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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

VOLUME XVII NO. 8

ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

MAY 1990

DEP Meeting Heats Council Session

by Adeline Weiner

At the regular meeting of the Borough Council on May 9, Mayor Leon Barth made a surprise announcement of an upcoming meeting with DEP officials that had been arranged through unofficial channels at an unannounced meeting. At 9 AM the previous Friday (May 4) in the Borough Hall, Peter Warren and Howard Prezant met with Joseph A. L'Efante, Special Assistant to DEP Commissioner Yaskin, according to the Mayor's report.

The circumstances surrounding this event were only partially disclosed after an hour long question-and-answer period led mainly by Jane Rothfuss and Ann Baker, Democratic Committeewoman, during public discussion. Prezant took major responsibility for responding to inquiries, although Barth and Warren were present throughout.

According to Prezant, the initiator of the meeting was "an outsider," who, on further questioning, was named as Peter Warren. Mayor Barth and Council member Bill Counterman were asked to join the group but could not attend. The reason given for failure to invite others was to avoid a "quorum" situation requiring unnecessary formalities, such as public notice. The reason for not reporting it to Council was first given as a request by the DEP for confidentiality until a definite

meeting could be set. When this was challenged, Prezant withdrew this statement in favor of "a desire not to raise false hopes."

Rothfuss Kept in the Dark

The question pressed on Prezant by Council members and visitors was why Kirk Rothfuss, as Utilities Chair, was
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Council Meets DEP

by Adeline Weiner

On the afternoon of May 12 the Borough Council met with six representatives of New Jersey DEP along with Kevin Toolan, borough engineer and Richard Mc Manus, borough attorney. Some 35 residents came to the Borough Hall to listen and participate in a two-hour exchange of information and opinion.

The borough engineer gave a report on the status of the ongoing sewer repair project. Public Utilities Chair Kirk Rothfuss presented an informal talk with added comments from Howard Prezant on the extent of the hardships the DEP consent order has caused individual homeowners and outlined the possible adjustments being asked of DEP at this time. A thick notebook of documents and charts, independently prepared by Lee Allen and Peter Warren, was distributed to all the principals. John Keith, Assistant DEP Commissioner, was joined from time to time by other officials in responding to the specific issues raised by Rothfuss, the Mayor and other Council members.

Tough Love?

The main tenor of Keith's replies was to express sympathy and understanding concerning the burden that
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Remember Primary Day, June 5
Vote at Borough Hall, 7 AM-8 PM

for statements by candidates, see page 10

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

Letter Campaigns Organized

by Adeline Weiner

A campaign to appeal to federal and state officials for relief in meeting the utility crisis in our borough has been undertaken under the auspices of the Roosevelt Democratic Party.

The Democrats composed a form letter to be sent to Governor Florio, CN-001, Trenton NJ 08625 and/or Judith Yaskin, DEP Commissioner.

There will be a petition addressed to

Seniors' Letter

I am a Senior Citizen of Roosevelt, NJ, a borough of some 900 people who find ourselves in desperate straits. Although we support the goals of the Department of Environmental Protection, we find that their requirements regarding our sanitary sewer system are far too onerous for a town of our size. Our Borough Council has complied with the demands in good faith, but the financing of the repair program requires a loan of more than \$2,000,000 that in turn has raised each household's utility charge from \$65 to \$140 a month with a possibility of it increasing further.

We live on fixed incomes that is for many of us barely adequate as it is. We cannot move out of town, nor can we keep up with all the rises in local taxes descending on us without help from somewhere. We are therefore asking you to come to our aid whether by reducing, in some way, the demands placed on us, or by extending the time for meeting these demands, or by helping us to finance them. At the very least, we ask that the threat of an impending fine of \$500,000 be removed.

What we cannot understand is the total unconcern by state and local officials about how small towns like ours are to manage, especially with residents of moderate to low incomes. We feel that we are being asked to bear a disproportionate share of the task and feel we must let you know that we sorely need your help.

Respectfully,

Keep Saving Those Pennies!
Penny Pick-Up Coming June 9
Roosevelt First Aid Auxiliary

Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg available for signing on the next few Saturdays in front of the post-office. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, CN-402, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Roosevelt seniors also conducted a letter-writing campaign, organized by Jeanette Koffler, president of the Senior Citizens' Club.

Democratic Party's Letter

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

Dear Commissioner Yaskin:

Representatives of the Department came to Roosevelt on Thursday, May 17 to hear from our Council about our sewer situation, and to explain what, if anything, the Department could do. We found little solace in the visit. Essentially they told us that our projected costs and consequent water-sewer fee increases could not be altered by DEP. We can't believe this.

We think you need to know the effect this is going to have on the 300+ families who live in Roosevelt. Our taxes have already risen because of increased school budgets. Now our water-sewer fee has increased from \$65 a month to \$140 a month, with no assurance that further increases will not be necessary. Retired citizens on fixed incomes don't know how they will be able to pay such increases. Families with large mortgages are also feeling burdened beyond their ability to pay.

We want to be in compliance with environmental standards.

As a progressive community, we probably have more citizens, *per capita*, concerned about the environment than most municipalities. We don't want a bad environment.

We do need your help in meeting these obligations which your department and the federal government have imposed. Mandated programs should carry mandated assistance. Unfortunately the Reagan years of deficit spending have forced our tax dollars to be expended for debt reduction rather than beneficial programs.

How can we pay these new utility bills? What are your suggestions?

Sincerely,

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.

Planning Board Hears TPL

by Anita L. Cervantes

The May 2 Planning Board meeting was a relatively brief one, featuring routine correspondence and a presentation by the Trust for Public Land (TPL).

The presentation was largely informational in nature. Present for TPL were Andrew Strauss and Franklin Parker. Planning Board members present were Alan Mallach (Chair), Michael Ticktin, Deborah Metzger, Mayor Leon Barth, Mel Friedman, Planning Board liaison Marilyn Magness, and alternate Gail Hunton.

Aid to Local Planners

TPL is a non-profit organization which, in the words of the organization's Fact Sheet, "works with urban and rural groups and government to

1. acquire and preserve open space to serve human needs;
2. share knowledge of non-profit land-acquisition processes;
3. pioneer methods of land conservation and environmentally sound land use."

TPL can serve municipalities in an advisory role during the planning process. TPL can also become more actively involved as implementers of a planning scheme, helping with actual nuts-and-bolts design work.

Frequently part of TPL's function is to acquire land and then hold it for as short a period of time as possible before bringing it to market again. Thus, they decide whether or not to get involved in a particular planning project based on their estimation of its eventual success—from the planning standpoint—and return on investment—from the financial standpoint.

Some of the issues covered by Messrs. Strauss and Parker in their talk were:

- What a community needs to do to implement an effective land-preservation scheme.
- The importance of a strong Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan element as the underpinning to all planning done by a community.
- The importance of a proactive (as opposed to reactive) planning process.

As an example, they described the process followed by the community and the Planning Board in the preservation/limited development scheme developed to preserve the Schiff estate in Mendham Township, a project with which TPL was heavily involved.

Find Roosevelt Design "Marvelous"

They also spoke briefly about what they feel is special about Roosevelt as a community, citing Roosevelt's "marvelous design that embodies social and environmental values". Some of the additional points they made were:

- TPL feels that for any preservation plan to work, the community must develop clear ideas about what it wants, not just react to—and against—proposals from developers and planners.
- TPL feels that the planning/preservation process works best when it is a process of inclusion and consensus rooted in the entire community.
- That Roosevelt, based on what they've seen, has taken the right approach to planning for its future, in its attempt to encourage positive goal-setting as part of its planning process.

Planning Board members thanked Strauss and Parker for what they indicated was a highly educational and informative presentation.

Recycling News

by Stu Kaufman

Pick-Up Dates:

June 14, 28
July 12, 26

The warm weather is fast approaching so please be sure to rinse out your bottles and cans.

Stu Kaufman is Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator.

Senior Citizens' News

by Helga Wisowaty

Jeanette presided at this meeting. Many different events were discussed. Our next meeting will be on June 12 because of voting on June 5.

We are all invited to a "Health fair" at RPS on May 10 from 12:30 to 3:00.

We are planning a luncheon on May 15 at "Kountry Kitchen." Ilus Lobl and Ethel Friedman volunteered to make arrangements. This is a big help to Jeanette who is kept on the go with everything pertaining to Senior Citizens. Millie is kept busy collecting

from those who attend our "get together" luncheons, etc.

Some of us have written to Governor Florio and DEP Commissioner Yaskin. Maybe something will help?

"Gus" Chasan and Diana Klein were our hostesses—everything was delicious.

Helga Wisowaty is Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens.

School Board Reorganizes

by Bob Clark

In May, a new School Board member, John Ord, and two incumbents, Edward Grossman and Catherine Petrilla took their oaths of office for three-year terms. Current Board member Margaret Schlinski was sworn in to serve the last year of the term of Ann DeCocco. Re-elected by the new Board as President, Debra Allen publicly expressed the Board's gratitude to DeCocco, who served on the Board for nearly three years before resigning. Grossman was re-elected as Vice-President.

The Board appointed Ilene Levine as Assistant to Chief School Administrator (CSA) Harry Groveman. She will assume Groveman's responsibilities in his absence and serve as Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, both for an annual stipend of \$1,000.

On Allen's recommendation the Board realigned its committees. Allen made the following appointments (chair is listed first):

Policy & Legislation: Catherine Petrilla, Susan Raufer, Ed Grossman
 Education: Margaret Schlinski, Edward Goetzmann, Robert Petrilla
 Finance & Operations: Jan Plumb, John Ord, Debra Allen

Meeting Schedule to Change

The Board decided to continue to hold its agenda meetings on the first Thursday of every month and its regular meetings on the second Thursday for the months of June, July and August 1990. Starting in September, however, the Board will hold its agenda meetings on the first Wednesday of every month and regular meetings on the following Tuesday. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM at RPS. The agenda meeting will conflict with the monthly meeting of the Planning Board.

Appointments and Increases

The law firm of Rubin, Rubin & Malgran was reappointed Board legal counsel for the 1990/91 school year. Their fees increased from \$125 per hour to \$150 per hour. Although the Board did not shop around for its counsel, it was felt that the new fees were below the prevailing hourly rate. Howard Prezant was reappointed

Custodian of School Monies at an annual fee of \$1,550. M. Lupovici, MD, was reappointed School Physician at an annual fee of \$800.

The Board approved salary increases for Groveman from \$55,640 to \$60,740; Board Secretary/Business Administrator Roseann Lozinski from \$27,500 to \$30,000; School Secretary Helen Barth from \$18,122 to \$20,500; Custodian Lorenzo Jones from \$19,863 to \$20,856; and Secretary/Accounting Clerk Shirley Golden from \$7,950 to \$9,222. Golden's job description was upgraded (on first reading) from Receptionist, and the time devoted to the job under the new title will increase by approximately seven percent. Allen voted "no" on Golden's increase.

The Board renewed the appointment of Ann Provost and the contract of Sheila Jaeger as part time school aides at \$6.25 per hour for a maximum of four hours and three and one half hours per day respectively. The Board renewed the appointment of Robert Cheney as part time evening custodian at an hourly rate of \$8.25.

Award to Remember Dominic Rossi

With one member—Schlinski—voting "no," the Board approved outstanding academic achievement awards, in the form of bonds donated by the Rossi family in honor of Dominic J. Rossi, to be awarded annually by the Board to at least two RPS graduates. The Board unanimously approved Christina Henderson and Victoria Estok as the recipients of this year's awards at the 1990 sixth grade graduation ceremony.

The Board approved a stipend of \$500 to second grade teacher Elizabeth Gagliardi for language arts curriculum revision work to be performed during the summer. The sixth grade graduating class received Board approval to take a field trip to New York City in June. The \$450 cost—to be paid from leftover student funds from earlier fundraisers and the budgeted transportation account—will include a coordinator, Circle Line and museum tickets, bus and dinner.

Groveman will attempt to schedule an informal meeting between the

Roosevelt and East Windsor Regional Boards of Education for early June to discuss areas of mutual concern.

The Board approved a letter from Groveman in response to a request by Borough Tax Assessor and Planning Board member Michael Ticktin for school-related information relevant to the town's Master Plan. [See full text of letter on p. 9, Ed.]

Enrollment on the Rise

Groveman reported that RPS enrollment will be over 80 next year with the influx of 14 kindergarten students. There will be 25 pupils in the combined third and fourth grades, which Groveman said would be about the "maximum for a real quality program." He added that the two school aides will assist in that classroom during peak academic times.

Groveman reported that he had written to *Borough Bulletin* Editor Mark Zuckerman regarding steps and strategies the town may have taken to develop a Borough crisis intervention plan. Groveman suggested that the Board take the lead in planning responses to emergencies such as the recent takeover of a Brick Township classroom by a gun-toting student.

Groveman related plans to upgrade the district's statewide testing program and health education/family life curriculum. A parent advisory group is helping with the latter effort. Groveman described details of the gifted and talented pilot program that will operate during the 1990/91 school year. For two periods per week, the gifted and talented program instructor will work with the combined fifth and sixth grades to facilitate imaginative and investigational activities by all students in the class. The projects will focus on language arts and social studies.

The Board gave final approval to policies relating to state and federal funds, relations with vendors, non-instructional aids, transfers and early identification of potential dropouts, pregnant pupils, the AIDS prevention program and lesson plans. On first reading the Board approved policies on transfers of funds and physical examinations of employees.

Objectives Discussed

The Board engaged in some preliminary discussions of 1990/91 district objectives. The current year's objectives included computer work in the fifth and sixth grades, a program of after-school activities and the improvement of second grade math scores. Schlinski said she would like to see the school become more of a community center. Grossman called such involvement with the community something that would enhance the student's "cultural sensitivity." He also favored some kind of nature studies program. Goetzmann cautioned that RPS already has a full curriculum during the school day, noting that the Board would have to be prepared to pay for staff and other expenses associated with an extended school day to accommodate such activities. Groveman said some possible objectives could include spelling improvements, creation of critical thinking programs, enhancement of library skills, parent education programs and a poetry venture with the assistance of the Roosevelt Arts Project. Groveman said RPS might call upon Tina Ruiz, a spelling specialist, to help develop strategies to help RPS students to spell better. He said her techniques emphasize developmental stages of spelling rather than rote memory tasks.

The Board authorized the administration to seek price quotes for upgrading electrical wiring, repairing the gym floor and adding suspended ceilings and new lighting to classrooms. The Board approved the purchase and installation of replacement stage curtains for \$2,186. With Grossman abstaining, the Board authorized the administration to donate an unused food warming unit and lab tables to a school that might be able to use the items.

The Board approved the 1990/91 master class schedule. It also approved—with Goetzmann voting "no" and Schlinski abstaining—reserving four rooms for administrators and Board members attending the fall combined convention of the New Jersey School Boards Association, New Jersey Association of School Administrators and New Jersey Associa-

tion of School Business Administrators.

Allen sent a letter to the President of the Millstone Township School Board expressing the Roosevelt Board's condolences concerning the death of Millstone Superintendent of Schools M.

Suzanne Reilly in a car accident in Alaska on April 28th. Arthur G. (Bud) Martin, who served as interim CSA in Roosevelt two years ago for five months, was named interim superintendent in Millstone until a permanent replacement for Dr. Reilly is hired.

RPS Calendar, 1990-91

September

- 4 & 5 All Staff Orientation
- 6 First Day for Students
- 20, 21 School Closed—Rosh Hashanah
- 25 Four-hour Session—Program and Staff Development

October

- 5 School Closed—Professional Day for Staff

November

- 8 & 9 School Closed—NJEA Convention
- 19 & 20 Four-hour Session—Parent Conference
- 21 Four-hour Session
- 22 & 23 School Closed—Thanksgiving

December

- 4 Four-hour Session—Program and Staff Development
- 21 Four-hour Session
- 24—31 School Closed—Winter Vacation

January 1991

- 1 School Closed—New Year's Day
- 21 School Closed—Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 30 School Closed—Professional Day for Staff

February

- 12 & 13 Four-hour Sessions—Parent Conferences
- 15 & 18 School Closed—Presidents' Birthdays

March

- 5 Four-hour Session—Program and Staff Development
- 29 School Closed—Spring Vacation

April

- 1—5 School Closed—Spring Vacation

May

- 7 Four-hour Session—Staff Development
- 27 School Closed—Memorial Day

June

- 15 Graduation—Sixth Grade
 - 17—19 Four-hour Session—Staff Development
 - 19 Last Day for Students
 - 20 Last Day for Teachers
- Days lost due to emergency closings will be added to the end of the school year.*

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

Our classroom eggs are on the verge of hatching and Graduation/Grandparents' Day is just over the horizon. What more excitement could Spring hold for our RCNS preschoolers?

The egg-hatching, which is imminent as of this writing, is an annual highlight of the school year. Thanks to RCNS mom Cathy Lupo and her donation of eggs and a classroom incubator, our children are looking forward to watching as baby quail and chicks peck their way into the world.

Graduation/Grandparents' Day is always our grand finale, and this time around, it's set for Monday, June 18. Grandparents and preschoolers will work together on a special project, share refreshments, and enjoy the fun as members of our largest graduating class ever receive their diplomas.

This year's graduates are: Jimmy Carroll, Kira Cianfrano, Nicole DeVaul, Andrew Flamm, George Jackson, Christine Kukoda, Nick Malkin, Jamison Parker, Jeff Possiel, John Rindt and Christopher Wong. Congratulations to all!

Some of our parents have had a kind of graduation, too, this Spring. Thanks to the efforts of Instructor June Counterman and her assistant Jesse Norris, Roosevelt First Aid Squad members, a group of parents and staff recently completed the Red Cross Community CPR Course. The course will be repeated in the Fall and Spring of each year as part of our new "Parent Institute," and will be open to the community at large.

A note to parents of next year's Kindergartners: we still have some openings in our afternoon enrichment program, noon to 3 PM. The program is open to *any* child, 2½ to 6 years of age, regardless of whether he or she attends our morning nursery program or had attended in the past. If you are looking for coverage for your child during these hours for a fun-filled afternoon in a stimulating atmosphere, call for information at 426-9523.

Thanks once again to MIRA, Congregation Anshei, Roosevelt Printing, Uncle Lewis, Aunt Emily and Uncle Dick for their continuing support.

PTA News

by Robin Carroll

The Roosevelt PTA has been very busy these last few weeks. On April 27 the PTA sponsored an Ice Cream Social for the students which worked out just perfectly because the temperature was around 90 degrees! The kids just loved it and we hope to do it again next year. Thanks go out to the parents who helped out that day.

The week of May 6-12 was Teacher Appreciation Week and the PTA showed their appreciation to our teachers by sponsoring a luncheon for the staff of RPS on May 8. A special thank-you goes out to Liz Possiel for all the work she did for this luncheon. The teachers really enjoyed it. The students also showed their appreciation on this day by wearing the school colors of green and gold. They also gave their teachers medals which they colored at home.

The annual Health Fair was held on May 10 at the school and the PTA provided all the healthy snacks that were available. The PTA also had a table of information at the fair which provided parents and students with a wealth of information on various subjects including Lyme disease, AIDS, drug awareness and bicycle safety. They also gave out coloring books and stickers to the children. A special thanks goes out to our head room mother, Teresa Lepore, for coordinating all the refreshments for this day.

We appreciate all the help Teresa gives us during the year. We would also like to thank the parents who worked so hard at setting up all the food and staying to clean up afterwards, these parents included Liz Possiel, Shelley Hatzfeld, JoAnne Parker, Linda Di-Georgio, Jane Freedman and Cindy Cummings. Thanks a bunch!

The PTA also provided refreshments for the Kindergarten Round Up on May 17. This is always an exciting day for the parents and incoming students. Mr. Groveman gave a welcome talk to everyone and Adeenah Yeger informed the group about all the work the PTA is involved in within the school. Miss Kathy, the kindergarten teacher, met with all the parents and answered their question on what to expect in September. We want to thank JoAnne Parker and Liz Possiel for arranging the snacks that were available to everyone.

We would like to remind all of our PTA members that we will be voting for the new officers at the June meeting. The slate of officers for the upcoming year are Adeenah Yeger—President, Vinnie Jackson—Vice President, Shelley Hatzfeld—Secretary and Liz Possiel—Treasurer. We would like to remind the new Kindergarten parents that they are welcome at this meeting. See you there!

Roosevelt Students Cited For Academic Excellence

by Dennis Connaughton

Ten Roosevelt students, currently attending Hightstown High, were among those honored at an awards ceremony for scholastic achievement, held at Hightstown High School on Tuesday, May 15, 1990.

In order to receive an award a student must maintain an honors scholastic average for three out of four marking periods during the school year. Those recognized were Rachel Brahinsky, Traci Connaughton, Thea

Goetzmann, Richard Hermann, Danny Jaeger, Kristin Johnson, Cheri Katz, Steven Levites, Dustin Warnick, and Robert Warnick.

Those students receiving an award for the first time were issued a certificate. Those receiving an award for the second time were issued a varsity letter, and those receiving an award for the third and fourth times were given a trophy or plaque respectively.

Don't Fall For "Degradable" Plastics

by Mary King

We recently received information about so-called "degradable" plastic products from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and wanted to share this information and encourage Roosevelt citizens not to purchase such products.

The following is an excerpt from an article by Dr. Richard Denison, a biochemist at the EDF and expert on the health effects of toxic chemicals associated with landfills and incineration:

Despite the current fascination with trying to make plastics disappear, degradable plastics are the wrong answer to the right question. Incited by an aggressive corn industry lobby eager to find new markets, the developers of degradable plastics tout environment benefits that are either non-existent or not yet demonstrated. Indeed, serious questions remain about the ability of biodegradable plastics to solve any of the real problems that plastics pose, whether as litter, as solid waste, as a threat to wildlife through entanglement and ingestion, or as a waste of nonrenewable resources.

Degradable plastics are of two basic kinds: photodegradable (capable of being broken down by light) and biodegradable (capable of being broken down by bacteria). The vast majority of plastic waste ends up in landfills, where the light needed for photodegradation is obviously absent. Even biodegradable plastics—which readily degrade in the laboratory—are unlikely to break down in landfills within any reasonable length of time, for a simple reason. Well-operated landfills lack two ingredients critical for biodegradation: air and water. Recent excavations of decades-old landfills have uncovered still-recognizable newspapers and even banana peels and hot dogs—materials that are readily degradable under other conditions.

It is still unknown whether degradable plastics will naturally degrade in streams, lakes, or in the ocean. Such degradation, if it occurs, could lessen the risk of wildlife entanglement but increase the risk of animals ingesting the plastic as it breaks down into smaller pieces.

Even assuming biodegradables "work," what do they degrade into? The term "biodegradable plastic," is really a

misnomer, since it is not the plastic but rather the cornstarch or other vegetable additive that degrades, leaving behind a less visible but more dangerous "plastic dust." In making plastics, toxic additives such as lead, cadmium pigments, and stabilizers are used. Although these toxicants remain relatively inert in ordinary plastic that ends up as roadside litter or in a landfill, they could pose far greater risks to our health and environment if the plastic "degrades" and releases them.

Worse still, degradable plastics threaten to derail the most promising solutions to managing plastic waste: reduction and recycling. Many curbside collection programs are beginning to collect various types of plastic for recycling. But "contamination" of this plastic with photodegradable or biodegradable agents could obviously wreak havoc on durable goods (plastic lumber, for example) made from it. Indeed, many plastics recyclers are already refusing to accept any degradable plastics.

Widespread introduction of degradable plastics may actually increase plastics use and even littering.

It takes more plastic resin to make biodegradable bags and containers than it takes to make ordinary plastic of equal strength. People will also be more likely to buy non-recyclable plastic packaging or to toss away a plastic candy wrapper if they are led to believe that the plastic will magically disappear once discarded.

Plastic packaging is proliferating because it offers certain marketplace advantages, such as convenience and light weight. But are these really advantages in the end, if plastics cannot be made at least as reusable and recyclable as the materials they replace? Recycling of plastics holds promise and is growing—but *degradable* plastics will only undermine recycling by increasing technical and attitudinal barriers. The false promise of degradable plastics threatens to divert society's attention from far more feasible and lasting solutions to our plastics pollution and solid waste problems.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. For plastics, just as for other components of our waste, these are the environmentally sound options.

RPS Celebrates Earth Day in a Big Way

by Harry Groveman

On Friday, April 20, the Roosevelt Elementary School celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day with a full schedule of special events and activities. Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Gayle Donnelly and Ann Goldman from the Shade Tree Commission and Ilene Levine, our third and fourth grade teacher, a host of staff, parents and community members joined together to offer the children of Roosevelt a full day of hands-on activities designed to heighten their awareness of the need to protect our environment.

Workshops designed to promote a better understanding of nature, recycling, endangered species and the environment were presented throughout the day. In addition, a special assembly was held at the amphitheater which featured special presentations by David Brahinsky, Stefan Martin and

Bernarda Shahn with a surprise visit by Forester Charles Albert and Smokey the Bear [see photo on page 13, Ed.].

The day's events concluded with the entire school participating in a tree planting ceremony where a weeping cherry tree donated by the Roosevelt PTA was planted as a lasting memorial to this, the twentieth anniversary of the celebration of Earth Day.

In addition to the above mentioned people, special thanks goes to the entire RPS faculty for their active participation; to Jan Plumb, parent and school board member for conducting a workshop on recycling; and Margaret Schlinski, a school board member, for directing the Kindergarten play that kicked off the day's events.

Harry Groveman is Chief School Administrator at RPS.

Viewpoint

Community Growth Versus Community Character: Are We Really Being Forced To Choose?

by Michael L. Ticktin

Writing in the April *Bulletin*, my fellow columnist Addy Weiner indicated how we might clear the air of our public discussion by "a simple admission that what divides most of us...is an honest disagreement as to whether we want to allow the kind of growth that will keep the character of our town intact and [be] of a piece with its history, or forget all that for the possibility that an influx of new houses will help pay our bills." I would certainly agree that there is an honest disagreement. However, as Joe Solomon pointed out in the same issue, there is a problem in posing any issue that "comes in if we think the language is neutral when it isn't."

I highly doubt that there is anyone here who wants to allow any kind of growth other than "the kind of growth that will keep the character of our town intact." The proper way to phrase that question, I believe, is what kind of growth, and how much of it at what pace of construction, would both be consistent with the character of the town and allow some relief from high tax and utility bills. Honest people who are equally committed to planning the best possible future for the community may answer this question differently. However, our experience with the zoning changes that have been made to date should provide us with reasonable assurance that, once slogans, innuendoes and distortions of people's positions (including cartoon fantasies of a Roosevelt with highrises and the population of Newark) are put aside, actual positions may not be as far apart as some have assumed and that, therefore, achieving a reasonable consensus may not be all that difficult once people decide that that is what they want to do.

How do we define what it is that we are trying to preserve? As I see it, there are three aspects of community preservation that any proposal (including a proposal to change nothing) must address: the social, the environmental and the economic.

The main social issue is the need to design any expansions to the community so as to encourage integration of new residents. If we want to avoid creating a permanent "us vs them" situation, we must discourage any development that involves homeowners' associations. Many municipalities have tried to save money by requiring homeowners' associations to provide services, like garbage collection and street maintenance, that are provided at public expense to the other residents of the municipality. (Recent legislation has limited their ability to do this). However, we need look no further than East Windsor and Twin Rivers to see how this short-sighted approach has resulted in a deep split in the community that even led to a secession movement.

The environmental dimension is also critical. The greenbelt design is central to what makes Roosevelt distinctive and historically significant. We would want any future development plan to be consistent with it, even though that means an intensity of development that is considerably less than potential developers might be accustomed to from projects elsewhere. In the zoning ordinance amendment establishing the Planned Community Development zone for the "Notterman tract" between North Valley Road and the cemetery, the Borough, in a remarkable display of consensus on both the Planning Board and the Council, laid out the actual development plan that must be followed, with over three-fourths of the land required to be set aside as permanent open space. This is a sound model for any future development elsewhere in the Borough.

The third dimension is that of economics. We would not want to encourage development that does not provide economies of scale that will allow us to operate our public services, particularly our school system and our utilities, at less cost *per capita*. The probable effects of various types of development are something that the Planning Board is studying, and will continue to study. At the May meeting, there were two representatives of the

Trust for Public Lands who discussed ways in which their nonprofit organization might be able to assist us. We may need some technical assistance from consultants at some point. Meanwhile, we are gathering the information that is available within the community, which is probably a high proportion of what we need. Chief School Administrator Harry Groveman's letter to me, published elsewhere in this issue [*immediately following this column, Ed.*], provides information that is crucial to any attempt to plan for economies of scale in our most costly public service. Planning Board Chairman Alan Mallach has provided the Board with statistical data, including figures as to the number of elementary, junior high school and high school students likely to live in housing of different types and sizes. With solid information of this sort, we should be able to come up with plans for the future of the community upon which reasonable people can agree.

Looking back at the recent past, we have good reason to believe that plans that are socially sound, environmentally responsible and economically advantageous can be developed. There are now 333 dwellings (including both houses and apartments) in Roosevelt. Eighty-nine of these dwellings were built in the last twenty years. They have not disrupted the open space plan and the people who live in them are as much a part of the community as anyone else. These 89 units comprise 26.7% of the total housing stock. They comprise 31.5% of the taxable assessed valuation for all residential and apartment properties and 28.6% of total taxable assessed valuation. They also include 23% of all water-sewer ratepayers. Anyone who does not think the construction of these dwellings has benefitted the community economically should consider what taxes and utility rates would be now if we still had only the buildings that were standing in 1970.

In the past, problems have arisen because development proposals were presented for which the Borough was unprepared because we did not have a reasoned consensus as to what it was

we wanted. In the current period of respite from development pressures, we have an opportunity to extend the concept of the Planned Community Development zone in ways appropriate to the rest of the municipality. A great deal of energy will be needed to do this right. Let us hope that most of it will be in the form of light rather than heat.

Editor's Note:

The following is a letter received by Michael Ticktin, in his capacity as member of the Planning Board, from Harry Groveman, CSA at RPS:

May 7, 1990

Michael L. Ticktin, Tax Assessor
Borough of Roosevelt
Roosevelt, NJ 08555
Dear Mr. Ticktin:

In your letter to me dated April 23, 1990 you have requested some information which may be helpful in revising the borough's master plan. In responding to your request and in answering the five questions posed, please keep in mind that questions 1 and 3 require somewhat of a subjective response and represent my personal assessment. This assessment may or may not be the same as the Board of Education. In addition, where I felt additional information or the expansion of an answer seemed called for, I have tried to include it.

I hope this information is helpful. If you wish to contact me regarding my response or if you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

1. *How many pupils can the school accommodate without requiring expansion:*

I have recently completed a five-year facility report for the Department of Education where I have calculated the maximum capacity for Roosevelt Public School to be 138 students. However, this figure is based on room sizes and square footage requirements and is not based on pragmatic constraints. If I were to incorporate program con-

siderations, I would refine the above to the following breakdown:

Kindergarten: We currently have only one usable Kindergarten room that programmatically could function for up to 20 students. If we were over 20, we could go to split session AM and PM, but let's assume 20 as our count.

Grades 1-6: I currently use four classrooms for grades one through six as grades three and four are combined under one teacher and grades five and six are combined under one teacher. Programmatically, the number of students maximized under this structure would be 20 for grades one and two and less than 25 for grades three/four and five/six.

Based on our current educational model our maximum enrollment capacity would, therefore, be between 100-110.

Assuming that the model could change, we could expand program and convert rooms currently used for specialty activities to classrooms. If we did that, we could run K-6 with no combined classes and pretty much enroll to capacity. However, this would place a strain on our ability to run art, music, remediation, health and speech activities.

Based on my overall assessment I would say that enrollment of up to 100 elementary-aged children represents no need for change or expansion. Once we start going above that number, a variety of questions need to be addressed.

2. *What is current enrollment?*

As of May 1, 1990 our enrollment as a school and district breaks out as follows:

Kindergarten: 14
First Grade: 10
Second Grade: 15
Third/Fourth Grades: 10/9
Fifth/Sixth Grades: 9/7
Total K-6: 74

Middle School: 10
High School: 37
Special Ed: 4
Private Schools: 9
Total District Count: 134

3. *What is the additional cost for each additional K-6 pupil?*

In general terms the only cost attributable to a new K-6 student would be books. So for the most part, any new K-6 student would cost the district relatively nothing. However, a new student requiring special education

needs or a group of new students that would place demands on class size could result in the need to increase a part-time teacher's assignment for the former or require opening a new classroom in the latter.

In overview, a few new students requiring no change in service delivery would impact us in hundred dollar intervals. Special needs students whose needs could be effectively handled in district or a group of students requiring a change in service delivery impacts us in thousand dollar intervals.

4. *What is the additional cost for each student sent to middle school or high school in East Windsor?*

Middle School Tuition = \$6,014,
Transportation = \$1,000 (approx.),
Total = \$7,014

High School Tuition = \$6,969,
Transportation = \$1,000 (approx.),
Total = \$7,969

5. *How much additional state aid would be received for each additional K-6, middle or high school student?*

Since we are a K-12 district, the amount of equalization is the same regardless of a K-6, middle or high school student.

The calculation of state aid begins with a complicated formula that includes borough ratables and net valuation to compute a maximum per student support figure. This figure is multiplied by our on-roll attendance as of September 30 of any given year to compute our maximum support budget. This figure is then multiplied by a percentage or state share figure to calculate 100% equalization aid. The Governor then establishes his budget and reduces our equalization aid to whatever percentage we are to receive. For 1990/91 that percentage was 74 percent.

In simple terms, we will receive in 1990/91 \$236,091 in equalization aid. If we divide that number by our on-roll attendance figure of September 30, 1989, we can approximate what one child's equalization is equal to, namely \$1,912. However, this figure changes each year and is impacted on by a variety of factors. Note: Special needs children receive additional state support, but again far lower than the actual cost of providing services.

Again, I hope my answers are helpful.

Sincerely,
Harry Groveman
Chief School Administrator

Statements by Council Candidates

Editor's Note:

The Bulletin sent the following letter to all candidates for Borough Council in the June 5 primary. Their responses are printed on this page.

Congratulations on your candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Borough Council.

With your cooperation, the **Borough Bulletin** would like to profile the candidates for this office in the next issue. If you would like to participate, please send me a diskette or typescript with your responses—which will be printed verbatim—to the following four questions:

1. Why are you running for Borough Council?
2. What qualifications do you feel you have for the office?
3. Why should people vote for you?
4. If you had your way, how would the Roosevelt of five years from now be different from the Roosevelt of today?

In addition, please let me remind you that the **Bulletin** invites statements of any kind from candidates for local office.

Our deadline, as always, is the 15th.

Peter Warren

To My Fellow Citizens:

During the past few years, I have shared with you my ideas on the problems facing our town.

Now I can't do less than try, with your help, to solve these problems.

That is why I am running for a seat on Borough Council. I firmly believe that we can and will meet the challenges facing our community. I am prepared to work hard to ensure an efficient Borough administration and to minimize the financial impact of the mandated sewer repairs.

My qualifications are the following:

I have studied the administration of Roosevelt: the New Jersey Statutes regulating municipal government, our Borough ordinances, our Master Plan, the past 12 years of Council minutes and town news in the Bulletin, documentation from DEP and our Borough engineers, and Council correspondence.

Rose Murphy

I am Rose Murphy and I am running for a three year seat on the Borough Council. I am asking for your support and vote in the June 5th Democratic Primary.

My family and I have lived in Roosevelt for 14 years on North Valley Road. Many of you know me through the Roosevelt Food Co-op and as the afternoon school crossing guard.

Roosevelt is facing many challenges at this time, I would like the opportunity to try and solve them.

As your councilperson I will:

1. Work to find any and all funding available to ease the financial burden of the water and sewer repairs.
2. Work with the Community, the Planning Board and my fellow Council members to plan for Roosevelt's future.
3. Investigate forming a coalition with other small towns who face problems similar to ours, in the hope that together we can find more effective solutions.

I am looking forward to your support on June 5th.

Rose Murphy

Lee Allen

Dear Fellow Residents,

During the past few weeks, many of you have expressed feelings of hopelessness regarding our sewer situation and the expense involved. Without minimizing these concerns, I do sincerely believe that much can be done to meet the challenge this situation presents to our community. For this reason I am seeking a three year seat of the Borough Council, in the June 5th Democratic Primary.

Debby and I have lived in Roosevelt for twelve years. Our oldest daughter, Elizabeth attends RPS and Sara will soon follow her.

Currently an auditor with Crum and Forster, I bring 12 years of professional financial experience with world class banks to my bid for a Council seat. In addition, my 10 years of construction experience and the considerable time and effort spent in understanding Roosevelt's present situation will prove useful in working with our Mayor and Council to find cost effective solutions to the many problems that confront us.

With your vote for me on June 5th, you can help Roosevelt take one small step toward a more affordable future for all of us.

Yours truly,
Lee Allen

Stuart Kaufman

You may be wondering why Stu Kaufman is running for a council seat. I could be running for the fame and money or it could be I wouldn't ask someone else to do a job I wouldn't do myself.

I have many qualifications for the office of council, but the only one that really counts is common sense.

I want people of Roosevelt to vote for me because as a friend and neighbor I'm asking for your vote.

To tell you the truth the Roosevelt of five years from now wouldn't be any different from the Roosevelt of today, except I would finally be finished fixing up my house.

Polls will be open 7 AM-8 PM at the Borough Hall on June 5.

Council *(continued from page 1)*

kept in the dark. Rothfuss pointed out that there had been at least two meetings of the entire Council since the Friday meeting. This meant that, in his view, not to disclose a word about the DEP meeting was equivalent to a deliberate effort to withhold information. Prezant explained his silence by saying it was up to the Mayor to include others or to report to Council as he wished; the Mayor in turn refrained from comment.

Rothfuss at one point spoke in bitter and angry tones of having put in 20 hours a week since January on this project and of feeling gravely insulted by this kind of open and calculated disregard. He said it was true that everyone was urged to do what they could in this emergency, but that they did not explain why steps that were taken could not be shared with others. He also asked why the good work, well-known to all, that Council member Warren Craig was doing toward arranging a meeting with DEP Commissioner Yaskin was ignored as being of no consequence. Prezant then com-

plained that copies of a letter by Craig to DEP had not been distributed to everyone, a misdeed he claimed was equal to any he was charged with.

Call for Teamwork

Prezant responded to many questions by reiterating his point that it doesn't matter any more how it came to pass, the fact is we now have a meeting set up with DEP and what we need at this time is teamwork and cooperation. Many speakers agreed that the upcoming meeting was welcome but stated in different ways that they regretted the repeated lack of openness and the atmosphere of distrust engendered by secret maneuvering, the reason for which still remains unexplained. Marilyn Magnes declared that this kind of behavior works against the kind of cooperation and teamwork wanted now. Jane Rothfuss commented, "You can't act this way and then the next minute expect people to join in and feel enthusiastic."

Other Business Conducted

At around 11:00 PM the Council agreed on a series of dates for both its own preparation and for the DEP people to choose from. Other decisions taken were the introduction of Zoning Ordinance 97-19, a series of technical amendments to the zoning ordinance, and the introduction of Ordinance 29-3 to raise the liquor license fee by the allowed 20% to \$396.

Two resolutions were passed to support again the bicycle race passing through town on June 14 and to award a contract to install a flow water meter on Well #3 not to exceed a cost of \$2,026.

The water tank painting project has had a bumpy ride lately, reported Utilities Chair Rothfuss. The Council agreed to give the contractor, Proctor Baker, one more chance to get the work started and voted to authorize Rothfuss and Mayor Barth to maintain or call off the water emergency as required and decide on further procedure if necessary.

Council Meets DEP *(continued from page 1)*

protecting the environment has placed on many communities in the state but that there could be no exceptions made to the legal commitments agreed to and that any violations of the consent order would be met with strict enforcement action.

There were two minor items that would receive consideration, however: the 10 year contract requirement for sludge removal and the difficulty of providing a permit regarding wetland buffer acreage that if settled would allow the sewer project to proceed on schedule.

If Deadline Is Met, Fine Is Off

The discussion also clarified the procedure for possible inclusion in the Waste Water Trust Fund low interest loan program at a later date. The matter of the \$512,000 fine was also aired with an unequivocal assurance from the DEP Executives present that if by February 1992 the commitments made were adhered to, there would be no imposition of penalties accrued up to

that date. Failing compliance, however, the fine would be even greater than the half-million, due to the accumulation of interim penalties and would be strictly enforced.

Speakers Chide DEP

The public discussion was wide-ranging and critical of DEP policy. Many speakers made the point that a small community like ours should not have to carry a debt as heavy as an \$108 a month sewer bill. For example, Howard Chasan said that DEP is carrying a big stick and no carrot, and should consider bending a little. Art Unger suggested that perhaps other approaches and other technologies might be more helpful. Les Weiner and Lenny Sacharoff voiced criticism of federal and state indifference to ordinary taxpayers.

DEP Defends Safe Water

All the questions and comments raised received answers that consistently emphasized the need to protect

the public health by enforcement of state and federal anti-pollution laws and that despite the sympathy felt about the plight of so many citizens, no municipality will receive "exception" status as Roosevelt and others had in the past, which is why we are in the fix we are in now. It was stated that the federal laws are even more restrictive than the state's in many ways and there was no escape from the immediate necessity to enforce the safety of our drinking water.

But..!

Despite repeated statements in this vein, James Hatzfeld appeared to echo much of the public's sentiment when he said that we are a very small community who after all do very little polluting and as the only municipality upstream from the Assunpink waterway we can do only very minor damage to the environment. He contended that our community does face unique circumstances that should entitle us to be considered an exception.

RAP Finale: Roosevelt Artists Talk About Their Influences

by David Herrstrom

Nothing about the artist's mind is inherently interesting. Our interest is always aroused from the outside, which then leads us to the mind. We care about the thought and opinions of a baseball or tennis player because of demonstrated prowess, public acts we can see and savor, a pitch or sequence of shots beyond belief. We want to hear what the musician says because we cannot silence certain songs or riffs still ringing in our ears, not simply because someone is a musician. With artists, of course, it is the images that take hold of us and won't let go.

A cloud of floating human figures with their truncated limbs that have followed me for years; a row of women bent over sewing machines, belts and pulleys repeating behind them without end in a cruel and beautiful geometry that echoes their endless drudgery; a group of water buffalo, the curves of their horns caught in a dance that invites me to walk right into the wood engraving and join—these are the public fragments of imagination, respectively, that impelled me to hear Jacob Landau, Bob Mueller, and Stefan Martin talk about influences on their work.

It is images like these, not the fact that all three artists have work in such major collections as the Met, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney, that arouse our curiosity about how works of imagination get made. And watercolors, oils, woodcuts, and wood engravings get made in the strangest ways. Weaving together slides of their predecessors' and their own work with stories about the roots of specific images and themes, these three artists demonstrated to all present on Saturday, May 5, in the Borough Hall that they each have a peculiarly individual way of transforming experience into art.

This experience consists, as we might expect, of the everyday events of our lives. But for each artist a par-

ticular area of experience creates more pressure than others for making art. For Jacob Landau, this area is the spoken and written word. For Bob Mueller, it is the experience of mathematical forms, equations as they display themselves in graphical representations. And for Stefan Martin it is the natural world. As each artist related stories of influence, he returned again and again to the ways in which a fundamental realm of experience—the verbal, the mathematical, the natural—shaped his art.

As a high-school student, Jacob Landau won national acclaim for illustration. Seeing one of his prize-winning drawings for Kipling's *Jungle Book*, the influence of other popular illustrators of the time is clear, as he pointed out. But the most fascinating influence was Kipling's story itself. Jacob portrays a tiger in a breathtaking way, where we are hard on his haunches ambling right along with him as if we were a companion, exactly the point of view that Kipling's language forces us into.

A powerful aspect of Jacob's work for me has always been his imaginatively conceived, floating figures placed on a grid or crammed in boxes. I responded physically to the human body in tension with the rigid space, but it was a puzzle. Where did these distorted figures, who lived in a world without gravity come from? Part of the solution is in the fact, which I had not known before, that Jacob once drew comics professionally, including Captain America. Just as those in any adventure comic strip, his figures also defy gravity and live within the confines of the frames they are forced to inhabit. Meanwhile, of course, they are characters in a story; they are born of language.

While at MIT, it was the language of mathematics that took hold of Bob Mueller and has informed his art ever since. Though the human form is

prominent in his woodcuts, geometrical form preoccupies him in his abstracts. These paintings, which arise out of notebook sketches called "schemas," explore the infinite possibilities of mathematical form, playing evocative theme and variations. The schemas, in fact, began in 1952 as notes on the staff of an imaginary score. They evolved into simple patterns of intersecting lines and nodes, and finally over the past few years into a series of playful designs with the abstractness of equations and the immediacy of music.

The pattern formed by the ends of logs stacked in a woodpile arrests Stefan Martin. Shadows criss-crossing his parquet floor for a fleeting moment stun and then haunt him, until they find themselves transformed into an image engraved on the end of a fine wood block that has the power to move us. "Leave it to the eyeball," he says, as if we all possessed the same eyeballs. But his has been trained by the great wood engravers of the past and is connected to his hands by years of craft. Black limbs of winter trees and the multitude of shapes they carve out of the grey sky sit Stefan down. Then he gives us an unforgettable image given to him by the natural world, reminding us that we looked but did not see.

Each of these artists has made images that go with me, revealing possibilities around me that I would not have known but for the transforming power of their imagination. But power is also a puzzle. Where does it come from? This question, which starts with an encounter, is one that these three artists tried to answer at least partially. And those who heard them tell stories about influences on their art at the last event of the Roosevelt Arts Project, 1989-90 season, were not disappointed.



Singing the Praises of Our Planet

At left: Roosevelt musician David Brahinsky entertains the students of RPS at the April 20 Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration [see story on page 7, Ed.].

photograph by Ilene Levine

Landau to Host Open Studio

Internationally exhibited painter and printmaker Jacob Landau will open his studio to collectors and other interested parties on Saturday, June 9 from 11 AM to 6 PM.

A yearly event, the "Open Studio" affords artist and collector an opportunity to meet face to face in the intimacy of Mr. Landau's dome studio at 30 Lake Drive.

"This event is a time for me to see old friends and to meet new ones as well as a chance for them to see and meet each other," Landau said. He characterizes the "Open Studio" as "a way of swarming, with lots of good talking."

Visitors to the artist's workplace are treated to a look at part of his private collection which includes prints and drawings by Kathe Kollwitz, Leonard Baskin, Ben Shahn, Gregorio Prestopino, Peter Milton and Goya.

Landau, who is 72, will display a number of drawings from his personal sketchbooks dating back to the 1950s.

The "Open Studio" also features the artist's current projects. This year, attention will be focussed upon "Climbing Jacob's Ladder," a series of drawings and prints based upon the Old Testament story of Jacob and Esau.

"The reference to the artist's name is not coincidental," Landau notes. He interprets the climbing of the ladder as a kind of metaphor for both his own

personal struggle and the human condition in general.

Fellow artist Peter Milton has written that "Landau is an artist uniquely whole in his balance of being literary and socially aware, passionate and formally astute... What strikes me first about a Jacob Landau image is not its overt subject, but the force with which he welds together the components of his design."

Landau is the recipient of grants from the Guggenheim and Ford Foundations, the National Arts Council and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, among many others. His work is in the permanent collections of leading museums, including MOMA, the Metropolitan, The Whitney, The Philadelphia, Washington D.C.'s Joseph J. Hirshhorn, The New Jersey State and The Newark museums.

A master teacher, he is professor Emeritus at New York's Pratt Institute and academician at the National Academy of Design. He has had more than 60 one-person shows and has been included in several hundred group exhibitions.

Landau is currently preparing works for an upcoming Pratt Institute mini-retrospective, expected to open in November 1990.

For more information, call (609) 443-4639.

—From a press release.

Garden House Studio Invites Participation

We are an artist's cooperative dedicated to offering artists a place to work as well as to exhibit their work through monthly exhibitions. Our cooperative has flexible space, a well-equipped pottery studio and well lit gallery space. We are people of all ages, backgrounds and educations sharing the enjoyment of art.

We offer classes and workshops for adults and children living in the community. We also offer open studio and workshops geared to the active artist. How to photograph your art work, monotypes, figure drawing and how to get in touch with your creativity have been presented or are currently being offered.

We hold our monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM and have exhibiting/contributing memberships and resident memberships available.

Find us...in Berlin at 198 Taunton-Hopewell Road. Take 73 South to Cooper Road. Garden House Studio is directly opposite Cooper Road at the dead end.

Call 767-8750 for a brochure of classes or information on how to join us.

—From a press release.

Impressions of Roosevelt

by Mike Hamilton

It's been a little over a year since we moved to Roosevelt. We lived in Highland Park for thirteen years prior to moving here.

When we were looking for a house (our first one) we looked at a large variety of houses in various locations and it seemed we always found something wrong with either the house or the location. One house which we both liked was situated in a lovely wooded area. Later when we took a short ride we noticed the chemical factory a few hundred yards up the road, well hidden by a grove of trees. It was always something, either in the house or the setting.

We were starting to grow weary when Nancy (my wife) had a dream that we moved to Roosevelt. "Terrific," I said, "but where is Roosevelt?" Well, she showed me on the map (it took two tries, it wasn't on the first map). Nancy works in Millstone which means she can be at work in 5 minutes, while I commute to Union County, about forty five minutes away. This did not seem to be an equitable arrangement, so we let the idea go.

A few weeks later I noticed a listing in the paper (which proved the place existed) and because it was a Sunday I said, "Let's go for a ride." Immediately we both fell in love with the place, and at the risk of sounding corny, it felt as if we found the lost piece of a puzzle, it fit so right. There were trees all around, and even a chorus of frogs in the swamp across the street! But there must be something wrong, I thought, a chemical factory nearby or perhaps Radon contamination? Ah ha, the sewer plant! It probably stinks in the summer. A survey of the neighbors on the street indicated that most of the time it didn't. It was an interesting way to meet the new neighbors: "Excuse me, does the sewer plant at the end of the road stink?"

Anyhow we bought the place because we couldn't find anything wrong with it, and because of Nancy's dream. Its funny, every time I've tried to approach a major life decision in a logical fashion, I've always ended up acting out of passion or emotion. It's a lot like buying a car: you seem to end up with the one you fell in love with.

The move was crazy as most moves are. I really think that we are just now recovering. The sewer plant does stink sometimes, but not that often. The 45 minute commute is a pain sometimes but the place at the end of the road is well worth the trip. When you love someone or something you overlook those minor imperfections, and in a way it even becomes endearing.

The reflections of the past year are mostly in fragments and pieces...The hummingbird which buzzed me and scared me half to death while planting an azalea two weeks after moving in...The 50-pound snapper turtle with moss on his back and spiny protrusions on his tail that helped to break the monotony of that terrible rainy weekend inside with three fidgety kids. "Hey kids, look out the front window, there's a turtle coming up our driveway!"..."Neat dad, can we go out to see it?" So we went out to see this thing that crawled out of the swamp. "That thing must weigh 50 pounds," I said.

Without thinking I bent down to pick it up and this turtle snapped its head around so quickly that it nearly took my hand off! Aren't turtles supposed to be slow? Perhaps this old timer hadn't heard. It was a valuable lesson for the kids: "You see, I just wanted to show you guys that turtles can be dangerous!" The children learned a valuable lesson that day, but I still have a lot to learn...We were blessed many times by our deer sightings and saw many families of deer...never once did we see starving malnourished ones, in fact they looked very well fed and never once did we feel a humanitarian urge to put them out of their misery...several times we did direct some hungry Deer who had lost their way to Ed Moser's garden for a snack.

I learned a lot about the town's politics. I have never had any political ambitions and indeed I know precious little about politics. I learned something early on about politics in Roosevelt: political naivete is no excuse for not getting involved in politics in this town. Indeed, many of the people whom I've met in politics are politically naive just like me. Having

felt better about my innocence I decided to do something political. A town meeting would be a good place to start. So I checked the *Bulletin*: here's a meeting about the water-sewer bill, this looks like a good place to start...Wow...Who is this woman lashing out at Peter Warren? Boy he must have really done something wrong to deserve this!...Fifteen full minutes of head bashing, back stabbing politics! He looks so innocent. I first met Peter Warren when he came to our house to greet us and register us to vote in the primary (which due to some foul-up we were not able to vote in) but Peter impressed us as a well-meaning man. Because of my many talks with him, here I am at this meeting getting involved...But why is this woman who never read *Robert's Rules of Order* jumping all over this poor man?...I remember her..when we were worried about the sewer plant stinking we talked to her about it because we were told that she would know if it did indeed stink...but she also seemed innocent enough and was also very charming. Now either I am very easily charmed or politics in Roosevelt has a way of turning Dr. Jekylls into Mr. Hydes...because here are these two lovely people looking like they would like to wring each others necks.

Mayor Barth looks innocent enough, but does he really run this town? He seems to have a look of wisdom in his eyes as he casually surveys the fray...my ten year old cat has that same look before napping...Maybe that guy Kirk Rothfuss is really running this town...he seems to be doing all of the talking...do these guys get paid for this?...Like any political forum this one too is 10% substance and 90% air, and the air outside is a lot less stuffy.

I suppose this new water-sewer increase could be a blessing in disguise in that the town will probably remain small and quaint because who can afford to move in here and pay those rates? Had I known I probably would not have moved in, who knows...love is blind, and the reason I moved to Roosevelt had nothing to do with logic or dollars...Like the original settlers it had to do with a dream...

Summer Camp Starts July 9

by Margaret Schlinski

The Roosevelt Community Summer Camp will begin its five week program on Monday, July 9. The Camp is open to all children staying in Roosevelt during the summer.

Howie Kaufman will again be our camp director and will teach gymnastics and run the sports and physical education portion of our camp. Howie has been director of our camp for over ten years. He has taught in the Bronx school system for 22 years.

Ilene Levine will teach arts and crafts. She offers the children many projects in different media. Many of the art projects in Ilene's class are for the theatrical production which culminates the total camp effort at the end of the program. She has been the arts

and crafts counselor for 2 years. She has been a teacher in RPS for 13 years.

Maxine Shore is joining us this year as our drama instructor. For the past 2 years she has been teaching art, French and Spanish as well as supervising the Gifted and Talented enrichment program at RPS. We are very happy to have such a creative and energetic addition to our already exceptional staff.

Jan Plumb began our popular nursery program 3 summers ago. It was so successful we felt it should continue as part of our camp program. Nursery Camp is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9 AM-12 noon at RPS. Parents who are interested in sending their 3- or 4-year-olds should enroll as soon as possible, due to limited space.

Camp will run 9 AM-12 noon weekdays. Mondays, Wednesdays and

Fridays we meet at RPS. Tuesdays and Thursdays are pool days. Campers will be dropped off and picked up by parents at the Pine Valley Swim Club for swimming activities and arts and crafts. A certified Red Cross lifeguard will join the other counselors on pool days.

We hope to open our school library for 1 period a week to continue our summer reading club.

The summer program costs \$35/week for the first child, with reduced rates for additional children. The nursery program is \$25/week. There is a \$15 registration fee per family.

For further information call Margaret Schlinski at 443-5180 or Howie Kaufman at 448-4282. Financial Assistance is Available. Call M. Schlinski at 443-5180.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

I read Rob Jensen's letter last month in the *Bulletin* with a mixture of amusement and frustration, although admittedly more of the latter. I am intrigued by some of the statements Mr. Jensen makes as a "new resident of Roosevelt," and wonder at the source of his ideas.

Being "new" in town is a relative term, especially in Roosevelt, so I too still consider myself somewhat of a newcomer after living here for three and a half years. But in those three and a half years, I have attended close to two dozen public meetings. In this time, I have never once heard any public official refer to abortion or nuclear weapons! Yet Mr. Jensen says we need "people concerned more about Roosevelt and not abortion and nuclear weapons." Who specifically is Mr. Jensen referring to? Has he ever heard any of our Council members say anything about these matters? If not, (which I believe is the case), then from what source do Mr. Jensen's statements arise? Do these ideas simply spring forth from the deep recesses of a disgruntled resident's mind? Or are they the opinions of others, dropped into fertile ground like weed seeds?

Mr. Jensen says that "the people distributing misleading information

are the Marilyn Magnes' of the town." What is that supposed to mean? Again, to whom and to what specific instances of distribution of misleading information is he referring? I have my suspicions that Mr. Jensen would not attempt to answer this question without a quick conference with his "sources" (or is it more accurate to say "mentors"?)

Mr. Jensen says the increased water and sewer charges are caused by "the inaction several years ago by Borough Council members when this problem could have been resolved." Am I to suppose that Mr. Jensen has done his own research into the matter and could explain this assertion? Or is he simply parroting others who told him this was so? If Mr. Jensen had done his own homework, he might have learned that at least as early as 1978, the Mayor and Council were receiving letters threatening to turn our sewer discharge violations over to the US Department of Justice for prosecution. This is much earlier than "several years ago," and indicates that the problem's resolution has evaded or has been evaded by several successive Councils and mayoral terms.

In his post script, Mr. Jensen cites Mayor Leon Barth as "doing a great job." While I am not necessarily dis-

agreeing with this statement, I again wonder to what specific acts of Mr. Barth's are being referred. Has Mr. Jensen himself observed actions by the Mayor that warrant such praise? If the answer to this question is yes, then surely Mr. Jensen has also observed work done by other Council members worthy of similar praise. But why is this not forthcoming? Does this not fit in with Mr. Jensen's political agenda? Was this not in the script he was given when welcomed as a newcomer to town?

I have never met Mr. Jensen and had not even heard of him before his letter appeared in the *Bulletin*. I had no preconceived notions about him or his opinions. However, I feel Mr. Jensen needs to think more about Ted Turner's quote that he himself cited, which was "Lead, follow or get out of the way." Mr. Jensen's type of unspecific criticism, and in my opinion, irresponsible public participation, is certainly not leadership and it certainly gets in the way. That leaves following. While there is nothing wrong with being a follower, there is something wrong with becoming a follower without question or without an attempt to first form one's own opinions independently and in an informed way.

Sincerely,
Jane Darden Rothfuss

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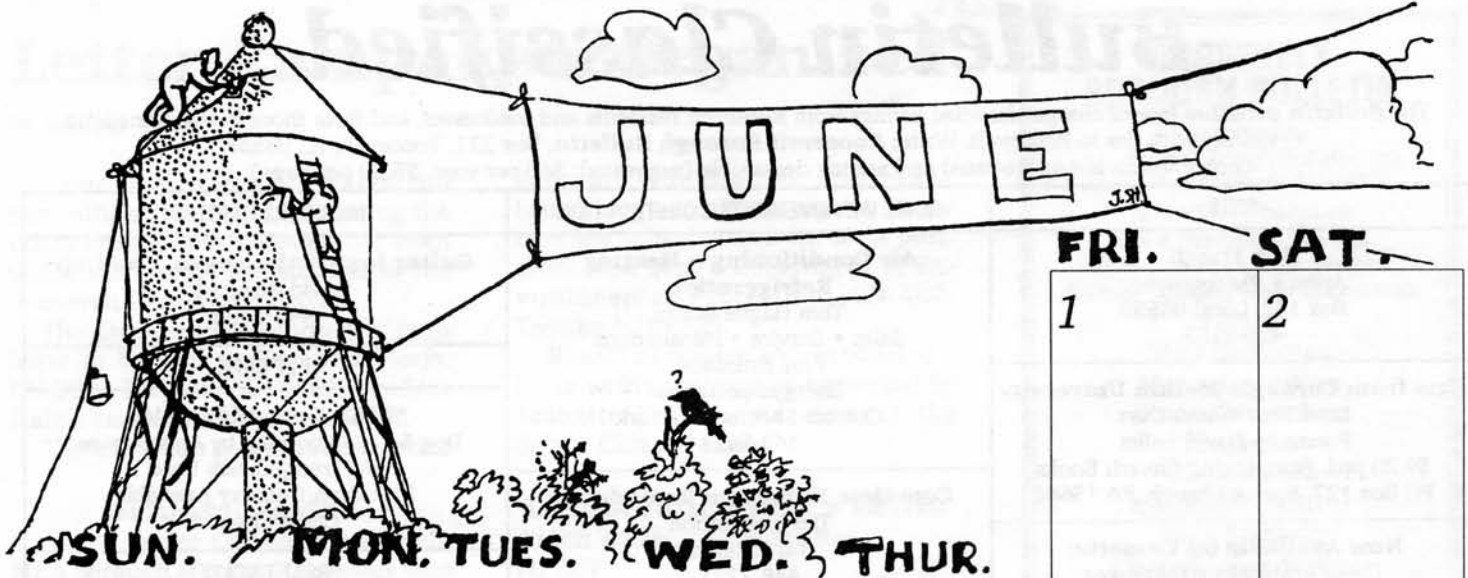
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Bulletin Classified

The **Bulletin** publishes free of charge classified listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: **Roosevelt Borough Bulletin**, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555.
Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$40 per year, \$5.00 per issue).

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<p>HELP WANTED</p>	<p>Tutors Wanted to help with free tutoring program for Roosevelt students. A rewarding way to help the children of our community Call Mary King at 448-5096</p>	



					FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<p>Deborah Borough Hall 2:00 PM Frieda Rockoff, Pres. (448-0674)</p>	<p>Primary Day Borough Hall 7 AM-8 PM see page 10</p>		<p>Board of Ed. Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Debra Allen, Pres. (448-6978)</p>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Congregation Anshei Flea Market Synagogue 5-9 PM</p>	<p>Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)</p>	<p>Senior Citizens Borough Hall 2:00 PM Jeanette Koffler, Pres. (448-2259) Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM Alan Mallach, chair (448-4616)</p>	<p>Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM Leon Barth, Mayor (448-1870) Marilyn Magnes, Council President (448-6402)</p>	<p><i>Recyclables Collected</i> Board of Ed. Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM Debra Allen, Pres. (448-6978) Zoning Board Boro Hall, 8 PM Lou Esakoff, Chair (448-3166)</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<p><i>Half Day at RPS</i> Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM Michael Ticktin, Pres. (448-0363)</p>	<p><i>Half Day at RPS</i></p>	<p><i>Half Day at RPS</i></p>	<p><i>Half Day at RPS</i> Last Day of School PTA RPS, 7:30 PM Adeenah Yeger, President (443-5846)</p>		<p><i>RPS Graduation</i></p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		<p>First Aid Squad Borough Hall 7:30 PM Judy Nahmias, Pres. (443-5290)</p>		<p><i>Recyclables Collected</i></p>		

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)