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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XIII NO. 10

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 1991

XIV

State Orders Tax Cut Council Petitions for Lesser Cut to Aid Roads

by Adeline Weiner

At the June 10 Borough Council meeting, a proposed amendment to the budget reflecting a state-ordered cut in the local purpose property tax to 26 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation was passed. Another amendment however was considered that included a rise of \$56,000 and therefore an increase to a 49 cent/tax level for purposes of road reconstruction and installation of curbs of three roads: Brown Street, Lake Drive and Elm Court. A petition by the borough to the state was proposed to allow for the change.

Borough Auditor Bob Bachstadt, in reply to a series of questions by Bert Ellentuck, explained that the State has ordered the use of \$54,000 of borough reserve funds, as well as \$37,000 allotted to the borough under the Quality Education Act, to reduce taxes. He said he was certain that the State would deny any request for changes and that a delay in final adoption of a budget would hold up the mailing of 1991 tax bills and thus delay the August 1 tax collection.

A lengthy discussion followed, nevertheless, challenging the Council's intent to set the tax level at 49 cents

rather than 26 cents in order to use the money for capital improvement of roads. The present local purpose tax rate is 64 cents.

Temporary Tax Relief

Several speakers urged the Council to give Roosevelt residents a break and allow a tax respite even if for only one year. The \$140 sewer/water bill is a heavy enough burden, said Kirk Rothfuss. He expressed his strong concern that the high utility charge, meant to include re-surfacing of roads under overall sewer rehab costs, was not

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Koffler, Rowe and Rothfuss Win on Write-Ins

Democrats to Face Independents in November

by Michael Ticktin

Despite the fact that there were no contests on the ballot, 131 Democrats and seven Republicans turned out to vote in the June 4 primary. Councilman Stuart Kaufman, the only candidate who had filed for either party's nomination, won the Democratic nomination for mayor with 61 votes. A few write-in votes were cast for other people, including ten for the incumbent mayor, Leon Barth.

In the Democratic council races, Jeanette Koffler and Rebecca Rowe each received 71 write-in votes for the two three-year terms and Jane Rothfuss received 70 write-in votes for the one-year unexpired term. Again, a few votes were received by other people, none of whom appears to have been a candidate. In the local Republican primary, several people got one vote apiece for the various offices and there were no nominees.

Councilman Kaufman will be opposed in November by Councilman Lee Allen, who is running on an Independent slate with Council members Rose Murphy, Peter Warren and Bill Counterman. Mrs. Koffler and Ms. Rowe will face Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Warren, while Mrs. Rothfuss will oppose Mr. Counterman.

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

From the Editor

With this issue, another volume of the **Bulletin** comes to an end. We hope you have enjoyed reading the **Bulletin** this year and that it has helped you to have a better understanding of what your neighbors are thinking and doing.

Next year, there will be some new faces on the board of trustees. Rebecca Rowe will be Managing Editor, replacing Mark Zuckerman, who remains on the board as a trustee. Bob Clark, who has served on the **Bulletin** since its founding, will also serve as a trustee. Robin Carroll and I will continue in our current positions of Treasurer and Editor.

In the centerfold is our annual readers' survey. Please take the time to let us know what you particularly liked about the **Bulletin** this year and what ideas you have for improvement. Please also send in whatever contribution you can afford. The **Bulletin** is distributed free of charge and, due to its tax-exempt nonprofit status, it cannot charge for advertising. It therefore depends on the community for its support. Please help, as you have in the past. Thank you.

—Michael Ticktin

Old Fashioned 4th of July

Come One, Come all - to this lively, patriotic, traditional Roosevelt event. It will be held this year on Thursday, July 4, with a rain date of Sunday, July 7. It will give new residents and visitors an opportunity to get to know Roosevelt and the old timers to reminisce and share Roosevelt fellowship.

The events of the day begin with a run-a-thon that starts at 8 a.m. from the corner of Rochdale Avenue and Tamara Drive. There will be a 1 mile course for those under 12 years of age and a 4.4 mile course for those over 12. All participants will receive a certificate. A parade will start from the same corner at 2 p.m. Marching groups, organizations, decorated bicycles - everyone is invited to join the parade. The parade route will be around Tamara Drive to Pine Drive, Pine Drive to Rochdale Avenue, then down Rochdale Avenue to the War Memorial Rock. After a brief ceremony, a free

picnic will begin. Hot dogs, birch beer, near beer, iced tea, iced water, etc. will be in generous supply and free to all. The decorated bicycles will be judged with prizes for the winners and recognition for all. There will be various games available with supervised games for the children. Music prepared especially for this event will be presented by several musical groups in the Roosevelt Memorial Amphitheater. 50/50 and art raffle tickets will be on sale to help defray the expenses. Ticket sales will end at 3:30 p.m. and the drawings will be at 3:45 p.m. Everyone is asked to refrain from bringing fireworks as it is dangerous and illegal and will be prosecuted accordingly.

Please bring your own chair and enjoy an old fashioned Roosevelt 4th of July. If you wish to help with this event or have any questions, please contact Maureen Clark or Bob Francis.

—From a Press Release

Hiroshima Day Commemoration

August 6 is the date of the 11th Annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration in Roosevelt. The program will include a well known historian-author

and outstanding musicians. Further information will be posted on the bulletin board as it becomes available.

—From a Press Release

Please Remember to Return Your Survey, and Include a Contribution

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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

Preparation of Natural Resources Inventory Moves Forward

by Alice Firgau

The Roosevelt Environmental Commission met with two representatives from the consultant group of Maser Sosinski & Associates, P.A. on June 4, 1991. The commission is considering obtaining their services in assisting in the preparation of environmental base maps and Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). An NRI or sometimes called an Environmental resource inventory (ERI), is an inventory of the baseline environmental factors in the community. Factors include geology, climate, soils, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife.

The Environmental Resource Inventory is a report containing both narration and land maps. The importance of documentation of this kind is manifold. Besides showing the resources (open space, historic sites, soils, water courses, vegetation, specific habitats and wildlife), it also lists the

limiting factors (critical areas such as wetlands, slopes, depth to bedrock and existing development including buildings, roads, hazardous waste sites and landfills). An NRI is an important tool that can be used to formulate the municipal master plan. Although an NRI is intended to be an objective listing rather than an interpretation of findings, conclusions or recommendations, it becomes an important tool to use when evaluating proposals for land use. For example, an NRI will show the presence of underground aquifers or a high water table. Knowledge of these kinds of sensitive areas offers an opportunity to steer development plans intelligently.

Roosevelt is fortunate in that a good deal of the information is already inventoried. An environmental study was completed for the 1974 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES) for the construction of a sewage treatment facility. Nonetheless, the information needs to be updated.

A base map (aerial photograph) has been ordered from the firm A.D.R. It is the principal map on which overlays from all additional NRI maps will be based. The six quadrants which comprise the map of the borough of Roosevelt were created by A.D.R. in March of 1990. Originally utilized for county purposes, it currently presents the most up-to-date information available.

The above studies are funded, in part, by grants from the Department of Environmental Protection and from the Roosevelt municipal budget.

Further information regarding any of the above can be obtained from the Roosevelt Environmental Commission; the next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on July 2, 1991 at Borough Hall.

Borough to be Reassessed

by Michael Ticktin, Assessor

Once again, as in 1984, the Borough has been directed by the Monmouth County Board of Taxation to have a reassessment of all properties. Because of our low coefficient of deviation (the statistical measurement of equity in assessment), we have been spared the expense of hiring a revaluation contractor and are being allowed to do the work "in house."

During the course of the next few months, I or my representative Dave Donnelly, who is preparing for the assessor's certification examination,

expect to be visiting all properties to verify the accuracy of the information in our records. Your cooperation in showing us what we have to see will be appreciated. It is not feasible for us to make advance appointments but, if we happen to come by at a time that is inconvenient for you, we will be happy to reschedule.

Inasmuch as our coefficient of deviation has been so low, I do not expect major changes in the taxes paid for most properties as a result of the reassessment. As should be clear when

I send you notice of the new assessed value and of what the tax would have been this year had the new value been in effect, an increase in assessment **does not mean** a proportionate increase in taxes, and may not mean any tax increase at all in many cases. This is so because if, for example, all properties were to double in assessed value, the tax rate would only have to be half as much in order to produce the same amount of tax revenue.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Arthur Shapiro Named Local Historian

by Michael Ticktin

At the June council meeting, Mayor Barth announced the appointment of Arthur Shapiro as chairman of the historic district advisory council and local historian. He also announced the lengths of the terms to which the mem-

bers of the advisory council have been appointed. They are as follows:

- Terms ending December 31, 1992: Louise Prezant and Jeanette Koffler;

- Terms ending December 31, 1993: Arthur Shapiro and Helen Barth;
- Terms ending December 31, 1994: Dolores Chasan, Margaret Schlinski and Michael Ticktin.

School Board Continues Fourth Grade Teacher Search

By Bob Clark

In June the Roosevelt School Board and Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman continued searching for a teacher to handle the separate fourth grade class created when the Board decided to eliminate the combined third and fourth grade class in response to rising enrollments. Mr. Groveman said he interviewed over 40 candidates. In meetings on June 26 and 27 (closed to the public as personnel-related) the Education and Personnel Committee and other Board members planned to interview six finalists. The full Board was expected to make its final decision at the July 18 regular meeting.

Due to conflicts with holidays, the Board's July meetings will be held on the second (agenda) and third (regular) Thursdays of the month. Normally, the meetings occur on the first and second Thursdays.

The Board accepted with regrets the resignation of Lisa Simone as part-time music teacher. Since mid-May Alexandra Landen has substituted as music teacher on a per diem basis. By the time of the June 13 Board meeting, Mr. Groveman had screened several applicants for permanent replacement and reduced the field down to two or three finalists.

The Board also accepted with regrets the resignation of Nancy Menchin as receptionist, effective June 14. School Board Secretary Debra Allen said the District was advertising to fill the receptionist vacancy.

School Board President John Ord appointed committee members as follows (the first listed is the chair):

- Policy: Michael Hamilton, Margaret Schlinski, Robert Petrilla
- Education and Personnel: Edward Grossman, Jan Plumb, Howard Kaufman
- Finance and Operations: Harry Parker, Allen Newrath, Jan Plumb
- Legislation: Margaret Schlinski (also Delegate to the NJSBA), Harry Parker, Edward Grossman
- Ad Hoc Committee for Facility Planning: John Ord, Edward

Grossman, Allen Newrath, Harry Parker, Jan Plumb, Margaret Schlinski, CSA Harry Groveman, Mayor Leon Barth, Council Member William Counterman, Planning Board Chair Gail Hunton, representatives of the architectural firm of L. Robert Kimball & Associates

- Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee: Michael Hamilton, Jan Plumb, Margaret Schlinski
- Ad Hoc Safety Committee: Michael Hamilton, Robert Petrilla, Margaret Schlinski, Howard Kaufman

The President is a member of all committees. Mr. Ord invited residents interested in serving on the ad hoc committees to contact him at 443-1744. Mr. Ord asked all committees to fill out a form for each committee meeting. The completed forms will serve as minutes for each committee meeting.

The Board approved a letter reporting to the community on the development of proposals for building renovation and construction. The letter, signed by Board President Ord, described a structure for receiving data, architectural advice and public input. It noted, "The result will be a clearly defined project that can be voted on in a referendum."

CSA Groveman reported that the Roosevelt District achieved its three formal objectives for the 1990-91 school year. Although spelling improved slightly, it did not improve enough to conclude that the current instructional method is far superior to a more traditional approach, according to Mr. Groveman. The spelling objective established an individualized spelling program generated from the students' writing projects and emphasized teaching spelling as a developmental process. As to the second objective, fifth and sixth graders' research skills improved as library and classroom programs were coordinated. Finally, the third objective was successfully completed when a K-6 AIDS education component of the health and family life curriculum was developed and implemented.

The Board approved three formal objectives for the 1991-92 school year in the areas of math, nature studies and performance-based measurement of higher-order thinking skills. The nature studies objective would continue over two years.

Mr. Groveman reported that RPS students continued to score "very well" in exceeding state minimum standards on the new basic skills test—a more difficult version than the test conducted in recent years. He stated that 100 percent of the students in grades three through six exceeded state standards in language arts. The same percentage held for math, except one student out of the 11 in the fourth grade fell below state standards. The same percentage held for reading, except one student out of the nine in the sixth grade fell below state standards.

A detailed report of Child Study Team activities for the 1990-91 school year was submitted to the Board.

The Board agreed to pay Tom Patterson up to \$3,900 to remove lime deposits from and seal the bricks around the gym stage, paint rooms 3 and 7 and paint the boys' and girls' lavatories. The Board also authorized Mr. Groveman to hire up to two part-time summer employees to assist with a variety of custodial operations at a rate of \$5 per hour for up to 18 hours per week.

The Board authorized Industrial Appraisal Co. to appraise the school building and contents for a fee of \$980. The building was last appraised in 1985, and the District's insurance group requested a reappraisal every three years, according to Board Secretary Allen. The appraisal will not include fine art, such as the 26 movable pieces donated to the school over the years and the Shahn mural. The Board discussed whether the Borough Council should be notified about the need for an appraisal and insurance for the mural, whether an appraisal of the art is required in order to collect for any losses and the Board's responsibility if it keeps the donated pieces. One fine art appraiser's fee was \$125 per hour. Mr. Groveman suggested that the building appraisal be

kept separate from the art appraisal until questions about the appropriateness of expending public funds to appraise the art are answered. Mr. Petrilla volunteered to examine the issues and report to the Public Relations Committee.

Dolores Chasan told the Board that during the recent celebration of the town's founding Steven Grossman had expressed concern that the repainting of the school hallway had erased the inscription of the Jacob Grossman Memorial Art Collection. She said Mr. Grossman had offered to pay for a plaque that would more permanently commemorate the fine art gifts.

The Board accepted the bid of the Envirex firm to conduct the EPA-mandated three-year asbestos reinspection and to update the school's asbestos management plan at a cost of \$300. Mr. Groveman indicated that the asbestos around pipes in the school's crawl space poses no present threat to students or staff, but the area must be kept sealed and may eventually require other solutions.

Mr. Groveman said he intended to attempt to participate in a University of North Carolina study analyzing lead content in school water. Participation would allow samples of RPS's water to be analyzed for lead content at the low cost of \$60, according to Mr. Groveman. Mr. Groveman noted that testing for lead content in school water is not yet mandated by the State. He added that a similar project over a year ago allowed the District to determine that there was no danger from radon gas in the school building.

The Board approved a resolution in favor of pending legislation that would lessen the burden on sending districts attempting to send their students elsewhere when contracts with receiving districts run out. Sponsored by Assemblyman Kavenaugh, the bill (A-32) would eliminate costly and time-consuming procedures presently required before a sending district may contract to send its students to another receiving district.

continued on following page

School Calendar 1991-92

September

- 3,4..... Staff Orientation
- 5..... First day for students
- 9,10..... School Closed - Rosh Hashanah
- 18..... School Closed - Yom Kippur

October

- 16..... School Closed - Professional Day for Staff
- 29..... Four-hour Session - Program and Staff Development

November

- 7,8..... School Closed - N.J.E.A. Convention
- 25,26..... Four-hour Session - Parent Conferences
- 27..... Four-hour Session
- 28,29..... School Closed - Thanksgiving

December

- 20..... Four-hour Session
- 23-31 School Closed - Winter Vacation

January

- 1-3 School Closed - Winter Vacation
- 20..... School Closed - Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 29..... School Closed - Professional Day for Staff

February

- 11,12..... Four-hour Session - Parent Conferences
- 17..... School Closed - President's Birthday
- 25..... Four-hour Session - Program and Staff Development

March

- 13..... Four-hour Session - Program and Staff Development
- 31..... Four-hour Session - Program and Staff Development

April

- 17,24..... School Closed - Spring Vacation

May

- 12..... Four-hour Session - Program and Staff Development
- 25..... School Closed - Memorial Day

June

- 18,19..... Four-hour Session - Teacher Planning
- 20..... Sixth Grade Graduation
- 22..... Four-hour Session - Last Day for Students
- 23..... Last Day for Teachers

Days lost due to emergency closings will be added to the end of the school year.

School Board *(continued)*

Ilene Levine, the third grade teacher and a content specialist in science, was accepted to attend a week-long, limited-admission science symposium. The science and computer education program is sponsored by Rutgers University, which provides a stipend for selected attendees. Mr. Groveman shared a letter with the Board in which he described Ms. Levine's qualifications in urging Rutgers officials to select her for the program.

Board President Ord publicly thanked all those responsible for the recent Kindergarten play.

During public participation portions of June meetings Dolores Chasan and Lenore Mogin urged that the current spelling test be eliminated. Although acknowledging that the test was an inaccurate measure of spelling proficiency, Mr. Groveman said the district should continue to administer it because it appears on SATs and it would disserve students not to give them an opportunity to become familiar with a type of test that they might encounter elsewhere in the educational system. At the request of Dolores Chasan, the Board awarded an honorary diploma to Martin Sokoloff, an original resident of Jersey Homesteads. When he first arrived in town the school was not yet completed, and he had to attend school in Allentown and graduate there. The Board indicated that it might start a tradition of similarly honoring other original residents.

Mrs. Mogin asked for clerical job descriptions and was told that copies would be provided. She also expressed interest in the work of the child study team. Mrs. Chasan and Mrs. Mogin criticized the Board's decision to spend \$1,000 in tuition assistance for the school's physical education teacher to pursue a graduate degree. Mr. Ord said staff improvement was one of the goals of the Board. Mrs. Chasan called the attendance of the school secretary and learning consultant at recent student project trip to Ellis Island "unconscionable." Mr. Groveman said he assigned them to go. Mrs. Chasan asked if one aide was assigned solely to photocopying material for teachers and was told no one had such an assignment alone.

Adeenah Yeger presented the Board with a \$450 check as a gift from the PTA to help purchase a laminator.

PTA News

by Adeenah Yeger

At our June 13 meeting, the following people were elected to office for the 1991-92 school year; Adeenah Yeger - President, Carol Miller - Vice President, Liz Possiel - Treasurer, Shelley Hatzfeld - Secretary, Vinnie Jackson - Director of Special Events and Mary Alfare - Senior Citizen coordinator. The executive board wishes to thank everyone for their help and support in making this a successful year for the PTA.

At the June Board of Education meeting, Mr. Groveman was presented with a check for \$450 from the PTA as a school gift. This money will go towards the purchase of a laminator for the school. We especially thank Mr. Groveman for his continued support of our organization.

The PTA also presented Margaret Schlinski with a check for \$300 for the summer camp. This money has been set aside as a scholarship fund for needy children wishing to attend the summer camp.

For Field Day on June 11 the PTA provided a barbecue lunch for students and staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph Warnick for

supplying the students with ice cream for Field Day. The children really enjoyed this treat since it was so hot out. Thanks Ralph! More thanks go out to Liz Possiel, JoAnn Parker, Rich Carroll, Shelley Hatzfeld, Carol Miller, Nancy Hamilton, Carlo Alfare and Diane Rochia for their help that day. A special thanks goes to Pam Toth, the RPS physical education teacher, for all her work in making this a great day for all.

As part of the Africa Day festivities on June 17, the PTA sponsored the Charles Moore Dance Theatre in a recreation of African dance and music. This program was a delight to all who attended. We thank Mary Alfare for coordinating the invitations for the senior citizens to attend.

As the year comes to an end, we want to extend a special thank you to Teresa Lepore for all her work and dedication to the PTA. She has given of herself for the past seven years, serving first as a room mother, then head room mother and publicity chair. Her efforts have made many of PTA's events run more smoothly. We will miss her input and help next year.

Valedictory

by Martin Sokoloff

Martin Sokoloff came to Jersey Homesteads before the school was completed and had to complete his primary education elsewhere. Recently, he mentioned that he had always regretted not having graduated here. In response, the Roosevelt Board of Education decided to give him an RPS diploma. His remarks on receiving it follow:

My resume is now complete.

This is a very nostalgic moment because this school building and its grounds played an integral part in my growing up.

When we moved here in 1936, there was no television and my family, for that matter, most families in town, did not own an automobile. And so we were very thankful to the town fathers for keeping the school building open after classes for the young people to enjoy.

We were able to participate in various athletic activities in the gym,

go to the library or to a classroom set up as a rec room which had a ping pong table and tables and chairs for sit-down games such as monopoly. Our weeks activities culminated on Friday evenings when the town's basketball team, of which I was a member, competed against a team invited from the surrounding communities.

After the basketball games (which we usually lost) there was a dance with music provided by a live WPA band and attended by most of the community.

Fellow graduates, it's my pleasure and honor to be included in such a distinguished looking group of young people.

Good luck in your next phase of education. I'm sure you'll do well with the background you have received at RPS.

Nursery School News

by Joan Grossman

The school year came to a close for RCNS students on Friday June 21, but there is no doubt that the highlight of the week was the June 19 "moving up" ceremony, in which all students were honored for their completion of the school year. Those who are heading on to kindergarten in the fall were recognized in a special way during the program as parents, siblings and other special guests looked on.

Nursery Still Enrolling

We are currently accepting applications for our Fall morning nursery school program. To receive an application packet, call the school at 426-9523.

Head Teacher for Day Care

The day care program which RCNS will administer at the Roosevelt Public School beginning in September is still

accepting applications for children in Pre-K through grade 6. Interested parents who would like information packets or who have questions are requested to contact Lauralynne Cokeley, administrative coordinator, at 443-6287.

The program is pleased to announce that Donna Ventola, who is the nursery school head teacher, will also assume head teacher responsibilities for the day care program. She will be assisted by a staff which will include a group teacher and teaching assistants.

Fundraising Update

Thanks to all who are contributing to our Fall Used Book Sale. We will be accepting your donations of used books throughout the summer. Please drop them at Boro Hall or call Dianna Moore at 448-7742 or Joan Grossman at 448-9385 for pickup or more information.

The Contributions Fund Committee, too, is accepting donations of funds, to provide financial assistance to families of current or future RCNS students. Our thanks to the following, who have already contributed to the fund: East Windsor Floor Covering, Nutcracker Sweets, Toby and Henry Goldstein, and to Gail and David Ticktin, who originated the idea and who chair the committee. For information, or to make a contribution, please contact the Ticktins at 443-8007.

As always, thanks to all who have made our school year a successful one with their donations of time, energies, materials, funds and other necessities. Special thanks to Congregation Anshei Roosevelt.

Programs of Roosevelt Community Nursery School are made possible, in part, by a grant from MIRA.

Omnia Mutantur... Everything Changes!

by Peter Warren

Just Married... Irza Sabogal (sister of Nestor) and Paul Hoogsteden, and they are...

Moving In... To the Chapman house on Lake Drive; Gerry and Debra Shyner moving into the Barkley house on Lake Drive.

Moving Out... Scott and Nancy Dinkel; Philip and Karen Hoffman; Daniel and Dahni Barkley.

On the Market... As of June 15, 16 houses for sale, two for rent.

Appraised... At \$110,000 State owned former autistic home on Pine Drive which will be auctioned when legislative approval is obtained.

Promoted... To full professor of Chemistry at MCCC, Carlo Alfare.

Honored... Rod Tulloss, named Bell Laboratory Fellow for outstanding work; Lynn Friedman for work as attendance officer, by East Windsor Regional School District.

Retrospective Exhibition... At Midtown Payson Galleries, paintings 1931-91 by Bernarda Shahn.

Published... By Bob Cayne, in *Model Ships & Boats* an article on "Model of 1907 USS Constitution Battleship."

Scholastic Awards... At MCCC, Helena List, certificate of commendation in English literature and induction

into national honorary scholastic fraternity and national language society; Rebecca Ellentuck Reuter, Abrams Foundation continuing education scholarship;...

... At HHS, Cheri Katz (four awards), John Smith (three awards), Wyn Margulies (one award); at Rogers Middle School, Holli Conover, Alimayhu Kassahun, Adam Mackey, Erik Plumb. At RPS, Michael Cedar, Kristen Yarber (2 awards), Meira Yeger (2 awards).

Honor Roll... At HHS, Traci Connaughton, Kristen Johnson, Barry Kanczucker, Cheri Katz, Teresa Turiano, Brian Unger, Dustin Warnick.

Graduating... From HHS, David Braun, Theodora Goetzman, Richard Hermann, Kristin Johnson, Cheri Katz, Kristine Kaufman, Wyn Margulies, Diedra Przychocki, John Smith;...

... From Abrams Hebrew Academy, Gabriel Metzger; From Rogers Middle School, Holli Conover, Andrew Hazell, Alimayhu Kassahun, Harris Kaufman, Adam Mackey, Stephen Penalver, Erik Plumb, Jonathan Prusik, Richard Somma;...

... From RPS, Michael Cedar, Dawn DiGiorgio, James Edelstein, Joshua Estenes, Jessica Hermann, Jessica Hague, Christopher Lepore, Kristen

Yarber, Meira Yeger and honorary graduate Martin Sokoloff.

Parading... On Memorial Day in Hightstown to salute troops of Desert Storm, organized by Carl Johnson, Commander of American Legion Post 148, military units, veterans groups, Roosevelt First Aid and Fire Company.

Jumping... Haylee Schneider, recipient of MCCC scholar athlete award, 5'2.5" in the high jump, placing in the top 10 at the National Junior College championships in Manhattan, Kansas;...

... And running, Kristin Johnson, with 4 HHS varsity letters in soccer and soft ball; and track and field award, Eric Plumb, Rogers Middle School.

Granted... On June 13, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) 40 year loan at 6.75% interest for \$2,536,000 for sewer line and sewer pipe improvements.

Flowing... In May, water for domestic usage, an abnormal 162,000 gpd (goal: conservation program reduction to a normal 100,000 gpd); sewage 231,000 gpd; June 1-14 sewage-174,000 gpd. January-April average-323,000 gpd (goal: reduction to DEP ceiling of 250,000 gpd, including water for domestic use).

Senior Citizen News

by Helga Wisowaty, Secretary

This was a short meeting as some of our plans have been shelved for the present. Among those plans was a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Ethel Friedman made the trip with friends—said it was great!

Our luncheon has been changed to July 9, as the 2nd is too close to the 4th.

Two of our members are hospitalized at present. Faye Libove is in Princeton Hospital and "Kitty" Yuhas is in Freehold Hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery. We'll miss them while they're away.

Toby Levin was our hostess and the refreshments were delicious. Her Crabmeat Salad will join Gus Chasan's Salmon Loaf as delicacies that are truly enjoyed.

Till next month.

Synagogue News

by Michael Ticktin, President

Since there will not be a Bulletin before September, we wish to advise you that Rosh Hashana services will be held on September 8 and 9 at 8:00 p.m. and on September 9 and 10 at 9:00 a.m. Kol Nidre services on the eve of Yom Kippur will begin at 6:45 p.m. on September 17 and morning services will begin at 9:00 on the 18th. Sukkot services will be held on September 23 and 24 at 9:00 a.m., Shemini Atzeret services (including Yizkor) at 9:00 a.m. on September 30, and Simchat Torah services at 8:00 p.m. on the 30th and 9:00 a.m. on October 1.

Jewish calendars for 5752 will be available for distribution to members and friends by Rosh Hashana.

We wish a happy summer and a Shana Tova (good year) to everyone.

Thanks to all the Roosevelt residents who contributed their "pennies" to our second annual Penny Pick-Up. We really appreciate your wonderful generosity.
—Roosevelt First Aid Squad Auxiliary

Recycling News

by Dave Donnelly

The State has mandated that 60% of all materials in the refuse stream be recycled by 1995. That's probably three times more than Roosevelt is currently recycling.

There are two ways to increase our recycling tonnage enough to reach this goal. One is the inclusion of additional materials (i.e. plastics, cardboard, etc.) into our existing programs. We will take a long, hard look at this situation when garbage and recycling contracts for 1992 are negotiated.

The other way is to achieve full compliance on the part of all resident in town. Recycling begins at home and the sum of our individual efforts will determine our success. So:

Keep up the good work on the biweekly curbside pickup. Our refuse contractor says the Roosevelt's compliance on a house to house basis is above average. Also:

Stop throwing all that junk mail in the garbage at the Post Office. And while you're at it, quit tossing all those

magazines and catalogs too. Roosevelt's new second recycling program is up and running. It allows us to recycle virtually all types of colored paper. The list includes:

- magazines
- catalogs
- junk mail (window envelopes included)
- computer paper
- phone books (yellow pages excluded)
- notebook and school paper

All you have to do is bundle and tie up this stuff and drop it off at the shed in borough hall parking lot. When you consider that these materials account for 27% of the average town's garbage, it's easy to understand the importance of this program.

The upcoming recycling pick-up dates are: July 11 and 25, August 15 and 29, September 12 and 26. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Planning Board Grants Driveway Variance Board Chair Hunton to Initiate Fund Raising for Planning Study

by Michael Ticktin

The main item of business at the planning board's June meeting was an application brought by Dawn Korzenok and Jonathan Block for a variance from the requirement that a driveway, other than on an attached house, not be closer to the property line than 15 feet. They applied for permission to have the driveway at 53 Lake Drive extend to a line 13 feet from the property line.

The variance was granted on condition that a survey that would enable the zoning officer to verify the location of the driveway with respect to the property line be submitted and that the gravel that had already been placed over a wider area be removed within 30 days. Carlo and Mary Alfare, the

owners of 51 Lake Drive, the adjoining property most directly affected, advised the board that they had no objection to the variance being granted under these conditions.

In another development, Chairperson Gail Hunton advised the board that, with the assistance of TPL representative Andrew Strauss, she would be contacting various foundations in the hope of raising funds for the study that is to be the basis for future planning of the northern agricultural area. She said that she was taking this initiative in light of the absence of any results from the citizens' fundraising committee that was authorized earlier this year.

Report on the 55th Anniversary Celebration

by Dolores Chasan

As you may have heard, the 55th Anniversary Celebration was a smashing success! There were hundreds who came to join in the celebration. We had some early residents who came from as far as Canada and the Caribbean.

The First Aid Squad and the Parks Commission deserve special mention for their gastronomical contributions and Arthur Shapiro for his humorous reminiscences at dinner [see below, Ed.].

We may be able to make available a video and pictures that were taken at the celebration. If you would like more information on either the video or pictures please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Irving Bach, 846 Meadow Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

The Borough Council has now formally designated an historic district advisory council which, among other things, will help to assure that these celebrations continue. A major func-

tion of this advisory council will be to gather and store memorabilia. If you have any documents or pictures that can be added to the collection, please send them to the advisory council. We can have both types duplicated if you would prefer to keep the originals.

A subscription to the Borough Bulletin is a good way to keep up with events in town and learn about other celebrations and activities that you would enjoy attending.

Roosevelt Reunion Welcome Home

by Art Shapiro

Hello Homesteaders! So You're back for another trip through memory lane? Isn't it amazing how the entire area has changed? In fact, thanks to the builders, the whole status system of where to live has changed. In the 1940's, when Perrineville families like mine, the Mondlins, or the Oberlanders made a little money, they bought a house from the government for four thousand dollars and moved up in the world to the "Homesteads!" Now it seems when people in Roosevelt do well, they move from Roosevelt to Perrineville! Can you believe it? If my family had stayed put in Perrineville, I'd be a rich guy today. The pig farm I lived on now has ten million dollars worth of houses on it!

Well, anyway Helen Barth, Jeanette Koffler and the rest of the committee asked, as a courtesy to those of you who haven't been back for a while, if I would bring you up to date on the town and the surrounding areas so you won't get lost taking your various tours. To begin with:

1. What was the Store is now the Post Office. What was Joe's Shop is now the Store!

2. You can't just "pop" into the old Borough Hall. Someone now lives there. The Borough Hall is now in the Fire House!

3. The gas station is still the gas station, only you can't buy gas there anymore!

4. What was the CDA clothing store is still the "Mueller" house!

5. And while we are still at that end of town, what was the entire eastern part of Roosevelt is now the "Adlerman" house. But Mel Adlerman doesn't live there anymore. He's done pretty well so he moved to Perrineville!

6. The School is still the school, and as you can see, it has had an addition put on to make it much bigger. However, it only goes up to sixth grade. All of this at a time when the school population on the national level is dwindling! You figure it out?

7. What was the woods between Roosevelt and the Roosevelt Estates is now a solar village. I understand it's a marvelous place to live when the sun comes out!

8. The most beautiful homes in town are on the road to the cemetery - which is now Eleanor Road. Naturally, since these houses are among the most lavish in town, they are situated on the end of town that borders Perrineville. By the way, Eleanor Road is named for Eleanor Roosevelt, not Eleanore Getzel!

If you're planning a trip to Roosevelt's surrounding areas, the Committee would like you to note that:

No matter how hot it gets, it's against the law to swim in either Etra Lake or Perrineville Lake.

If you want to take a nostalgic trip to Sunny Heights Lodge nudist colony, forget it! It's now those expensive houses in Perrineville.

If you want to see a movie, you have to go at least as far as East Windsor. There's no more movie theater in Hightstown. I began to suspect it was in trouble when Elly and I called one evening to ask, "When does the early show start?" and Mr. Whitby, the owner, answered, "What time can you get here?"

If you're interested in shopping, there's a new mall in Freehold. And, if you're here for another weekend, I'm glad to say that Englishtown Market - remembered with **special fondness** by the former Edith Lachman and the Feldsher girls - is still open for business.

But, if I know most of you, you'll want to spend your time right here in Roosevelt. And, when you're in town, you know it! Remember how they used to say, "You know you in Roosevelt when you can send your kids out in the morning and know they'll return at night safe and fed!" Well, I've developed a list of clues for knowing when you're in Roosevelt! For example:

(I call this, "you know you're in Roosevelt when...")

continued on following page

Reunion (continued)

You know you're in Roosevelt when: You can run for mayor **unopposed**, and lose!

You know you're in Roosevelt when: Your water bill is twice as high as your mortgage bill!

You know you're in Roosevelt when: You can recognize the natives by the **reddish** tint we have in our white clothes and sheets. It's from washing them in this wonderfully expensive water!

You know you're in Roosevelt when: There's only one of anything in town, so everything in town has the word "**The**" in front of it. "The" school, "the" Post Office, "the" store, "the" gas station, "the" factory, "the" fire house!

You know you're in Roosevelt when: You're in the only town in **All** of New Jersey to vote for the losing candidate for governor! **And**, his name had to be "Shapiro!" (Maybe the folks in town thought he was my cousin or something?)

You know you're in Roosevelt when: You would rather have your name on the Post Office wall than the Post Office door!

You know you're in Roosevelt when: You're able to share a special sense of humor. No one makes me laugh more than guys like Shummy Rockoff, Dave Spelkoman, Mark Kleinman and Kenny Mondlin. They express and allude to funny things that can be fully appreciated only by someone who grew up with them.

Finally, you know you're in Roosevelt when: Its people, no matter how far away they've moved, still call it home! And so once again Homes-teaders, I've been given the honor of welcoming all of you "home!" For me, as I'm sure for most of you, it's really like a big family reunion. It's great to have you back again - even for a little while! Thank you for coming home. Enjoy!

Editor's note: This welcoming address was given by Mr. Shapiro at the 55th Reunion dinner on May 25. For the benefit of the uninitiated, Edith Lachman is Edith Ernstein, the "Feldsher girls" are Jeanette Koffler, Dr. Rebecca Notterman and Esther Marton, and Eleanore Getzel was a Jersey Homesteads resident who later achieved fame, under another name, in a well-publicized New York vice trial.

Text of Council's Budget Appeal

The following is the text of a letter sent by the mayor and council to Barry Skokowski, Director of the Division of Local Government Services:

This letter is an appeal to you for reversal of a decision made by staff members of the Division which rejected our May 28, 1991 Resolution to Amend 1991 Budget. We have been advised that any additional appropriations for expenditures must be funded by increasing the Surplus Anticipated, and not through the Amount to be Raised by Taxes. Our amendment was rejected because it created an increase in the municipal tax rate. We do not follow this reasoning. The 1991 introduced budget for the Borough of Roosevelt had a municipal tax rate of \$.64 and an Amount to be Raised by Taxes of \$154,025.00. The Budget Amendment in question has a municipal tax rate of \$.49 and Amount to be Raised by Taxes of \$119,576.12. We believe that a tax rate decrease has been accomplished.

Many hours of hard work went into the preparation of the 1991 budget; our foremost concern always remaining as the stabilization of the tax rate. We began our budget workshops during November, 1990, and adhered to the Division's guidelines by introducing the budget in a timely fashion. In order to accomplish these objectives we increased our use of Surplus and postponed appropriating funds for the Borough's improvement program for degenerating roads. Although the Fund Balance has hit an all time low of \$123,000.00, we increased revenue from Surplus Anticipated from \$85,000.00 to \$100,000.00, a 17% increase over the 1990 amount used. It was hoped that monies from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund would be provided for our much needed road improvements. However, we have recently determined that we cannot expect financial assistance from the D.O.T. until late 1992 or sometime in 1993. Meanwhile the roads, curbs and sewer drainage system continues to deteriorate.

Prior to introduction of the Budget we had read the newspaper articles on the proposed Municipal Property Tax Relief Act. We believed this to be an advantageous program and welcomed a means to provide some property tax relief to the resident of the Borough of Roosevelt. We gladly accept the moneys

provided by this program and have applied them to a reduction in the municipal tax rate. Our concern is over the additional provision within the Act that requires the deferring of school taxes payable. After receiving numerous and thorough explanations of this accounting procedure from our Chief Financial Officer and Registered Municipal Accountant, we questioned the financial soundness of generating surplus by postponing liabilities. However, we realize our obligation to conform with the law, and have deferred the school tax as mandated with the hope that the additional Surplus created could be used for road improvements. This hope thereby led to our Budget Amendment of May 28, 1991.

The decision by the Division to not approve this Budget Amendment has the effect of artificially reducing our originally proposed unchanged 1991 tax rate of \$.64 to \$.26. Such a drastic decrease of \$.38 calculates to 59.4% and is not fiscally prudent. How many municipalities within New Jersey have had a 60% tax rate decrease forced upon them? We would find it difficult to believe that a statewide average even came close to this percentage. How many years can a decrease of this magnitude be sustained? The joy of Borough residents will be curtailed when faced with the prospect of a substantial tax increase in 1992 budget year.

We would appreciate your consent to adopt our budget amendment and return some fiscal discretionary power to the local elected officials. This would provide tax relief of 23% and reduce the municipal tax rate by \$.15 from \$.64 to \$.49. It would enable the Borough to continue its road improvement program and substantially reduce the threat of large fluctuations in the tax rate in future periods.

We welcome any suggestions you may make. Please do not hesitate to contact the Borough of Roosevelt for further discussion on this matter.

Sincerely

Mayor and Borough Council

Leon Barth

William A Counterman

Peter B. Warren

Lee R. Allen

Rose D. Murphy

Howard L. Prezant

Stuart Kaufman

Viewpoint

What Kind of Investment is Your Home?

by Anita Cervantes

I'd like to share with you some of my feelings after the last regular Council meeting. It's complicated, so please try to follow closely with me.

Our new Borough Council is planning and implementing some things about which I have questions. First, a little background:

The previous Council agonized long and hard before raising the monthly water/sewer bill to \$140. They assured us citizens, in good conscience I believe, that this would be sufficient to finance the entire sewer-system upgrade project. Obviously, they couldn't speak for DEP, and they made that clear. But, barring some absolutely enormous and arbitrary change in specifications from DEP, they indicated that, through careful planning, this monthly fee, outrageous though they—and most residents—felt it was, would cover the costs.

When our new Council came in, a number of things happened. In case you haven't been keeping up with this, here's the outline:

- First, almost all the money set aside in the original specs to repair the roads after they'd been torn up for the sewer work was diverted to more pipe work. OK, I said, let's give these guys the benefit of the doubt. Maybe they've really found a better way. Judgment reserved for now.
- Next, the Council upped the budget for this project by 21%, adding \$117,000 to the original \$560,000 budget. This is actually a tad more than the maximum allowed under State law. The reasons they gave for this, in the words of Resolution #56/91, were "...the Mayor and Council deems it is the best interest of the community to repair or replace as much sanitary sewer line as possible ... [and] ...the current economic situation is providing the Mayor and Council with the best opportunity to get the most work done for the money spent...". What this really says, in my view, is "Why do it? Because

we think it's a good idea. We know what's best for this community."

Upon being asked by some worried citizens whether this would cause the \$140/month water/sewer bill to increase, the Council assured them (I paraphrase), "No chance. The money's already in the bank. Because we started collecting \$140/month from the residents in May of 1990, and didn't start work until almost a year later, that money's just been accumulating. We have enough extra to finance this addition to the budget."

Well, OK again. But then I begin to think, "What else could we have done with this money?" For starters, the Council could simply have given it back to the residents, to help mitigate the impact of the monthly bill. Or, they could have used it to pay down some on the financing, if that were possible, to lower the overall burden long-term.

I think that if they really wanted to wear a belt and suspenders, the Council would have found a way to keep it in the bank, as a cushion against the cost-overruns that seem to be inevitable in this kind of project. This "New Dawn" Council (their words, not mine) gave heavy advertising time to its fiscal prudence when running for office, and they're an accountant-heavy bunch of folks. So I would have expected this last option from them. But no. Now I begin to feel that sun is actually rising in the west—and they're trying to tell me not to believe my own eyes.

The latest thing the Council proposes doing is to **save us from property tax relief**

Ask them why they think this is the fiscally-responsible thing to do, and they'll tell you in warm and soothing tones that

- the State is mandating property-tax relief so drastic that it can't possibly last. (Actually, this is probably true, in my view; simply because the State legislature is in a panic about the tax-relief movement. Since the State legislators probably won't be around in three or four years when the impact of these large rebates is felt in a

reduction of services, they can afford to look good right now and figure someone else will pay the piper when the bill comes due.)

- this tax relief is so drastic that it will inevitably mean a tax **hike** in the next couple of years. This is probably true too. Our Council, good responsible parents that they are, want to protect us poor little kids from that. They want to **raise** the tax rate from the \$.26/\$100 that it would be with the State-mandated property-tax relief to \$.49/\$100, to "keep it stable." This is so we won't be shocked when it goes back up again. Got it?

Here's how they propose to do this:

They want to take some of the money that we should be getting back from the State for Property Tax Relief and use it for road repair. They say that this is the only thing the money **can** be used for, because road repair, as a capital item, is the only thing **exempt** from the budget cap. Well, there is one other thing they could use the property-tax relief money for, and that's for property-tax relief. But more of that later.

The three streets that they propose to start with are

- Brown Street
- Lake Drive
- Elm Court

Why? Because these three streets total the approximately \$56,000 by which our fiscally-responsible Council would like to **reduce** our property-tax relief.

It may seem like double-speak to you, but what our Council is really trying to do is **lower** taxes, not **raise** them. You figure it out; I can't.

Here's what it sounds like to me:

- Our Council, good parents that they are, don't trust you and me to balance our own checkbooks and plan our own budgets. They're sure they know better than you and I do, because after all, **they're the council, and**

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What Kind of Investment? *(continued)*

we're not (remember Chevy Chase on *Saturday Night Live*?). We're too dumb to understand these complex municipal money matters, after all—isn't that why we elected **them**, for Heaven's sake?

The road-repair specifications are strictly Rolls-Royce, better than we've ever had before. That's because, as any Councilmember will be happy to tell you, it was never done right before. (Hard to believe, but true. Didn't realize you were living in such a fool's Paradise all these years, did you?)

The specs include **curbs**, for God's sake. The specs also include:

- 4" of Stone
- 4" of Base
- 1-1/2" of Top

This may not mean any more to you than it does to me, but people who know about such things tell me that these are indeed Cadillac specs.

Fittingly, the estimated cost is:

- Brown Street: \$29,160.
- Elm Court: \$19,500.
- Lake Drive: \$8,160.

(I bet the residents of Lake Drive, Elm Court, and Brown Street have been just pining after curbs all these years so bad they've been losing sleep on an almost weekly basis. If they knew how much it was going to cost, they'd **really** have insomnia.)

Why give Brown Street the Cadillac treatment? Because, in Councilmember Allen's words, and here I do **not** paraphrase, "Anything else would be an insult to the memory of Benjamin Brown."

Why not just resurface Brown Street? Do the people who live on Brown Street really **want** curbs? **Has anybody asked them? Did anyone listen to their answer?**

There's a hand-written estimate memo out there from our Borough Engineers (yup, the guys whose experience is mostly in roadwork) to do **every street in our town with these specs**. It totals:

- **\$400,000**

Curiously, the cost estimates for those three streets in the Resolution to

amend our budget are exactly the same as the figures given in this estimate. **Perhaps the whole town is going to get this treatment.** (Your line at this point is, "Oh, thank God for these guys. Imagine if we'd had to live for many more years without **curbs**, and four inches of **base**.")

Upon being asked at the last public meeting what the Council's overall goals were with this program of road repair, in the context of using Property Tax Relief money to do it, Councilmember Allen's response was (again no paraphrase) "Well, let me ask you this—don't you view your home as an investment?"

Well, sorry, Lee, but my home is my home because I love it. It comforts me as the sight of the Nurko tree comforts my eyes each time I drive into town: **I know I'm home**. If my home loses value, then so be it. You can't take it with you, and anyway I'd rather live in a house that's worth less, in a Roosevelt that doesn't look like a generic American bedroom community. So you can bet that I'll fight like an expletive-deleted to keep those curbs off our streets.

After last Monday's Council meeting, my judgment is reserved no longer. Not only is this Council trying to tell me that the sun is coming up in the west, they really **believe** it's coming up in the west. Not only that, this Council has got its hands in my pockets. Both of them. The fact that they believe with utter fervor that what they're doing is the only right thing to do **in no way mitigates its effect on me and the other taxpayers in Roosevelt**

- **Council, You're taking my money and speculating with it.** Give me my property tax relief. I'm a big girl. I'll put some away in the bank for when the rates go up again—which at this point is more than I'd give you guys credit for doing, I'm sorry to say.
- To my mind "fixing up" Brown Street the way you propose to do it is an insult to the memory of Benjamin Brown, not the other

way around. **Just because you think curbs are a good investment doesn't mean they are.**

Did any of you talk to any planners before you came up with these plans? Did you at least require that our new great engineers with their great expertise in road repair do so? I think not, because if you had, you might have found that curbs are **not** the recommended way to go in a community of our design. Curbs are what you have in Princeton Oaks, guys, not in Roosevelt.

(Incidentally, how come it didn't occur to our engineers that if you have curbs you gotta have storm-drains, and storm drains gotta drain somewhere, and that's going to be into the sewer system, and that's—**Oh my God, that's inflow**)

My conclusion after this last Council meeting, regrettably, is that our Council wants this community **not** to look like Roosevelt. Why? Because they think our homes are investments, and they think that our homes will be more productive investments if we look a lot more like a million other suburban American towns (you notice I don't say "communities"). And remember, they know best.

All these bizarre goings-on make me more sad than angry. I feel patronized, I feel unrepresented, I feel as though I'm in the grip of some great paternalistic system of local government that goes through the formality of soliciting my opinion about these matters only **only because it's required by law**. I feel as though **there is no possibility whatsoever that my opinion will cause even an eddy in the current of the council's vast river of conviction that they know what's best for me and you.**

I've lived in this community for almost exactly seventeen years. During all of that time, the idea that any home in Roosevelt was an **investment** was almost laughable. That's not why I live in Roosevelt. Maybe there are people who are only here as a means to "leverage" their way into a "better" class of place. Well, good luck. I wish you well. But that's not what I believe,

Viewpoint

The View From Pine Drive

by Henry B. John-Alder

At about this time last year, the previous borough council, acting on the advice of an engineer with extensive experience in sanitary sewer installation and repair, was planning a strategy that they considered to be the least expensive way to move us toward state-mandated sewage requirements. Meanwhile, members of the present "New Dawn" borough council were running around town telling all who would listen that sewer repairs could be done much less expensively. These claims precipitated hysterical support of Insituform, which reached evangelical fervor, and led one present member of council to speak of potential savings in the range of \$600,000. I remember well those campaign signs: "Save Money—Elect Kaufman, Allen, & Warren". Against this backdrop, it seems appropriate to reflect briefly on the first six months of the "New Dawn".

Regardless of how we interpret data, regardless of whose professional advice we believe, regardless of our political leanings, and regardless of which local figures we trust, some truths are inescapable. Among them, repairs to our sanitary sewer system will definitely be more expensive than the previous council planned. Six months ago, we all knew that the project **could** become more expensive. Now, however, the suspense has been lifted. The "New Dawn" has seized the moment, and the project **will definitely** be more expensive. Instead of knowing that we **might** have to pay more, now we know that we **will** pay more. In fact, the project will be about twice as expensive as previously planned if the current coun-

cil repairs our roads as some of them might like.

The present council was left with a contract of about \$560,000 to replace about 4,000 feet of sewer pipe and to repave the affected roads (curb-to-curb). The "New Dawn" council's expansions of the project will replace more pipe, as has been reported prominently, and will cost more money. More pipe has been added in a variety of ways. First, additional pipe has been or will be replaced rather than having new manholes installed as per the original contract. This is basically a break-even manipulation, even though it goes against the advice of an engineer with extensive experience in sanitary sewer installation and repair. Second, additional pipe will be replaced at an additional expense of up to \$117,000. The "New Dawn" council found that they could legally overspend the contract by 20%, so they authorized their engineer, whose primary experience is with street and sidewalk jobs, to design additional pipe repairs that will cost up to \$117,000. Now, we have been told not to worry, that there is money in the operating budget to cover an additional \$117,000. The truth of the matter, however, is that the "New Dawn" council could have used that money at their discretion to pay ahead on our borough's loan and could thereby have given us some relief in our monthly water/sewer bill. Instead, the "New Dawn" council decided at its discretion to authorize additional pipe replacement, and they did so without having an engineer advise them that they would make a substantial improve-

ment in reducing infiltration. Remember this if our rates go up again later this year. Third, additional pipe will be replaced at the expense of road repairs. In essence, the council took road repairs out of the sanitary sewer project to replace more pipe. To be sure, our roads will be repaired, probably like never before. But these repairs will cost up to an additional \$400,000, according to the council's engineer, to be raised through property taxes.

Thus, the "New Dawn" started with a \$560,000 contract that may or may not have gotten our sewage effluent within state mandates. They've given us an expanded job that could cost twice as much, although it still may or may not get us within state mandates. Instead of spending \$560,000 with the possibility of additional work, the "New Dawn" council may spend \$1,000,000 with the possibility of additional work. It seems like we're \$400,000 in the hole, not \$600,000 ahead!

Remember, the main impetus behind this whole thing is to meet state mandates. True, parts of our sewer system were in need of repair in any case, but the main thing here was to get the state off our backs. Thus far, there is no evidence that the "New Dawn's" expanded job will get us any closer to meeting state mandates than would the less expensive job of the previous council. Thus far, the evidence is that we will spend up to twice as much as before without coming any closer to meeting state requirements. How will the "New Dawn" save money next?

What Kind of Investment? *(continued)*

and I hope it's not what most other people in this town believe, or why they're here.

Well, I'll try again to get through ...
Good and worthy councilmembers, with all due respect: I don't want this community to

look like every other town just because you in your infinite wisdom think it will make my house be worth more money. I don't want to be homogenized, I don't want to be pasteurized. Now you're asking me to pay for it??

(Did it ever occur to you wise Councilmembers, in the watches of the night when imagination can run wild, that maybe Roosevelt looking like Roosevelt might make the houses worth **more**? Oh, but that way lies madness...)

Viewpoint

Why We Should Go Forward With a Limited Development/Conservation Plan

by Michael Ticktin

In the course of his obviously sincere call for mutual respect and understanding of the views of others, Mike Hamilton issued a call for a meaningful dialogue on the issues of development vs. non-development. In the same issue of the *Bulletin*, Brad Garton articulately set forth the case for a policy of seeking to prevent residential development. While I cannot speak for those at the opposite end of the spectrum, whoever they may be, who might like to see a new Twin Rivers in the northern part of Roosevelt, I believe I can respond as an advocate of the middle position of permitting limited development under certain circumstances, a position that was embodied in a resolution of the 1990 borough council (with its "anti-development" majority) and, more recently, in a master plan amendment adopted by the planning board.

Mr. Garton's first point is that residential development will inevitably result in costs that exceed any financial benefits. He cites, in support of this position, a study published under the auspices of Cornell University (actually under the auspices of the Dutchess County Agricultural Extension Service, which is affiliated with Cornell because Cornell is New York's land grant college) that he was good enough to share with me. Unfortunately, I do not think it proves the point he is trying to make.

That residential development demands more in locally-funded services than do either farmland or commercial/industrial development should not come as any great surprise to anyone. After all, the main local cost is public education, and school-children generally come from houses and apartments rather than from fields, factories, or shopping malls. To be sure, this argument is one that might have been made against the building of Jersey Homesteads in the

1930's, since it was obviously less costly for this two square mile area to contain only six farmhouses, rather than a 200 unit development and its supporting infrastructure. Indeed, the officials of Millstone Township recognized this and, even though the only expense that they had in connection with the project was road maintenance, they avoided the problem by supporting de-annexation and the creation of a separate borough. (This raises the interesting question of whether the opposition is to development that we can see or to development that, it is feared, we may have to pay for in some way. If it is the latter, I am sure the agricultural landowners would be delighted to be de-annexed right back to Millstone.)

Once Jersey Homesteads was built, however, and the school, utility systems, borough hall, fire truck, etc., were in place, a different question had to be asked: Would the additional cost of providing services **that already existed** to new housing outweigh the contributions that that housing would make? That, and not the cost of servicing housing in the aggregate, remains the relevant question.

The recent master plan amendment makes it clear that we should contemplate development only if it is clear that it is likely to "benefit the community financially by allowing for increased economies of scale in public services, without creating a demand for services that are not now provided or a disproportionate demand for services already provided." If Mr. Garton is correct in believing that no residential development can meet this requirement, then there can be none under the master plan. However, as I have previously pointed out, the experience of the community with new residential development, to date, has been that it has consistently benefited

existing taxpayers by distributing fixed costs more widely by providing added revenue that has exceeded any added costs. This is not to say that per unit costs will necessarily continue to decline indefinitely as more units are built; only that it is not at all inevitable that per unit costs will rise no matter how limited any development may be.

Mr. Garton also cites his own experience in Indiana and comments from an official of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities in support of the position that, if any development is to be encouraged, it should be limited to the industrial/commercial variety. While I agree that any industrial or commercial development that provides services and/or employment opportunities that would be beneficial to the community should be encouraged, I cannot imagine that any such development is likely to be large enough to have a significant impact on our taxes and utility rates.

The disadvantages of large-scale industrial/commercial development, as compared to residential development, include the fact that an increase in the ratio of ratables to students would result in a decrease in school aid that would largely offset any tax benefit and that there would very likely be aesthetic and environmental impacts that would detract from the residential character of the community. (I am sure that most of us prefer looking at fields to looking at houses, as Mr. Garton says, but I doubt that many of us prefer looking at factories to looking at houses.) Moreover, large scale industrial/commercial development, far from being a substitute for residential development, would create a demand for low and moderate income housing for employees that Roosevelt would be obliged to satisfy under the **Mt. Laurel** doctrine of the New Jersey

Supreme Court and the rules of the Council on Affordable Housing.

Mr. Garton describes as "incredible" the belief that "we must develop to preserve open space" and compares this to the concept of "peace-keeping missiles." (As far as the latter are concerned, it is not at all self-evident, particularly to anyone who is aware of the disastrous Allied policies regarding military preparedness in the 1930's, that the Roman maxim that "who desires peace must prepare for war" is nonsense.) What alternative, then, does he propose for preservation? The principle of clustering development in a relatively small portion of the land and permanently restricting the rest with conservation easements is consistent with both the original design of the community and the planned community development zoning of the "Notterman tract." Moreover, the Trust for Public Land made it clear at the outset of its involvement here that it could only advance money for acquiring land for permanent preservation if it was assured that it would be able to sell enough land for development to recover its costs. TPL is a nationally-recognized organization whose sole mission is the preservation of open space for public use. There is no way that even the most nefarious Roosevelt official could co-opt it into being "a tool for the construction of new luxury condos and townhouses."

A very reasonable question that Mr. Garton asks is why we should have changed the master plan, since it already provided for limited growth. The answer is that we wanted to make sure that the concept that was already established for the planned community development zone would be extended, at some point in the future, to preserve most of the open space in the northern agricultural area. Moreover, the existing master plan stated that there was

no reason to consider changing the zoning of that area, but the borough council had already endorsed the goal of developing a plan for limited development and open space preservation, thus creating a contradiction that had to be resolved so that the community could be speaking officially with one voice, particularly when TPL, a nonprofit organization that shares our goal of maximum feasible open space preservation and is in a position to help us, wants to know what that voice has to say.

For the past 25 years, the borough has relied on 10-acre zoning to preserve the *status quo*. I do not think it is a "scare tactic" to point out that zoning of this sort is not, at this point, supported by clear legal precedent and might therefore be open to challenge as beyond the scope of the zoning power. If and when a landowner feels sufficiently aggrieved to file suit, the community will have to decide if it is prepared to pay the necessary costs of a serious defense. This would indeed be a community decision because it would undoubtedly require a "cap" waiver which, in turn, would require approval in a referendum.

Even if we were to be successful in retaining our current zoning, though, I highly doubt that people who value the scenic vistas along Rochdale Avenue and Nurko Road would be too thrilled if the landowners were to respond by doing exactly what the current zoning allows and building homes on 10-acre lots throughout the northern agricultural area. Clustering the permitted housing in one area of the zone and preserving the rest by making it subject to deed restrictions is the only realistic way of preserving these scenic vistas. I infer from Mr. Garton's statement of what our objective should be that he would actually prefer to do away with 10-acre zoning

and simply ban development altogether. The 5th and 14th amendments to the U.S. constitution, however, have something to say about depriving people of property rights without due process of law, so such a course of action would probably not be very practical.

It is very important that the community appreciate the difference between the level of development contemplated by the planning board, and discussed in general terms with TPL, and Mr. Garton's nightmare of a landscape covered with "luxury" condos and townhouses. In an earlier article on this general subject, I pointed out that, in 1935, Benjamin Brown's project manager, Max Blitzer, suggested to Albert Einstein that it would be a good idea to eventually expand Jersey Homesteads to include 500 families. If that is to be our goal, and I think it is a realistic one that would be consistent with the scale and nature of the community, then we are closer to it than most of us realize, since the number of additional units—I infer that Mr. Garton does not like the term by the way he puts it in quotes, but it is just a shorter way of saying "houses and/or apartments"—that would be added in any rezoning would be only about 26. This is so because, while we now have 332 units, we have already zoned for 17 more in the R-40 and R-100 zones, 78 in the planned community development zone, and 47 more (on 10-acre lots) in the R/Ag-400 zone. Clustering about 70 units on perhaps one-tenth of the northern agricultural area, while preserving the rest forever, has far more in common with Mr. Garton's vision of preserving open space than it does with any creation of a second Twin Rivers.

Council *(continued from page 1)*

being spent on extending pipe lines with road repair costs being placed into the general budget to be paid by taxes.

Henry John-Alder advised the Council not to worry about next year's surplus since many new things will probably develop. He expressed the opinion that local governments have an obligation to challenge unreasonable demands on the part of state and federal governments.

Streets and Curbs

Many speakers sharply criticized both the choice of streets to be treated and the idea of installing curbs in Roosevelt. Jill Lipoti and Bert Ellentuck suggested that criteria for street repair be based on data showing excess traffic. Brad Garton was "not convinced that people really wanted curbs" Some of the best streets in Princeton had none. He wondered, he said, if these moves were to "set the town up for development." Anita Cervantes said "Curbs just aren't Roosevelt" and objected to the Council assuming responsibility of this kind for all residents.

Why Spend Now?

Brad Garton pressed the Council on why spending \$56,000 now would help build the surplus later. "You don't spend money if you don't have to", he said. Jane Rothfuss cautioned that there are certain things we simply can't afford at this time. She expressed concern that the shifting costs of sewer rehabilitation were confusing and asked that a brief but clear accounting be made available to the community.

False Dips

By way of reply to these objections as they arose, Bill Counterman said he thought it unwise to have sharp dips in taxes that were essentially false since they have to be made up for later. Rose Murphy explained that the roads were

chosen to fit a \$50,000 figure and that more needed repairs were expected to be met by funds from the Department of Transportation and from County Development grants. As for curbs, they could help drainage and maintenance of road shoulders.

Long Term Benefits

Lee Allen expressed his conviction that all changes in the sewer repair project were in the long term interests of the community and, made the comparison, with regard to road improvements, of considering one's home as an investment. Detailed plans would be up for further decisions along the way. Stuart Kaufman suggested that spending money to repair roads properly would spare the town recurring expense and thus help future financial reserves.

Mr. Allen agreed to issue an accounting to the town of utility funds to date and the discourse finally wound down after two full hours of discussion. There was no effort to cut off discussion, though Mayor Barth often had to urge speakers to be as brief as possible.

Budget Amended

In the business portion, the first budget amendment describing general appropriations without the \$56,000 road reconstruction item was passed. A motion by Howard Prezant to petition the state by letter to accept the second amendment that would create a rise in tax rate from 26 cents to 49 cents was passed 4 to 2, with Council Members Murphy and Kaufman dissenting.

Appropriations

Other actions taken concerned an ordinance setting the annual liquor license fee at \$450. Another ordinance appropriating money for the air-conditioning of a small conference room

in Borough Hall (\$3500) and for the purchase of a new copier (\$6500) was also passed. Two resolutions were adopted authorizing applications for grants: one by the Environment Commission to appropriate the \$2500 to receive a matching sum and another by the Streets and Roads Committee to DOT for funds to repair the following roads: Farm Lane, North Valley Road, between Homestead and Farm Lane and School Lane from Pine Drive to the school property.

July 4th Picnic

Mr. Counterman announced the coming of the July 4th picnic and parade, with near-beer as a main beverage this year. In case of rain the celebration will be on the following Sunday.

Council Member Allen reported that DEP officials were considering a new and much stricter set of standards for ammonia and nitrogen emissions from the sewer treatment plant, largely due to its location near Assunpink Creek. The possibility of further expansion of the plant was thus implied. Mr. Allen called for assistance in monitoring the effluent both upstream and downstream of the Assunpink waterway.

Water Emergency

June 9 saw a brief water emergency when water pressure fell to dangerously low levels, apparently due to a 100% increase in water usage for sprinkling lawns. Forty lawns were observed to be watered at one time. After assistance in canvassing the borough by the First Aid Squad, the pressure was brought up to normal. Mr Allen and Mayor Barth urged residents to conserve water and avoid a set of formal restrictions and especially to refrain from watering lawns on weekends.

**Please Remember to Return
Your Survey...**

A View from a Council Seat

by Stu Kaufman

I never know how a council meeting is going to turn out. You can understand why I get a little nervous before one. If I had to rate the June meeting, I would put it on my list of the ten best council meetings. The hall was packed with a variety of people; a former mayor, past council members, some wannabe council people, husbands and wives, friends, neighbors and even whole families. If you were thinking it must get warm with all the hot air blowing from both sides of the council table, not to worry—the boro hall is air conditioned. I had a great time and I know the public enjoyed themselves because they were still hanging around after the meeting adjourned. Don't spend a boring Monday night at

home; get dressed, get out and come to a council meeting.

A lovely long time Roosevelt resident called me the other day and was upset with something she read in the *Bulletin*. The conversation went something like this; "Hello" I said. "Is this councilman Stu Kaufman?" "Yes" I replied. "What's all this nonsense about an autonomous letter.. Don't you think we have enough autonomy in Roosevelt: Do we need any more?". I said "Ma'am you're right we don't need any more but it's not autonomous, it's anonymous". She replied, "Oh that's different...never mind".

I liked Mike Hamilton's letter. I agree with you, Mike, Politicians are

like raccoons—always going through everyone's garbage.

Roosevelt had a primary election. In case you missed it, I won. It was a hard fought win, considering I ran unopposed, in spite of which I still got the Democratic nomination for mayor. I never took the election for granted. As Art Shapiro says; "You know you're in Roosevelt when you run for mayor unopposed and still lose".

Some people think I'm having too much fun being on the council. They are wrong. I'm running for mayor so I can have fun.

There's good news, Summer is around the corner. The bad news is you won't be reading my column again till September. Have a great summer and stay well.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

Knowing that many Rooseveltians cannot attend Council meetings, I would like to make a few critical comments regarding recent Council actions as food for thought.

At the April Council meeting, Mr. Allen stated that we have over \$200,000 in the budget to repair roads after the pipeline project is done. At the June Council meeting, Mr. Allen explained that we are deferring road repair for an indefinite period to see if we can get grants. What happened to the \$200,000? It sounds as if we are going to live with the mess on Pine, N. Valley and Tamara for years to come considering the grants the Council is hoping for are two years away at best and extremely competitive. Curiously, at the meeting in April, the Council authorized the engineer to spend up to \$117,200 above the amount of the contract signed last year with no explanation as to the use of these additional funds.

In the May *Bulletin*, Mr. Warren boasted that 6084 feet of pipe was

replaced, and that this was 2000 feet more than contracted for, with money to spare for another 1280 feet. If we can't afford to fix the roads that were ripped up, where is the money coming from for another 1280 feet of pipe? Could it be from the \$117,200 additional authorization made in April?

Mr. Allen and Mrs. Murphy claim that the original pipe contract didn't call for curb to curb paving, so they paid the new engineer to draft specifications for Cadillac roads in Roosevelt, curbs and all. My copy of the awarded contract says curb to curb paving was called for, with 4 inch bituminous base and 1-1/2 inch surface course - similar to Homestead Lane, which is the best road in town. Could it be that the money for roads was used for the much touted additional 2000 feet of replacement pipe and there is no money left for road repair? If so, let's tell it straight, folks.

So how will the Council (or more accurately the ratepayers) pay for all these changes and additions? Last year when the Council (including myself) raised the rate by \$75.00, we told the

ratepayers that this would cover all costs of a twenty year loan, and included all aspects of the project, including road repair. Well, the town has been collecting that additional \$75 per month from all of us since last May, and has not yet taken the full \$2 million dollar loan. This resulted in quite a large sum of money in the town coffers. This money, combined with the Council taking a forty year loan (my prediction, but stay tuned) rather than a twenty year loan and not repairing roads may allow the Council to keep the rate stable. Maybe they'll even be able to lower it, the same way you can get a lower monthly payment on your home if you take a 30 year mortgage rather than a 15 year. The only question is, do you want to still be paying for this project in the year 2021 and living with these dangerous roads for 1, 2, 3 maybe 4 years? I don't.

What do you think?

Sincerely,

Kirk Rothfuss

3 Tamara Drive

**... and Don't Forget
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	1 Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President (448-3182)	2 Environmental Commission Boro Hall, 8 PM Stuart Kaufman, Chair	3	4 Independence Day Celebration see page 2	5 Natives of the Earth Borough Hall 7:00 PM Gloria Hazell (443-2869)	6
7	8 Borough Council Borough Hall 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President (448-3182)	9 Senior Citizens Luncheon , 1PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259)	10	11 Recyclables Collected Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM John Ord, Pres. (443-1744)	12	13
14	15 Borough Council Committees Boro Hall 7:30 PM Cong. Anshei Roosevelt Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Tickin, Pres. (448-0363)	16	17 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Gail Hunton, Chair (426-4338)	18 Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM John Ord, Pres. (443-1744)	19	20
21	22 Borough Council Committees Boro Hall 7:30 PM	23 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525)	24	25 Recyclables Collected	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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

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