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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XINO. 7

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 1990

Council Says: Get Out Your Pens

by Adeline Weiner

At the regular April 11 meeting of the Borough Council, Kirk Rothfuss, Public Utilities Chair, called on the entire Community to take part in asking for assistance from our County, State and Federal representatives.

No Low Loan

A report on the status of the repair project included the news that the borough appears to be "out of the running" in respect to the low-interest loan from DEP, due to their requirements for an expensive impact study before June 4, and a six months review period thereafter.

Although savings would be significant, the difference between the DEP and the current MCIA loans are calculated to produce only between a \$4 and \$10 decrease in the monthly rate. Efforts will continue, Rothfuss said, although a change of decision would have to be made by someone at a very high level of authority.

He also suggested that another useful approach might be to press for DEP flexibility on the volume of the discharge they will accept, that is, the limit of 250,000 gallons a day, in contrast to the current volume of some 400,000. The repair on this problem alone is costing \$34 million.

That Mighty Pen

"The only hope we have now is to appeal to every possible public official for assistance in meeting the crisis," Rothfuss said. He reported that Council member Warren Craig has approached NJ State Senator John O. Bennett, who has agreed to seek a meeting with DEP Commissioner Judith Yaskin. Now is the time, said Rothfuss, for borough residents to demonstrate the kind of community support that can have a significant effect. We have to reach every possible official with calls, petitions and letters. "Get out your pens," he urged.

Craig reported that Bennett proposed to contact legislators to get continued on page 7

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Get Set for Big Garbage Day, May 19

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School Budget Passes

by Mark Zuckerman

The 1990-91 school budget was passed, 102 to 25, in a light turnout on April 24.

Elected to the Board of Education for full three-year terms were Edward Grossman, John Ord, and Catherine Petrilla. Margaret Schlinski was elected to a one-year term. They ran unopposed.

Four Democrats File for Council

by Mark Zuckerman

Lee Allen, Stuart Kaufman, and Rose Murphy all filed Democratic petitions for the Borough Council seats that will be vacated by Marilyn Magnes and Jim Alt. These seats carry a three-year term.

Running unopposed for a oneyear unexpired term will be Peter Warren. This seat, originally held by Jill Lipoti, who resigned last fall, is currently occupied by Warren Craig.

Ann Baker and Joe Solomon are running unopposed for reelection as members of the County Democratic Committee.

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

Bulletin Board Recycling News Big Garbage Day

by Stu Kaufman

Here is the schedule for pick-up of recyclables over the next three months:

May 17, 31 June 14, 28 July 12, 26

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during the very long break between recycling pick-ups. Our contractor is obligated to pick up recyclables only twice a month. When we have a month with an extra week, like March, it creates a long stretch between pickups. A better schedule can be worked out for the future.

All indications show an increase in the amounts we are recycling. Let's keep it going, even recycling one can makes a difference. So next time you go to throw out that one small can in the garbage: don't.

A little good news is we are starting to receive money from state tonnage grants. How much? Well I said it was a little good news. As the amounts on our tonnage reports increase so will the checks.

It all adds up: in 1989 Monmouth county received 147,500 tons; enough to save 1,100,000 trees, make 60 million new soda cans, make 1 million glass bottles, 4,000 cars and save 1/4 of a million cubic yards of land fill space at a cost of \$10,500,000 in land fill fees. Recycling makes a difference.

For those of you with home construction materials you want to dump, Monmouth county has a reclamation center. The center is open Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3:30 PM or Saturday from 7 AM to 2 PM. Costs are: cars or station wagons, \$3.41 per load; ½ and ¾ ton trucks \$47.63 per load. For more information call 201-918-0142. Oil and batteries can be brought to the center every second Saturday each month from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Most importantly, April 22 was Earth Day. We all have to work together to make sure there is a future for our children.

Stu Kaufman is Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator.

by Nancy Warnick

On Saturday, May 19, 1990, Freehold Cartage will collect all items not normally picked up on their regular run, including washers, dryers, water heaters, and other large appliances and furniture.

Please Remember:

1. Doors must be removed from refrigerators that are intended for pick up—as a safety precaution.

2. Tree clippings, tree limbs, etc. must be bundled and tied or placed in containers, so that they can be easily picked up. Nothing should be over 4 feet long.

3. Tires will not be accepted! Please do not place tires on the curb.

4. Car batteries will not be accepted!

5. No hazardous waste materials will be picked up. Examples: oil cans, oil paint cans, materials having oil or other hazardous waste on them or contained inside.

No recyclable materials will be picked up, including leaves.

Please do not place your trash on the curb prior to three (3) days before pick up.

Please make sure that your trash is out early in the morning on Saturday; pick up will start at 6:00 AM.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Borough Clerk at 448-0539.

Nancy Warnick is Deputy Clerk.

Expect a Survey

by Warren Craig

In applying for certain grants, the Borough of Roosevelt is required to conduct a survey of all households to determine size and category of income.

As a result, your household will be visited by a member of the Council, or a Council representative, probably in the next few weeks.

The survey will take only a couple of minutes, and all information will be strictly confidential.

Your cooperation is necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

Warren Craig is a member of the Roosevelt Borough Council.

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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Please send all articles and letters in **clean typescript** (typewriter or daisy-wheel printer), or as files on IBM-compatible 51/4" or 31/2" diskettes. We can accept ASCII files and output from most word processors.

Letter from the Editor

It's Been Fun

When the current volume ends in June, I will have been with the **Borough Bulletin** for 26 issues. It's been a lot of work, but also a lot of fun.

I joined the paper originally because it was threatened with extinction. The regime then at RPS did not like some of what it was reading in the *Bulletin*. It tried to put the paper out of business by having the PTA sever its affiliation (and its mailing privileges). This bald attempt at censorship motivated my involvement.

Initially, my goal was to help the **Bulletin** organize as an independent corporation, and to lend my experience to the managing of its business affairs. I also offered to lay out and typeset the paper, to cut down on the number of pages (and the printing cost) as well as improve its appearance.

At the time, the **Bulletin** was heavily in debt. By cutting our costs, changing our revenue strategy, achieving tax-exempt status and winning wide public support we are now financially secure. The **Bulletin** has become the best bargain in town: we operate for an entire year on less money that it takes to keep the school district open for a single day.

I never sought the Editor's job, anticipating its demands, both of time and spirit. However, David Brahinsky, who had been Editor for seven years, could not continue. I accepted only with reluctance. I'm glad I did.

It has been rewarding. I particularly value what I have learned: about the wonderful town which has been my home for 17 years, and from the marvelous people with whom it has been my pleasure and honor to have worked. The bringing to you of our community newspaper nine times a year represents considerable labor; it is a labor of love for all of us.

In my view—and, as Editor, I have had occasion to view close up most everything that has gone on in town—the **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin** exemplifies the best traditions of community action in Roosevelt. All associated with the paper give their best effort, and are dedicated to the kind of

spirit of cooperation which should be the goal of every local organization. We have made every effort to reach out to all segments of the community, and to encourage everyone in Roosevelt to write.

That we have been largely successful is attested to by the generous financial support we have received from local businesses—whose many contributions to our quality of life often go unappreciated—and from current and former residents. Our work has also been recognized by local and national media. But the most important measure of our success is the number of people who have had their work published—107 different authors in the last volume alone. The only other community activity which enjoys as much involvement is voting.

I believe it healthy to give free access to everyone, a policy whose unusual liberality has surprised the professional reporters I've met. Our only standard is that people acknowledge what they write, and nothing which has met that standard has been denied publication under my stewardship. Anyone who feels the paper does not present adequately a particular point of view has only to write it down and send it in. I see part of the Editor's job as actively soliciting differing opinions, and encouraging reasoned debate of public issues.

I also see self-restraint as a major part of the Editor's job. It is too easy to use the *Bulletin* as a platform, when it should be an open forum for facts and ideas. Until now, the only time you have read my opinions is when they have contributed to the collective position of our board of trustees—which body, according to policy, must agree unanimously in its expression.

It has been amusing to hear rumors about what I'm supposed to believe, as represented by some article or other, especially since there have been occasions where different rumors have me positioned on opposite sides of the same issue. This tells me I've been doing my job.

Sometimes, I've been accused of operating from a "secret agenda," in an

obvious effort to discount some piece of news. (I have learned that those who talk most often about the hidden agendas of others are most likely observing one of their own.) My appearance in these rumors I attribute to blaming the messenger for distasteful news: part of the job. I don't always enjoy the news we bring, but I feel it is better to bring it than to pretend it doesn't exist.

We have been energetic in our pursuit of the news and of the facts behind the news. We in Roosevelt are lucky that, on the whole, those in positions of public trust have been forthcoming, enlightening, and honest about what's happening. (Ironically, many of those who claim otherwise have themselves been misleading and behaved secretively.) There may be many valid complaints about what goes on in town, but being kept in the dark isn't one of them. Those who claim to be uninformed haven't been reading the Bulletin, and have only themselves to blame for their ignorance.

This is not to say that we've been perfect. There will always be room for improvement, and I hope that those associated with the *Bulletin* will always strive for something better. But what we have right now is far better than anything we have a right to expect, and better (so I'm told) than many newspapers done by professionals.

It's Someone Else's Turn

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve Roosevelt as Editor of the *Bulletin*. I have done my best to perform the job well, and am proud of the result. I feel I have accomplished what I originally set out to do. I think now it's someone else's turn. Therefore, when my term as Editor ends in July, I shall not seek re-election.

Anyone interested in serving as Editor or in finding out more about the job should get in touch with me or with any other member of the board of trustees. Our names are listed on the masthead on page 2.

-Mark Zuckerman

School Board Renews Staff Appointments

by Bob Clark

After a closed session for personnel matters at its April 19 meeting, the Roosevelt School Board, with five members present-President Debra Allen and members Edward Grossman, Catherine Petrilla, Jan Plumb and Margaret Schlinski-announced the renewal of certified education staff appointments [see

inset, Ed.].

Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman noted that the only changes from last year involved an increase in the speech instructor's time from 1/5 to 2/5 and a decrease in the social worker's time from 3/5 to 2/5. The increase in speech time will allow Roosevelt to bring a special education student back to the district at considerable savings in tuition and transportation. The social work time reduction was viewed by most of the members present as a difficult but necessary move to keep costs down in the face of severe fiscal constraints.

Edward Grossman cast the sole vote against the renewals, citing his opposition to reducing the social worker's time to less than the amount that would have allowed her to "maintain benefits." He expressed concern that as a result the district might lose the "quality person" presently in the position. He added that any financial savings were "potentially negated by the absence of services" which such a person could provide given more hours in the work week. Catherine Petrilla responded that the social worker position was "more of a luxury for all that time" than other positions.

Meanwhile, the Board renewed the contracts for CSA Groveman and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator (SBA) Roseann Lozinski for the 1990-91 school year. Salaries for the certified staff, CSA and SBA were still being negotiated.

Reorganization Discussed

The Board authorized CSA Groveman to meet informally with the Superintendent of the East Windsor Regional School District to consider: (1) receptiveness toward regionalization discussions, (2) possibility of exploring benefit jointures, and (3) possibility of formalizing a tuition agreement for calculating future sending tuition rates.

Groveman reported that on average the district would receive 76% of the amount it should have received if state aid for the 1990-91 school year had equaled the full funding formula. This is a significant reduction from the 86% received in the current year. Meanwhile, the Board received notification denying its request for emergency state aid due to unexpected costs associated with the enrollment of additional special needs students. The reason given was the existence, however minimal, of funds available in the district budget's free balance.

President Debra Allen recommended a reorganization of standing committees of the Board. She submitted a detailed proposal for Policy and Legislation, Education, and Finance and Operations committees. She asked the other Board members to consider the proposal and recommend any changes for the Board's reorganization meeting on May 3.

The Board approved the 1990-91 school calendar [to appear in the May Bulletin, Ed.]. Carol Rossi sent a letter to the Board asking it to establish a formal graduation award in honor of the late Dominic J. Rossi. The Rossis would give a \$100 US bond each year to a student, selected by the CSA and approved by the Board, who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. The request was referred to the Policy Committee.

CSA Groveman reported that in 1989 RPS revised its gifted and

talented program "moving away from a specified eligibility criteria and pullout program in favor of a program that could reach any and all children interested in doing additional study, research or projects." Assessing this change, Groveman related that it did not reach enough students and was not integrated into the curriculum. He proposed an alternative model to target the combined fifth and sixth grade class for a one-year pilot project. Groveman will detail the proposal at a future meeting.

Groveman reported that the second annual health fair is scheduled for the afternoon of May 10. Activities for adults as well as children will be offered. RPS choruses will be performing a spring musical event in the morning and evening of May 23. Some younger RPS students have registered to participate in the Children's Choice Reading Program sponsored by the Monmouth County Reading Council. The program involves the pupils reading and rating a variety of children's literature with the results published in a newsletter. Groveman added that first grade teacher Lila Mayberg is coordinating the project for RPS.

The Board approved the nomination of Traci Connaughton to receive the Senator Bill Bradley Young Citizen's Award for the 1989-90 school year "for her outstanding voluntary contributions to the school and community of Roosevelt." Board member Margaret Schlinski was appointed as the Board's representative for the 1990

graduation.

RPS Education Staff

Name (Appointment)

Lila Mayberg (full time) Elizabeth Gagliardi (full time) Ilene Levine (full time)

Alfred Luckenbach (full time) Kathleen Hawthorne (4/5)

Lisa Simone (2/5)

Maxine Shore (2/5)

Arthur Franklin (4/5)

Clare Sacharoff (45)

Joanne Cohen (3/5)

Fran Gerber (2/5)

Ruth Howard (1/5) Jo Anne Brown (2/5)

Susan Goldfond (3/10)

Assignment

First Grade Second Grade

Third & Fourth Grades Fifth & Sixth Grades

Kindergarten/Librarian

Art, Foreign Language & Gifted

Physical Ed. & Health

Basic Skills

L.D.T.C.

Social Worker

School Nurse

Speech

Resource Room

What We Learned From Mrs. Chasan

by RPS Third and Fourth Graders

On March 12, 1990, Mrs. Augusta Chasan came to RPS to visit, talk, and answer each and every question the third and fourth graders asked. Mrs. Chasan was very happy, and we all enjoyed her visit very much. Here is what she told us.

Mrs. Chasan came to America from Russia by boat. She was only three years old when she came to Ellis Island. She lived with her family in New York City.

In 1936, when she was 33, Mrs. Chasan was one of several people picked to plan and settle Jersey Homesteads. She and her husband and their son were one of the first ten families to come here. Her house was not ready, so she stayed with her neighbors until hers was built. Her house was at 8 Farm Lane, and that is where she lives now.

Benjamin Brown was the founder of the town. He picked the piece of land that Jersey Homesteads was built on. At first, Jersey Homesteads was covered with mud until the people planted trees and grass. The first ten houses were built. (They are near the gas station on Rochdale Avenue.)

They also built a factory for work called Co-op. At first people made coats and suits in the factory.

Other people worked on the farms. They raised chickens and cows, apples, tomatoes, and potatoes. The people of the town used the carpenters' tool house to build the first grocery store. Everyone shared in what they owned, like one big family. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration helped out by renting the houses to the people. Jersey Homesteads began on July 4, 1936 with a big celebration.

Mrs. Chasan loved Jersey Homesteads when it was a new town. Every day the people worked together, and every night they sang songs. Everyone loved each other. She had a very happy

life.

The people had meetings in the factory once a week. Mr. Chasan was president of the fire department. When he asked for volunteers, Mrs. Chasan raised her hand. He picked her. Mrs. Chasan was the first woman firefighter in the USA. She had to fight lots of grass fires in Jersey Homesteads. She felt very proud of herself! Once she was on a radio program named "Famous Firsts." A comedian, Fred

Allen, interviewed her, and they laughed a lot.

The first synagogue was in a small building between the school and Pine Drive. In 1942, they built the synagogue that is there today. The first nursery school was in the Britton House. The first elementary school was on Homestead Lane where the Warnicks live now. Our school was ready in 1937. Mrs. Chasan's son, Howard, was in the first class of seven kids to graduate.

After school, a truck would wait for the kids so they could go and pick fruits and vegetables. They earned 25 cents an hour. Kids in Jersey Homesteads used to get a ride out of town and buy themselves ice cream cones and go to the movies. Ice cream cost 5 cents, and the movies cost 10 cents.

Most of the roads in Jersey Homesteads were named after something that was about the town. Farm Lane was named because some farms were there. Rochdale was named after the first co-operative in Europe. Tamara Drive was named after a girl named Tamara who used to live in the Jersey Homesteads. She was a singer and an actress. During World WarII, her plane was shot down, and she was killed.

Mrs. Chasan's husband was an electrician. But Jersey Homesteads needed a truck driver to bring the fabrics to the factory and then to deliver the finished garments to the stores. So that is what Mr. Chasan did at first. After three years, the factory didn't work out so well, so Mr. Chasan got a job as an electrician at Fort Dix.

In 1945 President Roosevelt died. The people called together a meeting and decided to change the name of the town to Roosevelt. Mrs. Chasan wrote a letter to her son, who was in the Marines. She said, "Howard, don't send your mail to 'Jersey Homesteads' anymore. Send it to 'Roosevelt' New Jersey."

Mr. and Mrs. Chasan used to do a lot of artwork. Mr. Chasan made the shell collage that is hanging in our classroom. Mrs. Chasan made paintings.

Mrs. Chasan is 87 now, and she still loves to play with children. She invited us to her house for cookies and lemonade.

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

RPS to Hold Health Fair

by Art Franklin and Ruth Howard

On Thursday, May 10, 1990 from 12:30 PM to 3:45 PM Roosevelt Public School will be holding its annual Health Fair.

We welcome all members of the community from preschool to senior citizens—parents, friends, relatives to our Health Fair.

We will present a program covering a variety of health topics such as nutrition and fitness, safety in the school and community, concerns for the environment, the management of stress, and presentations on substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, cigarettes). There will be information booths including one staffed by the PTA and many staffed by the students of RPS.

We look forward to seeing you on May 10.

Art Franklin and Ruth Howard are on the staff of RPS.

RAP Presents Poetry Reading

by David Teich

On April 7 the Roosevelt Arts Project presented "They Do the Police in Different Voices" to a packed Borough Hall. The original material was written and read by Dina Coe, David Herrstrom, David Keller and Rod Tulloss, accompanied by two tape decks and with musical assists by David Brahinsky and Laurie Altman.

The four poets combined the spoken work with taped voice and sounds, both natural and electronic, as well as the musical accompaniment, to create an elegant, innovative and unexpected experience in an intimate atmosphere.

On Saturday, May 5, the Arts project will present "Influences that shape Art": slide talks by Roosevelt artists Jacob Landau, Stefan Martin and Robert Mueller, with musical support by Anita Cervantes.

Viewpoint

What's Doing Out There? ... And Some Thoughts About Home

by Adeline Weiner

When the boom fell—I mean the news of the humongous \$140 utility fee—it seemed important to find out if we were alone or if other towns were laden with similar woes. There are so few communities as small as ours that we decided to ask around among other places a bit bigger maybe but also involved in DEP-induced difficulties. After an informal survey, conducted by telephone, we turned up a couple of towns knee-deep in debt with skyrocketing increases in utility rates as well as a few others able to make do with more moderate rises.

Our close neighbor, Allentown, has already borrowed \$1.8 million for sewer repair and their quarterly rate, up from \$62.50 to \$85.00, is expected to double before long. In Englishtown, where water is the chronic headache, rates have gone up two and a half times from \$24 to \$60 and are likely to increase again after the third quarter of this year. Rose Ann Weeden, Englishtown Municipal Clerk, says that towns that are now in trouble are the ones who knew they needed repair work 15 or 20 years ago but were reluctant to raise the rates and because the state was not demanding "action or else," kept putting off the fateful day. That, it would seem, is a pretty good description of our own case.

A place we found that's even worse off than we are is a housing development in Ringwood, NJ consisting of 109 single family middle-income homes. Their sanitary sewer plant and waste collection system is in such disrepair, according to DEP, that it requires a \$2.3 million loan which they are making through a bank to do the reconstruction. They have doubled their yearly user fee and must now add another \$1,300 per household for debt service, bringing the total to \$2,400 per year per family! Residents are turning to their Congresswoman Marge Roukema and State Senator Leanna Brown for aid and succor.

Other communities with more manageable problems are either as-

sociated with regional utility authorities or have been fixing things up all along. Manasquan has only its sewer collection system to worry about which periodically suffers from major infiltration due to high ocean tides. With a basic population of 5,500, they are borrowing a million dollars that they plan to pay off through low interest loans, surcharges to users and an increase in the quarterly rate.

Frenchtown (1,448 population) has a consent order ban on their sewer system and were recently facing a fine of \$25,000 that was reduced, as was ours, to \$12,000. They have had to borrow \$400,000 that is costing residents a hundred dollars a year extra for each of the next two years, at least. In Shrewsbury (1,100) there is a regional authority who has raised the rate by 20% since 1989 in a town where the property tax is already high, an estimated average of \$2,900 a year, for example, for a 4-room condo.

In Wanaque, in Passaic County (10,000), the town is also under a sewer ban mainly because of too much infiltration into the underground pipes. They are conducting a TV inspection hoping to find a few major leaks to repair at a lot less expense. They are eligible to receive a low interest DEP loan to expand the sewer plant. According to the engineer, the Borough Council is trying to hold rates down until the plant is ready and new users can be brought in to the community to support the expenditure.

In Howell Township the municipal utility authority has incurred a \$60,000,000 debt that according to Robert Bowden, administrator, has led to a move to dissolve the authority and allow the township to take direct control for greater accountability. The cost to users will have to rise to pay off the debt service that has accrued mainly for improvement of water facilities. He anticipates an increase in the water rate from \$500 a year to \$800 over a three year period.

In an interesting telephone talk with Russ Nerlick, an official of the Western Monmouth Utility Authority that encompasses Marlboro, Manalapan and Englishtown, we learned that the company is a public, non-profit utility built in 1972 and has 35 employees. Located in Englishtown, it is the nearest regional utility to Roosevelt. When asked if there was any way our borough could hook into their set-up, his answer was "impossible, much too far away." Moreover, their service agreement stipulates no expansion beyond given limits. To his knowledge there is no resource for us in Mercer or Middlesex County either. He talked a bit about what he believed would have been the ideal way to go regarding sewer renovation in Roosevelt, something he called "a natural system." In a speculative way, he suggested that Roosevelt being adjacent to the Assunpink wetlands might have tried to cajole the agencies involved into allowing part of the area to be used as a perfect opportunity for low-tech natural methods of treating sewerage without chemicals and without polluting anything. But, he added ruefully, "by the time you could work all that out, you'd be paying the cost difference in fines." This notion of an inexpensive low-tech, let-naturedo-the-work approach was of course attempted by our former borough engineer whose design was unacceptable to the DEP, in all likelihood due to lack of sufficient ground space.

In Tewkesbury Township there is a village of 108 units called Old Wyck where such a lagoon-type treatment plan, with solid waste spread over a large area, has succeeded. It was built around 1985 and accepted at that time by DEP and though the agency has upped its standards and requires new features to be added from time to time, the system has been working very well, according to the township engineer.

In our conversation with Mr. Nerlick of WMUA, he said that Roosevelt probably missed out on rehabilitation

House Tour to Benefit Shade Tree Commission

by Ellen Sorrin and Jane Rothfuss

in the past by failing to push for government assistance in the early '70's when federal funds were abundant. It is most ironic, to my mind, that the urge to place blame by those I think of as the "disloyal opposition," finds its target among those who were in office in the mid and late '80's-almost a decade later. That is when "watch-my-lips" austerity was everywhere in the country, not just in little old Roosevelt. This policy put the burden of public funding on individual citizens instead of where it belongs: on federal and state governments that should be taxing according to income with the wealthy kicking in their whole, fair share.

The way it strikes me, having lived here long enough to notice, is this: the mayor, our chief executive administrative officer, has been in office for almost two decades off and on, and our ex-chief executive financial officer, was also in a leadership position for many years until he resigned and was elected to Council last year. How come these peerless heroes are somehow exonerated of all responsibility for our present-day plight while only a handful of relative Johnny-come-latelies are cast as the dastardly villains of the piece?

Instead of the atmosphere of personal pique and mischievous spite that seems to motivate so much of our politics, we could do with a simple admission that what divides most of us (others have a different agenda) is an honest disagreement as to whether we want to allow the kind of growth that will keep the character of our town intact and of a piece with its history, or forget all that for the possibility that an influx of new houses will help pay our bills. Needless to say, I believe the latter will not only prove illusory but cause us a host of new problems. Still, must this difference poison our spirit?

Instead of there being this frantic activity of Council-bashing with letters, petitions, leaflets, hasty visits to newcomers and God knows how many hours of telephoning, meeting, searching into back Council minutes, why not use all that negative passion for a real hot campaign to get our county, state and federal big shots to come and give us some relief, for heaven's sake!

On Saturday, May 19 (rain date: Sunday, May 20), there will be a house tour of Roosevelt to benefit Roosevelt's Shade Tree Commission. The tour will highlight both the interiors and exteriors of selected Roosevelt homes. The purpose of the tour is to show the basic design of the original homes, how some owners have adapted the spaces to suit their life styles, and how those adaptations have changed with successive owners. Featured homes will include some in their original state, some with minor alterations, and some with major alterations.

The tour will being at 2 PM at the Roosevelt Memorial. Volunteer guides will meet and then lead small groups on the tour, which will last approximately two and a half hours. The tour will conclude with a reception in the lobby of the Roosevelt Public School, highlighting both the school as an integral part of the community and the Ben Shahn mural with the story it tells of Roosevelt's history. Light refreshments will be served. In addition, the Shade Tree Commission will raffle away a tree, donated by a local nursery.

The cost of the tour is \$5.00 and tickets may be purchased from Shade Tree Commission members or by calling Jane Rothfuss at 448-3713. Shade Tree Commission members will also be selling tickets in front of the post office on Saturday, May 5. Capacity is limited, so please make your reservations early. We encourage you to join in the fun and to invite friends and relatives who appreciate Roosevelt's unique place in history and its dynamic future.

Volunteers Recognized

A special thanks to all those volunteers who worked for 5 hours Saturday March 31 flushing our water hydrant system to keep our drinking water clean and clear: Lee Allen, Mark Bianchi, Brad Garton, Len Hillis-Guye, John Parrott, Jane Rothfuss and Steve Yeger. Also, thanks to our Water Operator Ed Davis for keeping a watchful eye on our system as we worked.

-Roosevelt Mayor and Borough Council

Council

continued from page 1

involved on our behalf, and to ask for a meeting where we can request an extension of the deadline, elimination or reduction of the fine, and make a case for an increased level of discharge, once the effluent has been properly treated.

At The Edge

In public discussion, resident Tamara Galimidi spoke at length about her concern that many residents on fixed incomes and young families with large mortgages may be "pushed over the edge." "We could end up a ghost town," she said. She asked if there were any provision or relief for those who simply could not pay the new rates. Mayor Leon Barth explained that, bluntly put, there was nothing available at this time. Rothfuss added that though there is no mechanism in place that can offer immediate help, there were things the state and federal government could do to help us; but we must "raise a very loud voice!"

Art Unger asked about plans for future housing development, saying that we may be too small for our own

continued on page 10

Senior Citizens News

by Helga Wisowaty

This meeting was more "social" than business. Members who went to see "The Greening of the Grey" enjoyed it.

There will be a "Health Fair" at the school on Thursday, May 10 from 12:30 to 3:00 PM.

Aglore Buote is home from the hospital and Harry Mack also is now at home.

There are performances to be seen at the Garden State Arts Center. We'll go to one of them soon. The "coffee" hour was a time for discussing many things. Refreshments were delicious.

Helga Wisowaty is Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens.

Blackouts, Brothels, and Shorts

by Michael L. Ticktin

In November of 1973, after having lived in Roosevelt for nearly two years, I was elected to the Borough Council, where I served for nine months before being appointed assessor. As soon as I got on the Council, I began to do something that has made me something of a menace in many organizations that I have been associated with over the years-I began to read the rules, in this case the municipal ordinances.

What I found was quite interesting. While most of the ordinances served some ongoing useful purpose, there were several that clearly did not. One, entitled "An Ordinance Authorizing Blackouts and Air-Raid Protection Orders, Rules and Regulations, and Prescribing Penalties for Violation Thereof, and Declaring an Emergency," had been adopted on July 6, 1942. Among other things, this ordinance prohibited leaving on any lights that could illuminate a street or sidewalk unless there was a person present at all times who could turn them off. It is doubtful that there was ever any danger of German air raids, particularly since the Germans didn't have any carriers and they never quite figured out how to launch bombers from Uboats, but whatever danger might have necessitated blackouts surely abated after May 8, 1945. (The ordinance was enacted after the Battle of Midway and there was no longer any danger of Japanese carriers getting into the Eastern Pacific, much less the Atlantic.) In Roosevelt, however, the emergency continued in effect as if nothing of consequence had happened in Europe at all.

Another ordinance that I found, entitled "An Ordinance to Prevent and Suppress Gaming Houses and Houses of Ill Fame and to Prohibit Gaming for Money or Other Valuable Thing, to Preserve Public Peace and Good Order. to Restrain and Punish Indecent or Disorderly Conduct or Drunkenness and to Suppress Vice and Immorality," enacted as one of the original ordinances of the Borough on August 10, 1937, declared to be illegal a lot of things that were already illegal under State

law. It contained a significant provision not found in State law, however. Concluding a paragraph prohibiting various manifestations of indecency was the sentence "And no male or female over the age of twelve (12) shall appear on any street or public place in the said Borough wearing a halter, or shorts or Jersey or bathing suit." Naturally, I wondered what this was all about. I was told that, at the time the community was being established, it was a novelty and attracted a lot of attention, not all of it well-meaning. Many people, both from the nearby area and from elsewhere, were hostile to it because it was sponsored by the Roosevelt administration, or because its residents were Jews, or both. (This was hardly surprising since people who didn't like Roosevelt usually didn't care much for Jews either, and vice versa.) Some of the homesteaders, being out in the country, had taken to wearing shorts. There was great concern that some of the more corpulent ladies didn't exactly look their best in shorts and might be a source of embarrassment to the community, or that pictures might appear of all of these people in shorts enjoying their New Deal-built vacation retreat, thereby stirring up resentment against the project. Of course, the public wearing of shorts, halters, Jerseys and bathing suits was as rampant in Roosevelt in 1974 as it is now and it was clear that no attempt was being made to enforce the ordinance by anybody. In fact, my investigation revealed only one case in which someone's aunt had been given a ticket-my informant had no idea whyand wound up being fined one dollar.

In any event, it occurred to me that the reason for having ordinances is to let people know what they can and can't do, and that if you really don't intent to enforce an ordinance, you should repeal it. Then, hopefully, people will take seriously the ordinances you haven't repealed. I therefore drafted and introduced an ordinance to repeal these ordinances, along with several others that were clearly superseded by other ordinances or dealt with adequately by State law. It was then that the fun started. The introduction of the ordinance was reported in the local papers and picked up by the wire services. The focus, however, was on the abolition of the local ban on brothels. Though the article made clear (in the last line) that we were not legalizing them since State law made them illegal, the writers and editors presented the story in such a way that the less than careful reader could have concluded that we were going the way of Nevada (the one state where they are legal).

The next month, my proposed ordinance came before the Council for final reading. I certainly had not expected there to be any objection to repealing prohibitions that were either redundant or ridiculous. But I realized that there would be no clear sailing when one Council member announced her extreme indignation over the way I had managed to call attention to the town and make it look as if we were on the verge of becoming a den of vice and voted "no." Another member offered the observation that we ought to "let sleeping dogs lie" and voted no as well. I then repeated my reasons for proposing the ordinance and noted that voting down a repeal of the shorts prohibition was even more ridiculous than having it in the first place. Lenny Sacharoff, I was pleased to see, agreed with me. Two members were absent. That left it up to Mayor Bert Ellentuck. He appeared to deliberate for a moment, apparently amused at his predicament, and then cast the tiebreaking vote in favor.

Now, sixteen years later, I am pleased to be able to say that time has proven me right. There have been no air-raids for which we were unprepared. No brothels have opened up. There have been no outbreaks of any form of criminality that was covered by any of the repealed ordinances. And the shorts wearers of Roosevelt go their merry way each summer, the threat of prosecution no longer hang-

ing over them.

Love of Words

Some Biased Remarks About Objective Reporting

by Josef G. Solomon

If you're not involved, it's funny to observe the words people use to describe a situation. Usually, the words are supposed to be neutral, but usually they're not neutral at all. Sometimes, the words are in fact intended to be blatantly one-sided. Many years ago, when I lived in a trailer, a friend of mine offered to have a debate on "trailer living versus decent living." He was joking but, as often happens, he was using a joke as a tool to state his real opinion. He was also so blatant that it was funny rather than offensive.

The problem comes in if we think the language is neutral when it isn't. To mention the first example that comes to mind, consider the way a labor dispute is almost always reported: "Management offers...", but "the union demands..." That language is not neutral. If you need convincing, try it the other way: "The union offers...", but "management demands..." I'll bet you've never seen it that way. You probably never will, either—not while management owns the newspapers.

A Different Slant On Things

In the above example, the reason for the bias is obvious, once you notice that the bias is there. Sometimes you can see the bias, but can't imagine a reason. Sometimes... Consider the following. The area of Palestine between the Jordan River and Jerusalem, controlled by Israel since the Six-Day War of 1967, is known to some as Judea and Samaria, to others as the West Bank. Interestingly enough, when it is called the West Bank, it is almost always called the Occupied West Bank. That area had earlier been annexed by Jordan, who controlled it from 1948 until 1967. If my memory serves me correctly, no nation in the world recognized Jordan's annexation of the territory—not even any of the other Arab nations. Even so, for some reason the

newspapers never called it Occupied during all the years that Jordan controlled it. A funny coincidence, isn't it?

In an earlier column, I mentioned the strategic advantage to be gained by the names you give yourself and your opponents. The article discussed the abortion controversy, and pointed out how biased it is to call yourself "Pro-Life" while calling the other side "Pro-Abortion"; the other side does the same thing, of course, although its terms aren't as strongly biased: "Pro-Choice" and "Anti-Abortion."

The two things I'm trying to point out here are that much of what we read is using biased language, and that defining the terms of a debate in a biased way biases the outcome.

The More Things Change...

Just this morning, I heard on the radio that the Soviet Union, which is finally allowing Jews to leave-but is not allowing them to find transportation-has announced that they might actually institute direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, something they recently agreed to establish, but have not done; in effect, they have had it both ways, by agreeing to do it, but not doing it. Those Jews who have managed to obtain Soviet exit visas have flown to Budapest on Aeroflot (the Soviet airline), and from there to Tel Aviv on the Hungarian airline. Recently, the PLO-or one of its constituent organizations-threatened to sabotage any airline that transports Jews to Israel; the Hungarian airline promptly announced it would stop its flights to Israel. Some other country may take Hungary's place, but obviously the best answer would be for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.

Well, the Soviet Union just might start those long-promised direct flights. But they need just one thing. They need a promise from the Israeli government that no Soviet Jews will be settled in areas claimed by the Arabs. That may sound reasonable, but it isn't. The Arabs claim all of Israel. If Israel agrees to that offer (or is it a demand?), where will they settle Soviet Jews? Uganda? (Don't laugh: It was suggested.)

And Then There's US

Meanwhile, the US government has been threatening to shut off foreignaid money to Israel unless Israel stops settling Soviet Jews in the West Bank. Again, that might sound reasonable, but it isn't. And why not? Consider the facts-always the last resort in an argument. So far, some 12,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel. How many of them have been settled in the West Bank? To make a point, let me answer: None. The Israeli government does not tell anybody where to settle; it allows them to settle where they wantusually. There are some places the government tries to keep Jews from settling-Hebron, in particular, where there had been Jews from the time of Abraham, but where there had been no Jews since the 1929 massacre, when the Jews' neighbors murdered all the Jews who could not escape. Anyway, to get back to the immediate subject, how many Soviet Jews chose to settle in the West Bank? Sixty-three. (I write it out so there won't be any typographical errors.) That's one half of one percent. Does that sound like a

Most of the Jews who succeed in leaving the Soviet Union are from the big cities-Moscow, say, or Odessa. Oddly enough, they don't want to move into a desert; they want to live in a big city-like Tel Aviv, say, or Haifa, or Jerusalem. One half of one percent. For the US government to make a fuss about one half of one percent suggests that they are trying to divert our attention from something else-as they did in the invasion of Grenada, which happened only a few days after the murder of 241 of our Marines in Beirut. Incidentally, it worked that time. I wonder what they're trying to hide from us this time.

Council

continued form page 7

existence. Ann Baker suggested the formation of an "Economic Development Authority" to attract commercial development. She also pointed out that public education has cost the town in the last two and a half years, an amount equal to the expense of the sewer renovation. "Let's pay equal attention to that cost," she said.

Mosquitos, Asphalt and Grass

Actions taken at this meeting included:

 An amendment to the budget regarding the dedicated revenues from the water/sewer utility.

A motion was passed to authorize the County to apply pesticides (Abate) from aircraft to control mosquitos over portions of the borough.

3. An expenditure not to exceed \$1,375 for the repair of sunken asphalt on Maple Court and Pine Drive was authorized. A manhole on Homestead Lane will also be repaired and National Irrigation was given the work.

4. The contract for mowing the grass in the borough was awarded to Precision Turf Maintenance as the low bidder at \$780 per month.

Flushing the Waters

Utilities Chair Rothfuss thanked the volunteers for carrying out the hydrant-flushing task. The plan calls for a flushing job three times a year and volunteers are welcome. "Even though it takes some five and a half hours, it's fun," said Rothfuss. The group who turned out included Steve Yeger, coordinator, and Lee Allen, Mark Bianchi, Ed Davis, Brad Garton, Leonard Hillis, John Parrott, Jane and Kirk Rothfuss.

About the Rate Increase: What We Can Do Now

by Warren Craig

At its April business meeting, the Borough Council reluctantly adopted an ordinance raising the monthly water and sewer rates to \$140 a month.

Members of the Council had little choice in the matter. Because of tougher state and federal regulations and enforcement actions, we can no longer avoid the responsibility of fixing the leaky sewer pipes underneath our streets and upgrading our sewage-treatment plant at the end of Pine Drive.

Clearly, everyone in Roosevelt had fair warning that a rather large increase in their bill would be forthcoming. It was only in March that the Council received the final cost estimates from the Borough's engineer and financial projections from the Borough's auditor that led to the realization that rates would have to rise by \$75 a month.

The Council deeply regrets being forced to raise these rates. We know how devastating this is—coinciding with a sizable property tax increase.

Other Council members and I are asking US Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg, US Congressman Chris Smith, and State Senator John Bennett to help us out by getting DEP Commissioner Judith Yaskin to meet with the Council to discuss several issues which could help to reduce present and future costs of upgrading our infrastructure. These include:

1. Waiving the \$512,000 fine (currently in abeyance pending successful completion of the deadlines imposed by the Administrative Consent Order) in recognition of Roosevelt's demonstration of good faith, and the severe hardship already imposed on our residents by carrying out this expensive

2. Extending our deadlines for completion of the work to allow the Council to explore cost-reducing options.

 Increasing our permitted discharge levels once improvements to our sewage treatment plant are complete.

4. Giving us pre-award approval for the DEP's waste water treatment trust fund, which would save the Borough an estimated \$450,000 in interest over the 20-year life of the loan.

In addition, there are a number of other issues that the Council would like to have a little more time to explore.

You Can Help

You can help, too, by writing to:

Judith Yaskin, Commissioner NJ DEP CN-402 Trenton, NJ 08625

and

Governor James Florio State House CN-001 Trenton, NJ 08625

Tell them that the residents of Roosevelt cannot and should not be forced to foot this bill alone. You may want to explain the devastating effect the increase in your utility bill is going to have on your personal finances—on top of your property tax increase and all of the other taxes being levied on you by the State this year.

Together, maybe we can get their attention. It can't hurt to try.

Warren Craig is a member of the Roosevelt Borough Council.

What do you think? Write the Bulletin

Free Rabies Clinics

by Nancy Warnick

Wall Township	May 1	7-8 PM	W. Belmar Fire House, Hwy #71
Marlboro Township	May 5	10-12 Noon	Municipal Complex, Rear Station
Belmar	May 9	7-8 PM	Public Works Buildings, 13th & RR
Wall Township	May 12	10-12 Noon	Public Works Building, Tilton's Corner Rd., Municipal Garage
Englishtown Boro	May 15	6-7 PM	Englishtown Fire House
Atlantic Highlands	May 16	6-7 PM	Fire House, Mount Ave.
Wall Township	May 23	7-8 PM	Glendola Fire House, Belmar Blvd.
Tinton Falls	June 9	10-11 AM	Fire House, Sycamore & Tinton Ave.
Neptune Township	June 16	10-12 Noon	Public Works Garage
Neptune Township	June 23	10-12 Noon	Public Works Garage
West Long Branch	Oct 18	7-8 PM	Fire House, Monmouth Rd.
Spring Lake Heights	Nov 3	10-11 AM	Fire House, Sixth & Essex St.
Roosevelt (Tentative)	Nov 10	12-1 PM	Borough Municipal Garage

Nancy Warnick is Deputy Borough Clerk.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

I found it quite interesting, according to the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, that Marilyn Magnes had criticized Peter Warren for his efforts in educating the public on our very serious DEP situation. As a new resident of Roosevelt it angers me to have to pay, in the form of increased water and sewer charges, for the inaction several years ago by Borough Council members when this problem could have been resolved. If people like Marilyn Magnes were less concerned with power and keeping secrets our town probably would not be in the position it is in today. Why not tap the talent in our town and talk about our problems. Peter Warren has nothing but the best interest of Roosevelt in mind. The people distributing misleading information are the Marilyn Magnes' of the town.

The political games played by certain members of the Council are vile and nonproductive. In the words of Ted Turner: "Lead, Follow or get out of the way."

—Rob Jensen

P.S.: Leon Barth is doing a great job and with the next election hopefully Roosevelt will fill the seats with people concerned more about Roosevelt and not abortion and nuclear weapons. To the Editor:

Please forgive me if I sound corny at times but this is how I feel about the water/sewer increases.

I'm not thrilled with the increases and for now I've got to pay it. If I wanted to let my mind wander I could imaging all kinds of bad situations. I just can't pay the increases and do nothing. I don't have any answers, but I'm willing to do what ever it's going to take to bring the water/sewer problems down to something I could live with.

I do know this, it's going to take an effort from everyone has an investment in their homes, to work together. And if you don't get involved, don't expect someone else to do it for you. The only one who is going to help Roosevelt is Roosevelt.

If anybody has some ideas on what we can do or would just like to talk about it, my phone number is 443-4921

-Stuart Kaufman

To the Editor:

Many of us wish to thank Peter Warren and Lee Allen for their diligent work and concern about our water/sewer problem. We feel that if it weren't for them we would have very little information to help us to evaluate and understand why we are in this trouble and why we must pull together as a community to solve it. Thank you Peter and Allen for taking your time and money to inform us.

-Margaret Schlinski

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The **Bulletin** publishes free of charge classified listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin**, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555.

Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40 per year, \$5.00 per issue).

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There are free exercise classes for residents at the Borough Hall each Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM The RPS Library is open each Tuesday evening, 7:00-9:00 PM (Margaret Schlinski, Librarian)

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