events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$5.00, only \$3.00 for students and seniors. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.

Sunday	March 13, 1994 at 5:00 p.m. Roosevelt Factory Hall	Art at the Factory - The Artist as Social Commentator
Saturday	April 16, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Peddie School	Roosevelt String Band - Songs of Freedom
Saturday	May 7, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. Borough Hall	Grant - A New play by Leslie Weiner.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances and exhibits. For additional information, call David Herrstrom, RAP President at 443-4421 or any of the RAP trustees or artists.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible in part by your support and a generous grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

Roosevelt Artists' Exhibition

Roosevelt is showing off its many artists. Over thirty of the visual artists of this noted artist community will display their art during an exhibition entitled: Art At The Factory: Artist As Social Commentator. Loosely defined, "social commentator" embraces a wide spectrum of art, from the representational to the abstract, but designated "social" because it is humanistically, socially oriented. Included are the following artists: Bernarda Bryson Shahn, Gregorio Prestopino, Jacob Landau, Stefan Martin, Robert

Mueller, Robin Middleman, Ellen Silverman, Judy Nahmias, Ani Roskam, William Leech, Robert Husth, Edward Schlinski, Gary Edelstein, David Teich, Jay Goldman, Sol Libsohn, Teresa Lepore, Johnathan Shahn, Louise Roskam, Elizabeth Prestopino, Anthony Wisowaty, Ralph Warnick, Josette Altman, Edwin Roskam, Fletcher Grayson and others. The show includes paintings, prints, sculpture and other modern media. It will be located in the halls of the Roosevelt Factory, once a buzzing

garment factory where industrial workers struggled to survive the depression—an appropriate setting for Roosevelt artists who, like most artists today, teeter on the edge of the American economy. This important group show will be held only on Sunday, March 13, 1994 at the factory on the corner of Oscar Drive and North Valley Road in Roosevelt, New Jersey, from 5 to 7 p.m. only. For additional information contact: Ellen Silverman (609) 490-0557

Review

(continued from page 18)

with the solitary voice of the bass.

Strangely moved, I'm reminded of that lone cellist I saw in a news photo, who braved snipers to play Albinoni's "Adagio" every day for a month in the town square on the spot where twenty women and children had been blown up while standing in line for bread. In our comfortable seats we are disturbed by the same single voice of humanity, a sustained yet vulnerable voice that can be snuffed out at any moment. It is an aching moving note, at once full of hope and loss.

This core of the first half with its build of instruments, piano joined by the bass and then by the sax, gives way in the second half to three solos, in turn piano, bass, and sax. Ed Schuller's cello solo, "The Way of Ong," explores love (Ong) in ways we never dreamed by continually surprising techniques and carefully shaped phrases that, propelled by a pulsing rhythm, we don't so much hear as feel with our bodies.

Finally, the ensemble joined together on a stomping Altman original, "South of New Jersey," where the sax goes crazy on the chorus, cajoling, snarling, spitting, singing. Bob Hanlon brought the house down. This sax player doing unnatural things with his sax, crying out loud thoughts that can't be thought with a sax we thought. You should've been there.

Since some of you weren't, I give you these notes of one listener listening. Truth be told, I'm not much of a jazz fan (having no patience for mechanically passing the chorus yet one more time to the less_than_brilliant drummer who thinks that 20 minutes of a clunking steam radiator sends people into ecstasy). But Laurie Altman and friends are not to be missed. They break the ice and invite us to participate in joy. They make a music that discovers and leads us into discovery.

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT NEWS! OPEN MEETING

On Sunday, **March 20, 1994** at 11:00 a.m., the Roosevelt Arts Project will hold an open meeting in the Borough Hall to seek ideas and proposals from community artists, musicians, playwrights, poets and others with suggestions not only for the 1994-1995 season of events but also for the general direction the Roosevelt Arts Project might go in the years ahead.

The Arts Project has several aims in the events it sponsors. For the past several years, it has offered community members involved in the arts a chance to bring new works to the public. And we encourage collaboration between artists, as the events of past seasons have demonstrated. In addition to providing Roosevelt with thought-provoking and enjoyable entertainment during the winter and spring, RAP hopes to contribute to the town's cultural resources alone and in cooperation with other organizations in town.

As in the past, proposed events will be put to the entire Arts Project Board of Trustees for approval, rather than being selected by any individual RAP trustee. Members of the RAP Board are:

David Herrstrom, President	David Keller
David Brahinsky, Treasurer	Deborah Metzger
Robin Middleman, Vice-President	Jacob Landau
Judith Trachtenberg, Secretary	Warren Craig
Bernarda Bryson Shahn	Ellen Silverman
Leslie Weiner	Laurie Altman
Alan Mallach	Robert Mueller

In addition to discussing the series of events, we also hope to hear your ideas for special projects such as publications, a postcard series, and anthology of Roosevelt art/poetry/music, an open night of music or poetry or art or theater or.....

The Board of RAP also invites suggestions on ways to improve our process for designing each series and selecting each event. Please feel welcome to come on MARCH 20 to express your ideas to make RAP more accessible and inclusive.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

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1993 - 1994

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We keep telling you - - tell us!

Write letters to the Bulletin not just about the problems we all face, but also about the nice things that happen. Isn't that what they mean when everyone keeps telling us to "have a nice day?"

How about being a reporter for the Bulletin? There are lots of wonderful stories to be told but we must have people to write them. You'll have fun as well as bring pleasure to all of us.

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MARCH

		1 1 P.M. - blood pressure check - Boro Hall 2 P.M. Roosevelt Senior Citizens - Borough Hall - J. Koffler 448 4459 8 P.M. Roosevelt Community T.V. Cable Channel 8	2 7 P.M. - Yoga Class D. Metzger - Synagogue 443 9759 8 P.M. Environmental Commission - J. Carnevale Pres. 426 1728	3 7:30 P.M. Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting R. P. S. Mike Hamilton Pres 443 5227	4	5
6 9 A.M. P.P.A. Assembly - "The Founding Fathers" R.P.S. 7:30 P.M. - Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall Lee Allen, Mayor 448 6978	7 6 P.M. Roosevelt Community T.V. Cable Channel 8 7:30 P.M. First Aid Squad Boro Hall Susan Oxford Pres. 443 0525	8 7 P.M. Yoga Class Synagog - Deborah Metzger 443 1759 8 P.M. Planning Bd. Mtg. Boro Hall Joel Hunter, Chr. 426 4338 8 P.M. - P.T.A. Meeting R.P.S. A. Veger Pres. 443 5848	9 Recyclables 7 P.M. - Yoga Class Synagog - Deborah Metzger 443 1759 8 P.M. Planning Bd. Mtg. Boro Hall Joel Hunter, Chr. 426 4338 8 P.M. - P.T.A. Meeting R.P.S. A. Veger Pres. 443 5848	10	11	12
13 R.P.S. Exhibition "Art at the Factory" Roosevelt Factory - Valley Road at Ocean Dr	14 7:30 P.M. Council Action Meeting - Borough Hall Lee Allen Mayor 448 6978	15 Roosevelt Community T.V. Cable Channel 8	16 7 P.M. - Yoga Class Synagog Deborah Metzger 443 3759	17 7:30 P.M. Board of Education Action Meeting R.P.S. M. Hamilton Pres. 443 5227	18	19 10:30 AM - 1:30 P.M. P.T.A. Winter Carnival at Roosevelt Public School
20	21 7:30 P.M. Council Committee Mtgs. Boro Hall Lee Allen Mayor 448 6978 8 P.M. Synagog Board Meeting M. Tuckin 448 0363	22 6 P.M. Roosevelt Community T.V. Cable Ch. 8 29 7:30 Jersey Homesteads Historical Advisory Committee Boro Hall Arthur Shapiro 443 3575	23 Recyclables 7 P.M. - Yoga Class with Deborah Metzger - Synagog 443 3759	24	25	26
27	28 7 P.M. Roosevelt Community Library School Bd. Mtg. Boro Hall 7:30 P.M. Council (Committees) Mtg. Boro Hall	30 6 P.M. Roosevelt Community T.V. Cable Ch. 8	30	31		

