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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XIII NO. 5

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 1991

XIV Newly Reorganized Council Gets To Work Board of Adjustment Powers Transferred to Planning Board

by Adeline Weiner

The two major aspects of Borough Council news since our last report are the reorganization that the council has undergone, including some important new appointments, and the current status of the sewer repair project.

Council Overhaul

At noon on January 1, the swearing-in of three new council members—Lee Allen, Stuart Kaufman and Peter Warren—took place with Mayor Barth presiding and with some sixty friends, relatives and residents in attendance. (It may be of interest to note that this is the first all-male council since 1960, with the exception of the year 1970.)

A long list of resolutions and appointments was presented that fell short of unanimous support because, as Council Member Kirk Rothfuss explained, he had been left out of the restructuring process and the naming of appointees and that, without being given the courtesy of consultation, he was obliged to withhold his vote by abstaining. In public discussion, Margaret Schlinski and Mark Zuckerman expressed serious concern about this as well as the hope that this type of exclusion was not a sign of things to come.

The revision in the character of the committees of government reflects a new grouping of related functions for greater managerial efficiency. Among the key appointments were a new borough engineer, James V. DeMuro, P.E. and a new municipal attorney, Donald M. Lomurro Esq. Bill Counterman was elected President of the Council and the new committees and members named by the Mayor follow:

Finance Committee: Preparation of operating and capital budgets;
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Council Establishes Environmental Commission

by Michael Ticktin

At its last meeting of 1990, a special meeting held on December 27, the borough council voted to establish an environmental commission. The commission is to consist of seven members and two alternates. By law, they are appointed by the mayor, who also designates the chairman. One member of the environmental commission must also be a member of the planning board.

The environmental commission is authorized by law to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality. It is required to keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, and may make recommendations to the planning board regarding master plan provisions concerning those areas. The commission is also authorized to study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental resources and protection of flora and fauna.

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Remember the Blood Drive, Feb. 28

see page 14

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

From the Editor

We welcome back all of our readers after our December "break." Many things have been happening locally and we hope this issue will give you a good opportunity to catch up on anything you may have missed.

I wish to extend particular thanks, on behalf of everyone associated with the **Bulletin** and on behalf of all whom the **Bulletin** serves, to our managing editor, Mark Zuckerman, whose corporation, MIRA, has donated \$1,000 to help cover the cost

of the **Bulletin's** operations. This is, of course, in addition to his contribution of his time and effort and the use of MIRA facilities for production. Mark's willingness to do what he can to advance the work of the **Bulletin** and other community institutions, along with the donations and efforts of many others who contribute as their means, their abilities and their time allow, helps explain what makes Roosevelt different.

—Michael Ticktin

Dog Licenses Due

Dog licenses are due for renewal by January 31, 1991. The fee is \$8.20 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$12.20 for all others. Checks are to be made out to the Borough of Roosevelt.

Please remember that the rabies vaccine must be active throughout the year of 1991. A copy of the rabies certificate must be on file in the borough office.

If your dog has been spayed or neutered, a receipt or statement must also be on file in the borough office.

A license can be obtained through the mail if you are unable to come into the office. Please include the proper payment and certificates.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 448-0539.

Thank you.

Nancy L. Warnick, R.M.C.
Borough Deputy Clerk

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to drive senior citizens to medical and dental appointments.

For information, please call Jeanette Koffler (448-2259).

Borough Council Schedule

Notice is hereby given, that the Agenda and Regular Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roosevelt, as required by "Open Public Meeting Act", P.L. 1975, C. 231, are scheduled as follows:

Agenda Meetings

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 3

October 7

November 4

December 2

Regular Meetings;

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 11

October 14

November 12

December 9

All meetings will be held in the Borough Hall, N. Rochdale Avenue (Rt. 571), Roosevelt, N.J. at 7:30 P.M.

Formal action will be taken at the regular meetings.

Krystyna Bieracka-Olejnuk, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk

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

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.

Planning Board and Council Hear TPL Presentation

by Susan Oxford

On November 28, the Borough Council and the Planning Board met jointly to hear a presentation from Andrew Strauss of the Trust for Public Land ("TPL"). The meeting began with an introduction by former Planning Board Chairman Alan Mallach. In his background presentation, Mr. Mallach explained that the overall goal of this proposal is to limit future development in Roosevelt to the most appropriate areas, and to ensure that any future development enhances rather than detracts from Roosevelt's unique qualities. According to Mr. Mallach, most of Roosevelt's undeveloped land is currently zoned for 10 acre lots. If development is redistributed solely by rezoning, there is a concern that the owners of any areas that are not rezoned for development might mount a successful legal challenge. If that occurred, Roosevelt could end up with far more development, overall, than the Borough considers beneficial. For this reason, TPL was invited to use its expertise to help Roosevelt address this situation.

The Trust for Public Land is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving land for public use and access. In this respect, it differs from other environmental groups that seek primarily to preserve open space in order to protect local flora and fauna. TPL now has a dozen regional offices located around the country managing projects totalling over \$200 million in land value in 1989. Although TPL opened its New Jersey office only recently, the organization has undertaken projects in this State for the past ten years.

TPL's projects fall generally into one of three categories. First, TPL sometimes acquires land that has been targeted as parkland by the federal government or a state or local agency, as an interim step while the government is raising the funds needed to purchase the land. In this way, TPL ensures that the land is not subjected to unwanted development during the sometimes lengthy delay between a government's decision to create a park and the availability of the necessary

funds. TPL also helps to establish and advise local land trusts in their efforts to buy, sell or receive gifts of land for preservation purposes.

In the case of Roosevelt, TPL would help the Borough preserve open space through limited development. TPL would supply its expertise in land use, land acquisition and land finance, and fund its activities by the land transactions it negotiates—buying property at or below fair market value and selling it at a slightly higher price (sufficient to cover TPL's expenses) after the area has been divided between development and preservation areas by rezoning.

Mr. Strauss, TPL project manager for New Jersey, presented slides showing several representative projects in New Jersey, including the Forsythe Refuge in Brick Township. TPL helped to enlarge this refuge by acquiring 1,000 acres held by different owners. The land acquired by TPL was subsequently sold to the federal government. Also depicted was the Hudson Waterfront Walkway, a linear park

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Hunton Elected to Chair Planning Board

by Michael Ticktin

The planning board held its organizational meeting on January 9. Peter Warren is the new borough council representative (class III member) and Rose Murphy is a new alternate member. The board elected Gail Hunton as chairman, Mel Friedman as vice-chairman and Deborah Metzger as secretary. Ann Kassahun was reappointed board clerk and John Bennett, our State senator, was redesignated as board attorney.

The board discussed the status of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) project and determined that the next step must be raising the funds to finance the necessary studies. The fact that there are members of the community who are prepared to donate their time and effort to the project may reduce costs, but it will probably be necessary to raise upwards of \$40,000 from sour-

ces other than borough funds. People who might be able to assist in fund raising will be invited to the next meeting.

Ms. Hunton told the board that she had served on the jury that evaluated the design proposals prepared by Professor Steven Strom's Rutgers landscape architecture class and that some had been more realistic than others. Professor Strom will be asked to review the proposals and present the concepts that might be of most use and interest to the board and the community at a public meeting.

As the board attempts to move forward with the TPL project, it expects to work closely with the new environmental commission, which is responsible for preparing an index of the wetlands and other open areas of the municipality. By law, one member of

the planning board must be a member of the environmental commission. Mayor Barth has appointed Mrs. Metzger to serve in that dual capacity.

The planning board has changed its meeting night from the first Wednesday of the month to the second Wednesday. The reason for this change is that the board of education has its agenda meeting on the first Wednesday and planning board alternate member Harry Parker is also a member of the board of education. Mr. Parker's ability to provide liaison between the two boards depends upon his being able to attend both meetings. Mayor Barth pointed out that this liaison function is very important because community planning must take school planning into account, and this requires that the planning board know what the board of education is doing.

Uncertainty Over Aid Delays School Budget

by Bob Clark

Uncertainty over just how much financial aid the State will give to school districts under the Quality Education Act (QEA) of 1990 has delayed complete budget preparation by school districts. The Roosevelt School Board proceeded on December 20 with a public hearing on its proposed spending plan for the 1991-92 school year. District officials decided to proceed with the budget preparation process, despite the absence of state revenue figures, in order to avoid a last minute rush.

In a December 21 letter, State Education Commissioner John Ellis notified districts that he had waived the January 15 statutory deadline for the submission of their budgets to county superintendents. Dr. Ellis wrote that he would "provide districts with a reasonable period of time (approximately 30 days) from receipt of their actual state aid entitlements to prepare and submit their budgets." Dr. Ellis added that pending changes in the QEA "make it impossible" to give districts accurate figures on how much state aid they can expect for the 1991-92 school year. At press time, districts expected to receive state aid figures around February 15.

The Roosevelt District's proposed spending for 1991-92 includes approximately \$28,500 to finance the possible hiring of an additional teacher. The additional appropriation would allow the Board to split the combined third and fourth grade class. This would keep down class sizes in the face of anticipated enrollment increases that might result in 27 students in a combined 3/4 class. Several members of the public commented and inquired about the proposed appropriations at the December 20 preliminary budget hearing. Anne DeCocco asked that \$600 withdrawn from the library budget be restored to increase the library and audio-visual line item from \$4,400 to \$5,000.

At the December 11 meeting, Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman reported that he had met with seven

architectural firms interested in preparing plans for Roosevelt Public School's (RPS) expansion project. The project would help Roosevelt to prepare to take advantage of state expansion grants that would be made available to school districts under pending legislation.

CSA Groveman reported that Board President Edward Grossman, members John Ord and Michael Hamilton, and he met with a committee of the East Windsor Regional School Board regarding the project to formalize Roosevelt's and East Windsor's sending/receiving relationship. Amendments to a draft agreement are being prepared for further review by committees before a formal proposal is submitted to the two Boards for final approval. Mr. Groveman noted that Roosevelt staff were invited to attend East Windsor's Staff Development Day on January 30 at no expense to the Roosevelt District.

During a closed session on January 15 for personnel matters, the Board conducted the first of three routine evaluations of CSA Groveman and Board Secretary Debra Allen. Mr. Groveman's contract expires at the end of the present school year. If he remains a CSA beyond that time, he will achieve tenure. After a closed session on December 11, the Board voted to continue Alfred Luckenbach as the teacher of the combined fifth and sixth grade class, thus granting him tenure. The Board sent a letter of congratulations.

After a closed session on December 20, the Board passed a resolution to "defer taking any action on the allegations against a member of the Roosevelt teaching faculty pending the outcome of the [Division of Youth and Family Services] investigation, at which time the Board will reconvene on this matter."

RPS has for some time followed a policy of notifying parents at the middle of marking periods if their children are having academic problems. In January, the Board approved a form

for early reporting of behavioral problems related to social attitudes and work and study skills. In a letter to parents, CSA Groveman noted that early warning of academic problems "has been helpful in motivating students to try harder to raise their academic grades." Board President Grossman called extending the early notice policy to behavioral problems "a positive thing."

The Board received a letter from a parent working for the Roosevelt Community Nursery School, who lives in Freehold, requesting permission for her daughter to attend RPS's 1991-92 Kindergarten class. The Board decided to allow the student to attend RPS but felt obliged to charge tuition equivalent to the per-pupil cost of educating Roosevelt students. The Board noted that these parents' taxes do not directly support RPS's operations.

Mr. Groveman related that RPS students have expressed concern about the recent war in the Middle East during current events discussions. He explained that the particular dilemma is that students expect adults to have all the answers, whereas the events in the Middle East present a scenario in the adult world where the consequences are great and ready answers are not available.

Mr. Groveman reported that RPS's Student Council planned to begin a pizza sale fundraiser, with assistance from the Roosevelt Deli, to help pay for a PTA-sponsored school dance. Mr. Groveman added, "The Rossis [the Deli's owners] have always been very helpful with the school. Almost every time we have asked, they have really come through for us."

The Board approved the appointment of Ronald Golden to the position of part time custodian at \$8.00 per hour for an average work week of 18 hours. Mr. Golden replaces Billy Driver, who resigned on December 30 to accept a full time position.

If You Want to Become a Member of the School Board

by Bess Tremper

A number of seats on our local school board will become available in the election to take place sometime in April 1991. At the moment, a firm date awaits official approval, but anyone wishing to file a nominating petition for board membership must do so on or before the 54th day preceding the election.

An application therefore, should be obtained from the Board Secretary's office in the school as soon as possible as the Election Board has decreed that the final date for filing will be 4:00 p.m. on February 7th. Bear in mind that time will be needed to secure the necessary ten endorsers to nominate a candidate as well as to have the nominating petition notarized so that the candidate's name will be printed on the official ballot. Both candidate and endorsers must be registered voters who have lived in Roosevelt for at least a year preceding the date of the election.

The elections will fill three seats for full three-year terms, one unexpired seat for two years and one unexpired seat for one year.

**Write
for
the
Bulletin**

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

The Roosevelt PTA kicked off the new year with an informative meeting on January 16. Mr. Groveman, Principal, and Ms. Toth, the RPS Health teacher, gave a presentation of the new AIDS curriculum which will be introduced to students sometime in February. They gave the members an educational overview of the program and emphasized that this is a living curriculum and welcomes input from the community.

The PTA would like to thank Girl Scout troop 913/113 from East Windsor for providing babysitting services for parents who could not otherwise attend this meeting.

The week of January 20-25 was National Book Week and the PTA sponsored several in-school and after-school activities, including a read-a-thon, story time with related art projects, on the spot interviews with students and a story book quilt project which all the students are working on. When the squares for this quilt are completed by the children this quilt will be assembled and hung in the lobby for everyone to enjoy.

The PTA sold refreshments during the presentation of "Our Town". The money raised will be used to help defray the cost of carnival expenses. We appreciate all the parents who baked for us and especially the parents who manned the tables on Friday and Saturday.

February 17th is PTA Founders Day. The PTA is 94 years young and we would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that we have a very active local unit and anyone still interested in joining can contact Adeenah Yeger at 443-5848 or Liz Possiel at 448-1485.

February 23 is the date set for the annual PTA Winter Carnival. The carnival runs from 10 to 2 and there will be over 20 games with prizes for everyone. We will also be having a bake sale and mini Chinese Auction. Hot dogs and drinks will also be available for lunch. We're very pleased to have Carol Miller chair this event for us. So mark your calendars for this special event.

The next PTA meeting will be held on February 21 at 8 p.m. and we hope to see you there.

...Et Nos In Illis (...And We Change Too!)

by Peter Warren

New Kids on the Block... Suzanne Marie Niederland.

Lit Up... For Christmas and Chanukah, many, perhaps more than usual, houses in our town.

Engaged... Bob Prezant & Elise Wisotsky, who will live in Atlanta.

Moving In... James and Leslie Carnevale to the Francis house (former Borough Hall) on Homestead.

Moving Out... Brian Suk, to Virginia, to enter the police force.

On the Market... As of January 14, 17 houses.

More or Less Moved In... to Tanguowood, their Virginia plantation, Jim and Diane Dulicai; Natalie Malter to her house in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.

Changed Their Mind About Moving... Gloria, Andrew and Petula Hazell.

Estimated... By Dun & Bradstreet, 1990 median age of Roosevelt adults: 41 years; median family income: \$51,762; earning over \$50,000: 48%; earning between \$25,000 - \$50,000: 37%; earning below \$25,000: 15%.

Certified... Paul Henry as industrial hygienist, after two difficult examinations.

Teaching... Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan at Yale, Ben List.

Studying... For an MA in molecular biology at Georgian State College, Steve Yeger.

On Safari... In Kenya and Tanzania, Mayor and Helen Barth.

Investigating... Black organized crime in New Jersey, Bob Clark, Deputy Director of the State Commission of Investigation.

Registered... So far, as of January 15, only 14 dogs, mutts and pooches; picked up by Animal Control in 1990, 12 animals.

Flowing... November & December, respectively, (uncalibrated meters): water for domestic usage 130,400 gpd and 130,000 gpd; sewerage, 239,000 gpd and 268,000 gpd.

MIRA Donates \$4,000 to Roosevelt Community Nursery School

by Brad Garton

The Roosevelt Community Nursery School is pleased to announce a donation of \$4,000 by MIRA, a Roosevelt business specializing in information management. RCNS Board Chairman Joan Grossman said "this generous gift will help us maintain the high standards and quality of our nursery school program." Dianna Moore, the Nursery School Treasurer, stated that the contribution is "exactly the news our accountant wanted to hear. I am happy that Mark Zuckerman (president of MIRA) chose to give us such a pleasant New Year's gift."

MIRA has been an active financial supporter of the RCNS program for the past several years. Brad Garton (RCNS fund-raising committee) said that the new contribution represented nearly a doubling of support by MIRA. Donna Ventola, RCNS Head Teacher, said that the increase in funding will be used to offset the cost of special class trips and purchase additional supplies and materials for the program.

"For a non-profit organization like RCNS, donations like MIRA's are an integral part of program's success," ac-

ording to Mrs. Grossman. "We at RCNS hope that others will follow MIRA's example and recognize that our children's education is vital to our community and our future." RCNS is planning more fund-raising events in the coming months, including a children's art show, the sale of Singing Valentines, and a special concert featuring Roosevelt folk musician David Brahinsky on January 27.

For more information about the RCNS program, contact Donna Ventola at (609)426-9523.

Nursery School News

by Joan Grossman

January finds students and staff at RCNS getting back into the groove following winter break. Among the special activities planned are a Curious George Week, Donut Day, a special "Night Time Day" and much more. The Community Helpers for January are doctors and nurses. And special lessons have been devoted to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Local folk artist David Brahinsky was scheduled to present his annual "Concert for Young Children and Their Families" for the benefit of RCNS on Sunday, Jan. 27. Young children and their siblings and favorite adults join David for an afternoon of singing and playing along to their—and his—favorite kiddie classics.

We take this opportunity to hold our annual open house which kicks off the registration drive for the 1991-92 school year. Anyone who missed our open house/children's concert but who wishes to visit the school and inquire about admission should contact head teacher Donna Ventola at 426-9523. Roosevelt residents are given preference, but residency is not a requirement for admission.

Upcoming in February, we are reprising a popular fundraiser from a few years ago, the Singing Valentine. RCNS dad Brad Garton will present the greetings in person on the evening of

Feb. 14th to any and all recipients who reside in Roosevelt. Out-of-towners will be serenaded by phone. The Singing Valentines will cost \$10 each and reservations may be made by sending a check to RCNS, PO Box 153, Roosevelt, NJ 08555 by February 10th to insure delivery on the 14th. Be sure to include the name and address of all recipients. For more information please contact Brad Garton at 448-9214.

Special thanks this month go to David Brahinsky for yet another toe-tapping good time; to Mary King and Rod Tulloss for their donation of art work; to Bob Husth for the art supplies; to Debbi and Sol Metzger for the new trash cans; to Bernarda Shahn for the children's books; to Sol and Edith Ernstein for copy support and paper supplies; to the Roosevelt Jewish Center; and to all who continue to support us and our ongoing activities and fundraisers.

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

Synagogue News

by Michael Ticktin, President

On January 30, we celebrate Tu b'Shevat, the New Year for trees. This minor holiday, originally the day on which trees were counted for tax purposes, is associated with the first flowering of the trees in the land of Israel. People there go out and plant trees and it is customary to have Tu b'Shevat "seders" at which different types of fruit are eaten. A fruit particularly associated with the holiday is the carob, also known as *bochser* in Yiddish and as St. John's bread in Christian tradition. We will be having a slightly delayed Tu b'Shevat seder in conjunction with our regular Shabbat morning kiddush after services on February 2. A carob tree planted three years ago by Joshua Ticktin will be in attendance. In only 67 more years, it may bear fruit.

This past month, we observed the Bar Mitzvah of Harris Kaufman, son of Stuart and Grace. On behalf of the Congregation, the board of trustees extends its congratulations to Harris and his family.

The board of trustees is continuing its efforts to improve the appearance of the building. The latest change is the carpeting of the main hall. We invite all of our members and friends to come in and see how the new carpeting complements the new chairs. All we need now is enough people to fill the synagogue every week. You are invited to help us achieve that goal too.

Environmental Awareness

by Gloria Hazell

This month I'm writing about Acid Rain, which is one of the most destructive environmental problems in the world today. When we burn fossil fuels, or drive our vehicles, sulfur and nitrogen oxides are released into the air. These quickly change to sulfuric acid and nitric acid once in the atmosphere,

they then mix with the moisture in the air and fall back to earth as acid rain.

The damage that is done by this chemical water is devastating. It has been known to take the paint from cars, and, according to a doctor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, may be the third largest cause of lung disease. A congressional study cites Acid Rain as a component cause in about 50,000 premature deaths a year in

North America. If it can do that to a human, imagine what it is doing to the trees and the water which are exposed to it continually.

Acid rain causes acidification of water masses, such as lakes, which is a very large problem. In New York's Adirondack Mountains, many lakes have been found to be devoid of fish, and in other areas, aquatic life in streams, ponds and lakes are nil.

Many people think that we in this part of America are not affected by acid rain... Wrong! From Canada down to New York state, and Pennsylvania, the pollution is extremely high, and the east coast states are in the very high range. After falling on only European countries for the past 100 years, acid rain is now a Global problem.

What can be done about this worldwide problem? Actually there is only a limited amount an individual can do, which is very frustrating. There are a couple of things though: one is turn down your thermostat 4 degrees. If everyone did that, it would save the equivalent of 380,000 barrels of oil, in a 24 hour period. Right now, with the oil crisis, wouldn't that be a good thing? Do not heat areas of your home that are not used, unless of course there are pipes in those areas which could freeze. Close these rooms off so that the rest of the house stays warm. Wear warmer clothes, instead of turning up the heat, and make sure that no windows are left open near the thermostat, or it will continue working way over the correct level.

Check the energy-efficiency level of your home. Contact the utility company (gas or electricity) and ask it to conduct an energy audit of your home.

When it comes to vehicle emissions, experiments are being conducted which should help. In Europe special catalytic converters are being used. If they work, then expect to see them here in the near future. At power stations "flue gas desulfurization" is being tried, which should help a great deal.

Acid rain knows no boundaries. It is carried along by the winds, so that our trees may be harmed by our neighbors' fires and emissions, but our neighbors' trees may be ruined by ours. Let's all try and help with this problem, by adopting a sustainable lifestyle for the 1990's and beyond.

Recycling News

by David Donnelly

There has been a changing of the guard in recycling gurus in town. Stuart Kaufman has gone on to bigger things on the Boro Council and I've taken over the reusable garbage chores. I look forward to the effort.

It is safe to assume that we are all aware of the mandatory curbside program in force now: i.e. glass, metals and newsprint picked up twice a month in front of our homes. And I'm sure you've all memorized Stu's previous articles in regard to leaf composting, battery disposal, landfill tipping fees, hazardous wastes, etc...

But to risk boring you to tears with renewed prattling about environmental and economic need to comply with these matters, let me state this. In the near future, we hope to augment our current program with efforts to recycle colored paper, cardboard products and plastics. Not only is it necessary to do this to bring Roosevelt into compliance with county and state quotas, it's good for the environment and will surely save money.

With the assistance of Mary Alfare, Jeff Hunt and Rose Murphy (and anyone else who wants to get involved), I will be addressing these tasks. Look for details in the near future. Drop me a line at PO Box 636 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Please note that the upcoming curbside recycling days are January 17 and 31, February 14 and 28, and March 14 and 28.

Recycling Schedule

Roosevelt Recycling Schedule
January thru June 1991:

Please note the following schedule for pick up of recyclables in Roosevelt Borough:

Thursday, Jan. 17
Thursday, Jan. 31
Thursday, Feb. 14
Thursday, Feb. 28
Thursday, Mar. 14
Thursday, Mar. 28
Thursday, Apr. 11
Thursday, Apr. 25
Thursday, May 16
Friday, May 31
Thursday, Jun. 13
Thursday, Jun. 27

Reminders

Continue to separate materials into three containers: colored and clear glass bottles & jars; aluminum & tin cans; and, newspapers.

Recyclable containers must be rinsed & clear of debris.

Place all materials in sturdy containers: no paper bags or cardboard boxes.

Newspapers must be tied securely with string or cord.

Place recycling containers away from your trash containers on pickup days.

Any variation from the above gives the contractor the right to refuse pick-up of your recyclable materials.

Please remember that recycling is a New Jersey state law.

Krystyna Olejnik, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk

Environmental Commission Holds First Meeting

by Susan Oxford

The newly-created Roosevelt Environmental Commission held its first meeting on January 22. Six of the seven members appointed by Mayor Barth met at the Borough Hall to discuss the Commission's goals for the coming year. The new members include Councilman Stuart Kaufman, who has been appointed the Commission's chair by Mayor Barth, Planning Board representative Deborah Metzger, Parks Commission representative Gayle Donnelly, as well as Commission members Michael Hochman, Alice Firgau and Chris Travis. Newly-appointed Recycling Coordinator David Donnelly also attended the meeting. Brad Garton has been appointed to the Commission, as well, but did not attend the initial meeting. As its first order of business, the Commission decided to hold its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 in the Borough Hall.

The ordinance creating the Environmental Commission gives it a broad mandate to consider Roosevelt's environmental needs and to make recommendations to the Council and Planning Board on the proper manage-

ment of open space, water resources, etc. The Commission's members acknowledged that this offers a wide range of possibilities, which they will have to sort out in the coming months. As its first priority for the coming year, however, the Commission has decided to undertake an inventory of the natural resources and environmental features of the land within the Borough, focusing first on wetlands.

The Commission plans to accomplish this task with the aid of a matching grant that the Borough has applied for from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The resulting Natural Resource Inventory will provide the basis for completing the Environment and Landscape Element of the Land Use Planning Study needed for the limited development/farmland preservation proposal that is currently being discussed by the Council and Planning Board in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land. (See article on November 28 joint meeting between Council and Planning Board, in this issue.) Commission members Chris Travis and Alice Firgau both volunteered to attend a seminar next month sponsored

by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissioners explaining how to prepare a Natural Resource Inventory.

The Commission members decided they will invite someone from another environmental commission to attend the next meeting, scheduled for February 19th, to help the members better understand the activities that an environmental commission should undertake. The members also decided to attend the next meeting of the Planning Board (scheduled for February 13th at 8:00 p.m.) to start discussing how the Environmental Commission can best assist the Planning Board in fulfilling its duties. Commission member Gayle Donnelly said that the Commission looks forward to working with the Planning Board to define the Commission's role in the planning process, so that the Commission can most effectively aid the Planning Board in performing its job. Commission Chair Stuart Kaufman said he hopes this Commission will be a strong and active one, able to offer significant assistance to the Council and the Planning Board in fulfilling their respective duties.

Council Establishes Environmental Commission

continued from page 1

The ordinance establishing the commission was introduced by Councilman Kirk Rothfuss. The reason it was adopted on an expedited basis was that the Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a program of grants of up to \$2,500 to environmental commissions and Councilman Rothfuss saw this as an opportunity to get funding for some of the work that has to be done as part of the Trust for Public Land study. However, the application deadline was January 15, 1991, so the commission would have had to be in existence prior to that date.

Councilman Jim Alt informed the council that he had seen correspon-

dence indicating that the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority might not be able to accept the sludge from our sewerage plant because of tests showing excessive mercury content. It is not clear where the mercury might be coming from since, as Mr. Alt said, it is unlikely that Roosevelt residents are regularly breaking thermometers over their toilets. Paint is a possible source but, according to Mr. Alt, it usually produces high concentrations of cadmium as well as mercury, and no cadmium problem has been detected. In any event, it is important that whoever is putting mercury-laden material into the sewer system stop doing it. (It is possible, Mr. Alt indi-

cated in a subsequent conversation, that the source was an industrial operation that used to be a tenant in the large factory. Since that operation is no longer there, new readings may indicate that there is no longer a problem.)

Mr. Alt also indicated his continuing concern over a storm drain near his house that has an opening that is large enough for a small child to enter. He urged the new council to make the installation of some sort of protective barrier a matter of high priority so that a tragedy can be prevented.

Council Reorganizes

continued from page 1

monitoring of expenditures; risk management; *Prezant, Allen, Kaufman.*

Administrative Committee: Policies and procedures; personnel; office equipment, fixtures and supplies; preparation and review of ordinances, resolutions and proclamations: *Counterman, Rothfuss, Warren.*

Municipal Utilities Committee: Operation and maintenance of water and sewage treatment plants and systems; recommending and monitoring repairs and improvements to plants and systems: *Allen, Kaufman, Prezant.*

Environment, Health and Safety Committee: Solid waste management; civil defense and emergency preparedness: *Kaufman, Allen, Prezant.*

Public Property Committee: Maintenance, use and improvement planning of municipal building, cemetery, public lands, streets and roads: *Rothfuss, Counterman, Warren.*

Community Relations Committee: Recreation and culture, public library, historic district promotion, cable television: *Warren, Counterman, Rothfuss.*

The new recycling coordinator is David Donnelly and the new housing inspector, Robert Jordan. New appointments to the Planning Board are Gail Hunton to a 4 year term; Rose Murphy to a 2 year alternate term; Michael Ticktin to a 1 year term; Peter Warren, Borough Council representative. Also Harry Parker, for 3 years and David Leff for 4 years. Ed Cedar and David Savidge were named to the Cable Advisory Committee; Kathleen John-Alder for an unexpired term and Ann Goldman for a 3 year term to the Parks Commission. To the Welfare Board, Mary Alfare for a 4 year term and Frieda Anish for an unexpired term. Six members of the newly formed Environmental Commission were named and two more are still to come. Stuart Kaufman is chair. Gail Hunton will replace Ralph Seligman as the borough Cross-Acceptance Representative to the Monmouth County Planning Board with Peter Warren as alternate.

Zoning Board Goes

Another structural innovation was made at the regular January meeting via an ordinance that eliminates the Zoning Board of Adjustment and turns over its function to the Planning Board. An opposing case was presented by several members of the public including Marilyn Magnes, Anita Cervantes and Ann Baker who argued to retain the Zoning Board as a separate entity that provides for greater citizen participation and lightens the load of a busy Planning Board. Michael Ticktin appeared to express the position of the Council that there is no actual need for both boards, that in the past this only led to instances of overlap and confusion. Final adoption of the ordinance received five votes and one abstention.

Sewer Story Continued

A special meeting of the council was held on December 6th to consider the awarding of contracts for the two parts of the DEP ordered rehabilitation program: the sewer treatment plant improvement project and the repair of the sewer lines. Discussion lasted for several hours with Kevin Toolan of T & M and an associate present. The issue centered on whether the sitting council should vote to approve these contracts that represented two years of extensive work and large expenditures, or allow the new 1991 council, who would now be responsible, to delay the matter for either a month as some suggested or for an indefinite period in order to reconsider the plans, consult new sources and solicit "second opinions." At this eleventh hour, so to speak, participants' discourse ranged from emotional appeals to fine technical analyses. There was little mention of the Insituform method, but ideas such as the "low-tech" strategies of an earlier DEP rejected plan, a strong water-conservation campaign, or a pre-packaged construction design, all to be substitutes for the established procedure, were aired at length. Mr. Toolan and Mr. Rothfuss, joined by other council members, related how many of these schemes had been considered and rejected in the past. They stressed the

urgency to move fast, citing pressures from DEP, from contractors, and from finance sources, who were all sounding an alarm to act promptly. The Council finally resolved, four to two, to award contracts to the two companies chosen, with Mr. Prezant and Mr. Counterman opposed.

Why Change?

At the two Borough Council meetings, January 1 and 14, questions were put as to why the new Council had changed engineers. Speakers asked if any other firms were invited to apply or if criteria for choice had been set. Mayor Barth's reply was that the decision was simply based on a previous satisfactory association and on friendship with a firm that was small in size and less costly, though he was unable to state the difference in rates at the time. Mr. Counterman earlier and Mr. Allen at the later meeting added that the engineering work involved in the sewer project would probably require the hiring of consulting engineers who just might turn out to be the current T & M engineers, whereas the DeMuro firm would serve to monitor the day-to-day engineering chores for the borough.

Not all the new committees had had a chance to meet, but Mr. Allen, Chair of the Utilities Committee reported that flow water meter studies were needed to determine possible relocations of sewer line repairs. The savings in cost would balance out the purchase or rental cost of the meters. The changes would not affect the overall sewer lines plan. He also discussed the possibility, however, of making more basic modifications if on-going data-gathering indicated any advantages, which he expected it would. He was challenged in public discussion by Brad Garton to state what these could be, for example. His answer was "Watch and see what happens, because when hard work is put in, good things can be expected."

So What's Up?

Mr. Allen also spoke of one attorney's view that the law allows the

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Viewpoint

Roosevelt As a Special Case

by Adeline Weiner

How can we in Roosevelt justify a plea for special dispensation regarding the extraordinary burden of a \$140 a month utility rate? Surely we all agree that there is a clear need to clean up the environment without delay and understand that NJDEP, assigned to correct years of environmental degradation, must be firm and severe about it. We are also acutely aware of the crisis in government finances that has raised a budget-cutting and tax-raising furor that is sweeping the country. We all know this, and so do the Roosevelt Water/Action people, who freely acknowledge these truths. But many of us still believe that a strong argument can and should be made on Roosevelt's behalf as a special case that, aside from our particular history of a town, can be based on a simple matter of fairness. Where else are 330 households forced to pay the incredible sum of \$1700 a year utility bill or \$108 a month for sewerage alone?

We Have Company

It seems that only one NJ community appears to have higher rates than we do: an area called Ringwood Borough (pop. 13,500) in Passaic County. According to Mayor Peter Cannici, the borough signed an Administrative Consent Order with DEP to rehabilitate the sewer treatment plant that serves Ringwood Acres and clean up the effluent that discharges into one of the area's three recreational lakes. The Borough was able to complete the job in March, 1990, within one month of the deadline. A loan of \$2.3 million had been undertaken with a debt-service that now demands a rise in sewer rates to \$2400 per year for each of the 109 homes that, by the way, fall in a price range of \$180,000 to \$240,000.

Deja Vu

Mayor Cannici described the effort to apply for a DEP-funded low interest

loan, but was unable to qualify because DEP refused to extend the ACO deadline to allow for the pre-approval period. It was either get the loan and pay a huge fine for lateness or, as they eventually did, borrow at high interest: a situation that exactly parallels the Roosevelt experience. They then asked to increase the customer base by 50 added users. DEP said "No." The Mayor said "It was like talking to a stone wall." He then decided to take the legislative route and succeeded in getting a bill introduced specifying an appropriation of \$1 million to Ringwood Acres from the state's "General Fund" under PL 1990, c. 43. Mr. Cannici expressed full confidence that the bill will pass. It was introduced by two legislators in each house, representing both political parties.

Who Wants to be Number One?

In discussion with some government officials, the Mayor was told that the Ringwood Acres sewer rate was probably the highest in the country. That would make the Roosevelt combined water/sewer rate or even the \$1296/year sewer rate alone, the second highest! And, when you consider that we constitute a borough of 330 homes, operating as an independent municipality, we might even be said to be bucking for first place.

What About the Rest?

A few other towns of course do have severe problems. Sparta, for example, a township of 15,000 population in Sussex County, also has a "partial" ACO obligation: Sixty-six users who are largely local business firms and stores are obligated to repay a \$1.1 million loan obtained to expand the local sewer treatment plant by July 1991. That means an average annual bill of \$1500, up from \$600, with further rises anticipated in 1991. Though that's pretty steep, the situation is quite unlike ours.

"So Sue Me"

Of interest, perhaps, to some Rooseveltians who expressed a desire for a more aggressive response to the problem, there are two municipalities that are challenging the government in court. The case of Millville City (pop. 25,000) is scheduled to be heard this month. City Clerk Lewis Thompson was therefore reluctant to discuss any aspect of the litigation except to say that the challenge to DEP was on several grounds: on the levels of polluting agents in the effluent; on the matter of permit applications; and on the subject of plant expansion. From the agency's own bulletin, however, it was the DEP that brought the court action to force Millville to make the mandated improvement under their consent order.

The other community in legal conflict is Keyport Borough (pop. 7,000) in the Bay Shore area of Monmouth County. Administrator/Manager John J. Kennedy, explained that the main problem here is the increase in water rates by as much as 80% or almost double the current rate, this in addition to some rise in sewer rates as well. The water control problem is part of the Manasquan reservoir project and at one point 5,000 signatures were collected on a petition of opposition to it. The Keyport Borough Council finally decided to sue and voted to set aside \$35,000 for attorney fees. Other Bay Shore Communities were invited to join but chose to wait and see. Mr. Kennedy was definitely optimistic about winning the case and the financial relief to come.

The Average Top Rates

In general, most communities can be said to be unhappy with the rash of rate increases appearing everywhere. Although additional costs may be doubling or tripling, the average utility bill throughout the state is rising to no more than a level of \$500 to \$600 a year, and often a lot less. Gene Farrell, legislative aid to State Senator Richard Van Wagner of District 13, (Middlesex-

RAP Receives Grant

by David Keller

The Roosevelt Arts Project has just been given a grant of \$5,000 from MIRA, to forward its series of cultural events for the town, RAP treasurer David Brahinsky announced with pleasure at a recent board meeting. MIRA, which incorporated in 1979, offers a variety of direct-marketing support services, including mailing services, for business. MIRA President Mark Zuckerman is himself a composer, who taught for many years at Princeton and Columbia Universities. He has performed in various musical events in Roosevelt over the years.

Mr. Zuckerman said that the grant was intended to help with the group's increased operating expenses, so that ticket-buyers would not have to bear the increases in revenue needed by the Arts Project.

Although the Arts Project has been for years operated by various of the town's musicians, writers, and visual artists donating their services to offer programs for the community, with the continuing cuts in public funding to the arts, such organizations are always hard-pressed. RAP Board member Leslie Weiner commented that "a play-reading without experienced actors doesn't do justice to the work or the audience. This elegant donation will enable RAP to pay our actors and increase the effectiveness of those presentations. Thank you, MIRA."

For several years MIRA has handled mailings for the group at lower than usual rates. This generous grant will help ensure the continuation of the group's events in the coming year. Particularly, it will mean that ticket prices may be kept at levels affordable by local residents. David Herrstrom, newly-elected president of RAP called the grant "gracious and much-appreciated support." Certainly, it is a wonderful expression of generosity, from a business with an artistic and social conscience.

The next events in this year's series will be a concert of new musical compositions, to take place on February 2nd, and, on February 16th, an appearance by the jazz group, Bright Moments, headed by Laurie Altman.

Monmouth) cited the rates for sewer service of \$1000 per year in Keansburg Borough (pop. 10,500) in Monmouth County as an example of excessive utility costs that he said left the town "in shock." He was critical of a policy that he believes to be essentially regressive in nature in that it "treats alike people who earn \$50,000 per year and those who are on social security." Senator Van Wagner has introduced a bill to secure aid from the state for needy municipalities. (More on this shortly).

It's Only Fair

In making the argument for government assistance, Roosevelt Water Action correspondents typically receive the following replies: the community of Roosevelt had its chance to get funding in the 1970's and blew it. Also, if one place gets some help, the 200 other ACO towns demand the same. The point about past errors implies that current residents can be made punishable for the poor judgment of former officials who, untrained and often inefficient, are bound to make mistakes. What about some retroactive sharing of responsibility by those environmental specialists who failed to educate and lead the way, not only in Roosevelt, but in many other small towns as well? As for all those municipalities under ACO wanting in on the deal, surely there are simple ways to determine what utility rates are excessive and who are paying them. By any measure of comparison, Roosevelt and Ringwood Acres are clearly off the chart. The cookie-cutter edicts from DEP simply do not fit every community and the genuine "hardships" cases should not be allowed to fall through the net. For this reason our community and its local government have reason to expect a just and democratic response to our appeal. We need time constraints to be loosened and readjusted; we need to have discharge standards, both of quality and quantity, to be rescheduled on a more gradual scale; we need

financial relief to offset the exorbitant costs.

A Good Possibility

There is some good news to report: we have a chance at legislative relief through a bill recently introduced by State Senator Van Wagner who is the author of the new, strict, Clean Water Act of 1990. He is chairman of the Committee on Environmental Quality of the Senate and, in recognizing that there are a few "debt-burdened" municipal utility organizations, proposes to offer them aid. The bill asks for an appropriation of \$7.6 million in 1992 "for the purpose of maintaining (utility) systems and services at acceptable user cost levels." To qualify, the municipal utility authority must have a debt service that exceeds 40% of its total annual appropriation. In a telephone conversation, Senator Van Wagner stated that he was introducing amendments that would include utility systems like Roosevelt's and that depending on the final sum appropriated, the borough could receive as much as a million dollars or more. The key problem of course is to get the bill passed during these hard times.

If You Lend a Hand

Every resident in the borough can help. Borough Council and the Mayor can join with the other towns that have a common stake in the bill and provide active leadership in a borough-wide drive of support to the Van Wagner bill. Roosevelt Water Action, I believe, also plans concerted action and will welcome all participants. We can start now to write to the editors of the major NJ newspapers in support of Senator Wagner's Bill No. 3021 (use the name to identify it). The legislators are sure to take notice. Write to our State Senator John Bennett for support at 6 W. Main Street, Freehold 07728. Perhaps, if we keep at it one way or another, we can finally get the break we deserve.

Viewpoint

On Fixing What "Ain't Broke"

by Michael Ticktin

At the January borough council meeting, there was extensive public discussion of a proposed ordinance, which was subsequently passed on second reading, to abolish the Zoning Board of Adjustment and transfer its powers to the Planning Board. I mentioned the advantages that I, and other members of the planning board, thought likely to result from the change and other members of the audience whose views were otherwise, spoke in opposition.

It is not my purpose here to debate the merits of that particular change. The decision has been made and, if, in the opinion of some future council, it turns out to have been a bad decision, it can easily be reversed. However, after the meeting, I got to thinking about one of the arguments used in opposition—the familiar folk adage that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"—and how it is an example of something that sounds like good common sense applicable to almost any situation, but really isn't.

Do we really mean that we should not try to make something better unless it does not work anymore? Let's consider a few applications of that principle.

One of our ongoing economic concerns in this country is the decline of our industrial base relative to those of other countries. To stay competitive, a manufacturer must keep pace with technology. If you refuse to replace old equipment with new equipment that is more advanced because the old equipment still works, you may save money in the short term but will surely lose out in the end. Indeed, it has often been said that one reason for the spectacular economic success of Japan and the former West Germany over the past 40 years is that their obsolete plants and equipment were removed from service courtesy of American and British air power and they had no choice but to build anew.

The same principle applies in the case of our own utility systems. Had we, as a community, been prepared to expend money on a regular basis, beginning 20 or 30 years ago, to replace equipment and elements of the system that were not yet broken, perhaps we would not be where we are today. We should not blame the members of councils past for that failure; they saw the reaction every time the rates went up by a few dollars and they concluded that the community would not be willing to pay to fix something that was still working.

If we look at the history of political reforms, we see that some came to pass because the system had broken down, but others simply represented improvements to something that was still functional. In American history, we can see the Civil War as marking the end of a constitutional system that was destroyed by the slavery issue, which the system did not provide any way of resolving peacefully, and by the weakness of the national government in relation to the states. The post-Civil War amendments, which abolished slavery and redefined the nature of the federal system, therefore qualify as measures needed to fix something that had broken down. However, the same is not necessarily true, for example, of the 17th amendment, which provided for popular election of senators, the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote, or the 26th amendment, which extended the right to vote to 18 year olds. All of these were changes that made the system fairer and more responsive, but they were not made because the old order had broken down.

One constitutional issue that is not "fixed" because it has not malfunctioned in over 100 years is the electoral college. (In 1988, Herb Johnson wrote an article in these pages pointing out some of the unfair consequences of the system, but it was just another unfor-

fortunate example of a *Borough Bulletin* article not resulting in a national consensus.) It is indeed troublesome that your vote is important to a candidate if you live in a swing state with a lot of electoral votes, like California, New York or New Jersey, and of hardly any importance if you live in a one-party jurisdiction with few electoral votes, like Wyoming or the District of Columbia. The crisis of the system will come, however, when we have a repeat, as we eventually will, of the 1888 election in which the candidate with the most popular votes lost in the electoral college. How will people react to a president elected under those circumstances? The one thing I venture to predict is that there will be a move to amend the Constitution ASAP in order to keep it from ever happening again. But nothing will be done until then because people do not want to fix anything that, in their opinion, "ain't broke."

Change is not necessarily progress. But neither is what is necessarily better than what might be.

**What do
you
think?
Write
the
Bulletin**

Planning Board and Council Hear TPL

continued from page 3

that TPL is helping to create by acquiring public easements in a strip of land 30 feet wide along the river's edge.

Finally, Mr. Strauss showed slides of a limited development project in Mendham Township, Morris County. TPL purchased this old boy scout camp from AT&T at a bargain sale after AT&T learned that it could not gain needed development approvals for its planned commercial development. TPL was thereafter unable to convince any governmental entity to buy the land for a park, so it worked with the municipality and a local developer to subdivide the land and develop a part while preserving 70% of the land as open space. At the same time, TPL established a land trust to oversee the portion of the property that will remain undeveloped.

The Mendham project is similar to the Roosevelt proposal in many respects. Nevertheless, Mr. Strauss explained that there are several significant differences. The land in Mendham was already assembled into a single parcel when TPL became involved. Therefore, TPL only needed to focus on the formulation of a plan for limited development acceptable to both a developer and the municipality. Although this aspect is challenging enough, Roosevelt presents the additional obstacle that the land in question is owned by many different persons. Nevertheless, Mr. Strauss expressed confidence that TPL has both the skills and the interest to work with Roosevelt on this project.

The Council members as well as the several dozen residents in attendance, had many questions for Mr. Strauss. Some wanted to know why TPL was interested in a project in Roosevelt. Mr. Strauss explained that he is familiar with Roosevelt and its history of incorporating open space and public access into the Borough's development design. TPL would like to help

Roosevelt see that these same concerns are reflected in the Borough's next phase of its development.

Others asked how TPL could be sure that an owner would want to participate in the plan, instead of just holding out for a higher price at a later time. Mr. Strauss and Mr. Mallach explained that since the area is currently zoned for 10 acre lots, and much of the land is wetlands that either cannot be developed or requires a significant buffer, the entire area currently could be expected to yield only 30 houses. A plan for limited development, where rezoning would be contingent on assembling the land into a single parcel of which a portion would become permanent open space, would permit a larger number of units to be built (although they would be situated on a small portion of the land). This would allow TPL to offer to purchase individual parcels at a higher rate than any owner could now expect a developer to pay. Moreover, TPL's offer to purchase would provide a certain return in contrast to the uncertainty of holding onto the land and speculating on future development trends. Therefore, the current owners would have a clear financial incentive to participate in the plan.

Mr. Strauss was also asked how much this proposal will cost the Borough. Mr. Mallach has estimated that the preliminary planning studies needed would cost an estimated \$40,000 to \$60,000. It is anticipated that a small portion of that would come from the Borough, (approximately \$5,000 to \$15,000), and the rest will have to be raised either from state or county agencies or private donations. A significant amount of discussion focused on what the planning process entails for a project of this nature. Mr. Mallach related a sequence involving environmental assessments, landscape

studies, determining the fiscal impact of different development alternatives on our taxes (particularly the affect on the water and sewer system and the schools), and then integrating this information into a plan with the aid of public input. This latter step is particularly important, since TPL requires that any plan it works on have general community support.

TPL also has some input into the planning process, to ensure the proposal is financially viable. Next, the Planning Board would change the master plan to permit the proposed development, and the Council would make a commitment to adopt the necessary ordinance revisions upon TPL's successful acquisition of the land. TPL will then begin to purchase the land or acquire options to purchase. When the land is assembled, the Council would amend the Borough's zoning ordinance. TPL would then negotiate with potential developers, with the objective of selling the developable land or to a land trust created for the purpose of permanently protecting it. Title to the remaining land would then be transferred to the Borough.

Following this lengthy and informative discussion, the Council voted to endorse the concepts outlined by Mr. Strauss and to support making Borough funds available for the planning phase of this project as soon as matching funds have been raised from other sources. A fund raising committee has already begun work on raising these funds.

First Aid Squad Receives Grant From MIRA

by Susan Oxford

In December, the Roosevelt First Aid Squad received a \$4,000 grant from MIRA, one of Roosevelt's local businesses, to help the squad meet its financial needs for the coming year. This generous contribution constitutes approximately one-fourth of the squad's projected expenses for the coming year, and matches the Borough's annual contribution for the past few years. In presenting the \$4,000 check, MIRA President Mark Zuckerman stated, "The First Aid Squad's services are vital to the community, and I am very pleased that MIRA is able to assist the Squad in continuing to provide quality emergency care for Roosevelt residents."

MIRA recognized the difficulty a volunteer squad often has in meeting its expenses, said Zuckerman. The Roosevelt First Aid Squad expends over \$15,000 per year in loan payments for the ambulance, insurance, emergency medical supplies, training, repairs, fuel, and other necessary

items. Without these expenditures, the ambulance simply could not run.

Raising the money to meet these needs is not easy, however. Like the emergency medical services in many New Jersey communities, the Roosevelt First Aid Squad is a private, volunteer organization. Squad members are responsible not only for responding to first aid calls and keeping their emergency medical skills honed, but also for raising the funds that make these services possible. Apart from the Borough's annual contribution, the Squad's entire resources come from community contributions. The Squad conducts an annual fundraising campaign where residents are asked to contribute, supplemented by periodic fundraising events undertaken with the help of the squad's auxiliary. Raising money in this way is never an easy job. With this donation from MIRA, the Squad is off to a strong start in raising the funds we need to continue to serve Roosevelt's emergency needs throughout 1991. The Squad extends its heartiest "thanks" to MIRA for this generous grant.

First Aid Squad Conducts Blood Drive

by Susan Oxford

On Thursday, February 28, the Roosevelt First Aid Squad will conduct its semi-annual Blood Drive at the Borough Hall between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. The Squad considers this one of its most important events of the year, where members of the community have the opportunity to give something valuable to help someone in need. We hope that everyone who is able turns out to support this winter's drive.

In other news, the Squad wishes to thank David Brahinsky for the enjoyable fundraiser concert he provided for us in November. As always, David's singing was entertaining, and he led the audience in some hearty renditions of Broadway show tunes and other old favorites from the forties and fifties. We also enjoyed and extend our special

thanks to David's guest performers, Judith Trachtenberg and Deborah Metzger, making their debut on the Roosevelt stage. Finally, to all of you who baked those delicious cakes and cookies and other treats—thank you!

Finally, the members of the squad are particularly sobered by the recent events taking place in the Middle East. We join with all of our neighbors in mourning the inevitable death and injury that war always brings to the men and women who are in the service and the civilians who are caught in between. As persons dedicated to saving lives and relieving pain, we can only express our deepest hopes that the war is over by the time this *Bulletin* reaches your mailbox.

The activities of the Roosevelt First Aid Squad are made possible, in part, by a grant from MIRA.

Borough of Roosevelt Notice of Contracts Awarded

Notice is hereby given, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roosevelt has awarded the following contracts without competitive bidding as Professional Services, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*

Contracts and resolutions are available in the Office of the Borough Clerk for public inspections.

Awarded to: Joseph Faccione & Robert Bachstadt of Samuel Klein & Co. Services: Borough Accountants

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: A reasonable fee for services performed

Awarded to: Donald M. Lomurro, Esq.

Services: Borough Attorney

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: A reasonable fee for services performed

Awarded to: James V. DeMuro, P.E. of DeMuro Associates

Services: Borough Engineer

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: A reasonable fee for services performed

Awarded to: Allen & Stults

Services: Insurance Agency

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: A reasonable fee for services performed

Awarded to: Millstown Twp. Municipal Court

Services: Borough's judicial matters

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: \$4,000

Awarded to: Edward C. Eastman, Jr., Esq.

Services: Bonding Attorney

Time period: January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991

Cost: A reasonable fee for services performed

Attest: Krystyna Bieracka-Olejnik, R.M.C.

Borough Clerk

Council Reorganizes *(continued from page 9)*

taxpayers' interest to come before those of bidders. Others of the public, including Henry John-Alder, Jane Rothfuss and Scott Hartman, asked about the serious consequences of contract violation, of failure to meet schedules, of mounting costs incurred by switching contractors. Mr. Hartman warned that to say "What's past is past" courts the danger of discarding useful experience and important lessons. Mr. Allen steadfastly declined to reveal particulars of current activity related to the sewer project. He urged everyone to wait and look at the results. Mr. Warren, in support, offered that new meetings with DEP are being planned.

Mr. Allen also thanked a list of volunteers for many hours of hard work on application material for the FmHA loan. No other report on the status of financing the project was given at this time.

As Community Relations Chair, Peter Warren reported that a consult-

ant from the NJ Association of Water and Waste Water Utilities and the EPA has volunteered his technological assistance for four hours a week. Consideration will be given to such activities as a water audit to determine aspects of usage so as to formulate a water conservation program for the community. This plan may include the activation of household water meters if they are found usable.

Mr. Warren also discussed the status of Roosevelt's historical archives housed at Rutgers University Library. He proposed to proceed with the transcription of the oral history tapes with the aim of producing them in literary form. In addition, he mentioned an upcoming meeting with the East Windsor Utility Authority to discuss possible sharing of services.

During the public segment, Delores Chasan, reporting for Roosevelt Water Action, described some of the success that followed the letter-writing and publicity activity of the group. She dis-

cussed the importance for our town of a bill by Senator Van Wagner. It calls for an appropriation to be awarded to certain qualifying communities to assist in meeting excessive utility costs. She urged the council to respond to this issue in every way possible.

Other Matters

In the business portion of the meeting a new Tax Collector and Tax Search Officer was appointed for four years in the person of Salvatore Cannizzaro. Authorizations for purchase of a Fax machine (\$800) and software for the borough accountant (\$5000) were also passed. SCAT for shopping services for senior citizens was arranged for as well.

A resolution was passed to appropriate \$2500, contingent on its inclusion in the 1991 budget, to match a DEP Matching Grants Program. The Environmental Commission will be assigned this funding, since it would be the recipient of the DEP grant.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

The new Borough Council has put a lot of energy into style, with catchy slogans and fancy, hand-addressed invitations to the reorganization meeting on New Year's Day.

Style is fine, but is no substitute for substance. The substance of this Borough Council was introduced at its inaugural meeting. The Council proceeded in tight-lipped fashion to dispose of its business as quickly as possible.

Three features of this meeting disturbed me:

- An ordinance abolishing the zoning board passed first reading without preamble or discussion.
- The Borough Engineer was replaced without explanation.
- Council member Kirk Rothfuss protested his exclusion from the reorganization, and no member of the Council offered either a justification or an apology.

Was the abolishing of the zoning board such an urgent matter that it had to be brought up at a ceremonial meeting? Why did such a radical restructur-

ing of our local government not merit at least a brief public statement about its necessity? Are all matters of such importance to be handled in this abbreviated fashion?

When Council member Rothfuss expressed concern about changing engineers in the midst of a major capital improvement project, no one responded. During the public portion, this question was raised again. Mayor Barth replied by suggesting that members of the public ask the members of Council individually about why they acted as they did. Aren't public meetings the proper place for this discussion? Don't we expect our public officials to feel obliged to go on the record to defend their actions?

Kirk Rothfuss is an experienced member of government. He spent all of last year at the focal point of the most important civic project in the town's history. If Roosevelt successfully completes its waste water system renovations, it will be because Kirk Rothfuss worked hard and long to make it possible. Why was he excluded from the reorganization effort, in favor of three new members with no pre-

vious experience? What governmental purpose made it necessary to serve such a personal affront to someone with such proven dedication, and to rob the town of his expertise at this crucial time?

Aren't these the same guys who poured vitriol on the outgoing members of Council for being cliquish and high-handed? Didn't they argue strenuously in favor of opening up the processes of government? Didn't they claim their victory as one of wisdom over pettiness?

In view of its style, the Council's substance is ironic. To me the saddest ironies are:

- Those who accepted their election with great humility now behave with smugness.
- Those who tried to instruct other members of Council about moral obligations now wish to avoid their own.
- Those who announced their victory as "a new dawn" now save their important actions for the dark.

—Mark Zuckerman

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

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Arts Project Concert Borough Hall 8:00 PM music by: Laurie Altman, Alan Mallach, Mark Zuckerman
3	4 Deborah Boro Hall, 2:00 PM Frieda Rockoff, Pres. (448-0674) Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 7:30 PM	5 Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259)	6 Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Pres. (448-9385)	7	8	9
10	11 Borough Council Borough Hall 7:30 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Bill Counterman, Council President (448-3182)	12 Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Ed Grossman, Pres. (448-9385)	13 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Gail Hunton, Chair (426-4338)	14 Recyclables Collected	15	16
17	18 Congregation Anshei Roosevelt Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363)	19 Blood Pressure Check Solar Village 12:30-2:00 PM	20	21 PTA RPS, 8 PM Adeenah Yeger, Pres. (443-5848)	22	23 PTA Winter Carnival RPS 10 AM-12 noon Adeenah Yeger, Pres. (443-5848)
24	25	26 First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525)	27	28 Recyclables Collected First Aid Squad Blood Drive Borough Hall 6-9 PM Susan Oxford, Pres. (443-0525) see page 14		

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)