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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

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XVII

Esakoff Resigns from Board

by Mark Zuckerman & Dolores Chasan

Lou Esakoff, who was elected in April to a two-year term on the Roosevelt Board of Education, resigned his seat on the Board. The School Board accepted his resignation at its business meeting on September 15.

Esakoff claims he left the Board out of "sheer frustration" with the behavior of other Board members and a lack of visible public support.

**for more RPS news,
see pages 4-8**

"When I ran last spring, my platform was well known. I stated that I thought we should investigate alternatives to educating our elementary school children at RPS. I had received encouragement for my position and promises of support from members of the community, both young and old." He says that once he was elected, this support never materialized, and that the other members of the School Board were unwilling to give his viewpoint a fair hearing.

Esakoff has served previously on the School Board. He also has been a member of the Zoning and Planning Boards and of the Borough Council. He currently chairs the Zoning Board and is

continued on page 6

New CSA to Take Charge October 3

by Mark Zuckerman

At its business meeting on September 15, the Roosevelt Board of Education announced the appointment of Harry A. Groveman to the post of Chief School Administrator at RPS. Groveman will assume his new office on October 3.

Interim Superintendent Arthur Martin, who was appointed in June to replace former CSA Stanley Sussman, will continue serving the District as a consultant, at a *per diem* of \$200. Martin's schedule at RPS will drop to at most two days a week. Martin says his abrupt change in status as of October 3 is important, since a continuation in his current role might serve to

continued on page 4

also in this issue:

Council Criticizes Mayor	3
School Board Hires Administrator	4
RPS: Changing and Improving	5
School Board Hears Architect	7
RPS Announcements	8
Register to Vote	9
Democrats Hold Rally	10
Arts Project Starts New Season	11
In the News	11
Switchel Ends Talks with Nottermans	13
Planners Hear Farmlands Report	14
Roosevelt Land Use	15
Love of Words	16
Letters	17
Supporters and Contributors	18
Classified	19
Community Calendar	20

Switchel Plan Dies, Revives?

by Bob Clark

Many Rooseveltians breathed a sigh of relief in August when Switchel, Inc., a New York-based developer, sent a letter [set forth in full on page 13] to the Borough Council withdrawing its informal proposal for rezoning of the 123-acre Beer-Kugler tract—bordering the northern side of Oscar Drive—to accommodate 139 dwellings. Unsure of the impact on the town's placid lifestyle and tight fiscal situation, these residents have wished to confine any residential growth to the smaller scale contemplated by the Planning Board in its recent Master Plan update and embodied by the Council in an ordinance governing the Notterman parcel east of the "old village."

Many other Rooseveltians have felt that the Switchel letter might signal the end of an opportunity to effectively study the possibility of utilizing controlled growth to ensure the borough's fiscal integrity without significant sacrifice of ambiance. Local realtor Milton Sadovsky invited leaders of this group and Mayor Leon Barth to a meeting on September 8 with Switchel field manager Thomas Cantin in an attempt to determine what, if anything, could be done to persuade the Council to view the proposal more favorably. The meeting took place at the Borough Hall.

continued on page 12

Get Set for Big Garbage Day, October 22

see page 8

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Letter from the Editor: Let the Reader Beware

The **Borough Bulletin** has adopted a liberal editorial policy to allow the free and fair expression of all viewpoints within the community. Our interest is promoting healthy and thoughtful public debate on issues of importance. It is not our mission, nor our place, to support or emphasize any one point of view.

Accordingly, our readers should understand that the letters and *Viewpoint* articles which appear on our pages, unlike our factual articles, are copy edited for grammar and clarity only. The content, including any allegations of fact, is the responsibility of the author. The mere presence of such an article in the **Bulletin** does not carry with it any sense of an endorsement by the **Bulletin** for its message or content.

This is our principle, and we stick to it, despite more than one moment of editorial unease due to a few wild claims and provocative statements made by some of the authors whose work we publish. We consider the mode of expression to be the privilege of those who wish their opinions made known, and we give them wide latitude.

In keeping with this policy, the Editor refrains from commenting on the discussion which takes place in these pages.

This is the general procedure followed on any important public issue: As Editor, I send personal letters inviting articles from those who have expressed their opinions on the issue in public meetings, and am careful to make sure that the invitation list is equally divided between those for and against. The letters always encourage the recipients to pass my invitation along to anyone they think might be interested in accepting it.

All responses are published. The fact that one side of an issue may appear to be under-represented means only that those on that side did not care to comment in print at that time.

The **Bulletin** recognizes no factions. Instead, we cherish the individual opinions we receive and print, and present them as the views of individuals, not those of any group. Members of local government—including the Borough Council, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, and the School Board—are all especially encouraged to contribute their opinions, since they are the ones who are entrusted with making decisions on behalf of the community, and are also responsible and accountable for those decisions.

The **Borough Bulletin** remains committed to the principle of not exercising prior restraint on the publication of opinions. We believe that all Rooseveltians have the privilege of seeing their own expression of their opinions in print, even though the facts may not support all that is said. Others always have the opportunity to respond.

However, it should be recognized that responding to unwarranted accusations can be a burden. Just as no one should assume that the proportion of articles for versus against any issue represents an accurate weighting of how these opinions are distributed in town, no one should be prepared to accept as true any allegation contained in a *Viewpoint* article merely because it goes unchallenged. Let the reader beware.

It is my personal hope that the public discussion can be free of invective and cheap shots, and be focussed on the factual side of issues. Due respect should be given to differing opinions. But until this takes place (if it ever does), the **Bulletin** shall continue to publish all opinions. Better to see them on the pages of the **Bulletin**, in the open and with the author's name attached, than to have them whispered anonymously behind our backs.

—Mark Zuckerman

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Council Criticizes Mayor

by Aaron Datz

At a meeting that was filled with excitement and pithy discussion, the Borough Council criticized Mayor Leon Barth for holding an unpublicized meeting at the Borough Hall with a Switchel representative, real estate agents, a *Bulletin* reporter, and a few citizens of Roosevelt who favored development.

After being asked by members of Council about this meeting, the Mayor reported that its purpose was to ask Switchel to reconsider its decision to pull out of their proposed development of the Beer-Kugler tract. No Council members had been invited.

The following is a paraphrased summary of statements that were made by the Mayor, Council members, and the public on this subject:

Council Member Marilyn Magness: I heard that a meeting was held at the Borough Hall which included the Mayor, the Switchel representative, real estate agents Mel Adlerman and Milton Sadovsky, reporter Bob Clark, Peter Warren, Lee Allen, and Mary Alfare. The Council received no report and no Council or Planning Board members were invited. Why was this meeting held and what was discussed?

Mayor Leon Barth: Was invited by a group of citizens to try to get Switchel to reconsider their dropping of their plan for development. No answer was received. There was no answer forthcoming to the Council request for an impact study and an official statement of their intentions. Meeting was no secret; *Bulletin* had reporter present.

Magness: Council had requested the Mayor to keep them informed of any negotiations with outside consultants and contractors. This was not done. Possible legal ramifications might ensue if local government was seen to be acting in a manner inconsistent with the Master Plan. The Mayor's presence gave the meeting an official sanction which was inappropriate.

Council Member Jill Lipoti: Worked very hard to have completely open Council meetings. The very people who had accused the Council of not being completely open then turned

around and held a secret meeting with the Mayor. Angry at not being informed of the meeting.

Council President Carol Watchler: Phoned the Borough Hall that evening. Mayor answered and said nothing about the meeting in progress.

Ann Baker: As a professional lobbyist considers it very inappropriate to have a developer and real estate agent meeting with the Mayor without prior Council approval.

Lee Allen: Asked meeting organizers beforehand to have Lipoti and Watchler invited to the meeting. (After the Council meeting, Allen told this reporter that the request was made to Mr. Sadovsky. Mr. Sadovsky told the *Bulletin* that he relayed this request to Mr. Warren.) Also, Allen defended the meeting; called criticism of the meeting an ego trip by the members of the Council; asked why they didn't trust the Mayor. Claimed the Mayor was elected with a special mandate, and should be allowed to exercise it.

Mary Alfare: Called protest over the meeting a tempest in a teapot. Was frustrated over Switchel's pullout. Claimed that Council members were rude when presented with petition asking for further negotiations with Switchel. Later admitted that Council had acted properly in requesting further information from Switchel. Expressed anger with certain members of the Council. Offered these as justifications for taking private action.

Council Member Ed Moser: Denied rudeness by Council. Stated that Council had acted in accordance with petition to give a full hearing to Switchel. Maintained that Council acted in good faith, requesting from Switchel a letter of intent, specific information, and funding for impact study; Switchel responded to none of these.

Council Member Ralph Seligman: Troubled by the campaign of some people against the democratically elected government.

Anita Cervantes: As an alternate member of the Planning Board was particularly pleased with the way the Council handled the Switchel presentation; admired the high level expertise of

the questions asked. Pointed out the Mayor was not the only elected member of government; Council members were also. Disturbed over lack of faith in local government which would cause the private meeting with Switchel.

Lipoti: Asked for a complete report of the meeting from Alfare who usually records meetings.

Alfare: Her recorder broke down; could recall nothing said that the Mayor had not reported.

Milton Sadovsky (in reply to a question stated that he had organized the meeting): Invited the others to it, including the Mayor. Wanted the Citizens' Group present. Asked Mayor to have meeting in Borough Hall because Sadovsky's wife was sick.

Mark Zuckerman: Disturbed at secrecy of the meeting. As the Editor of the *Bulletin*, he tries to insure that all information is disseminated to the public, which is difficult enough even when meetings and events are publicized. Clark was at the meeting only by accident. Invited by Sadovsky to attend after Clark, as a reporter for the *Bulletin*, had asked him how to get in touch with Switchel to ask why Switchel had pulled out. Further added those in favor of the development were their own worst enemies: that as it is up to the Council to make a final decision regarding such matters as the Switchel affair, it was self-defeating behavior to continually antagonize Council. The organizers of the meeting should have realized that they were setting up the Mayor for serious criticism. Warned of the danger of crying "wolf" too often: the Council could not possibly be as inept or conspiratorial as they are routinely made out to be, and we would all lose if critics could not be believed when Council actually did behave ineptly.

Jane Rothfuss and Al Hepner: Asked Mayor if he would avoid such actions in the future.

Mayor Barth: Denied any error on his part. Refused to commit himself for the future.

continued on page 12

School Board Hires New Administrator

by Anne DeCocco

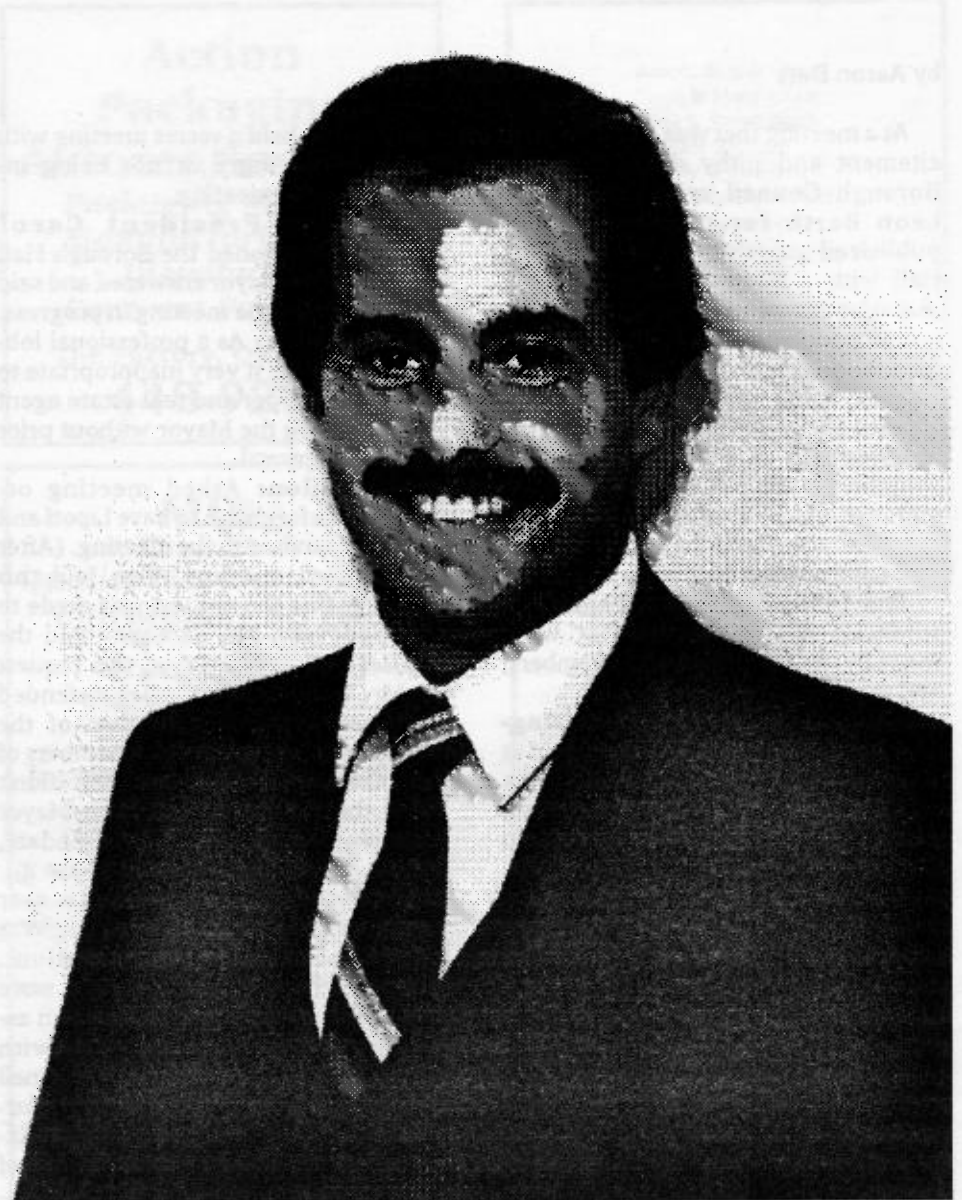
During the past two months the Board of Education has reviewed the credentials of 44 candidates for the position of Chief School Administrator. We narrowed the field down to eight, and interviewed the two finalists three times. After long sessions and deep negotiations, I am pleased to announce that Harry A. Groveman, currently Educational Director of the Alpha School in Lakewood, has been appointed to the position of CSA at a salary of \$52,000 per year, prorated the first year (October 1, 1988-June 30, 1989). His benefits package will be identical to the one RPS teachers receive. The term of the contract will be October 1, 1988 until June 30, 1991 with salary negotiable each year.

Mr. Groveman received his BS from Long Island University in Physical Education, an MS from Queens College in Education, and an EdM in Education Administration from Columbia University where he is also a Doctoral candidate. He resides in Teaneck with his wife and children.

The Education/Personnel Committee welcomes Mr. Groveman to our school district and wishes him the very best of luck.

Also new to our district is Art Franklin. Mr. Franklin teaches Physical Education on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and Health on Friday as well as supervising the lunch room on those days. He received his BS in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation from the University of Buffalo. Mr. Franklin taught Phys Ed and Health in the Holmdel school district last year and resides in Manalapan with his wife and three children. He is an enthusiastic teacher and is enjoying his new students. We welcome him to RPS.

Yet another new face is afternoon Aide Shirley Golden. Ms. Golden comes to us after spending several years at the



Harry A. Groveman, New CSA

East Windsor/Hightstown YMCA. You'll find her in the lunch room, doing secretarial work, and helping Ruth Howard, our School Nurse. Ms. Golden is an LPN and resides in Hightstown with her two children. We're happy to have her at RPS.

There are still several more new faces that I'll introduce to you next month. There's a lot happening at RPS—and it's all good!

Anne DeCocco chairs the Education/Personnel Committee of the Roosevelt Board of Education.

New CSA to Take Charge *continued from page 1*

undermine the authority of the new CSA.

Martin has three projects to complete before leaving the District: developing the budget for next year,

creating the District's Five-Year Plan, and getting RPS ready for monitoring in February.

Martin says his brief tenure as CSA has been exhausting, yet rewarding.

"Roosevelt is a very interesting community," he says. "The people here are unusually literate. I've enjoyed meeting the people here."

RPS: Changing and Improving

by Ed Grossman

Several months ago, RPS may have reached its all time low. We had administrative turmoil, a parental grievance, a teacher grievance, and upset parents over math performance and the handling of a DYFS investigation. There were questions about our upper grade program with only two students in 7th grade and 7 students in 8th grade. We had extensive teacher turnover. The Board was faced with having renewed the contract for our preschool teacher (even though no children from Roosevelt were eligible to attend) without being able to open a program because we could not install a required bathroom in time. The interior and exterior of the school looked terrible and were unsafe.

Even more ominous were the mandates from both the State and County to correct violations. These violations covered almost every aspect of the school from program requirements to facilities. The State and County were most annoyed with the fact that many months went by without seeing any serious compliance. This resulted in more strident mandates that threatened us with the burden of enormous expenditures to correct them.

...Towards the end of this sad state of affairs, the Board had the opportunity for a new beginning. Our Chief School Administrator resigned, as did the Board Secretary and several staff members. The Board did not miss the opportunity. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hire Mr. Arthur G. Martin, an experienced and gifted leader, as an Interim Chief School Administrator. At this point, my account leaves the new low and addresses the difficult road to a new high. We are part of the way there...

During Mr. Martin's dedicated leadership, all health and safety violations were corrected before the opening of school. The State and County officials that inspected the facilities on August 30, 1988 were very impressed with our progress and issued an extremely favorable report. The cost of these corrections was paid for with monies from this year's budget. Initially we anticipated very costly repairs and modifications. However, through Mr. Martin's discussions with the State

and County, many items on our original list were eliminated.

We are still faced with a major State-mandated facilities improvement plan. At the September 15, 1988 Board meeting, Fred Thomas Associates, an architectural firm hired by the Board at the request of the State, presented an analysis and cost proposal for Code violations corrections, recommended improvements, and "wish-list" improvements. The cost ranged between \$109,000 and \$978,000. The Board and Mr. Martin felt that the list included many unnecessary items and that the cost of a realistic plan for improving the school and complying with State mandates would be much less. Mr. Martin plans to present a "rebuttal" to the report and the Board is confident that the State and County will approve Mr. Martin's plan. In addition, we have taken care of several items on the list. It should be noted that the action and cost of these items can be spread over five years in conjunction with our mandatory "Five Year Plan" due on October 15, 1988.

During this past summer, the Board elected to send our 7th and 8th graders to East Windsor. The primary motivating factor behind the move was the tremendous educational benefits for our students. Secondly, many of the costly items mandated by the State were eliminated. Through our increased involvement with East Windsor, we were able to enter into several jointures for transportation that save the district a great deal of money. I must admit, with great regret, that we had no other option but to accept the bids submitted by Roosevelt Auto on several runs—since they were the only bids—that were more than 100% more than their previous bids. Mr. Martin did an excellent job of reorganizing our programs and the fine quality instructional staff that remained. He was fortunate to be able to hire new staff members with excellent credentials.

The school building and grounds are really starting to look much better. Aside from the unseen improvements such as plumbing and roof work, the lobby is a wonderful place to be,

reflected by the comments of the many parents that attended the graduation for our former 7th and 8th graders. The classrooms have been reorganized and the library is starting to take shape. Fireproof carpeting has been installed, locks and doors replaced, exit signs installed, vents repaired, outdated equipment removed and the grounds have been maintained.

The County and State are both pleased with our District Objectives for 1988-89 (an assessment very different from their evaluation of our 1987-88 objectives). We have learned that we are one of the few schools in the State to have 100% of our 3rd and 6th graders pass the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS). We feel that our K-6 program is very solid and offers our children an excellent education.

We have just hired Mr. Harry Groveman as our new Chief School Administrator. He has his work cut out for him on the difficult road to a new high for RPS. He will begin on October 3, 1988. There are many positive things that he can build on. Enrollment is increasing. The census recently completed indicated that there are over 105 children between the ages of 0 and 5 that are potential students at RPS. Class sizes should range between 15 and 18 and subsequent State aid should be increasing steadily. The RPS staff, Board, PTA, and many community members have a strong positive attitude and commitment to the success of the school.

Many of us feel that for over 50 years RPS has been and continues to be an extremely valuable component of the Roosevelt community. The budget for maintaining and improving RPS has yet to be determined. However, with the expertise of Mr. Martin, and the new leadership of Mr. Groveman, the Board feels confident that we can keep costs to a minimum and still comply with State and County mandates and provide quality programs. The Board welcomes your support.

Ed Grossman is President of the Roosevelt Board of Education.

Esakoff Resigns

continued from page 1

Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator. He is highly critical of the present School Board.

"In all my years of public service, I have never seen such an exercise of personal vested interest. There were three members of the Board with small children who absolutely and unalterably were not going to put their children on a school bus. That was that. It became very clear to me that this Board was hell-bent for keeping the school open at any cost—both to the children and to the taxpayer. I couldn't win. And only one of the people who had promised support came to a Board meeting to back me up."

Concerned About Educational Opportunities

"Make no mistake," says Esakoff. "My overriding concern is getting the best possible education for our children. We just don't have the resources here to provide the kind of educational opportunities available elsewhere. And I'm not talking about the Peddie School, or some rich North Jersey community. I'm talking about right across the road in East Windsor." He cites as examples a selection of foreign languages for fifth- and sixth-graders, elementary-level computer literacy, and a deep curriculum in music and art.

"The best advice I've heard is that we could keep RPS K-2. But starting at the third grade, our program shows its weaknesses as compared with East Windsor's."

Alarmed Over Costs

Esakoff is also concerned about the cost. He calculates the District spends approximately \$600,000 a year to run the elementary program, which amounts to more than \$8,500 per student at the current enrollment of roughly 70 children. Tuition at East Windsor is slightly less than \$5,000 per student; it would cost the District about \$20,000 additionally per year for transportation.

"We're paying 70% more, for less value," says Esakoff. "It just doesn't make sense."

To bring the per-student cost down to a comparable level, Esakoff estimates that RPS would have to run at

near-capacity. "And that means each grade would have to be at capacity each year, not just on the average. Once any grade exceeds capacity, we're in for additional money for salaries and facilities. It's not practical."

Esakoff admits he thinks it worthwhile paying a premium for providing locally the equivalent of what is available elsewhere. But, he estimates the upgrade to the current program would cost the District a minimum of \$100,000 in salaries annually over and above the current expenditure, and would require additional facilities. "I could see paying maybe 25% more to do the job locally, but not 100%."

Worried About Facilities

Esakoff's third concern is for the condition of the school building. The fifty-year-old structure was cited by government officials last year for 37 violations. While many of these have been corrected, all must be put to rights for the State to allow the school to operate.

"We have to remember that the State requirements always get more stringent, not less. Even if we take care of what they demand today, there's tomorrow. And we need to do more to the school than just what the State wants. I can't see us getting through this for less than a six-figure amount. I'm afraid this whole deal is going to bankrupt the town."

Ed Grossman, Board of Education President, said he was "sad to see Lou leave the Board." He said he tried to get Esakoff to reconsider, but without success.

Interim Superintendent Arthur Martin had this to say in a letter he sent Esakoff following the Board meeting which accepted his resignation: "The Board of Education will miss your challenges to their actions. A good Board of Education needs differences of opinion to make the best decisions. You and I had a few opportunities in my short tenure to discuss the issues in Roosevelt and I respect you for sharing them with me. I will miss your openness."

The School Board also accepted the resignation of John Burghardt, effective September 30. Burghardt and his family are leaving the District.

Nursery School News

by Alison Edwards Petrilla

The Roosevelt Community Nursery School is already in full swing, and our teacher/director Arlene Stinson reports that this year we have a wonderful mix of older and younger students, newcomers and returnees. The school also now features a new, improved play yard, thanks to Jan Plumb and Suburban Fence, which donated our new fencing; Diane and Claude Rocchia and Michael DeCocco, who installed it; the Rocchias (again), who procured more sand for our sandbox; and Ilene Levine, who donated the super climbing dome. Thank you all!

RCNS will host two community activities in October: a giant Used Book Sale and a family-oriented Benefit Concert starring David Brahinsky. The Book Sale, which will be held at the Borough Hall on Sunday, October 9 from 11 AM. to 3 PM., will offer thousands of clean used books on all subjects. Prices will be \$.50 for hardbacks and \$.25 for paperbacks, so plan to come early and browse awhile!

The David Brahinsky Benefit Concert will also take place the following Sunday, and will also be held at the Borough Hall. Set for 2-3 PM on October 16, the concert will feature songs for all ages, including sing along numbers for even the youngest family members. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and seniors, and may be purchased at the door or in advance from any RCNS mom or by calling the school at 426-9523.

That's about it for now, except for a thank you to Margaret Schlinski and Jan Plumb for their willingness to baby sit whenever our Management Team meets, and thanks to all the neighbors who supported our September Discovery Toy Party.

Support the Bulletin
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Roosevelt Borough Bulletin
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A Special Graduation

by Mary Alfare

Despite the RPS reorganization (see Summer '88 *Bulletin*), eleven 7th and 8th-grade students were not to be denied a traditional graduation. Honored at a special ceremony on August 30 were: Steven Antosky, Lola Cirullo, Barry Kanczucker, William Lentz, Abraham Schlinski, James Steele, Christopher Suk, Keith Suk, Bryan Unger, Dustin Warnick, and Gregory Zaleski.

Interim CSA Arthur Martin welcomed the graduates and the hundred family members and friends in attendance. Seated under the Ben Shahn mural, the graduates shared their remembrances of RPS, their favorite teachers, and their hopes for the coming year.

Farewell from Former Teacher

Speaking on behalf of the faculty, Alfred Luckenbach told his former students, "I am confident that you will work hard and take advantage of this serendipitous opportunity." He paused as everyone smiled. "You didn't, for one second, think that I would let you leave without introducing one more vocabulary word." As he defined serendipitous, relating it to the "unsought" changes they would face, he assured them they could be "secure in the knowledge that we are here for you if you need us."

Diplomas were presented by School Board President, Dr. Edward Grossman. PTA President Carol Zaleski presented a Roosevelt Dragon made by Ralph Warnick to each graduate.

Welcome by New Principal

Principal Valerie Carlisle of the Rogers School in East Windsor congratulated the students and welcomed the nine who would attend Rogers this fall. Bryan Unger, who was not present at the ceremony, will attend St. Gregory's in Hamilton. Gregory Zaleski will go to St. Paul's in Princeton.

Music was provided by David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Dan Jaeger, and Terrell Spence.

The traditional sheetcake, baked by parents and enthusiastically decorated by the graduates, was shared by all following the ceremony.

Board Hears Architect

by Mark Zuckerman

At its business meeting on September 15, the Roosevelt Board of Education received a Facilities Evaluation Study of the RPS building.

The study was undertaken on behalf of the Board by Fred H. Thomas Associates, an architectural and engineering firm with offices in Princeton. Charles Dvorak, Director of the firm and the principal author of the study, introduced a written report with an oral presentation to the Board.

Thomas based the study on tours they conducted of the RPS facilities and grounds, the code violations cited by county and state authorities, and interviews with Arthur Martin, Interim Superintendent.

As stated in its introduction, the study is designed to serve "... as a planning tool and framework around which the District may build or modify a master plan for maintaining and upgrading its facilities... It will allow the District to review an entire body of work and assign priority rankings to the various work items as the need is perceived."

The report reviews the general construction, mechanical systems, and electrical systems at RPS. For each, it recommends corrective projects under three headings: code requirements (work which must be done to meet current government standards), work recommended by architects and engineers (including building improvements, energy conservation measures, provisions for the handicapped, site development, and further studies), and District requests. Each project is assigned a cost figure. These figures are summarized by heading in a total construction program and a priority construction program.

Interim Superintendent Martin explained that the survey conducted by Thomas preceded the building improvements made this summer. He therefore expected that some of the projects suggested in the report would be unnecessary, thus reducing the cost estimates. He deferred specific comment on which projects had become obsolete until he had time to study the report.

Martin also stated that the report would be used to help shape his five-year plan, which will be released Oc-

tober 15. He promised that his report would contain an evaluation of the Thomas study, with recommendations appropriate to the needs and resources of the District.

The Thomas study recommends a priority construction program estimated at \$306,900, composed of \$109,428 in code requirements and \$197,472 in recommendations. Included in the recommendations are provisions for the handicapped (\$11,400) and energy conservation measures (\$133,200).

Subsuming the priority program is a total construction program estimated at \$978,912. This program incorporates \$157,476 in District requests and an additional \$514,536 in recommendations. Some of the projects in the latter category include installation of a new boiler (\$70,000), rehabilitation of the play fields (\$47,400), and gutting and rebuilding the student toilets (\$60,000).

The study recommends the allocation of \$5,000 for a study by a "qualified industrial hygienist to determine the locations and condition of any asbestos present in the building. This evaluation does not address this need nor do cost estimates described in this report take into consideration the additional cost of asbestos removal, if necessary."

Martin told the *Bulletin* that an asbestos study has already been commissioned by the Board, and is due by mid-November. He said that there is no asbestos in the boiler room, and no source of asbestos which could get loose in the air. However, some of the pipes running underneath the building may be asbestos-coated. In the event of a major asbestos problem, Martin says, there are Federal and State grants available to assist school districts.

Martin called the Thomas study "thorough," and praised the architectural firm for doing a comprehensive job. He cautions casual readers of the study from reaching unwarranted conclusions from its contents.

"You take a step at a time. The best you can do is utilize your facilities to the maximum each year." He emphasized that some of the architect's recommendations—such as energy conservation measures—are good ideas, but might not be worth the expense.

RPS Announcements

by Arthur Martin, Interim CSA

Roosevelt School Gets Uplift

During the summer much needed renovation has taken place at Roosevelt School. Bushes, trees and shrubs have been trimmed and doors and trim painted. Five classrooms were carpeted, all broken windows repaired, door openers replaced as needed and new hardware placed on all doors so children could not be locked in rooms.

All emergency lighting has been checked and is in working order.

Roof and gutters were repaired and a yellow safety and fire curb designated. All storage areas were cleaned out or will be in two weeks for safety reasons. The school building had summer inspection by the County Superintendents Office—by the Fire Inspection Division of the Department of Community Affairs. The fire alarm system was inspected and all fire extinguishers re-charged. We have received boiler inspection clearance from our insurance company.

School started on September 6th and students, teachers and I might say parents were glad to see a good start.

The school year opened at Roosevelt School with sixty nine students in grades kindergarten through grade six. Class sizes run from nine in kindergarten to eighteen in grades five and six. The big surprise was the increase in enrollment in grade one to fifteen students.

Programs and building changes include:

- The library has been moved from the lobby to Room 7.
- The special correction area and basic skills instruction are in Room 3.
- Art and music are taught in Room 1
- The gymnasium doubles as a lunch room
- The health suite is now in the room next to the lobby and supervised all day.
- Instrumental music is being taught to interested students each Wednesday.
- Conversational French is being taught twice a week to Fifth and Sixth grade students.

Employee Staff

The following staff members are new to Roosevelt School this year:

- Art and French (part time): Maxine Shore
- Music (part time, including instrumental): Lisa Simone
- Health and Physical Education (part time): Arthur Franklin
- Speech correction (part time): JoAnne Brown
- Aides (part time): Ann Provost (AM), Shirley Golden (PM)

The Board of Education appointed a Chief School Administrator on September 15. Harry Groveman is currently Principal of Alpha School in Lakewood, New Jersey and expects to be on the job in early October.

Roosevelt School Needs Help

We are always looking for competent people to supplement our program. We need:

Teacher Substitutes: Requirements are at least two years of college and an interview with the C.S.A. Pays \$55.00 per day.

Secretarial and Aide Substitutes: get on our list. Requires an interview with the C.S.A. Pays \$5.50 per hour.

*Custodian—*with Black Seal License: part time work 3:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. each day and be in building each night the building is occupied. Up to \$8.00 per hour depending on training and experience. Apply to C.S.A.

*School Social Worker—*placed on salary guide: two or three days per week depending on training, experience and school activities. Apply to C.S.A.

*Computer Technician—*to instruct teachers and recommend programs for present on-site computers. Part time (about one day a week on several afternoons) Apply to C.S.A.

Library Soon Open to Public

The Board of Education at its meeting in August approved the extension of library services to adults in the community in cooperation with the Monmouth County Library.

The opening of the school library for adults will take place in November each Tuesday and Thursday evening (hours to be announced).

Adults will enter the school at the primary school entrance.

Big Garbage Day

by Krystyna Bieracka

On Saturday, October 22, the Borough's contractor will collect all items not normally picked up on their regular run.

Washers, dryers, water heaters, and other large appliances will be picked up this day.

Residents are asked to observe the following procedures and restrictions:

- As a safety precaution, doors *must be removed* from refrigerators that are intended for pick up.
- Tree clippings, tree limbs, etc. must be bundled and tied or placed in containers, so that they may be easily picked up.
- Nothing should be over 4 feet long.
- Neither tires nor automobile batteries will be accepted.
- No hazardous waste materials will be picked up. Examples: oil cans, oil paint cans, materials having oil or other hazardous waste on them or contained inside.
- Leaves will not be picked up.
- Recyclables will not be collected.

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

Please make sure your trash is out early in the morning. Pick up will start at 6:00 AM.

Should you have any questions, please call the Borough Clerk at 448-0539.

Krystyna Bieracka is the Roosevelt Borough Clerk.

Picnic Attended

by Ellen Francis

Checkmate, Inc., a community action agency of Asbury Park, sponsored a picnic in August at Cheesecake State Park.

The Picnic was attended by nine children and two chaperones (Ellen Francis, Gloria Hazell) from Roosevelt.

The children were treated to hamburgers, franks, cake, and watermelon. They spent the day swimming and playing games.

Register to Vote

by Mary Alfare

October 11 is the last day voters may register for the General Election on November 8. You may register to vote if you are:

- A U.S. citizen
- 18 years old by election day
- A resident of the state and county at least 30 days prior to the election
- Not denied the right to vote because of idiocy, insanity, serving a sentence, or on parole or probation.

You must re-register by 9 PM on October 11 if you have:

- Failed to vote in any election for four consecutive years
- Changed address. If you move within the county you may transfer your voting record to your new district by submitting a change of address card by the October 11 deadline. If you move within the same district after the deadline you may still vote in that district. Those who move to a new voting district after October 11 may vote in the former election district
- Changed your name. If your name change occurs after October 11, you may vote by signing both old and new names.

Voters may register by mail or in person at the Commissioner of Registration's Office or at with the Borough Clerk. Hours for registration at Roosevelt Borough Hall include

regular office hours (8:30 AM-10:30 AM and 2:30 PM-4:30PM) and 4:00 PM-9:00 PM on October 11 only. Voters may choose to register at the Commissioner of Registration's office at 300 Halls Mill Road in Freehold. Hours are normally 8:30 AM-4:00 PM. The office will be open 8:30 AM-9:00 PM on October 11. Those wishing to use the mails may obtain Voter Registration Forms, Change of Residence Forms, Civilian and Military Absentee Ballot Applications at both offices.

Civilian Absentee Ballots may be used by voters unable to go to the polls because of:

- Anticipated travel out of state
- Resident attendance at school
- Illness or disability
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Nature and hours of employment

The last day to obtain an absentee ballot is November 1. 3:00 PM on November 7 is the deadline for obtaining absentee ballots in person at the county clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be received at the county board of elections office by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Sample ballots will be mailed to the voters on November 2.

Questions may be directed to the Roosevelt Borough Clerk at 448-0539 or the Monmouth County Board of Elections at (201) 431-7790 between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

Senior Citizens' News

by Helga Wisowaty

The bright time in our summer was our luncheon at Nancy and Paul's Chinese Restaurant. The food was good, and renewing acquaintances with old friends was very pleasant. There was no meeting in August.

Literature was given to everyone concerning SSI and Medicare.

We plan to have our annual dinner on the 19th or 20th of November. We'll see "Lily Langtree."

Jeanette Koffler was our hostess and Dolores Chasan brought an ice cream cake in honor of Gus Chasan who will celebrated her birthday on September 16.

Our friend and neighbor, Faye Libove, was operated on at Princeton Hospital on September 5. We are happy to report that she is doing well.

Our condolences go to the families of Pearl Block and Paul Corman who died recently. Pearl had lived here for many years. Many of her children still do.

Rose Corman has been hospitalized for a few weeks. Rose has been a resident for 25 years. She and Paul have been active in Deborah, the Senior Citizens' Club, and many other organizations. We'll miss Paul.

Our sympathy also goes to Florence and Herb Johnson and their families in the death of Florence's mother. Mrs. McCarthy had become a member of the Senior Citizens' Club and we enjoyed her company the time she was able to be with us.

Helga Wisowaty is the Secretary of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens' Club.

Volunteers Needed

by Jeanette Koffler

I need volunteers to help deliver "meals on wheels" to Roosevelt home-bound senior citizens.

If interested, please call me at 448-2259.

**Rose Corman and family
wish to express their
thanks for all the
kindnesses and
condolences extended to
them upon the death of
their beloved Paul**

Roosevelt Democrats Hold Rally

by Aaron Datz

About 75 members of the Roosevelt Democratic Party launched its campaign on Labor Day at the home of Democratic Committeewoman Ann Baker. The immediate business was honoring departing Committeewoman Jeannette Koffler who, after a laudatory address by former mayor Freda Hepner, was presented with a commemorative plaque and rendered, in her words, "uncharacteristically speechless."

The Democratic candidates for Borough Council, Jill Lipoti and Bill Counterman, introduced themselves briefly. Also addressing the gathering were Betty Holland, who is running for Congress, and County Surrogate Patricia Bennett, who is the only elected Democrat county-wide. Both outlined the day-to-day important goals of the New Jersey Democrats as opposed to what they called the airy verbiages of their Republican opponents.

The weather favored the Democrats with warmth and mottled sunshine when storms had been predicted. Refreshments were served and consumed, and a good time was had by all, thanks to Ann Baker, Dolores Chasan, and Lillian Warren, whose efforts were noted and appreciated.



Passing the Torch:
Retiring Democratic Committeewoman Jeanette Koffler (right) and current Committeewoman Ann Baker (left)

photograph by Carol Watchler

Patricia Bennett Speaks at Rally

by Herb Johnson

In 1986, Patricia Bennett became the first woman to be elected Sur-

rogate of Monmouth County. As a friend of Jeanette Koffler, she appeared at the Labor Day rally in Roosevelt and described her duties.

She oversees the administration of a trust account of \$18 million for minors who have been awarded settlements or inheritances. She also prepares documents for adoption and incompetency cases prior to Superior Court hearings. But the most common reason people see the Surrogate is to have a will probated, that is, to prove valid a document filed as someone's last will and testament.

Bennett wrote a pamphlet about making a will, and a very interesting booklet about how to proceed to settle an estate. Both of these are available free of charge by calling her office in the Monmouth County Hall of Records in Freehold between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM at (201) 431-7330.

The Surrogate told of her special fondness for Roosevelt, because of Jeanette Koffler and because of her great joy the night she was elected when the first reported return was Roosevelt's overwhelming vote in her favor.

Remarks by Former Mayor Freda Hepner

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute today to Jeanette Koffler who, served our community as a Democratic committee woman for a number of years. She served with good humor and with dedication and without fanfare. She attended County meetings faithfully, brought home relevant information, posted and publicized what we needed to know. Locally, she made sure we had all the dates and rules we needed to have an election. She made sure we had candidates and appointees for local office. That was her job and she did it well.

I must add, that for myself, it was always a pleasure to discuss a matter with Jeanette because even when we disagreed—which happened rarely—I knew that she was looking at what was best for the town—with no personal ax to grind. That is a special and valuable quality in politics. We could talk things out with mutual respect and affection—and reach a satisfactory decision.

After all, that's what our party is about—what is best for the people: for the seniors, for the children, for those who have special needs as well as for those who are comfortable. The Democratic Party is multi-faceted as our town's people are multifaceted. Jeanette's service to the town embodied the qualities of our party.

Small town party officials are not often recognized in the discussions of political life. It is to Roosevelt's credit, I think, that we come together today to honor a committeewoman who has served us so well.

Roosevelt Arts Project Starts New Season

by Bob Mueller

The first in a series of eight art "events" will take place October 15th in the Borough Hall under the auspices of the Roosevelt Arts Project (affectionately known as RAP).

Roosevelt is a unique community in that it has a large population of artists of many descriptions: easel painters, woodcut artists, musicians, poets, playwrights, novelists, composers, and performers. RAP affords the community an opportunity to get to know these artists personally. In the intimate setting of our Borough Hall the various artists exhibit, demonstrate, play, read and perform their most recent works. You can ask questions, raise up storms of controversy, agree, applaud, or simply just admire and appreciate.

Brad Garton is the first artist to appear. He is a musician who has composed a wide range of music, from "punk-rock" to large orchestral pieces. His compositions use traditional instruments as well as computerized electronic equipment. Dr. Garton is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Columbia University, and Director of the Computer Music Facility of the Columbia Electronic Music Center.

The program will evolve out of programmed improvisations using a computer. The persons behind the software include Brad Garton, Paul Lansky, Rick Bassett and a mystery composer. The instrumentalists Rick Bassett, Laurie Altman and Alan Mallach will test the computer's ability to alter sound in "real" time.

Remember to drop into the Borough Hall Saturday night October 15 at 8 PM to enjoy the first RAP event.

Forthcoming RAP Events

November 12-16: an exhibition of oils and woodcuts by Robert E. Mueller, and an evening with the artist, discussing his work.

December 3: Alan Mallach will host a "Pianofest," joined by the talented Rooseveltian pianists Anita Cervantes, Laurie Altman, and others.

January 21: Leslie Weiner will direct a reading of his new play, *Cash Value*.

February 4: Ron Orlando will be joined by the Roosevelt String Band for a bash of music.

March 4 will be a night of poetry by award-winning Roosevelt poets Dinah Coe, David Herrstrom, David Keller and Rod Tulloss.

April 1: the inimitable Laurie Altman will direct and preform in a jazz concert of his recent works.

May 6: Jacob Landau will host a spontaneous clash of all of the arts in an experimental night of media mixing.

Watch the **Bulletin** each month for details about the next RAP event.

In the News

by Peter Warren

Awards...

... a letter of commendation from Governor Thomas Kean to the compilers (Helen Barth, Bill and June Counterman, Joan Grossman, Howard and Louise Prezant, Saliba Sarsar) of *Roosevelt, New Jersey, the First 50 Years*; to Mayor Leon Barth, the National Guard's Distinguished Visitor flying tour of military bases; to Jeanette Koffler, a plaque from friends in tribute to her six years as Roosevelt Democratic Committeewoman;

... to Mark Katz, a Dana Scholarship from Franklin and Marshall College; to Joshua Brahinsky, one of 21 HHS students named to the State Distinguished Scholars Program; to David Jelinek, age 11, a certificate from Johns Hopkins University for college level results on his SATs.

Graduations...

... from RPS, in a special ceremony on August 30th, our 7th and 8th Graders; from MCCC in June, Nancy Dinkel (Highest Honors) Chemistry; Rachel DiTursi, Laboratory Technology; Debra Friedman, Nursing; Misty McBride, Dental Assistance; from New York Law School, Meryl Canape, who then passed her New Jersey and New York Bar exams.

Marriages...

... Rachel DiTursi and Brian Savage in East Windsor, with Mayor Barth performing the ceremony; Natalie Malter and Bruce Bathurst in Princeton.

Babies...

... to Maureen and John Parrott, a girl, Lilybellemarie; to Danelle and Corey Feigenbaum, a boy, Ryan Jay.

Deaths...

... of Pearl Block and Paul Corman are mourned by their families and friends.

Newcomers...

... welcomed to the community over the summer are Warren Craig and Susan Oxford, Wayne and Lauralynne Cokeley, David and Gayle Donnelly, Chris & Diana Monroe, Joelle Dufresne and Yanick Morin, Scott and Denise Frazier, Scott and Kathy Hartman, Roger and Annette Mathis, John and Maureen Parrott, Judith Trachtenberg, David and Gwen Zeh.

House Sales...

... were seven in the May-July Quarter, ranging in price from \$93,000 to \$138,000, with an average value of \$122,700. There are currently 16 houses for sale, and another four under construction.

School Costs...

... for RPS in 1985-86 were \$6,280 per pupil, compared to \$5,716 in Millstone, \$5,062 in East Windsor and \$4,272 in West Windsor, according to the *Trenton Times*: RPS received \$366,000 in state aid in a total budget of \$1,054,000.

Council Criticizes Mayor

continued from page 3

Council members asked the participants of the meeting with Switchel if recall of the Council was discussed. This was denied.

Business Accomplished

Besides all of the above, the Mayor and Council conducted a regular and calm business meeting which:

- Approved inflow study of sewer plant to determine effect of Brown Street cutoff.
- Heard first reading of ordinance to appropriate funds for a computer system, alarm system, bathroom facilities for first aid and fire company, and air conditioning for the Borough Hall.
- Ratified agreement with Roosevelt Arts Project for grand piano to be housed in the Borough Hall.
- Appointed a new school crossing guard.
- Appointed Marilyn Magnes as Council representative to a joint meeting with School Board and Planning Board in order to plan a joint meeting for the three bodies. [see *Governing Bodies Hold Joint Agenda Session*, page 15, Ed.]

Prior Meeting

At the meeting of August 10 (not previously reported) the Council discussed the County Development Block Grant program. Present was Virginia Edwards, the County coordinator for the program. It had been established previously that Roosevelt was not eligible for the program, and all indications were that this was still true. Also, the application prepared by Birdsall was based on badly outdated information which was provided by the County. Therefore, the Council voted not to participate at this time.

Also at the August 10 meeting, the Council decided to investigate the cost of installing water meters; Tom Karpick resigned as Water/Sewer consultant, and Bill Kowalski was hired in his place. Negotiations were under way with the Millstone fire department to cover Roosevelt. The Planned Com-

Switchel Plan Dies, Revives?

continued from page 1

Attending the meeting with Cantin, Sadovsky and Barth were realtor Mel Adlerman and residents Peter Warren, Mary Alfare and Lee Allen. Although the withdrawal letter from Switchel vice president George Lorson had a tone of finality, Cantin said, "[Roosevelt] is where [Switchel] would like to be." He claimed that if the town, specifically the members of the Council, showed it would be willing to proceed with the development upon receiving a favorable impact study, Switchel would come back, so long as the owners of the Beer-Kugler property would allow renewal of the now-expired option to buy their land. Cantin noted that Switchel's most immediate concern was the "serious impact" on potential numbers of units and their layout that will occur next July when new wetlands legislation takes effect. He contended that the new regulations would affect both the Beer-Kugler and Nottermans tracts.

Negotiations with Nottermans Discussed

Cantin noted that in July the Nottermans invited Switchel representatives to talk about buying their 106-acre property, whose growth is limited to 76 units by a planned community development (PCD) ordinance adopted by the Council on August 10 at the Planning Board's recommendation. He said the meeting was "short" because the Nottermans' price was "multiples of the Beer-Kugler amount." Cantin maintained that the Beer-Kugler price "would have allowed for ... adequate funding to be used by the community to resolve certain problems."

In response, the Nottermans told the *Bulletin* that the Switchel representatives did not negotiate a price to overcome what Switchel asserted were

overly-stringent development restrictions contained in the PCD ordinance [see *Switchel Ends Talks with Nottermans*, opposite page, Ed.].

Contribution to Sewer Plant Mentioned

During the meeting with invited residents, Cantin stated that in order to encourage the Borough to accept its Beer-Kugler tract proposal, Switchel would be willing to contribute up to \$775,000—depending on the number of units actually built—to renovate the town's sewer plant. The State Department of Environmental Protection has ordered the community to conform the aging facility to State standards. Cantin conceded that Switchel might have previously neglected to provide the Council with enough specific information to gain a favorable response to its proposal.

Recall and Referendum Explored

After discussing more drastic options to sway the Council, such as a recall election [later denied: see *Council Criticizes Mayor*, page 3, Ed.], circulating a new petition and a nonbinding referendum, those present at the September 8 meeting opted to attempt to persuade the Council with an independent, objective impact study funded primarily by Switchel. Lee Allen urged that the study show what would happen in the town without such development. He said the skeptics on the Council should be asked to participate in the study. Adlerman offered to fund a portion of the study if the Council and Switchel contributed. Barth, noting the lack of money in the municipal budget, said the Council would be more favorably impressed if Switchel put up all the money for the study.

munity Development ordinance was adopted on second reading.

Marilyn Magnes, who was not present at the July meeting, read a detailed statement as to why she had reservations to the Switchel development, citing that it was not in accord

with the Master Plan, and that the Nottermans tract was designated by the Borough to be the next area for residential development. She maintained that it was necessary for the Borough to retain the only remaining land zoned for commercial and industrial use.

Switchel Withdraws Development Proposal

Editor's Note: The following letter, dated August 18, 1988, was addressed to the Mayor and Borough Council of Roosevelt:

Dear Mr. Barth:

On behalf of Switchel, Inc. we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Borough Council for allowing us to make an informal presentation on July 5, 1988 to outline our proposed development plans for the above referenced Beer/Kugler parcel. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Borough Planning Board for their permission to have an informal discussion with them on March 1, 1988 to outline our development proposal.

It is with deep regret we inform you that due to our inability to achieve a sufficient level of comfort from the Borough that the parcels would ultimately be rezoned in order for us to justify the significant level of expenditures we would have to make to achieve final approval we are withdrawing our development proposals. As explained and reiterated during the course of these discussions, Switchel, Inc. had an impending deadline to meet in late August 1988 to determine the viability of our concepts for development in Roosevelt, New Jersey. We have gone to great lengths to be cooperative with Roosevelt, New Jersey and have expended a substantial amount of financial resources to obtain your recommendations.

As mentioned throughout our dialogue, Switchel, Inc. was willing to offer a substantial monetary contribution to help alleviate your impending sanitary sewer and educational dilemma and also felt very strongly that the added tax base to your Borough would have long term benefits to your economic status. However, due to the circumstances described above, we will now commit our resources to develop other areas of New Jersey and surrounding communities.

Again, we thank you for the courtesy you and the Borough Council have extended to Switchel, Inc.

Very truly yours,
George P. Lorson
Vice President

Switchel Ends Talks with Nottermans

by Mark Zuckerman

According to Rebecca and Joseph Notterman, owners of the land parcel known locally as the "Notterman Tract," Switchel, Inc., the development firm which proposed to the Planning Board and Borough Council a housing project on the Beer-Kugler tract, informed the Notterman's attorney that Switchel could not continue negotiations to purchase and develop the Notterman property.

The Notterman tract, located east of Valley Road, is currently zoned for agricultural use. However, it is designated in Roosevelt's Master Plan as the next area in the borough for residential development, and is the subject of a Planned Community Development (PCD) ordinance framed by the Planning Board and recently adopted by the Borough Council.

According to the Nottermans, they were approached 2-3 years ago by Tom Cantin of Switchel, who wanted to explore the acquisition by his company of their property. The most recent meeting between the parties occurred on July 19 of this year, at the Notterman's invitation.

Felt Optimistic After Switchel Meeting

The Nottermans left this meeting with the impression that Switchel still had an active interest in their land. They maintain that Switchel raised no serious objections to their terms, although Switchel did voice concern that the PCD, not yet adopted by the Council, was too limiting both in the number and kind of houses it would allow. While unwilling to divulge their asking price, the Nottermans did state that their offer was approximately half of what they were asking for similar property in East Windsor.

Despite the Notterman's positive impression of their last meeting with the developers, Switchel reportedly sent a letter to the Notterman's attorney stating that Switchel "would not pursue negotiations" with the Nottermans. This letter was dated August 18, the same date as that of the letter

Switchel sent to the Council with a similar message, and signed by George P. Lorson, who also signed the Council letter. The letters were sent at about the time Switchel was due to reach a decision on renewing its option on the Beer-Kugler parcel, and approximately a week after the Council adopted the PCD ordinance.

Switchel Blames PCD Ordinance

According to the Nottermans, the Switchel letter was explicit about the reasons for the decision. While their primary reason was the Notterman's asking price, Switchel also cited the PCD ordinance, which they claimed could effect a "disastrous devaluation" of the property. In addition, the letter complained that the PCD's development restrictions were "extreme," and that the ordinance failed to take into account new wetlands restrictions imposed by the State.

Other reasons given were the current downturn in the New Jersey residential market, the sewer moratorium imposed on Roosevelt, the "impending educational dilemma," and the general attitude of local government toward new development.

Not Only Option

The Nottermans indicated that they had responded to this letter in an attempt to encourage new interest, but have yet to receive a reply. They also said they are negotiating with several other developers regarding the parcel.

What do you think?

**Write the
Bulletin**

Box 221, Local

Planning Board Hears Farmlands Study Committee Report

by Bob Clark

At its regular monthly meeting on September 7 the Planning Board received an update from its Farmlands Study Committee. Board member Anita Cervantes reported that the Committee had invited owners of local farmlands to meet on August 22 with Cynthia Hill, a representative of the Monmouth County Planning Board's farmlands preservation program. Only Paul Brottman attended. The meeting had been called to explain to agricultural land owners how they could take advantage of the State Farmlands Preservation Program (FPP).

The FPP pays a landowner the difference between what his land is worth in agricultural use and its development value. The land is then retained in agricultural use in perpetuity. Cervantes reported that the program has developed considerable momentum in Upper Freehold Township.

Cervantes noted that the Committee is assembling information for a resource study of the approximately 500 acres of northern farmlands in Roosevelt. When the data have been assembled, a workshop will be held—similar to one conducted for the Notterman tract east of North Valley Road—to consider options for preserving open space in the area in the face of development pressures. Cervantes said the workshop would be held in October, and the public would be invited [see story at right, *Ed.*].

Joint Meeting Discussed

In other business, the Board received a letter from Arthur Martin, acting Chief School Administrator, requesting a joint meeting of the Planning Board, School Board and Borough Council to discuss a coordinated effort to deal with school issues. Marilyn Magnes, the Council's representative on the Planning Board, recommended that representatives of each body establish an agenda so that the meeting would be productive. Cervantes agreed to serve as the Planning Board's representative. When the full meeting is scheduled, it will be open to the public. [see *Governing Bodies Hold Joint Agenda Session*, opposite page, *Ed.*]

Zoning Revisions Proposed

Board Chair Alan Mallach proposed revisions to Roosevelt's zoning ordinance that would bring it into line with changes in the State's Municipal Land Use Law. In one part, the proposed revisions would do away with the requirement that the Board review site plans for detached one and two dwelling unit buildings that did not require variances from the zoning ordinance. Presently, a State official serves as Roosevelt's building inspector. If the zoning officer certifies that a plan for an addition to a one or two unit dwelling conforms to the zoning ordinance, the building inspector issues a building permit without requiring the applicant to submit his plans to the Planning Board for its approval. Previously, although the procedure was on shaky legal ground, applicants had to consult with the Planning Board. Though the Board never rejected such plans, it often did negotiate changes in design more pleasing to the Board and sometimes to the applicant.

The second part of the proposed revisions would change the definition of "family" in the zoning ordinance to conform to State law. The Board sent both changes to the Council with the recommendation that they be enacted.

Mallach also prepared a proposed draft of zoning revisions to deal with driveways and parking in the Borough. He said the proposal addressed where vehicles may park and asked the Board to consider if it should also determine what vehicles may be parked in town. A partial list of vehicles excluded from residential zones—or allowed only under certain conditions—might include recreational vehicles, boats, panel trucks, semi-tractors and trailers, etc. The Board will discuss the proposed amendments at its next meeting on Wednesday, October 5.

Variance Application Reviewed

The Board asked the Clickners to return on October 5 to obtain approval of a variance to build a two car garage with work space that would infringe on the allowable side yard distance under the zoning ordinance. The Board con-

sidered at least two proposals by the Clickners for garage space for their house, which lies on the eastern side of North Valley Road. Board members expressed frustration that almost no attractive garage option was available for the new houses along North Valley. They finally gave the applicants their sense that the latest idea would be favorably considered, but noted that neighbors would first have to be given notice and an opportunity to comment.

Loophole Addressed

At Tax Assessor Michael Ticktin's suggestion, the Board considered whether residents owning 2 1/2-acre lots should be able to gain farmland assessments due to lumbering activity. The Board asked Ticktin to draft an ordinance that would clearly exclude lumbering from permitted uses in the zone, thus ensuring that such property would only qualify for residential assessment.

Farmlands Committee to Hold Workshop

by Anita Cervantes

On Saturday, October 29, 1988, the Farmlands Study Committee (FSC) of the Planning Board will hold a workshop to study options for the roughly 500 acres of land north of town.

Like the workshop (called a *charrette*) held in December of 1987, this one will depend on time and talent contributed by experts in the field who have a special interest in Roosevelt as a planned community. This year's participants will include, in addition to Planning Board and FSC members, Alan Goodheart, landscape architect, and Fred Travisano, architect.

The format will roughly follow last year's: a walk of the acreage, discussion, and then a brainstorming session. As before, the Planning Board and the Farmlands Study Committee solicit public participation, both during the walk and the discussion period.

Precise scheduling details will be posted on the bulletin board next to the post office.

Council Member's Report: Roosevelt Land Use

by Carol Watchler

During the past year the Roosevelt Master Plan was revised and updated by the Planning Board as is required by law and the revision was accepted by the Borough Council. In this process, after careful examination of the land involved, the area known as the "Noterman tract" at the east end of Farm Lane was proposed for re-zoning as residential land. This tract of land had been slated as "future residential" land from the time of the Borough's earliest Master Plan. An ordinance was subsequently passed by the Council to designate the area as a Planned Community Development and to specify a development concept that would be consistent with the character of the Borough of Roosevelt.

Also during the past months, a development proposal has been put forth by a development corporation for the area known as the "Beer-Kugler tract." The zoning in this part of the Borough was not changed in the revision of the Master Plan. Most of the land in this tract is zoned agricultural, but a portion of it encompasses part of the only remaining industrially-zoned land in the Borough. The option for purchase of this land was obtained a year ago.

The development proposal made by Switchel, Inc., was presented to the Planning Board in March. At the urging of the Mayor, the Council held a special meeting to hear a substantially revised proposal from Switchel on July 5. During the regular July meeting, the representative of Switchel sought a statement of interest on the part of the Borough that would encourage them to proceed to a second step in which they would do field studies.

List of Requirements Prepared

At this point one possibility would have been for the Council to have given no response to this developer. However, the Mayor and Council had discussed the Switchel proposal in the Agenda meeting and agreed on what they would require of the developer in order to protect the best interests of

the Borough. The Council stipulated that the developer should submit a written document to the Borough, to be reviewed by the Borough attorney, confirming Switchel's verbal statement that any further activities would not bind the Borough to any decision to re-zone the Beer-Kugler tract. The Council also requested that Switchel contribute \$10,000 to the cost of a study of the impact of development on this tract to be conducted at the direction of the Council.

Council Response Timely

It must be remembered that Switchel, Inc., came to the Council only a short time prior to the expiration of its one-year option. The Council responded in a timely manner in stating its requirement to the developer.

The Borough has since received a letter from the developer to the effect that Switchel, Inc., has chosen not to renew its option to purchase this tract. This indicates that the corporation is unwilling to give the Borough the written guarantees that it legitimately requires. And it further suggests that this developer would prefer to stampede the community into hasty, ill-conceived action related to development rather than to follow the guidelines of its Master Land Use Plan, which has evolved through careful consideration and study over a number of years.

Carol Watchler is President of the Roosevelt Borough Council.

What do you think?

**Write the
Bulletin**

Box 221, Local

Governing Bodies Hold Joint Agenda Session

by Anita Cervantes

On Thursday, September 22, a joint meeting among designated members of the Planning Board, School Board, and Borough Council was held at the Roosevelt Public School, with Mayor Leon Barth, and Acting CSA Arthur Martin. The purpose of the meeting was to devise an agenda for a future, larger meeting which would include all members of the two Boards as well as the public. The Borough Council was represented by Marilyn Magnes, the School Board by Board President Ed Grossman, and the Planning Board by Alternate Anita Cervantes.

The primary question on the table at the meeting was whether, and to what extent, additional development in Roosevelt—residential or industrial—would help to alleviate the infrastructure and financial crunch currently being experienced by both the Borough and the school.

The meeting was suggested by Arthur Martin and Ed Grossman, who felt that input from those associated with RPS could have critical impact on general planning issues for Roosevelt. The suggestion was welcomed by the Planning Board as a way of augmenting in an organized way the public input always sought by the Board, as well as of helping to plan in a "whole-town" fashion rather than piecemeal.

During the meeting it was agreed that: 1) having joint meetings of this kind on a regular basis would be a useful way to ensure exchange of views and information; and 2) the group was unready to have a full meeting with the public which would break any new ground. It was decided that until further notice this group, or one similarly constituted, would meet every two months.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 PM on Thursday, November 3, at RPS.

Anita Cervantes is an alternate member of the Roosevelt Planning Board, and chairs the Planning Board's Farmlands Study Committee.

Love of Words

Let's Talk About Communication

by Josef G. Solomon

Some years ago, a friend of mine quoted what is probably the definitive statement on the subject: "The hardest part about communication is the illusion that it has already taken place." Let me add one of my own: "Obviousness is in the eye of the beholder." One continuing theme of these columns over the years has been the idea that it isn't enough if you only make sure that your own transmitter is working; you also have to make sure that the other person's receiver is working—and that it has received the same message that you sent.

It would also be nice if the other person understood what you meant. The classic description of this last is, "I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant." Dear reader, you might even agree with that—if you can figure out what it means.

Let me give you some examples, to illustrate some of the problems that can arise. Every time we prepare to take out the Torah, we sing, in Hebrew, a verse from the Bible: "For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." To me as a child, that sounded like a curse! Who would want the word of the Lord to leave Jerusalem? Well, it is now obvious to me—and maybe to everyone else—what the intended meaning is. Picture it as a broadcasting station: The word goes out from Jerusalem, but it never leaves. (Did that make it worse?)

It Happens to the Best of Us

Every once in a while, I realize that a remark of mine has been misunderstood. It's hard to believe, isn't it, dear reader? But it happens. The tip-off is a strange look on the face of the other person. Here's a convoluted example. During my annual week in Maine, many years ago, I happened to see a woman remove some love-beads from her own neck (yes, it was during the 60s), and place them around the neck of another woman.

They were too far away for me to hear what they were saying, but the second woman wiped away tears. After the second woman walked away, I went up to the first woman and said, "You made her week!" She looked extremely puzzled, and it suddenly occurred to me that what she had heard had been, "You made her weak!" Thinking fast, I said, "You made her entire week." (I had to be careful there, too.) Her face cleared, telling me that she understood.

To get back to the Bible, amazing numbers of people have been killed because of differing interpretations of one phrase or another. One might say, Every little meaning has a movement all its own. The really bizarre part is that the arguments were almost always over the meaning in a translation, not in the original language. That is, they weren't arguing over what the Bible says; they were arguing over what some unknown translator said the Bible says. It is an unfortunate historical fact that not knowing what they were arguing about did not at all lessen their ferocity.

Come to think of it, one definition of a fanatic is, A person who redoubles his efforts when he loses sight of his goal.

Let's get back to communication. As difficult as communication can be with each other, it's even worse between different peoples. For example, the "buzz"-words we use don't have the same meaning to other people that they have for us. A friend of mine told me the following story. She was at a conference in Yugoslavia. One of the Yugoslavs at the conference was gone for a day, because he had a business appointment in Albania. When he returned to the conference, he said, "What a relief to be back in a free country!" Yugoslavia?

World War II provides more examples. President Franklin Roosevelt enunciated what we demanded from the enemy: unconditional surrender. That sounded great to us, but to the Germans and Italians, it brought ter-

ror, because to them it meant the destruction of their country. That was not at all what we had in mind, of course. What we meant was, basically, "Don't bargain, just quit fighting."

On Demand

That word "demand" in the previous paragraph reminded me of another example. A really serious barrier to communication can be words in one language that look like words in another language—but mean something else. A harmless example is the French verb "assister," which doesn't mean "assist"; it means "be present." Then there's the French verb "demander." Somewhere in the annals of international diplomacy, there is the diplomatic uproar caused by a mistranslation of the French words "nous demandons," which were of course translated as "we demand." Where do the French get off making demands? But that's not what it means. Never mind what it looks like, "nous demandons" means only "we ask."

In conversation with a friend once, I decried the fact that people don't listen. He said "What?" I actually started to say it again, before I realized he was teasing me.

If verbal communication can be so difficult, what can be said about non-verbal communication? Words fail me.

Literary Supplement Seeks Contributions

by David Herrstrom

The Roosevelt Arts Project welcomes your poetry, fiction, and non-fiction for the *Bulletin Literary Supplement* to appear in December. Judged by the staff of the Roosevelt Arts Project and published in cooperation with the newspaper staff, the supplement aims to celebrate the best writing that Roosevelt has to offer.

Please send your poems, stories, or essays to RAP, Box 217, Local.

— Letters —

To the Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Switchel Inc. letter to our Council dated August 18, 1988.

I personally am glad that Switchel has packed up and moved on, although in light of events discussed during the September 14, 1988 Council meeting, I am not convinced that Switchel is gone from Roosevelt for good.

I am not against development. People need homes, people need jobs. But there is a real threat of over-development and inappropriate development in Roosevelt. We see it all over this crowded state in which we reside. We read about the problems it brings communities such as ours every day in our newspapers. I feel strongly that Roosevelt has a right and an obligation to insure that this does not happen in our small and already burdened community. And the Switchel proposal was an example of an inappropriate development being offered at a time when most of the cards were in the developer's hands. I commend the council for being cool and careful in their dealings with Switchel.

Making the assumption that Switchel is out of the picture, now is the best time for serious analysis of development within the guidelines set forth in our Master Plan. Public concern over our financial future has been intensified by the debate over the Switchel proposal. People are talking

and debating. Now we can make decisions without a developer threatening to snatch away the only carrot before us. We can go about examining the financial impact of a development on our town on our own and be prepared the next day a developer comes to us with a carrot.

In the Summer issue of the *Bulletin*, Mr. Notterman expressed his desire to work with the Council and any potential developers on proposals for the Notterman Tract. There is no developer that we know of yet for this tract. But this is exactly the time for Council and the Planning Board to begin working with Mr. Notterman to examine in more detail the impacts on Roosevelt of developing his land which has already been identified as the most desirable area for development in our town. If our own impact studies indicate that a development on this tract would benefit Roosevelt in our troubled financial times, then perhaps Roosevelt should do as other towns and actively seek developers for this tract with Mr. Notterman's consent.

Roosevelt has not tried to block development through our Master Plan. And my sense is that very few people are against development totally. But many are concerned about doing it in an appropriate fashion. Let's take the initiative and beat the developers to the mark. They will be back.

—Kirk Rothfuss

To the Editor:

In the past several months there's been a lot of talk about development. We've raised many questions and received few answers. The one thing we do know is that we need up-to-date impact studies.

I attended both public meetings to hear Switchel make their proposals. Switchel could not answer all our questions; neither could the Planning Board, nor the Council. Nobody found much to agree on, except the need for real answers. In fact, one of the Council members I spoke with said we needed an impact study, even if the town has to spend the money.

What the Council member said made a lot of sense. You need to have information in order to make a decision. However, after reading the articles and letters in the summer edition of the *Borough Bulletin*, it appears they're getting ahead of themselves. A lot of writers were not in favor of the Switchel proposal but were in favor of the Master Plan proposal for the Notterman Tract. It doesn't make sense to reject one proposal for another, until an impact study is done. Only when we have the right information will we know if development of any kind (commercial or residential) is beneficial to our town.

—Stuart Kaufman

To the Editor:

I was amazed to read in the special summer issue of the *Bulletin* (*Viewpoint: Why The Citizens' Group*) that Peter Warren credits the preparation and publication of the Community Handbook to the Citizens' Group.

The title of the Handbook belies that claim. Prominently placed there is the following statement:

The staff of the Borough Bulletin is happy to provide this handbook to our readers. We hope you find it useful and we welcome your comments. Information updates will appear in the Bulletin. We also hope that it will encourage you to take part in Community activities and help keep Roosevelt a pleasant place to live. We thank the editors who put it together and the donors who paid for publication.

—David Brahinsky, Editor

It is true that Peter Warren originally proposed the idea for the Handbook

to the staff of the *Bulletin*. He also wrote the text. Pearl Seligman did the "design and production." David Teich did "typography and production." I was copy editor. Cover and text illustrations from the Ben Shahn mural appear with the permission of Bernarda Shahn. These are all mentioned on the final page.

Nowhere is there any mention of the Citizens' Group.

—Hortense Sochowitzky

Peter Warren replies:

Back in September 1983, the *Bulletin* stated: "The Citizens' Group is preparing a ... Brochure for Newcomers." The same issue also stated that the Citizens' Group "applies the interests and skills of its members to research and projects of community interest." It was within the framework of the Citizens' Group that we worked on the first edition of the Roosevelt Hand-

book and collected money to cover printing costs.

In April 1987, the Handbook was finally completed and distributed to residents under the sponsorship of the *Bulletin*, which named the workers—some of whom were on the *Bulletin* staff—and the donors in its April issue.

To repeat my statement in the last *Bulletin*: "The Council's boycott.... didn't keep the Group from completing the Handbook..." If the Council had been willing to sponsor the Handbook, I wouldn't have asked the *Bulletin* to sponsor it.

My *Viewpoint* article, I believe, makes it clear why the Citizens' Group was not mentioned in the credits: we didn't want to stir up controversy with the 1987 Council over something so useful as the Handbook to our whole community, and especially to our newly-arrived residents.

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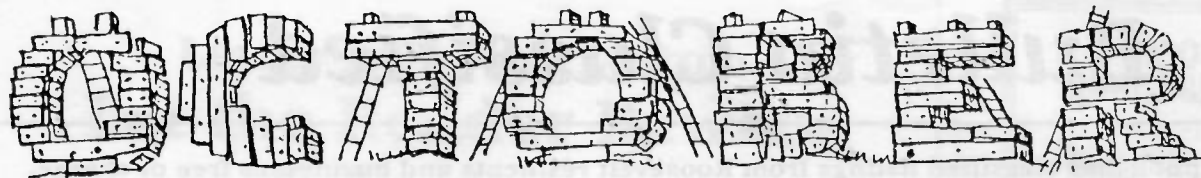
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2	3 Deborah Borough Hall 2:00 PM <i>Rose Corman, Pres.</i> (448-0674)	4 <i>Half-Day at RPS</i> Senior Citizens Boro Hall, 2 PM <i>Jeanette Koffler, Pres.</i> (448-2259) Bulletin Staff MIRA, 7:30 PM <i>Mark Zuckerman, Editor</i> (443-5915)	5 Planning Board Borough Hall 8:00 PM <i>Alan Mallach, chair</i> (448-4616)	6	7	8
9 Nurse School Book Sale Borough Hall 11:00 AM-3:00 PM	10 Borough Council Agenda Meeting Boro Hall, 8:00 PM <i>Leon Barth, Mayor</i> (448-1870) <i>Carol Watchler, Council President</i> (448-5215)	11 Food Co-op Ordering 8 School Lane 7:30 PM <i>Judith Goetzmann</i> (443-4948)	12 Borough Council Borough Hall 8:00 PM <i>Leon Barth, Mayor</i> (448-1870) <i>Carol Watchler, Council President</i> (448-5215)	13 Board of Education Agenda Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM <i>Ed Grossman, Board Pres.</i> (448-9385)	14	15 Arts Project Concert Borough Hall 8:00 PM
16 Nurse School Benefit Concert Borough Hall 2:00 PM	17 Congregation Anshei Synagogue, 8 PM <i>Michael Tickin, Pres.</i> (448-0363)	18 Food Co-op Distribution Boro Hall 7:30 PM <i>Bobbi Teich</i> (448-5036) <i>Judith Goetzmann</i> (443-4948)	19 First Aid Squad Drill Borough Hall 7:30 PM <i>Nancy Bauerle, Pres.</i> (448-8725)	20 Board of Education Action Meeting RPS, 7:30 PM <i>Ed Grossman, Board Pres.</i> (448-9385)	21	22 Big Garbage Day Pickup Begins 6:00 AM (see page 8)
23	24	25 Nursery School <i>Arlene Stinson, Director</i> (426-9523) PTA RPS, 7:30 PM <i>Carol Zaleski, Pres.</i> (448-5089) First Aid Squad Boro Hall, 7:30 PM	26 <i>No School at RPS</i>	27	28	29 Farmlands Study Committee Workshop (see page 14)
30	31					

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