

Bulletin

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Yeshiva Controversy Dominates Meeting; Mayor Rejects Calls for Resignation

By Michael Ticktin

The proposal to establish a yeshiva, or Orthodox Jewish secondary school, at the Roosevelt synagogue was the main focus of public concern at the July meeting of the Borough Council. At the previous week's agenda meeting, the public meeting room was filled with citizens expressing their concern, and in many cases their outrage, over the role played by Mayor Neil Marko, in his capacity as a former president and trustee of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, in arranging for the yeshiva to start classes at the synagogue in September. This concern and outrage dominated public discussion at the regular meeting as well.

Prior to the regular meeting, Mayor Marko obtained a letter from the municipal attorney, Ira Karasick, advising both the Mayor and the members of the Council that they should refrain from making any comments in response to public questions and comments about the impact of the activities at the synagogue on the community, lest this be construed as official interference with the synagogue and lead to litigation.

Given the large number of people in attendance, the Council changed the usual order of business to allow members of the public to speak first. Herb Johnson expressed his support for the 4% salary increase given to municipal

employees. Michael Olender of New Jersey Citizen Action asked the Council to allow his organization to conduct a program celebrating the 70th anniversary of Social Security on August 13 at the Roosevelt Memorial.

Melissa Branco then opened the discussion of issues involving the Mayor and the yeshiva by asking if the Council had taken any action in response to her request for the Mayor's removal. Councilwoman Beth Battel, who was presiding in place of the Mayor for the public portion, said that no action had been taken. Lorraine Hartley expressed the view that there was a conflict of interest involved in Mr. Karasick's response to Mayor Marko's request. Mr. Marko replied that he had made the request in response to a request from the Council for an opinion. Tom Curry expressed concern about the effect the yeshiva might have on the community, especially if it led to the removal of properties from the tax rolls. Lois Hunt objected to Mr. Karasick's letter by pointing out that the concerns expressed by citizens did not involve religious issues. Tom Hannagan predicted that the school would interfere with the peace and quiet of residents of the neighborhood and that "once this starts, it won't stop." Melissa Branco asked what action would be taken on requests

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As usual, there will no September *Bulletin*. The next one will be in October, starting the new 2005-2006 season.

STOP THE PRESSES! A black bear has been sighted in Roosevelt! A bear has rummaged through several garbage cans and was seen eating berries on Tamara Drive. Reports of several other sightings are trickling in. The most recent black bear observations have occurred between Monday, July 11th and Saturday, July 16. I, David Schwendemann, will try and chronicle all sightings.

All Community Litter Pick-Up Day Sunday, October 2, 2005

Help Keep Roosevelt Sparkling Green & Clean!

Refreshments Afterwards
at Lenny, Michelle and Roman Hillis'
on 24 North Rochdale Road

Meet in front of the Post Office
for directions & supplies at 10 a.m.

Questions, call 609-443-4179, ask for Ron

During the past few months, the library was not open on Wednesday evenings. But it may be visited from 3 to 4 p.m. most days when the staff is available to help check out books. Dr. Weinbach says new hours will soon be announced.

Have you ever wanted to be a reporter? The *Bulletin* needs you to cover meetings. Please call Michael Ticktin (448-0363) or Bess Tremper (448-2701) to volunteer.

Be a good citizen and attend the Borough Council Meetings on the first three Mondays in the month at 7 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs. Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

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Correction: Calendar Art in
the June issue was by Jim Hayden

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Site Plan Review for Horse Farm Postponed; Potential Purchasers of Swim Club Property Discuss Plans

There were two agenda items listed for the July Planning Board meeting – a presentation by Sparkling Pool Services and the proposed horse farm on the Annunziata property on the south side of Nurko Road.

Representatives of Sparkling Pool Services of Hightstown had requested an opportunity to give an informal presentation to the Planning Board about possible renovations and use of the Pine Valley Swim Club should they purchase this property. Planning Board Chairman Ralph Seligman reminded the representatives that they needed to be brief and that this was only an informal informational presentation.

The presentation began with an introduction by town resident and Pine Valley Swim Club board member, Mel Friedman, who outlined the pool club's long-standing history in the town. Pointing out the pool's use by town residents and by the school, he declared that "it's sort of become part of the town." Mr. Friedman presented the possible dilemma involved if the Pine Valley Swim Club were to sell the property to Sparkling Pool Services: the Planning Board may have to make a determination whether the current existing ordinance would have to be amended to allow a private for-profit organization to purchase the property from the current owner, the non-profit Pine Valley Swim Club. Mr. Friedman assured the Planning Board that they would be pleased with Sparkling Pool Services' plans for the property and hoped that the Board would give this proposal "serious consideration." Mr.

Seligman pointed out that this was only an informal presentation and not a hearing, and that the Board would not be voting on this issue at this time.

The Sparkling Pool Services' representatives pointed out that the Pine Valley pool was currently in a dilapidated state, and outlined a number of upgrades and renovations that they would propose. These upgrades would take place in three phases. The first, to be completed by May 2006, would include extending the pool 25 feet to include an additional shallow end, completely renovating the pool and the existing bathhouse facilities, converting the tennis court into additional parking facilities and storage, and upgrading the landscaping, including enclosing the lot with a fence. The second phase, to be completed by May 2007, would involve such changes as constructing a kiddy pool, hot tub and spa, adding a second floor to the existing building, and upgrading the picnic and playground areas. Enclosure of the pool for year-round use with a removable structure would be completed by September 2007.

After this presentation, Mr. Seligman pointed out that there were a number of zoning issues and a number of traffic issues that would need to be addressed. He pointed out that this was the first time anyone on the Planning Board had seen any of these proposals, but asked Tom Thomas, the town's planning consultant, to discuss additional concerns the Sparkling Pool Services representatives would need to address in any formal

applications to the Planning Board. Mr. Thomas stated that there were a number of items that the Planning Board would need more information on, such as the total number of club members and peak number of users anticipated during the summer months, which would affect the traffic flow. He pointed out that one of the issues that most communities have with swim clubs is not with the normal hours of operation, but with the large numbers of people coming and leaving at once during swim meets.

Members of the Planning Board then asked the Sparkling Pool Services representatives for clarification on several points. The representatives made it clear that the new swim club would be open to the general public, not just to Roosevelt residents. In addition to regular memberships, there would be pay-as-you-go morning classes for lifeguard training, aqua-aerobics, swimming and scuba diving lessons, as well as provision for parties and group outings. The anticipated membership would be 1/3 larger than the current swim club membership. The representatives pointed out that they did not necessarily intend to have swim meets, so did not see this as a concern, and pointed out that weekends and holidays would be peak times for use and that it would be reasonable to assume that no more than one-half to two-thirds of the membership would be present at any one time.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the next step for Sparkling Pool Services, should they wish to submit a formal

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From the Mayor

As most of you already know, a group of residents has formed a recall committee and are actively seeking signatures to have me recalled. What you may not know is that on the signature page of the recall petition, this group had the option of specifying the reason for the recall. They choose not to. Instead, recall advocates have gone around town seeking signatures, and giving only their side of the story.

It has been told to me by some residents that some of the things they are saying are quite unbelievable. What is true, and has been for quite a while is that I am a member and trustee of the synagogue. The syna-

gogue may be making some changes, and some of you may not agree with them. Many residents, however, have expressed support for the synagogue. And many of you have said, "What business is it of the Borough or any of these people who are not members of the synagogue?" Most of us respect the Constitution and feel that others have the right to their religious beliefs even if we do not share them.

Since the recall committee did not specify why they were requesting a recall, I can only speculate. I think that this is just a way for a group of people who are intolerant of a particular religious group to try to intimidate

the synagogue of which I am a trustee. Of course, this group of people could come forward and clearly say what improprieties or other things I did that would warrant such a drastic step as a recall but they have not. Furthermore, I do not think it sufficient for someone to come to a meeting of the Council and just spout baseless accusations. Let's see some proof. Let's see some concrete items so that residents can decide.

As Edmund Burke said "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." ■

SCHOOL NEWS

From the Board of Education

Linda Grayson, Board President

An August *Bulletin* offers the perfect opportunity to let you know what the Board of Education has been up to and what is in store for the coming school year.

As I write this article our roof repair project is about to begin. This project truly comes just in the nick of time. The massive amounts of rain we had during the last week of June and early July resulted in huge leaks. Portions of the ceiling are falling down due to saturation, and a new leak has developed in the art room. In our last newsletter the Board expressed concern about the unanticipated costs related to protection of the mural during the roof project. Through the diligence of our Board Administrator, Ms. Karen

Minutolo, our insurance broker has agreed to cover those costs, which are estimated to be about \$5,000.

As you know Dr. Weinbach announced that she is leaving RPS at the end of August. Since hearing that news the Board has been very busy exploring various options for her replacement. Dr. Weinbach currently holds the positions of Chief School Administrator (CSA) and Principal. Limits on administrative costs posed by S1701 prompted the Board to seek a Principal/Teacher and carve out the CSA responsibilities. This will allow us to apportion some of the costs associated with this position to non-administrative budget lines, and help target specific instructional areas for enhancement. The board is excited to announce that it has hired Ms. Shari Payson to fill the position of Principal/Teacher at RPS.

Ms. Payson comes to us from the Howell Township School District, where she worked to integrate technology throughout the curriculum. She holds a B.A. degree in Communications and Spanish, a graduate certificate in Elementary Education, and a Masters degree in Educational Administration. Ms. Payson's past experience has afforded her the opportunity to demonstrate specific leadership qualities that the Board feels are important for success at RPS. Ms. Payson's education and experience target 3 main areas that the Board identified as needs at RPS: technology, Spanish and differentiation of instruction. She is scheduled to start on August 18th, pending release from her current contract with Howell. Please stop in, introduce yourselves

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Restoration Grant, Black Bears and Vegetable Contest

We are still working on the restoration grant for the swampy area near the end of the Roosevelt Woodland Trail section 'C'. There have been unavoidable delays with the permitting process and property line surveys but we are hopeful that we receive an extension and finally get down to work.

People are already volunteering for service or should I say 'Labor in Kind' for various jobs regarding the project. Keep your hip boots handy for the stream cleaning. Then there is the over-wintering of aquatic plants prior to the spring planting. We then will need lots of help. Please watch the Bulletin and message board for Help Wanted notices regarding the project and the various job requests for volunteers. Thank You.

I met with Assunpink management regarding the black bear situation. Apparently only two bears were released there and both quickly moved out. One is still being sighted in

the Millstone area last I heard so we should not let are guard down, but there are no immediate threats to bird feeders, grills and backyard gardens. The Roosevelt Environmental Commission will keep an eye on the situation and advise accordingly. Please let us know of any bear sightings anywhere in our home range area.

In a previous column, I mentioned a vegetable contest. I am now serious. I have not tasted a good Jersey tomato in years. I'm prepared to give away adult large or extra large Yukon Jack 'Call of the Wild' t-shirts to all participants (while supplies last). My grandmother always said "all good things come in threes". Who am I to argue with that logic? So perhaps three tomatoes or three yellow squash or thee servings of green beans would be an excellent start. (or maybe three lbs of tomatoes, three bushels of beans three crates of melons ...mmmm??). Naahh, we'll keep it

simple - call me at 609-443-6204 for details.

If you are proud of your gardening skills and have a bountiful harvest I'd like to know and perhaps taste the fruits of your labors. I have all but given up on gardening because of disappointing results. Maybe it's me, but in self defense, there are a lot of variables such as weather, where plants are purchased and the varieties and so on. I'd like to get my enthusiasm back and maybe someone out there can help.

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on August 17, 2005. We'll have chairs for everyone attending or I will stand the entire meeting. If anyone has a newsworthy nature note or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call. Thank you for reading this column. ■

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

By Clare Sacharoff

There were 21 people at the July 5th meeting. For our regularly scheduled monthly trip which fell on July 19th — the group decided to attend a movie preceded by brunch. The bus picked up passengers at individual homes.

Our box lunch was held July 29th at 12:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall. This is held the last Friday of each month.

Dolores Chasan asked that the senior club make a donation to Women Space — an organization dedicated to helping abused women. There will be a big

Public Relations Drive in September by that organization for this purpose. We may be allowed to light candles as an example of our support.

Doris McIntyre asked the club to contribute funds for the First Aid Squad to assist in financing the ambulance.

In discussing future trips Doris suggested we look into Allaire State Park. We may consider that for September.

Dolores Chasan announced she is retiring as treasurer of the club, a job she has performed for many years.

She will be happy to help the new treasurer get established.

We are planning to invite a speaker to address the group on the topic of living wills and trusts. Louise Prezant will be hostess for the August 2nd meeting Karen Block provided excellent refreshments at the July meeting. ■

SCHOOL NEWS

Continued from Page 4

and welcome her to RPS.

One option that we are considering regarding the CSA responsibilities is an inter-local agreement with East Windsor Regional School District. Under such an agreement EW would provide the services of a qualified CSA in return for a fixed payment. Other services that would benefit RPS, such as staff development training, may also be part of the agreement. The Board expects to have this administrative staffing issue resolved before the new school year begins.

Finally, I want to share a few sentiments about Dr. Weinbach. Dr. Weinbach timed her resignation and departure such that the Board was not left scrambling. Never at a loss for a creative solution, Dr. Weinbach guided the Board and participated fully in our exploration of cost saving alternatives. From her thorough approach and level of effort it is apparent that she assigned herself the last critical task of helping the Board to hire an excellent replacement. As much as Dr. Weinbach is probably looking ahead to her future in Florida, it is clear to the Board that she is equally looking behind to assure that RPS will be in the best hands once she is gone. Thank you Dr. Weinbach, for your tireless efforts over the past six years and most especially over the past few months. The Roosevelt Board of Education will miss you and we wish you all the best.

Copy of a letter to Senator Singer from the president of our Board of Education.

July 14, 2005

Hon. Robert Singer
2110 West County Line Road
Jackson, NJ 08527

Dear Senator Singer:

On June 30, 2005, the Assembly

unanimously passed A3680, a bill that amends some of the restrictions imposed last year through S1701. The companion bill, S2329, was introduced in the Senate, and referred to the Senate Education Committee. The Roosevelt Board of Education respectfully requests your support in passage of S2329.

The amendment to S1701 contained in these bills that directly benefits Roosevelt is the provision that a district may submit a request to the Commissioner of the Department of Education for approval to exceed the district's per pupil administrative cost limit for the 2006-2007 school year. This is the provision of S1701 with which Roosevelt Public School had the most difficulty during the current budget year.

The bills specify several reasons for the Commissioner to approve such a request. They include increases in enrollment, administrative positions necessary as a result of mandated programs, administrative vacancies, nondiscretionary fixed costs, extraordinary one-time expenditures, and other such items defined in regulations (yet to be promulgated.)

The bills go on to say, "In filing the request with the Commissioner the district shall demonstrate that it has made all possible efforts to implement administrative efficiencies." That sentence seems to be speaking directly to our situation. The Board has made all kinds of efforts to implement administrative efficiencies. In fact, the state's own Local Government Review Board complimented us on our efforts.

A3680 and S2329 also allow a district to increase its budget due to increases in utility costs, such as electric, gas, water, and sewer; insurance costs; and domestic security preparedness costs. These costs are truly outside the Board's ability to

control, and this provision is necessary. Special education costs are also exempt from any cap on the budget, since these costs are quite variable within districts, and are required for all classified students.

Assemblymen Dancer and Malone supported A3680 and we are encouraged by the bipartisan support. While not a perfect fix to the S1701 administrative limits, the bills seem to be a step in the right direction. Please let us know your position.

Sincerely,

*Linda Grayson, President
Roosevelt Board of Education*

PTA News

Happy Summer!

We hope everyone is having a great summer.

Our new board is in place: Deidra Pizzarelli and Jill Joyce, Co-President; Amy Block, Vice President; Leslie Carnevale, Treasurer and Michelle Orlick as Secretary.

We do have some events that will be happening in September: The Teacher's luncheon, Back to school night and there is a fundraiser under way. Never too early to start fundraising.

We look forward to a great school year!

Jill Joyce

Deidra Pizzarelli ■

Roosevelt Community Players Performance

The Roosevelt Community Players will be performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on two dates: Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th. The performances will take place at 10 Homestead Lane at 7:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy these special performances of a classic tale! **Directed by Margaret Schlinski.** Donations are welcomed and will help fund Recreation Department programs.

Yoga

The Recreation Department is continuing its very popular Yoga program this summer at Roosevelt Borough Hall. Classes will be instructed by Kym Kulp, a certified Yoga Instructor who teaches at The Peddie School and throughout the area. While yoga mats will be provided, participants are welcome to bring their own. Classes will be offered on the following **Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16.** The cost of the program is \$50.00 per person. Walk-in fee is \$15.00 per class.

Sports Camp

US Sports Institute is pleased to announce that they will be running their Multi Sport camp for the Borough of Roosevelt in 2005. The US Sports Institute is at the forefront

of providing summer camps for boys and girls aged 5-14 of all abilities.

Give your child the unique opportunity to experience 15 different sports from around the world. Children can learn how to bowl a Cricket ball, score a try in Rugby, shoot hoops and score plenty of goals in a variety of sports from around the world. All activities and games take place in a positive low pressure educational environment under the guidance of our qualified coaches who are chosen for their ability to inspire, motivate and encourage campers.

Children can expect a fun packed week in which they will not only further develop their sporting capabilities but develop the interpersonal and teamwork qualities that come with it.

The program in Roosevelt will be held the week of **August 15 - 19 at Roosevelt Public School.** It will run from **5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for 5-14 year olds at a price of \$79.00 per person.** To register, please contact the Roosevelt Recreation Department at (609) 448-0539.

For any further information please contact the US Sports Institute on 908 534 5305 or visit us on the web at: www.ussportsinstitute.com

Mad Science Camp

The Roosevelt Recreation Department is co-sponsoring a Summer Camp Program with Mad Science of Central Jersey entitled *Mad*

Machines and Junior Engineers. The program will be held at **Roosevelt Public School from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on August 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.** The cost of the program is \$110.00 per student. Students **entering 1st Grade – 6th Grades** may register.

Whether your child loves to build things or destroy them, this week of camp includes lots of both! The junior Mad Science engineers will design and build bridges and “skyscrapers” using simple tools and their imaginations. Kids will even construct a geodesic dome big enough for all the campers to sit inside! Then the machine madness starts... Children will discover how many different machines, simple & complex, we use in our daily lives. Campers will have fun building their own catapults to take home and will work with simple machines such as pulleys, wedges, screws & levers. After the simple machines, we move on to fun with the Mad Science robots! We'll play robot soccer, test line-tracking robots, and help our team direct our sound activated robots around an obstacle course, all the while learning the science of robotics!

For further information on any Recreation Department programs, please contact (609) 448-0539, x3. The Recreation Department is also looking for ideas for new programs, activities, and trips. Please let us know what you would like to see offered to our community! ■

Zoning: Look Before You Leap!

by Ed Goetzmann, Zoning and Housing Officer

Are you thinking about a modification to your yard? To your house? Your parking area? Are you thinking of adding a window? A door? A fence? A shed?

The guidelines for all of this, and much more, are carefully explained in the “Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Roosevelt.” The intent of this ordinance is to keep our Borough safe and beautiful. For more information, please call me at 443-4948 **before you start!**

Dear Roosevelt Community:

Roosevelt Community Nursery School is accepting applications for a Teacher's Aide. This part-time position would be ideal for a local, creative parent of a pre-school child. You'd work from 11:30–3:30 Monday through Thursday, beginning in September. Primary responsibilities include cooking lunch, setting up & cleaning rest mats, prepping art projects during rest time, helping the Director, & most importantly providing a warm environment for the after-care preschoolers. Please contact Miss Ginny at 426-9523 for more info.

Wynn Vest, RCNS President

Dear Roosevelt Community:

I've intended to write a thank you to Roosevelt Community Nursery School and all my neighbors for a few months. The "C" in RCNS really does mean Community. My NJ National Guard husband deployed when our 2nd girl was 6 weeks old and our 1st was just turning 3. The teachers and parents of RCNS really became a second family to us. They included special patriotic songs dedicated to Rachel's daddy at graduation; agreed to run Little Hearts Summer Day Camp so that the preschoolers could retain stability in having the same teachers over the summer (a real life saver to an overwhelmed mom) and babysat at my house on days off. They made projects to send to the soldiers and posters when they finally came home.

When the parents of RCNS realized how much I was counting on the nutritious lunch at nursery school for Rachel because I couldn't guarantee the energy to cook a well-rounded dinner, they adopted us and took turns dropping off dinner at least once a week. For months.

If you ever need someone to drop-off your child or watch your sleeping younger one while you drop-off, there is always a RCNS parent willing to help.

My neighbors in a true Roosevelt way were also always there with a helping hand and warm smile.

Thank you once again

Natalie Warner

To the Editor,

Roosevelt has been my home for forty-eight and a half years. To me, this town of only nine hundred people with its many acres of open land is very special. Through the years, there have been many battles against those who tried to change the character of this town, but we managed to preserve our closeness to nature. We defeated them all - those who wanted to build a jetport at our border, the company with plans to locate a waste dump less than a mile away, and the developer who planned a densely populated community that would have out-numbered us.

Now we're again in danger of being impinged upon by a monolithic group that could within a short time grow to a size that our small town could not absorb. Anshei Roosevelt is unable to survive with its present depleted membership and inadequate finances, synagogue president Ellie Shapiro, explained at a recent public meeting. While I sympathize with Anshei's problem, I feel that the "solution" that the congregation officers have in mind would seriously infringe upon the well-being of the town without solving the synagogue's problems.

The plan is to lease the synagogue to an Orthodox group to run a Yeshiva high school for 15 boys to begin with. The boys would be brought in from their homes with their food and they would stay over in private homes dur-

ing the Sabbath on weekends. This plan is for a one-year trial period, after which the Yeshiva representatives clearly expect to grow. Because of public protest, this represents a change from the original plan for 150 students to be housed in dormitories in town.

It's clear to me from their presentation at the meeting that the Yeshiva people expect their school to grow and to be able to follow their original plan within a few years. Also, in their remarks at the meeting, they seemed happy to report that after they moved into Lakewood and Riverdale, those towns grew and became more viable communities. No, thank you. I don't share their enthusiasm for turning Roosevelt into a metropolis. I prefer its viability as the small, greenbelt town that it is.

At this point, I feel uneasy that both Ellie and former Anshei president Neil Marko have assured us at public meetings that "nothing has been decided," that the one year trial period plan is being "considered" by the congregation officers but will be voted on only after further "negotiations." If the plan is so undecided, how come two Yeshiva people have already bought Roosevelt houses at above market prices, and how many more are planning to do so?

In a community as small as ours, any group of say, 50 or 100 or more who move in within a short time could impact on our town. We have always been a liberal community that welcomes diversity and respects people's rights to live as they please. I disagree with Arthur Shapiro's accusation in the *Examiner* that those who argue against a private Yeshiva school in Roosevelt are "discriminatory." I expected better from Arthur. (Don't

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The meeting at the Synagogue took place on Thursday, June 30, chaired by Elly Shapiro, president of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt. The public was welcomed, but sternly cautioned against rudeness. The purpose of the meeting, according to Mrs. Shapiro, was to dispel "rumors" about the congregation's plan to revive the synagogue by housing an Orthodox yeshiva there. Mrs. Shapiro emphatically stated that "no contract has been signed, but that "the majority at the meeting gave the board the authority to listen to ideas for rejuvenation." She emphasized that "it is not a done deal," that "no concept plan has been brought to the congregation," and that "there is nothing to bring to the town." Nonetheless, contract or not, two houses in town have been purchased by teachers for their residences and Yeshiva Maon Hatorah, with Rabbi Eisenberg as headmaster, will start in September with the eight to ten 13 and 14 year olds in the ninth grade. They will sleep in a dormitory outside of Roosevelt and all of their food will be brought with them on their bus. If all works out well, a grade will be added each year, to a maximum of 48 students. The building would remain the property of the congregation.

Only after originally proposing a 150-student dormitory in Roosevelt and finding that idea resisted by the community did the representatives of the Yeshiva decide instead to have the out-of-town dormitory. School hours would be from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Study would be in the synagogue, coexisting with the Roosevelt Nursery School, which would be allowed to remain where it is at least for the coming year.

One of the rumors that the meeting was intended to dispel was that one of the teachers had paid \$100,000 over the asking price for a house on Lake

Drive. In fact, he only paid \$21,000 over the asking price, and that was only because there were several people bidding on the property and the seller agreed to receive sealed bids and sell to the highest bidder.

Representatives from the nursery school pointed out that their fees had helped "carry" the synagogue for years. They felt dismay at the prospect of seeking another venue. Michael Offen, a "friend of the Yeshiva", assured the public that the students would be considerate to the nursery school children. They would even retire to the adjacent "parsonage" during the youngsters' nap time.

Offen and Joshua Pruzansky, with a contingent of supporters seated at the rear, were polite and personable. As the meeting was opened to the public, they seemed surprised at the extent of opposition that they encountered.

When representatives of the yeshiva first took a look at Roosevelt, they may have known about how we had resisted the development plans of US Home Corporation, but what they probably did not know is that Roosevelt is a municipality so averse to change that it took YEARS to move the siren off the school roof. As John Impellizeri pointed out, Roosevelt wouldn't tolerate a change in the appearance of the water tower.

It should be clear to anyone who noticed the termite damage to the building that the synagogue needs money. The congregation sees the yeshiva as a source of financial support and, more importantly, of the minyan (quorum of ten men) that is needed for services. In response to a question from Susan Dermody as to how the students could provide a minyan if they are sleeping elsewhere, the yeshiva representative replied that the boys would sleep over at a teacher's house on nights when they would be

required to walk to services. The services would be open to worshippers from Roosevelt, as would Hebrew school and other activities.

A vocal and fairly large contingent of Jewish residents bemoaned the fact that Congregation Anshei Roosevelt had excluded them in the past for not being Orthodox, or for being married to a non-Jewish spouse. "Why," asked Jeff Ellentuck, "couldn't the board of the synagogue reach out to local Jews to revitalize the congregation, instead of bringing in outsiders?" Jay Goldman added that "a vibrant synagogue would be an illusion, because it would be imported." Pearl Seligman said the lack of a minyan had occurred before, but the congregation had managed nonetheless. Mrs. Shapiro said the congregation had tried various things, but the attendance had never materialized. Jeff Ellentuck reiterated that the congregation had never reached out to the community, and that there were other ways to resolve its problems.

A second group of residents, including Tom Curry, expressed concern about effects on the town, fearing that taking housing in Roosevelt out of use by families who would use the public school might cause the public school to close. Mr. Curry said that he came to Roosevelt for the school and that "you are killing our school." He said that any dormitory would be another tax exempt property adding to our tax burden. He recommended that if the congregation really cares about the town, it sell the vacant parsonage and the vacant lot that it owns and let them be put back on the tax rolls. He said he hates to see the public school, the "core of the town, go down the tubes."

The Yeshiva representatives said they planned to be taxpayers, and

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application, would be either to ask the Council for a change in zoning, or to apply to the Planning Board for a use variance. (A use variance can only be approved if agreed to by two-thirds of the Planning Board. The Mayor and the Council representative cannot vote on a use variance application.) Planning Board member Jane Rothfuss suggested that this issue should be put on the agenda for the next meeting so that the Planning Board could discuss the issue further.

The second item on the agenda was supposed to be a site planning review for a proposed horse farm on the property of Richard Annunziata on the south side of Nurko Road. Mr. Annunziata and his representative appeared before the Council with a detailed site plan. However, Roosevelt planning consultant, Tom Thomas, pointed out that Mr. Annunziata had submitted an application for a combination of use of a horse farm and a recreational facility. Mr. Thomas reminded the council that the regulations for the district covering Mr. Annunziata's property were amended on April 25, 2005 by the Borough Council, and under those amended regulations horse farms were not a permitted use (as requested in Mr. Annunziata's application) but rather a conditional use, meaning that the application, and the notice sent to nearby property owners, would have to make reference to a conditional use permit. Mr. Thomas further stated that recreational facilities are not permitted in the agricultural zone at all. Since notice was not issued for a use variance or interpretation of whether this facility is a conditional use, the site review could not legally proceed.

Mr. Annunziata was not aware of the amended regulations and declared that he had been trying to proceed for a year with his plans, and was shocked

to hear that now he was being told there was a law preventing horse farms. Mr. Thomas pointed out that the regulations did not prohibit horse farms, but that Mr. Annunziata had to apply for a conditional use or a use variance in order for the Planning Board to legally review the site plans. Mr. Annunziata assured the Board that his site plans were not for recreational use, but that it was a breeding facility for horses, which was included as one of the conditional uses allowed under the ordinance. Mr. Thomas also pointed out that there were quite a number of deed restrictions concerning use of the property and that Planning Board attorney Michelle Donato, who was not able to be present at the meeting, would need to be consulted to determine whether these restrictions would have to be looked at by the Roosevelt Planning Board or by the County Agricultural Development Board. Mr. Seligman pointed out that the Roosevelt Planning Board had still not received a determination from the County Board. Mr. Annunziata suggested the Planning Board review the site plans subject to the County Board's decision. Mr. Seligman pointed out that might be possible, if there weren't other issues at stake, primarily the notice issue. Mr. Seligman advised Mr. Annunziata to have his attorney contact the Roosevelt attorney or planner to determine the proper procedure to proceed. Mr. Annunziata stated that he no longer had an attorney, due to the numerous expenses incurred in pursuing his plans. Mr. Thomas explained to Mr. Annunziata about the importance of complying with proper procedures. He pointed out a case in another municipality where proper procedures weren't followed and a Planning Board's decision was thrown out and the whole process had to be done over, which would not

be to Mr. Annunziata's advantage.

Planning Board member Jane Rothfuss suggested perhaps an informal meeting might take place with the Roosevelt attorney, the town planner and several Planning Board members to help Mr. Annunziata determine whether he needed to apply for a variance or conditional use. In response, Mr. Thomas pointed out that the law required all meetings with Planning Board members to be public once a formal application had been filed. Since the Borough attorney was not present, that discussion could not take place at this meeting. Mr. Seligman suggested that if the Roosevelt attorney and planner could not both be present at the next meeting, a special meeting could be scheduled and notice given to the public.

The Planning Board then proceeded to committee reports. Michael Ticktin, chairman of the Affordable Housing and Redevelopment committee, reported that the Board had received a copy of a report prepared by Maria Giovine, the planner for the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) who is responsible for Monmouth County, detailing issues concerning Roosevelt's petition for substantive certification that must be addressed by October 7, 2005. These issues include documentation of the agreement with Community Options, Inc. for development of a three-bedroom group home for developmentally-disabled adults on the undeveloped northern portion of the former gas station property, which is now owned by the Borough, documentation of affordability controls at the Solar Village senior citizen apartments, documentation of the regional contribution agreement under which Roosevelt will provide funding for three affordable units in Asbury Park,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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call people names, Art, but listen and discuss the issues.)

Many people have pointed out how a private school could impact negatively on our local nursery school, the public school, and our municipal finances. These are important considerations.

Even in the interests of those directly involved, I do not believe that a Yeshiva whose rabbi would conduct services at Anshei Roosevelt would solve the problems of the congregation. Instead of providing services and programs that would appeal to the community, Anshei would import an Orthodox congregation from outside. I do not know any Jewish people in Roosevelt who would like to attend services with a wall separating women and men, to give one example.

Toward the end of the public meeting at the synagogue, Ellie agreed to call another meeting with the public to discuss alternative suggestions for programs that would appeal to the community. That sounded like a hopeful plan to me, but as far as I know, the follow-up meeting has not yet been scheduled. Yet, such a meeting may be the congregation's best chance for survival.

Sincerely,
Gladys Nadler

To the Editor:

At the June 30th town meeting, held at the Synagogue, the recently appointed President thereof referred to that organization as 'synagogue of the community.' This statement is blatantly ludicrous, in light of the very fact that the congregation cannot even muster 10 qualified men in a town of 900, to fulfill its requirement for its simplest of ceremonies. The Synagogue may well have the Synagogue of the community of Roosevelt as it exists today.

...And to perpetuate this very exclusive, no doubt sincerely devout religious group, (whose concern for the well being of our precious community is so great) these few impassioned members have developed enough tunnel-vision and lack of sensitivity to put the entire town in turmoil, seriously endangering the equanimity we prize so highly.

In the November 1, 2000 issue of the *Examiner*, Neil Marko was interviewed as a possible councilman. He said, 'Any further development is not the solution.' In another paragraph, again addressing development, he said, "the project would have to offer a clear and compelling benefit to the community's present residents."

From Lois Hunt

To: The Roosevelt Bulletin

Attached you will find a copy of an open letter to be circulated for signature in Roosevelt. This letter was prepared on June 22, 2005. At that time the following signatures were attached. Other signatures will follow:

*Bert Ellentuck
Shan Ellentuck
Lois Hunt
Melissa Branco
Howard Chasan
Dolores Chasan
Gail Hunton
Joshua Hecht
Virginia Edwards
Jeff Ellentuck*

June 22, 2005

Fellow Roosevelt Citizens,

As you may know, Roosevelt's Congregation Anshei is presently in discussions with Telshe Yeshiva, a religious school, to sell or lease the synagogue property to the yeshiva.

Mrs. Eily Shapiro, the president of the congregation, has said that the

yeshiva intends to create a religious school with dormitory facilities on the synagogue grounds for an eventual student body of 125 to 150 students.

We are greatly concerned about this plan, for these reasons:

- The synagogue owns only three lots on Homestead Lane, with a total area of less than two acres. This property sits in a residential zone in the midst of single family homes on one-half acre lots.
- While the yeshiva has yet to present plans for their proposed project it is obvious that school-rooms, a dormitory, a dining hall, kitchens, and housing for 125 to 150 students plus instructor/chaperones, with parking, etc. will require a massive amount of construction.
- This project is clearly contrary to the Roosevelt master plan and to our town's zoning ordinances – ordinances which were designed to preserve the peace and safety of our homes and our community.

Specifically, the Roosevelt zoning ordinances do not permit a private school in the R-AG (residential-agricultural) district unless the building lot is at least ten (10) acres.

We have significant zoning restrictions, relating to front and side yard setbacks, etc, which limit the buildable area of the synagogue's under-two-acre property.

The zoning ordinances also have extensive parking requirements for schools and houses of worship.

- Clearly, there is no way that the proposed Telshe Yeshiva project can be realized unless numerous, extensive, and unwarranted changes are made to the borough's carefully thought-out zoning ordinances.

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for the Mayor's removal. Councilman Michael Hamilton replied that the matter would be discussed at the next committee meeting. Josh Hecht then characterized the issue of removal of the Mayor as one that must be taken care of by the citizens. He called upon the Mayor to consider resigning before he is recalled. He said that the Mayor is not protected by Mr. Karasick's letter and called upon him to resign. Mayor Marko responded by saying he had no plan to resign, that the people have the right to petition for his recall, and that people have a right to live where they choose and enjoy the right to free exercise of religion.

Larissa Bondy asked if anyone was doing anything to help the Roosevelt Public School survive. Ms. Battel replied by noting that the school is run by the Board of Education, not by the Council. Mr. Marko said that he had participated in meetings with the Chief School Administrator to find ways to reduce costs by sharing services with other districts. Mr. Hamilton said that the survival of the school was at risk because of the enactment by the State Legislature of S2701 (P.L. 2004, c.73), which limits per pupil administrative costs, even in a district that has no surplus staff that it can cut. He characterized the school as "absolutely crucial to this town." Herb Johnson said that he had collected 102 signatures in opposition to S2701.

Mr. Johnson also expressed confidence that the synagogue board would take the town's feelings into account in its decision-making. Harry Parker, however, disagreed, saying that "people not involved in this town are making decisions about it." Taking issue with a statement made by Elly Shapiro, president of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, that no agreements had been made between the synagogue and the yeshiva—although the syna-

gogue would be opening in September for a one-year "trial period"—Mr. Parker said that the community is facing, not a one-year plan, but a four-year plan, in which an additional class will be added each year. Lois Hunt said that she saw a "colossal irony" in the fact that, while the Roosevelt Public School is in "dire straits," the yeshiva project is being "steamrolled." She said that she found the statement there was no agreement, but that the yeshiva would have to be ready for its first class by September, to be "disingenuous." Alan Schuster asked if he missed something—were there no plans or were there going to be twelve students? Ms. Battel said that was a question that had to be addressed to the synagogue.

Freda Hepner asked if any preparation had been made for any education of the yeshiva students in secular subjects. She asked if this would not be a concern of the Board of Education. Ann Baker replied that the Amish in Pennsylvania had won lawsuits to allow them not to educate their children beyond the eighth grade, compulsory education laws to the contrary notwithstanding. Nancy Warnick expressed concern about properties coming off the tax rolls. She accused Mr. Marko of not representing the interests of the community, despite having been elected to do so. She predicted that people associated with the yeshiva would "follow the letter of the law, not the spirit" and that, eventually, "they will force us out." Jeff Ellentuck pointed out that any children living in houses purchased by people associated with the yeshiva would have to be bused to private schools outside of Roosevelt, at taxpayer expense.

In response to a question from Tom Hickey as to what he is doing to help the public school, Mr. Marko said that he had been working on the issue of the siren on the school roof and on

the recreation program. He characterized the recreation program as "minimalistic" due to the withdrawal of support by the Board of Education. Mr. Hamilton, however, characterized Mr. Marko's statement as "a bunch of malarkey," saying that the dissolution of the Recreation Coalition was due to Mr. Marko's having "bypassed the system and thereby alienated the School Board." Mr. Hamilton said that the Council had put money aside for the removal of the siren and that it should never have become a controversial issue between the Council and the School Board. Mr. Marko denied forcing anyone to resign from the Recreation Coalition.

Michele Guye-Hillis questioned what impact the yeshiva would have on the public school. Jim Hayden expressed his pride in both the school and the synagogue as Roosevelt institutions, but took exception to the synagogue making decisions without consulting the community. Charles Harding asked where the yeshiva would house 150 students.

On the subject of the siren, which the Council had said would be shut off at night, Ms. Branco asked if the town would be without emergency service and if the pager system was guaranteed. Mr. Marko said that the same signal that sets off the siren sets off the pagers that First Aid Squad and Fire Company members carry. Mr. Hamilton said that we would have lost redundancy. Ms. Branco, citing her own experience in caring for a severely ill person, asked that the siren not be shut off at night, since that is the time when people with severe health problems are at the most risk, and any possible inconvenience to people who might be awakened by the siren does not justify endangering lives. Jeff Ellentuck agreed that the siren

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should remain functional. There was general agreement among Council members that that would be done.

Mel Friedman, a member of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, described himself as being as frustrated as everyone else by what was going on with the yeshiva. He expressed the urgency of the matter, adding that "the clock is running." Quoting previous statements by Mr. Marko that nothing had been signed between the synagogue and the yeshiva, he called for the synagogue to back out. He also demanded that the Council discuss the issue of whether the yeshiva can have a dormitory in a residential area.

Nona Sherak expressed her strong opposition to the general tone of the discussion regarding the synagogue and the yeshiva. She said that she is "horribly ashamed of this community" which, she said, "has always been an open community." She said that she would be happy to take in the yeshiva students as her guests on the Sabbath and on holidays when they could not travel.

Damon Duchai asked if the synagogue would still function as an emergency shelter for children at the Roosevelt Public School, as it had in the past. Mr. Hamilton said that that was part of the Borough's emergency response plan. Mr. Marko said that Councilwoman Peggy Malkin would discuss the issue with Ed Miller, the emergency coordinator. Mary Tulloss confirmed that the synagogue would be the designated emergency facility in the event evacuation of the school were to become necessary.

Getting back to the issue of the public school, Henry John-Alder said that "for Roosevelt to be viable and vibrant, it needs a public school." Jaymie Witherspoon added that she knew someone who had wanted to move to Roosevelt because of the school, but has

now reconsidered. She emphasized the need to work hard to keep the school.

Joshua Hecht said that "the Council is not able to stop the synagogue; the power resides with the population." In response, Nona Sherak insisted that "no one is trying to do anything underhanded." Melissa Branco responded by saying that the conduct of the synagogue and the yeshiva was "not transparent," that the yeshiva was envisioning "a much higher number than twelve" and had "expressed a clear interest in having a 150 student dormitory." She that the yeshiva was "an organization that will not mix with the townspeople" and that "this will no longer be the synagogue of the town." Alan Schuster added that "the main issue is the public school is on the verge of collapse and the goal of the yeshiva is to take it over." He called for action to increase enrollment so that the State does not take away funding. Arlene Stinson said that the nursery school had had to comply with zoning requirements when it was established at the synagogue and the yeshiva should have to do the same. Administrator Bob Clark said he would check the zoning ordinance to see what might apply.

Nona Sherak complained about a disagreeable odor in the water.

Administrator Clark reported that he was recommending adoption of the salary ordinance and resolution with a 4% increase for most employees and an increase in range for the crossing guard and snowplow operator, that he was recommending the hiring of Bob Francis as Zoning Officer to replace Ed Goetzmann, whom he complimented for his dedicated service, that he had heard from someone who was interested in serving as Clean Communities Coordinator, that there was still a need for a Recycling Coordinator, a Stormwater Management Coordinator

and a Joint Insurance Coordinator, that he was recommending the updating of the tax map in preparation for the revaluation ordered by the Monmouth County Tax Board and that the Lake Drive reconstruction project was proceeding.

The Council then moved on to committee reports. Councilwoman Pat Moser, reporting for the Administrative committee, called for inclusion of an increase in the hourly rate of one employee who had been left out of the amended salary ordinance.

Councilman Hamilton, reporting for the Finance committee, reported that the Council would vote on an amended salary ordinance and resolution providing for a 4% increase for all employees other than Administrator Bob Clark and Tax/Utility Collector Sam Cannizaro, both of whom are limited in their public sector earnings by the fact that they are retirees in the Public Employees Retirement System and cannot earn more without becoming ineligible to receive their pensions. He also reported that responsibility for purchasing would be shifted from the Administrator to Borough Clerk Krystyna Olejnik, recommended the hiring of Bob Francis to replace Ed Goetzmann as Zoning Officer, announced that 50 more radio-read water meters would be purchased and installed, at a cost of \$7,000.

Councilman Jeff Hunt, reporting for the Utilities committee, reminded residents that consumption-based billing will start in January, 2006. All utility users will receive sample bills in December that will show their actual usage. He said that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had allowed an extension for the start of consumption-based billing until the end of this year, but that "no further extensions will be possible." He also

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said that radio-read meters still have to be installed on Homestead Lane and part of Lake Drive, that the damage to the sewage treatment plant caused by the toxic toilet dumper has been corrected and the plant is operating properly, and that he does not intend to proceed with the proposal to bring in graywater for treatment at the plant. He further explained that utility billing would be based on a tier system, with a base charge of \$149 per month and additional charges that would increase on a per 1,000 gallon basis as each tier of water use was reached.

Mr. Hunt also reported that investigations of the water flowing past Lou Esakoff's house on Farm Lane had concluded that it was not chlorinated and most likely was an underground stream.

In the absence of Councilman Dan Hoffman, Mr. Hunt also reported for the Public Works committee. He said that it was necessary for the Borough to get the siren off the roof of the school now, since the roof was being redone with grant money and the siren was in the way. For many years, it has been illegal to have a siren within 250 feet of a school, not to mention on the roof. He added that two locations for the siren were being considered: one, in the area south of the Roosevelt Memorial, is centrally located but only has one-phase electrical power, which could only support a smaller siren, while the other, in the former pump house on the water tower property, while not as centrally located, is further from houses than the other site and has the three-phase power that could support the existing siren, thus saving the cost of buying a new one. Tests for audibility would be needed.

Mayor Marko asked if anything had been done about providing a turn-about at the sewage treatment plant that would allow the sludge hauler to

turn the truck around and thus not have to back down Pine Drive to the triangle. Mr. Clark replied that the contractor had been "adamant" about not using smaller trucks and about not doing any double K-turns. There is a need to remove debris from the area that could be used for turnabouts. The State Police had been consulted and had said that the backing up of the truck is not a traffic violation. Councilwoman Moser asked how long the truck has been backing up. Mr. Clark said it has been doing so for a couple of years. Mrs. Moser asked if this had been without incident. Mr. Clark said it had, but "that was probably a matter of luck."

Councilwoman Malkin, reporting for the Environment, Health and Safety committee, said that she had been approached by people who wanted to join the Fire Company but had met with resistance. Mayor Marko said that the proper procedure would be for them to meet with the Fire Chief, have their applications approved by the Council and then take the necessary courses.

Reporting as Council representative on the Environmental Commission, Councilman Hunt said that the study of the effluent at the sewage treatment plant was ongoing, that the DEP representative who inspected the restoration work being done on Empty Box Brook between Valley Road and Rochdale Avenue characterized the progress in removing silt, restoring the channel of the stream and replanting the flooded areas as "outstanding," and that he, Mr. Hunt, would be discussing the issue of the placement of the siren with the Environmental Commission.

Reporting for the Recreation Commission, Councilman Hamilton thanked the Fourth of July Committee, consisting of Susan Dermody, Mary Tulloss, Bruce Reimbold, Nancy Hamilton and himself, for having given

the community "a wonderful Fourth of July." He thanked the synagogue and Elly Shapiro for a donation of kosher hot dogs. Mary Tulloss reported that a total of \$300 had been collected to defray the cost of food and beverages. Mr. Hamilton went on to emphasize the need for volunteers for this and other community events and activities of community organizations. He said that the town photo that was taken at the picnic is available for five dollars.

Councilwoman Moser, liaison to the Senior Citizens organization, reported that "things are going reasonably well," but that there had been no response yet from Monmouth County on the busing situation and that there are ongoing problems with the management company at the Solar Village. The seniors are going on a cruise from Toms River.

In other business, the Council adopted an ordinance on traffic regulations that was approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and is therefore enforceable. It regulates parking on streets and public property. No one spoke at the public hearing on the adoption of this ordinance. The Council also introduced an amendment to the salary ordinance and adopted a resolution establishing salaries for 2005, with a 4% increase, a resolution hiring Bob Francis as Zoning Officer, a motion authorizing the Borough Engineer to update the tax maps in digital format in accordance with the comments of the Division of Taxation, at a cost not to exceed \$4,240.00 and a motion approving plans for Lake Drive reconstruction. The Council also agreed to honor the request of New Jersey Citizen Action to have a program at the Roosevelt Memorial commemorating President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of the law establishing Social Security 70 years ago. ■

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clarification as to the status of the efficiency apartment at the Solar Village, which is currently occupied by an employee of the management company, but which cannot be counted as an affordable unit for which the Borough can get credit towards its second-round quota of 29 unless it is rented to an income-qualified tenant, and justification of our projection that fewer than eight homes are likely to be built between now and 2014 and we therefore anticipate no third-round obligation. (COAH's third round methodology bases each municipality's affordable housing quota on the total amount of development that actually takes place. In prior rounds, a quota was developed on the basis of anticipated regional growth, thus leading to the sort of situation Roosevelt experienced with US Home Corporation, in which the affordable housing quota was used as a wedge to try to force a municipality to accept a much larger amount of market-rate housing.) Mr. Ticktin indicated that Mr. Thomas and Borough Administrator Bob Clark, who is also a member of the board of the Roosevelt Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, the nonprofit corporation that owns Solar Village, would prepare a response to COAH. ■

"TOWN MEETING" ON YESHIVA HELD AT THE SYNAGOGUE

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pointed out that the reason they want their students educated here was to get them away from their families, not to bring their families here. Mr. Offen said that he would "guarantee" that neither the families of the students nor other Orthodox Jews would care to live in Roosevelt because we lack the necessary "religious infrastructure," including religious schools for children of all ages and both sexes and stores serving the Orthodox community. In response to a question from Frances Duckett as to why the Yeshiva would want to come here in the absence of this "infrastructure," Mr. Offen said that Roosevelt offered a "nice, quiet community where the students can focus on their studies."

Telling the synagogue board, "what you want to do to save your congregation will affect our town," Melissa Branco asked how the Yeshiva happened to come into contact with Congregation Anshei Roosevelt. Mrs. Shapiro said that Mr. Pruzansky had contacted Neil Marko, who is a trustee and, until recently, was the president, but she does not know how they found out about Roosevelt.

In response to an appeal from Mrs. Shapiro to show tolerance towards Rabbi Eisenberg, Nancy Warnick insisted that no prejudice was involved. She said that the synagogue had to realize that the community has changed over the years. Jay Goldman concurred, saying that the congregation was "barking up the wrong tree by going to extreme Orthodox" and that there were at least a dozen families in town who would gladly join if the synagogue were to become Reform or Reconstructionist. In response to a question from Mr. Goldman as to who the members of the board were, Mrs. Shapiro said that they were herself, Neil and Joy Marko, and Bob and Michelle Goldfarb

and Mark Abbott of Twin Rivers. She added that Michael and Edis Kanczucker had also agreed to serve on the board and that Jan Gale, while not on the board, is serving as an advisor.

In response to a question from Damian Duchai as to whether the Yeshiva would grow, Mrs. Shapiro said that was "conjectural," but that alternative plans might be presented at a later date. She said that she had said that it might reach 150 students "eventually," but that plans to have a dormitory accommodating that many students at the Pine Valley Swim Club property were changed because she "takes feedback seriously."

In response to a question about how the Yeshiva students would interact with the children in the nursery, Mrs. Shapiro said that the nursery would remain through 2006. One parent, however, expressed concern that the Division of Youth and Family Services, which licenses the nursery, would not allow it to share facilities with a school for older children.

Joshua Hecht said that "it is all very sad" to contemplate what would happen to Roosevelt "if this starts to grow." He asked whether the Yeshiva would sign a contract to guarantee that they would pay taxes on any buildings they might own.

Dave Leff asked what kind of lease the Yeshiva would have. Mrs. Shapiro said that a lease of five to 25 years had been proposed. Susan Schwartz said that "any change in Roosevelt is not unobtrusive, which is why it is a big issue here." Arlene Stinson stated that, in contrast to the community-based cooperative nursery school, the Yeshiva would not welcome the participation of the children of the community and "it would not be a welcoming, heterogeneous, accepting situation." In response, one of the

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- There would not be any economic benefit to the Borough. Any new construction would be tax exempt, as is the current synagogue. Further, the New Jersey Tax Court has ruled that any building in which a minimal amount of religious activity takes place is a religious institution, and therefore is tax exempt. Various congregations have taken advantage of this decision to have the private homes of their congregants declared to be tax exempt houses of worship.
- This project certainly cannot be accommodated without doing great damage to the peace and quiet of the Homestead Lane neighborhood and to the quiet enjoyment of our homes and our community to which we are entitled.

Our town is already becoming polarized over this project and old friendships may be ended.

We, the undersigned, for all the reasons noted above plead with the Congregation Anshei to end its negotiations with the Telshe Yeshiva.

To: The Roosevelt Bulletin

Attached you will find excerpts from a letter which I sent to Mrs. Elly Shapiro in response to her letter in the July issue of the Bulletin.

"I have read a copy of the letter of explanation which you sent to the Roosevelt *Bulletin* regarding the negotiations between Congregation Anshei and the Telshe Yeshiva. There are certain comments in your letter which require a response, so here goes:

1. It is a fact that the congregation has dwindled seriously in the past years and that there are insufficient members from the Roosevelt community to support the synagogue as it requires, but it is also a fact

that many members have been lost because they did not agree with the direction in which the congregation was moving and so took their prayers, their bodies, and their money elsewhere. It is unlikely that your proposed solution of bringing in an outside group with no Roosevelt connections will do anything to increase local participation in services. It is more likely to have the opposite effect of further decreasing local attendance.

Furthermore, If the purpose is to revive Congregation Anshei, it would be helpful to remember that most founders of the congregation were Zionists. Bringing in a group that is virulently anti Israel and anti Zionist seems anathema to your purpose.

(You might want to read the speech of Rabbi Mordechai Gifter, Dean of Telshe Yeshiva, Cleveland Ohio, in which he says, among other things, "The truth is that Zionism is a curse, and that's the way it is. Zionism is murder!" You can read this entire anti-Zionist speech online at: http://www.jewsaainstzionism.com/Rabbi_quotes/gifter.cfm)

2. You do not have enough money to keep your building in repair, but you have refused financial help from the Fund for Roosevelt and other groups in town. It does not appear that you are serious in your desire to attract money that does not have strings attached.
3. Your prospective "tenants" propose building a dormitory that will eventually house up to 150 students (as per our phone conversation) and other buildings behind the synagogue. Aside from the physical impossibility of doing this because of land area, zoning and environmental constraints, consider from

our perspective what the physical impact would be on the lives of those of us living in the immediate neighborhood:

Fifty, one hundred, or one hundred and fifty adolescents would arise at 6:00 a.m., get washed and dressed and eat breakfast (prepared by an earlier arriving cook staff) in their dining room and go off to class. Class is from 7:30 in the morning to 9:00 at night interrupted by more meals and, hopefully, some time exercising outdoors so the students don't turn into mushrooms.

Can you imagine the scene outside the yeshiva when the doors open and all these youngsters spill out for a recess from their long hours of study? This will happen every day, except Saturday, when presumably they will still be here, gathering for, attending, and leaving services along with all, the other congregants.

In addition, there will be school buses and private cars coming and going in the morning and evening with day students. This will happen every day except Saturday. The cacophony will not sit well with the neighbors. Nor, I believe, would it sit well with you if it happened right outside your bedroom window.

As one who has had extensive experience both serving on, and appearing before, planning and zoning boards, it is my opinion that the Roosevelt Planning Board, as a matter of law, must turn down any application to create a school in a residential zone. An appeal of that decision would require your lawyers to deal in court with Borough attorneys and privately engaged attorneys, at considerable expense to the community.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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You assert that no homes will be taken off the tax rolls. Unfortunately you cannot guarantee that assertion. The New Jersey Tax Court in the case "Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark vs. City of East Orange" has ruled that any premises used in any way, no matter how infrequently, for religious use has a right to be tax exempt. Tax exemptions can also be claimed if private residences are deeded over to the Yeshiva. This granting of tax exemption for residences has already taken place in other communities and there would be substantial financial advantages to 'qualified' homeowners to have it take place here.

Although you say that you are not evicting the Nursery School, it seems almost certain that the Telshe Yeshiva will have to do precisely that, because it will need that space for its own classrooms.

6. While children of the new residents may go to private schools elsewhere, it is probable that the School Board will have the obligation to provide bus transportation for them. This is not a minimal expense.

Regards,
Bert Ellentuck

Addendum to the *Bulletin*

On a further personal note, I am offended that the Synagogue Board has not had the common courtesy to discuss this issue with those of us who are the actual neighbors of the synagogue and will bear the consequences of any change to the use and abuse of that property. ■

"TOWN MEETING" ON YESHIVA HELD AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Continued from Page 15

spokesmen for the Yeshiva stated that "the Yeshiva feels fortunate to find a place to educate children," that "it is not a hostile takeover of the shul (synagogue)," that there would be services three times a day, seven days a week, in which everyone would be welcome to participate, and that there would be a Hebrew school for the residents of the community. He offered to meet with the nursery to coordinate the joint use of the building.

Howard Chasan, who lives across the street from the synagogue, questioned what having a high school at the synagogue would do to the well-being of the residents of the neighborhood. He warned the congregation board not to "irritate" the community.

Arthur Shapiro expressed indignation that the community wanted to exclude Jews.

Freda Hepner stated that Roosevelt is "very family-oriented" and questioned the Yeshiva's philosophy of separating teenaged boys from their families. She said that the synagogue board should have discussed its problems with people in the community before talking with "outsiders." Ann Baker said that she was "intrigued" by the fact the students would be living in a dormitory elsewhere, and asked why they could not just go to school there. In response, representatives of the Yeshiva said that there was a need for more yeshivas in the Orthodox community, that they don't want to be intrusive and that they don't regard the location issue as "germane." Another representative, who identified himself as a board member of the Telshe Yeshiva in Riverdale, Bronx, New York, assured the community that the people associated with the Yeshiva are "good people."

Lois Hunt characterized the synagogue as "moribund" and "not of the town" attacked the decision to bring

in the Yeshiva as "the selfish desire of eight families." She asserted that the Yeshiva still intends to have a 150-student dormitory. Mrs. Shapiro replied that "the plans have changed." Ms. Hunt said that she did not believe that.

Peggy Malkin said that the synagogue would want to bring Orthodox families in to help it survive, but that they would have to live here in order to attend services. Fran Hezroni said that she had gotten invitations from the congregation and supports efforts to help it survive.

Kirk Rothfuss said that he had always regarded Roosevelt as a "friendly, welcoming community," but that "people are uptight over the possibility of tax loss." Dave Leff asked what the Yeshiva's five-year plan was. A Yeshiva representative said that the plan was to bring in an additional 12 students each year until there would be 48. Mrs. Shapiro, however, reiterated that this was only a one-year trial period, with no lease.

Jan Gale said that "everything changes and we have to make the change good for us" and that "there has to be a meeting of the minds and cohesive peace has to be made."

In response to a question from Mr. Hecht as to what help the congregation needs from the community, Mrs. Shapiro said that "more than money, we need people who will come to weekly services." To this, Mr. Hecht asked, "If the congregation does not exist, what are we saving?"

David Zaleski asked how many families would move in? The Yeshiva representative replied that there would be "four or five families, who would be good neighbors."

Irene Block said it was necessary to distinguish between a town decision and a synagogue decision. In

Continued on Page 18

By Jack Rindt

Roosevelt First Aid Squad Training and Response News

For the month of June the Roosevelt First Aid Squad handle six first aid calls.

Out of the six first aid calls two were mutual aid to Millstone Twp., and in Roosevelt three Emergency medical calls and one was a motor vehicle accident.

The training that was given in June was Driver Training. The EMTs attending this class went over different types of driving maneuvers.

The Squad has responded to 41 emergencies from January 1 to June 30.

The First Aid Squad would like to thank all the Boro residents for their gracious donations at the 4th of July picnic, it is greatly appreciated.

About our Federal Grant we still have not heard anything, but it can take up to a year. Let's keep our fingers crossed it doesn't.

A Council member recently asked why the First Aid Squad wanted a new ambulance. The obvious purpose is to better serve our community and surrounding communities that have helped us in the past. By using a five-year plan and federal grant money, the First Aid Squad plans to buy a new ambulance this year, the year after updating all equipment and

soon thereafter replacing our 1988 ambulance with another new one. This would give the Squad two brand new ambulances.

We would like to thank Dolores Chasan for taking the lead in helping to start fundraising for the new ambulance. All efforts are significantly valued.

The Squad has started to put away funds for the new ambulance. We welcome contributions for the new ambulance. Please make out checks to Roosevelt First Aid Squad, P.O. Box 274 Roosevelt, NJ 08555. The First Aid Squad is always thankful when anything can be contributed. A second ambulance in town will help insure that one will always be around.

The Squad only has seven Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at this time. We are always looking for new members to join and we pay for all training. New members can join at the age of 16 and become a New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). By becoming an Emergency Medical Technician with the Roosevelt First Aid Squad could lead to paying positions with career Ambulance companies. **We need members.**

Thank you,
Jack Rindt
Roosevelt First Aid Squad
Training Officer ■

"TOWN MEETING" ON YESHIVA HELD AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Continued from Page 17

response, Melissa Branco stated that "the synagogue should be entitled to decide its own concerns, but the community has a right to express its concerns when something is done that would alter the town."

In response to a question from Jill Lipoti as to whether she would be open to other options, Mrs. Shapiro said that she had convened the board and they did not think other options would work. Lian Garton protested that the synagogue was "going in a different direction from the community."

Jim Hayden said that he hoped the meeting would allow people to "flush out common ground." In response to a statement by Pearl Seligman that "the board's concern is the synagogue, not the community," Mrs. Shapiro stated that she "cares deeply about both the synagogue and the community." ■

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are needed to keep our publication going. Contributions are tax deductible.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the BULLETIN. We will be pleased to continue sending them the BULLETIN when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

Corn



When the kids were little Carl and I had a large garden. The kids used to like to go into the garden to pick fresh veggies for dinner. Their favorite vegetable to pick was corn. The following recipes were their most favorites!

Corn Fritters

12 ears fresh corn	2 tablespoons flour
3 eggs, separated	2 tablespoons butter
1 teaspoon salt	

Grate 12 ears of corn. Beat yolks of 3 eggs and add 2 tablespoons of flour, beating well after addition. Beat the whites of the eggs until stiff. Mix the grated corn and the egg yolk mixture. Fold in the beaten whites. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in skillet and, when hot, drop fritter mixture by tablespoon. When edges are brown, turn and brown on other side. Serve immediately. May be served with maple syrup.
Serves 10

Corn Soufflé

2 cups cooked corn, cut from cob, or 1 #2 can cream-style corn	2 cups half and half
1 teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon sugar	4 eggs
	4 tablespoons melted butter

Place all ingredients in food processor. Blend for 30 to 60 seconds with on/off switch. Strain (to eliminate hulls) into buttered medium-size soufflé dish and bake 45 minutes in a 375 degree to 400 degree oven. Serve at once.
Serves 6

Great Grandmother's Corn Pudding

1 dozen ears corn	1 teaspoon pepper
1 pint heavy cream	2 teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon sugar	Butter

Score and cut corn kernels from cob. Place first 5 ingredients in well-buttered casserole. Dot heavily with butter. Place casserole in pan of water and bake for 45 to 60 minutes in preheated 300 degree oven. Pudding should be nicely brown and firm when tested with knife.
Serves 6

Vijay Likes Hot Humid Weather

Vijay and I work together in a courtroom in the Middlesex County Courthouse. She is the “Judge’s Man” (that was what some people called courtroom attendants in the distant past). I am the Judge’s Court Clerk. Vijay is from the province of Chennai in India. Her hometown is Mylapore not far from the Bay of Bengal. Mylapore translates literally to “a town of peacocks.” While I haven’t found out yet if there are many peacocks there, Mylapore is home to hundreds of temples, churches, mosques and very hot and humid weather. Vijay says that Indians from most of the other provinces of India find it difficult to bear the hot humid weather of her home.

Don’t think that Vijay finds dealing with our summer a breeze. It’s just not the humidity that makes her uncomfortable. The weather is too dry for Vijay. Her throat dries easily in our “hot and humid” weather. And the days that I complain are too humid feel more like an oven to her than a sauna. She won’t agree that you stay more comfortable in dry heat than in humid heat. “You do not sweat enough here to stay cool,” says Vijay.

I compared our maximum humidity levels from mid July to those of Chennai during their monsoon season and found that they were nearly the same on several days when it did not rain in either location. Ninety-four percent humidity seems to be a reoccurring reading in Chennai and in our mid July sweat wave.

Vijay and Lucy, who also works in the courthouse and is from Kenya, speculate that the depleted ozone layer in our part of the world is what makes them so uncomfortable. So, it seems the worst of our summer weather is not just unpleasant for us but for people from hotter climates too. But we can look

forward to drier weather as August progresses while in Chennai they prepare for the monsoon season.

News From The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

“The average global temperature for combined land and ocean surfaces for June (based on preliminary data) was 1.1degrees F (0.60 degrees C) above the 1880-2004 long-term mean. This was the second warmest June for combined land and ocean surface temperatures since 1880 (the beginning of reliable instrumental records), slightly cooler than June 1998. For global land surfaces alone, June 2005 set a new record with a temperature that was 1.9 degrees F (1.06 degrees C) above average.”

June 2005 in New Jersey was the 5th warmest since reliable records started to be kept 111 years ago. Nearby New York State had its hottest June on record.

Weather Word

Monsoon: A wind from the southwest or south that brings heavy rainfall to southern Asia in the summer and the rain that accompanies this wind.

June 15 – July 15, 2005

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
16	89.4	63.7	76.6	0.00
17	81.1	55.4	68.3	0.00
18	80.6	54.0	67.3	0.00
19	77.0	55.4	66.2	0.00
20	77.7	56.1	66.9	0.00
21	84.6	51.6	68.1	0.00
22	86.2	61.7	74.0	0.00
23	80.4	57.4	68.9	0.00
24	86.2	59.0	72.6	0.00
25	90.7	63.1	76.9	0.00
26	92.1	66.7	79.4	0.00
27	77.4	71.1	74.3	0.00
28	88.3	70.3	79.3	2.70
29	87.6	72.0	79.8	0.00
30	84.7	69.6	77.2	0.14
1	86.7	68.2	77.5	0.00
2	81.7	65.5	73.6	2.18
3	81.3	58.5	69.9	0.00
4	82.9	60.1	71.5	0.00
5	88.2	66.7	77.5	0.00
6	85.8	69.4	77.6	0.00
7	75.9	67.6	71.8	0.00
8	68.0	61.9	65.0	0.30
9	85.1	60.8	73.0	1.40
10	88.2	60.4	74.3	0.10
11	89.2	61.2	75.2	0.00
12	90.0	66.4	78.2	0.00
13	81.0	65.5	73.3	0.00
14	85.3	70.3	77.8	0.50
15	87.6	71.6	79.6	0.00
Total Precipitation			7.32	

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2005 - 2006 SEASON

AN ADVANCE LOOK AT NEXT SEASON'S ATTRACTIONS:

Saturday, October 15, 2005 Walking Tour, 2 p.m. Film, 3:30 p.m.

A SCREENING OF THE FILM MY ARCHITECT ABOUT LOUIS KAHN

Louis Kahn played an important role in designing our community. The film will be preceded by a walking tour, with a visit to the Ben Shahn mural, and followed by a discussion of Roosevelt's architecture and planning of Roosevelt.

Saturday, November 5, 2005: Opening reception, 5 to 8 p.m. Concert 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 6, 2005: Exhibit continues, 12 to 4 p.m. Talk on Landau's art. 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 12, 2005: Exhibit continues, 12 to 4 p.m.

JACOB LANDAU, OPEN STUDIO WITH ART EXHIBIT

This exhibit will feature Jacob Landau's original drawings, lithographs, woodcuts, and watercolors from his earliest days to 2001. The Landau studio is at #30 Lake Drive (a geodesic dome).

Saturday, December 10, 2005

ROOSEVELT POETS- AN ALMOST WINTER SOLSTICE READING

Saturday, January 21, 2006

OPEN MIC CAFÉ:

Roosevelt residents to present music, song, poetry, and comedy. Sign up with Judy Nahmias (443-5290) or Deirdre Sheean (443-4179)

Saturday, February 11, 2006

SCHUBERT'S SONGS AND PIANO MUSIC, WITH ALAN MALLACH, PIANIST, AND CECELIA TICKTIN, SOPRANO

Saturday, March 11, 2006

FATHER-DAUGHTER, SINGING TEAMS

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Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2006

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

Saturday, May 20, 2006

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Saturday, June 17th, 2006

ART BY ROOSEVELT ARTISTS SELECTED FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN ROOSEVELT

The exhibit will be in the Hayden Gallery in the factory, 11a.m to 7 p.m.

All events are at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building except where otherwise noted.

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 per adult. For the String Band \$10 per adult, \$5 for seniors and children.

For Further information call Robin Gould, 448-4616. See also www.music.columbia.edu/roosevelt

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2004 - 2005

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August

1	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Mike Hamilton, President	Boro Hall 443-5227
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Neil Marko, Mayor	Borough Hall 443-6818
2	Tues	12 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Borough Hall 448-0351
8	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Neil Marko, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-6818
9	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Ralph Seligman	Boro Hall 448-2340
10	Wed		RECYCLE	
15	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Mike Hamilton, President	Boro Hall 443-5227
17	Wed	7:30	Environmental Commission Meeting Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Borough Hall 443-6204
18	Thurs	7:30 pm	Synagogue Board Meeting Elly Shapiro	443-3575
22	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting as needed Mike Hamilton, President	Borough Hall 443-5227
24	Wed		RECYCLE	
25	Thurs	7:30 pm	School Board Meeting Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462

September

5	Mon		Labor Day - Government Offices Closed	
6	Tues	12 pm	Senior Blood Pressure Check	Boro Hall
		1 pm	Seniors Meeting Gerry Millar, President	Borough Hall 448-0351
		7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Beth Battel, President	Boro Hall 448-7701
		8 pm	Council Agenda Meeting, Neil Marko, Mayor	Borough Hall 443-6818

7	Wed		RECYCLE	
8	Thurs		School Opens for Students	
12	Mon	7 pm	Council Action Meeting Neil Marko, Mayor	Boro Hall 443-6818
13	Tues	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting Ralph Seligman, Chair	Boro Hall 448-2340
19	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting Beth Battel, President	Boro Hall 448-7701
21	Wed		RECYCLE	
		7:30 pm	Environmental Commission Meeting Dave Schwendeman, Chair	Borough Hall 443-6204
22	Thurs	7:30 pm	Synagogue Board Meeting Elly Shapiro	443-3575
		7:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting Linda Grayson, President	RPS 443-6462
26	Mon	7 pm	Council Committee Meeting as needed Beth Battel, President	Boro Hall 448-7701
29	Thurs		RPS Back to School Night	

October Preview

3	Mon		Rosh Hashanah Begins at Sundown	
4	Tues		Rosh Hashanah – RPS Closed	

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