

(Edison History)

1963

"Know Your Township"

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



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# *Know Your Township*

A SURVEY OF EDISON TOWNSHIP,  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, N. J.



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by

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

Price \$1.00

1963

## **FOREWORD**

The League of Women Voters has published this book to make available to our fellow citizens a basic tool of responsible citizenship: factual information about our township government, our public services and our community. The material was collected by League members through research and by conferences with township officials. It is hoped that the reader will find the book interesting and informative, and that it will serve as an inspiration for extended study and participation in public affairs.

The League of Women Voters of Edison Township is grateful for the cooperation and the time given by all the township officials in making available to us the information contained in this book. The League also wishes to acknowledge the many hours of work contributed by its members.



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## ***This is The League Of Women Voters***

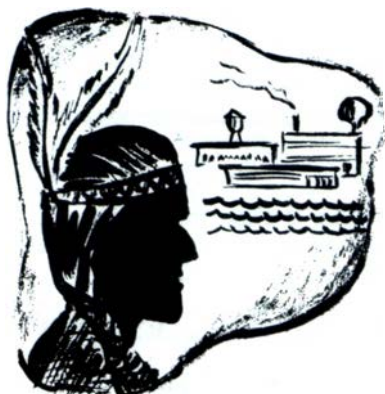
The League of Women Voters is an outgrowth of the National Woman Suffrage Association. It was organized in 1920 primarily to promote political education for women who had just received the right to vote. The original purpose grew to include working for legislation in the public interest and arousing all citizens to participate in government.

Translating these purposes into action, the League:

- . . . . Works to inform itself and others regarding government at all levels, local, state and national.
- . . . . Concentrates its study and action on a few current issues chosen by its membership.
- . . . . Maintains a non-partisan policy by never supporting or opposing political parties or candidates.
- . . . . Urges all citizens, including its own members (except the officers and executive board) to be active in the party of their choice.
- . . . . Furnishes non-partisan information on voting procedures and candidates, through published material and candidates meetings.
- . . . . Accepts for membership any woman citizen of voting age.

## Chapter I

# HISTORY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



### EARLY HISTORY

The Township of Edison is located in the middle of an area that has been inhabited since the beginnings of recorded history. Stone relics, skulls and bone fragments from the Stone Age have been discovered throughout Central Jersey, including the area around Piscatawaytown. Several hundred years before the arrival of the white man, groups of Lenni-Lenape Indians (also known as Delawares), a peaceable tribe of the Algonquin family, lived in settlements on the cliff overlooking the Raritan River. They called the area "Piscataqua" from which Piscataway comes. These Indians made a trail from the Raritan River, past the village of Piscataway, to the inlet of the Atlantic Ocean where Perth Amboy now stands.

### FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS

The Dutch and Swedes were the first white men in this area, arriving in the middle of the 17th century. In 1651, a large tract of land, from the Raritan River to the Passaic River, including what is now Edison Township, was deeded by the Dutch King to Augustine Heermans, a Dutch settler.

Between 1664 and 1673, all of New York and New Jersey was ceded to the English by the Dutch, as a result of wars between England and Holland. In 1666, the land for the Township Commons was set aside. In 1673, the Dutch regained possession and lost it again, permanently, to the English in 1674.

In 1681, a group of white settlers bought about 10,000 acres of land from the Indians. They made the old Indian trail into a road and established a ferry across the Raritan River, near the present Albany Street bridge. Piscataway, now at the intersection of the road and the ferry, became an established community. A census taken in 1682 lists 400 inhabitants. In 1683, the counties of Middlesex and Somerset were created and Piscataway became the seat of the court for both counties.



In 1689, the second Baptist Church in New Jersey built a church by the side of the road now known as Plainfield Avenue, on the site of the present Stelton Baptist Church. In the same year, the first school teacher came into the township, and, in 1695, the first school was built. In 1714, the second church in the township, the Episcopal Mission Church of St. James, was built on Woodbridge Avenue.

The earliest public road was Old Post Road, which still exists, and along which George Washington traveled on his way to his inauguration in New York.

## **REVOLUTIONARY DAYS**

In 1702, New Jersey became a united royal colony under the administration of the Governor of New York. Perth Amboy was chosen as one of the capitols of the colony. There were many disagreements between the Royal Governors and the popularly-elected Assemblies. In 1774, county committees met in New Brunswick, as the first Provincial Congress, and decided to side with the colonists against the Crown.

There were no major battles fought here during the Revolution, but skirmishes took place in Fords, Bonhamtown and along the road now called Woodbridge Avenue. The whole area was crossed and re-crossed by both the Colonial armies and the British Redcoats, as they advanced and retreated across the disputed territory.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

In 1795, the Raritan Bridge, now known as the Albany Street Bridge, was built taking the place of the ferry and the area began to develop rapidly. Before 1870, the township was a part of Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships. On March 17, 1870, the boundary lines were drawn and the area was incorporated as a separate township. The name "Raritan" derived from the Raritan tribe of the Lenni-Lenape Indians; it was chosen from three proposals: Metuchen, Washington and Raritan.

For many years, the township was a prosperous farming community. The area lay on the direct route from New York to Philadelphia so steady improvements were made in transportation and communication. The Pennsylvania Railroad came into the township in the 1830's, and in 1840, the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company (later bought by the Pennsylvania Railroad) ran the first all-rail line between New York and Philadelphia.

In the 1870's, railroad stations were built at Stelton and Menlo Park, and small villages developed around them. In 1871, James D. Stelle divided a portion of his holdings into small plots, and the Stelton area was created. The country road, running between Plainfield and Piscataway, was soon transformed into a wide, tree-lined highway. In 1875, a building combining dwelling, store, post office and depot was built



by the side of the railroad. Until a few years ago, this building served as the Stelton Railroad station.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected the incandescent lamp in his workshop in Menlo Park.

The first trolley line was laid in 1900. The Lehigh Valley and the Reading Railroads laid tracks and brought freight service to the township. Small factories were built beside the freight lines, and communities grew up around them.

In 1920, the population of the township was 5,419. The electrification of the railroads and the division into small lots of farms in the Clara Barton section brought more city dwellers. The next ten years saw the population doubled.

## GOVERNMENT

The original form of government was a three-man committee. In 1927, the Commission form of government was adopted, giving all authority to five commissioners. The present form of government, the Mayor-Council form, was adopted in the general election of November, 1956, and took effect on January 1, 1958.

Until 1937, the School Board was composed of nine members, elected by the citizens. In the election of November, 1937, the voters approved a change to a five-man board, appointed by the Mayor.

At the time of the adoption of the Commission form of government, a Planning Board was appointed to draw up an over-all township plan. Because of the depression, this board lasted only a year.

## TOWNSHIP TERRITORIAL LOSSES

In 1900, the residents of the area now known as Metuchen petitioned the state to incorporate as a separate borough, because of a dispute over the source of funds for capital improvements in the Metuchen area. This action put the "hole" in the middle of the township and reduced the area of the township by three square miles.

In 1905, residents of Highland Park followed Metuchen's example and incorporated, further reducing the area of the township by about two square miles. These citizens felt that they were paying more in taxes to the township than they were receiving in services.

During World War I, the Federal Government bought from the Township about four and one-half square miles for Raritan Arsenal. During World War II, the Federal Government purchased additional acreage for the Camp Kilmer site. Much of this land is presently being returned to the township. The total area of Raritan Township is about thirty-two square miles.

## NAME CHANGED TO EDISON

Because several municipalities in New Jersey were named Raritan, at the general election of 1954, the voters approved the change to Edison Township.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Because the township developed as separate neighborhoods and villages, the lack of a sense of township unity presents a number of problems. There is no "center of town" as in most municipalities; the township is served by eleven post offices, eight telephone exchanges and five newspapers. However, Edison High School, township-wide recreation programs, the new library building, the new public health building, the efforts for a centralized post office and the proposed hospital are stimulating a new community spirit.

## GROWTH OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Number of Homes</u>
1920	5,419	
1930	10,025	
1940	11,470	2,747
1950	16,342	4,960
1960	45,578	11,800

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Before the second World War, Edison was primarily a rural-residential community. During the 1940's, it experienced a tremendous industrial boom. The Memorial Tower in Menlo Park, built on the spot where Thomas Edison developed the incandescent lamp, is a landmark and a symbol of our industrial growth.

At present there are more than 100 industries. One-fifth of all the industrial growth in Middlesex County in 1962 was in Edison. No one type of product or service predominates. Such varied products and services as automobiles, stationery, television and radio, building materials, chemicals, dairy products, electrical supplies, electronic equipment, paint, machine tools and dies, plastics, plumbing supplies, textiles and trucking are included.

The construction of the Menlo Park shopping center, opened in 1959, provides a major shopping center for the township and the entire Central Jersey area.

## FUTURE GROWTH

Edison Township provides many attractions for industry. Excellent roads criss-cross the township: the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, U. S. Route 1, N. J. Route 27, and the new interstate Route 287 provide direct transportation to all points. The presence of the railroads in the township, the nearby waterways and the Newark Airport combine to provide an ideal transportation network for all types of industry.

Edison is located in a major metropolitan area (only 35 miles from New York City) and offers a large labor force and a great potential market for all products.



*The Menlo Park Shopping Center.*





## Chapter II

### FORM OF GOVERNMENT

In New Jersey, the authority and powers of municipalities are derived from the state. The Township of Edison is governed by a "strong" Mayor-Council form of government, based on Plan "E" of the New Jersey Optional Municipal Charter Law of 1950. This law, also known as the Faulkner Act, grants municipalities the right to adopt certain forms of municipal government, outlines the procedures for adoption and gives details of the functions and duties of the government. Plan "E" of the Mayor-Council form provides for a mayor and seven councilmen to be elected at large, on a partisan basis, for staggered terms of four years.

#### HISTORY

From 1927 until 1957, Edison Township was governed under the Commission form of government, which divides all government functions into five divisions and gives all authority to a board of five commissioners. The Commissioners act together as the legislative body, and separately as the administrators of the five departments.

In 1955, under the provisions of the Optional Municipal Charter Law, a referendum for a study of the structure of the local government was approved by the voters and a five-man Charter Commission was elected to make the study and present recommendations. The Charter Commission recommended the adoption of the Mayor-Council Plan "E", and at the November, 1956, general election, the change was approved by the voters. The first election for mayor and seven councilmen was held in November, 1957, and the new form of government took effect on January 1, 1958.

#### THE MAYOR

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the township and all administrative powers and responsibilities are vested in him. He has powers of appointment and removal, with the consent of Council, of all officials in the local government, except the Township Clerk, who is appointed by and responsible to the Council. The Mayor supervises the work of all departments, with the assistance of the Business Administrator.



With the assistance of the Business Administrator, the Mayor prepares the Annual Budget and submits it to Council for approval.

The Mayor attends council meetings, but he does not preside and he has no vote. He may make recommendations for action or take part in discussion. He has veto power. He must make an annual report on the state of the municipality to Council and the public.

## THE COUNCIL

The Council is the legislative body of the township and passes all the laws. Council appoints the Township Clerk, who serves as Clerk of the Council. It elects its own president, who presides at all meetings and has a vote, but no additional powers.

The regular meetings of the Council are held in the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 8 P.M. Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by any three Councilmen. These meetings are open to the public. Council may meet at any time, in informal closed session, to consider township business.

Council must approve all appointments made by the Mayor. Council must pass on the annual budget submitted by the Mayor. By majority vote, Council may reduce any item in the budget, or by a two-thirds vote, may increase any item.

By ordinance, Council sets the salaries and outlines the duties and functions of all officials, boards and commissions, and may establish, alter or abolish any office, board or commission, except those who receive their powers directly from the State, such as the Board of Education and the Board of Health. It has the power to investigate the conduct of any department, officer or agency, and may remove any appointed official, for cause, after a public hearing.

## MAKING LAWS

Local laws are called ordinances. All ordinances are drafted by the Township Attorney, upon request of the Council. Ordinances are introduced by title at one council meeting and read in full at another council meeting, when a public hearing is held. Ordinances must be published, in full, in one or more local newspapers, and the date of the public hearing must be published.

Ordinances are passed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Council and sent to the Mayor for his signature. Within ten days, the Mayor must either approve and sign them, or return them to Council with his objections. The Council may override his veto by a two-thirds vote. If the Mayor fails to act within ten days, the ordinance becomes a law.

## THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Township Clerk is appointed by and responsible to the Council. He is appointed for a one-year term; however, our present Township Clerk has tenure. He acts as Clerk of the Council and records all ordinances and resolutions. He has custody of all township records, except those committed by ordinance to other officials. The Clerk performs the duties required by the state election laws and issues state licenses and certificates.

## THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

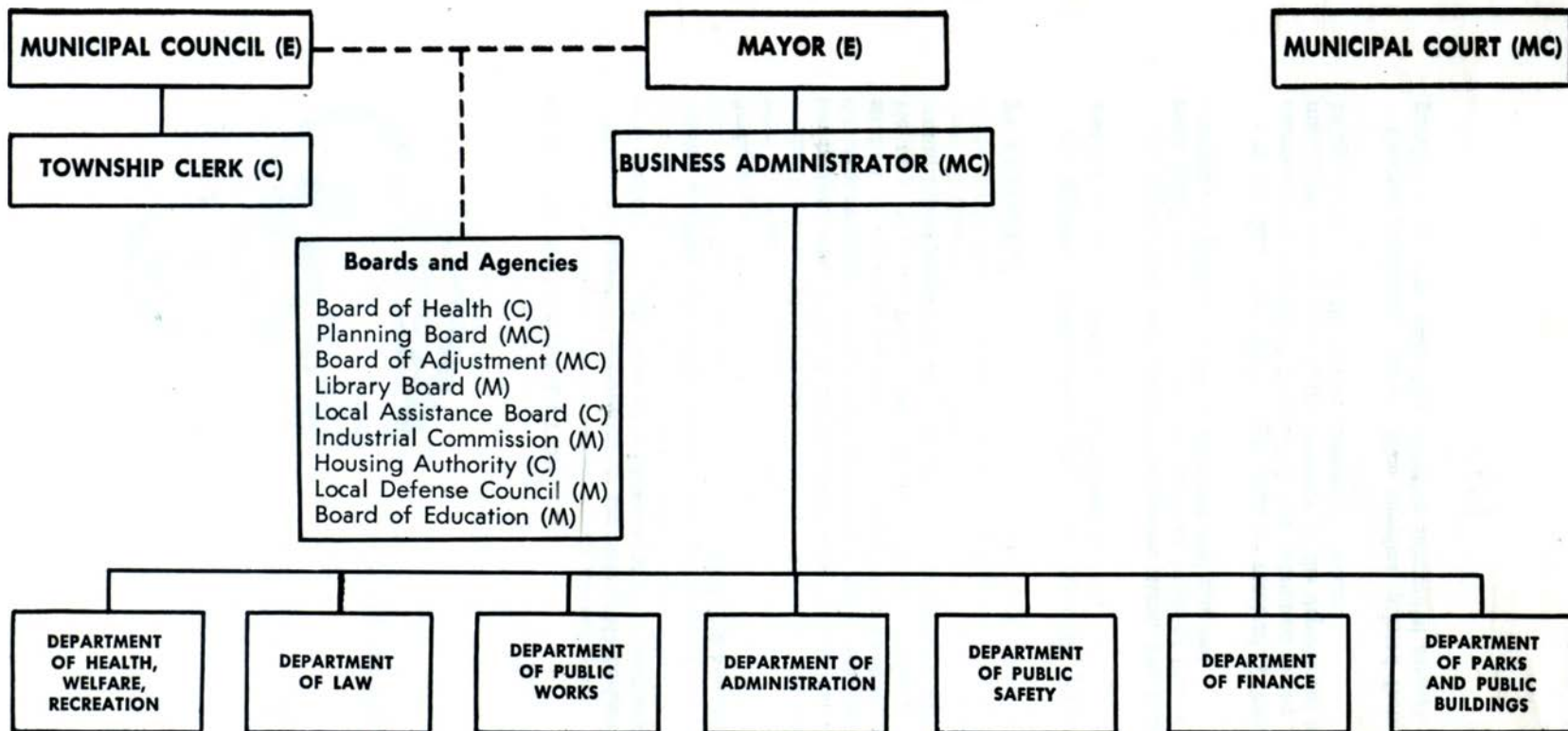
One of the first acts of the Council, upon taking office in January, 1958, was the passage of an Administrative Code for the organization and administration of the government. This code established the following departments:

- Department of Administration
- Department of Law
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Finance
- Department of Parks and Public Buildings
- Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation

The code also provided for the following non-departmental agencies:

- Board of Health
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Planning Board
- Housing Authority
- Municipal Court
- Civil Defense Council
- Board of Trustees, Free Public Library
- Industrial Commissioner

# ORGANIZATION CHART



## LEGEND

E—Elected  
C—Appointed by Council  
M—Appointed by Mayor

MC—Appointed by Mayor with  
consent of Council





## Chapter III

# DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The most important innovation in the strong Mayor-Council form of government is the inclusion of a Department of Administration, headed by a director called the Business Administrator. The Business Administrator is appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of Council, for a term of four years, on the basis of his administrative and executive qualifications.

The Business Administrator assists the Mayor in the preparation of the budget, administers a central purchasing system and develops and directs a personnel system. He coordinates the operation and administration of departments, offices and agencies in township government. He may prescribe regulations for the efficient operation of the government, and supervises the administration of each of the departments.

### PURCHASING

The Business Administrator acts as the township purchasing agent, and has set up a centralized purchasing system.

The department heads requisition needed items. The Finance Department checks the account for the status of funds in individual line item accounts. A purchase order is prepared and sent out.

On any item over \$2500, bids must be received. (There are certain exceptions to this rule.) Sealed bids are submitted to the Business Administrator and opened in the presence of the department head affected, being awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Central purchasing allows office supplies, printed forms, etc. to be purchased in large quantities, effecting substantial savings.



## PERSONNEL

The 1959 annual report listed 184 full-time personnel and 90 part-time municipal employees. In 1963, there are approximately 317 full-time and 100 part-time employees, the latter being mostly recreation workers, during the summer. The Mayor has the responsibility for hiring all personnel. However, generally, the department heads hire their own employees.

Presently, the Business Administrator serves as personnel director. It is his duty to assist in the recruitment of qualified persons for township employment, prepare and recommend rules to improve personnel administration, prepare and maintain a job classification plan, establish and maintain a roster of all persons in the government, establish an in-service training program and maintain a continuous study of the operation and effect of personnel methods and practices.

Edison Township has no merit system for the hiring, promotion or firing of personnel. The Business Administrator is presently working on this.

In 1962, Council passed an ordinance establishing position classification definitions and a pay-plan schedule. Full-time positions in the township, (except certain ones designated by the Mayor and Council as "unclassified") are grouped into 15 classifications. Salaries range from a minimum of \$3100 and a maximum of \$3700 for Class #1 positions, to a minimum of \$7000 and a maximum of \$8350 for Class #15 positions. Schedule "B" of the ordinance provides for employees paid on an hourly or session basis.

The ordinance does not apply to the Division of Police, which is covered by state statutes, and in addition there are approximately 25 positions designated as "unclassified," in accordance with law, and for which salaries are determined by the Council.

In 1963, the salaries of some of the township officials were:

Mayor	\$6,000	Part-time. Plus Office expenses.
President of Council	1,500	Part-time.
Councilman	1,200	Part-time.
Business Administrator	13,000	Full time.
Township Clerk	9,350	Full time. Also serves as Secretary to Board of Health.
Director of Public Works	11,500	Full time.
Director of Finance	9,350	Plus \$350 for serving as Custodian of School Funds.
Municipal Attorney	5,000	A retainer, plus fees and charges.
Municipal Magistrate	5,270	Part-time.
Legal Advisor	3,600	\$1800 each for serving as advisor to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
Director of Parks and Public Property	7,000	At present, this position is vacant.
Director of Health, Welfare and Recreation	8,550	Full time.
Assessor	7,000	Full time. At present, there is an acting assessor.
Secretary, Zoning Board of Adjustment	1,500	Part-time.
Secretary, Planning Board	1,500	Part-time.
Chief of Police	9,568	Full time.
Supervisor of Fire	8,840	Full time.
Director of Public Safety	---	Mayor serves without additional compensation.

## BUDGET

The fiscal year of the township is the calendar year. During the months from January to March, when the budget is adopted, the township is run on a temporary budget of 25% of the previous year's budget. All budget changes are retroactive to January 1.

Budget requests are submitted to the Business Administrator, who acts as the budget officer. In November, the Mayor with the Business Administrator holds public meetings with each department head to consider requests. From these meetings the Mayor and Business Administrator prepare the budget, and submit it to Council for approval. The budget must contain a detailed analysis of expenditures and revenue.

The first reading is held in January, after which the budget is sent to Trenton to the Division of Local Government. When approved, it is published in full in a local newspaper, including the date of the public hearing. The public hearing is held in March, at the time of the second reading of the budget ordinance. The budget is adopted by a majority vote of Council. Any item may be reduced by a majority vote, or increased by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

Not all of the money collected by the township is used for municipal purposes. The township serves as a collecting agent for the local schools and for the county government.

The total budget for municipal services for 1963 is \$4,919,241.04. This includes operating expenses of \$2,677,020.00; capital improvements of \$279,500.00; municipal debt service (principal and interest) of \$336,925.00; school debt service (principal and interest) of \$875,990.50; other expenses, including certain pension payments, of \$290,874.51; and reserve for uncollected taxes of \$458,931.03.



# MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>1962 (Actual)</i>	<i>1963 (Anticipated)</i>
Office of the Mayor	\$ 7,118.56	\$ 8,320.00
Municipal Council	10,121.67	10,705.00
Township Clerk	23,764.00	27,450.00
Dept. of Administration	28,076.96	26,290.00
Dept. of Law	20,979.56	18,200.00
Dept. of Finance	228,399.08	307,106.00*
Dept. of Parks and Public Buildings	200,113.43	217,774.00
Dept. of Public Safety	863,450.84	923,556.00
Dept. of Public Works	859,045.44	936,806.00
Dept. of Health, Welfare & Recreation	166,131.99	200,813.00
Capital Improvements	316,998.82	279,500.00
Municipal Debt Service	192,877.00	336,925.00
Other Expenses (including pensions)	172,345.18	290,874.51
School Debt Service	587,934.70	875,990.50
Reserve for uncollected taxes	363,660.79	458,931.03†
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,025,097.36</b>	<b>\$4,919,241.04</b>

NOTE: \* In addition, \$79,500.00 was appropriated by emergency resolution, for the cost of revaluation of property.

† The reserve for uncollected taxes is an amount set to cover the taxes not collected in the current year. In 1962, the percentage of taxes collected was 97%.

## Chapter IV

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



The Department of Public Safety consists of the Division of Police and the Division of Fire. The Mayor acts as Director of Public Safety without additional compensation.

### DIVISION OF POLICE

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Edison Township Police Department is located in the Municipal Building on Plainfield Avenue. Under the Mayor-Council form of government, the police are included in the Department of Public Safety. They are administered by the Chief of Police, under direct control of the Mayor.

#### PERSONNEL

The department consists of sixty-six policemen and one part-time police matron. The present police chief was appointed in 1959. Rules and regulations for the police force were revised and updated in 1960, setting up four divisions in the department: Uniform, Detective, Juvenile and Traffic Bureaus. Each of these bureaus is headed by a captain. Police appointments are made by the Director of Public Safety, after recommendation by the Chief of Police. The state sets physical requirements and gives physical examinations. Applicants must have a high school education or its equivalent. All police are trained at the State Police Academy in Sea Girt for a period of six weeks, prior to permanent appointment. Under state law, tenure is automatic upon permanent appointment, following a probation period. Policemen are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service and at the age of 51. They are included in a state pension plan. Police personnel are sent to training schools of all kinds—such as the F.B.I. Academy, traffic institutes, etc. All promotions within the department are made by the Mayor on the basis of seniority and merit.

## DUTIES

The major duties of the department are crime prevention, crime detection, law enforcement and traffic regulation. The department cooperates with the County, State and Federal police. A teletype machine and monthly and annual reports facilitate communication. Duplicate sets of fingerprints are exchanged. The police department assists the schools in safety education of children, and school crossings are patrolled by 34 special traffic officers, plus uniformed men at main highway crossings.

## EQUIPMENT

There are 13 fully-equipped cars and one traffic truck in the Edison Police Department. The traffic truck is used in the maintenance of traffic equipment. The marked police cars are provided with three-way radios, sirens, flasher lights, first aid kits and fusee flares. The police have gas guns, a Thompson sub-machine gun and riot guns at their disposal. Each policeman carries a pistol and handcuffs, furnished by the department, and can obtain leg cuffs and restraining jackets.

## JAIL

Six jail cells are located in the basement of the municipal building. Two of these are for women. The six cells are used primarily for the detention of persons before hearings. Law violators are sent to the county workhouse, or in the event of a grand jury case, to the county jail. Juveniles are sent to the Juvenile Detention home. If diagnostic reports are required, law violators are sent to the Menlo Park Diagnostic Center.

## TRAFFIC CONTROL

All traffic signs must be authorized by an ordinance approved by the state; they are erected by the police department. State regulations, pertaining to such signs, must be observed in the passing of these ordinances. The police are responsible for enforcement.

Traffic lights on state highways are installed by the State Highway Department. The township may request installation. After a traffic survey, the State Highway Department either grants or refuses approval. When a traffic light is approved, the township pays for 25% of installation costs and for electricity to operate the light. Traffic lights on county roads are erected with the cooperation of the county government and on township roads they are the responsibility of the municipal government. However, both require state approval before installation.



## **DIVISION OF FIRE**

Within the Department of Public Safety, the Division of Fire has the responsibility for protection against loss of life and property by fire or disaster.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Before 1958, the township was divided into five fire districts, each governed by a five-man, elected Board of Fire Commissioners. Each board set up its own budget, which was approved by the voters, and was completely independent of the municipal governing body. In 1958, these fire districts were abolished. Under the Administrative Code, fire protection was incorporated into the functions of the municipal government, under the direction of the Supervisor of Fire.

### **THE SUPERVISOR OF FIRE**

The Supervisor of Fire is in charge of the personnel and equipment of the Division of Fire, directs the over-all management of the fire department and prepares and submits the budget to the Mayor. He also performs the duties of Fire Marshall, and is responsible for the strict enforcement of all laws and regulations relating to fire prevention.

### **FIRE PRECINCTS**

There are five fire precincts in Edison Township, which correspond to the boundaries of the old fire districts. One precinct has two fire houses. Precincts are located in the following areas:

- Precinct #1 Raritan Engine Co. #1, Plainfield Ave.  
Raritan Engine Co. #1, Lincoln Hwy. & Langstaff Ave.
- Precinct #2 Edison Volunteer Fire Co. #1, Menlo Park.
- Precinct #3 Raritan Engine Co. #2, Clara Barton.
- Precinct #4 H.K. Volunteer Fire Co. #1, Charles St., Iselin.
- Precinct #5 Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Co. #1, Oak Tree Rd.

The head of each fire precinct is the chief of the volunteer fire department there. He acts as assistant to the Supervisor of Fire and has control of fire-fighting within his precinct.

### **PERSONNEL**

Edison Township has both paid and volunteer firemen. There are 197 volunteer firemen. To qualify as a volunteer fireman, a man must be a citizen, between the ages of 21 and 35, and able to pass a physical examination.



*The snorkel — newest piece of fire-fighting equipment.*

There are twenty-eight paid firemen, appointed by the Mayor. To qualify, a man must be a citizen, between the ages of 21 and 30 (unless he is a veteran of World War II or the Korean conflict). He must be able to pass a physical examination and must qualify for the N. J. State Police and Firemen's Pension Fund.

Each new fireman, volunteer or paid, is given a training course in all phases of fire protection. Periodic fire drills are held to check on the efficiency and effectiveness of fire fighting.

There is a promotion plan for paid firemen within the Division. Salaries start at \$4700. The maximum salary for a first fireman is \$6,042 per year. A Fire Captain receives \$6760 per year.

All paid firemen are also members of Civil Defense. In addition to fighting fires, they also engage in fire prevention work and there is a fire prevention bureau. Firemen inspect buildings within the township and have control of all open burning.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Fire equipment ranges in age from brand-new to equipment bought in 1942. A new snorkel fire truck, the first of its type on the east coast, was purchased in 1961.

## **Chapter V**

### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW and the MUNICIPAL COURT**



#### **MAGISTRATE'S COURT**

Our Edison Township's Magistrate's Court is the court with which most citizens come in contact as it is the lowest level of the judicial structure of the state. It has criminal jurisdiction only and handles such cases as traffic violations, disorderly persons charges, violation of certain hunting and fishing laws and violations of certain criminal laws if the defendant waives indictment by a jury. The court is regulated by a state statute passed in 1947 after New Jersey adopted the new State Constitution. The statute sets the requirements for the judge or magistrate and determines the court's exact jurisdiction. The operations of the court fall under the supervision of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The state statute states that a magistrate must be a lawyer but need not be a resident of the municipality. However, he cannot appear before another magistrate as counsel for the defense. Rules of the State Supreme Court restrict the magistrate even further. They state that he may not practice criminal law in any court while magistrate, nor may he participate in politics, non-partisan or otherwise.

Justice in Edison is administered by a part-time magistrate, appointed by the Mayor for a three-year term. Court convenes at the Municipal Building on Monday mornings and Thursday nights.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

This department is headed by the Township Attorney. He is appointed by the Mayor for a four-year term. He is legal advisor to the Mayor and Council, represents the township in judicial matters, drafts legal documents and, if the need arose, would supervise and direct the work of additional attorneys, technical and professional assistants that might be employed in the Department of Law. He does not receive a fixed salary but is paid a retainer of \$5,000 plus fees and charges.





## Chapter VI

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The functions of the Department of Public Works vitally affect everyone who lives in Edison Township. This department is responsible for the township's roads, sewers, water, sanitation, and building inspection. In addition, it runs a sanitary land-fill operation, the municipal garage and an engineering office. At the head of the department is the Director of Public Works, whose term is concurrent with that of the Mayor. The Director has a staff of 105, including nine division supervisors.

#### ROADS

Edison Township has a total of 231.2 miles of roads. Of these 5.2 miles represent the New Jersey Turnpike, 9.6 miles are state roads, 25.5 miles are county roads, leaving a total of 190.9 miles to be maintained by the township. Slightly more than 70% of township roads (134.5 miles) are improved roads.

The road department, consisting of a supervisor and 25 men, is responsible for maintenance of all existing roads. This includes street cleaning, snow removal, repairs and necessary improvements. The township owns three graders, three rollers, ten trucks and ten snow plows.

New road construction is submitted to private contractors on a bid basis, since the township's existing roads keep the road department quite busy, and the rate of construction is not constant enough to require additional full-time personnel. However, the Department of Public Works, through the Township Engineer's office, sets specifications for new road construction, and the final responsibility for new roads rests with this department.

State aid is available for new road construction. The amount is determined by a formula based on the total number of miles of road in the Township. In 1963, the amount received was \$20,871.00.



*The road department maintains 190.9 miles of roads.*

## SEWERS

About one-half of the geographical area of Edison Township and two-thirds of its population are served by storm and sanitary sewers. The installation of sewers is paid partially from the benefiting property owners and partially from general tax revenues. Ultimate disposal of sewage for most of the township is accomplished by a tie-in to the Middlesex County Sewage Authority's trunk sewer line. However, the township maintains its own sewage disposal plant in North Edison Gardens which serves that immediate area. In addition, the township owns and operates four pumping stations. The sewer department is operated by a supervisor and seven men.

## WATER

The water department is divided into two sections: water accounting, staffed by six employees, which keeps all records on water consumption; and water generating and distribution, run by a supervisor and thirteen men, which is responsible for the physical operation.

The township water department serves about one-third of the area and one-half the population of Edison. The main source of our water is the Elizabethtown Water Company, with the township's system of wells as a secondary source. The water department is responsible for installation of meters, water main extensions, repairs and replacement of faulty lines and the operation and maintenance of seven pumping stations.

All expenses of running the water department are paid by the users, with no revenue being taken from the general tax funds. Residents of areas of Edison Township not served by the municipal water department, purchase water directly from the Elizabethtown Water Company and the Middlesex Water Company.



## **SANITATION**

About one-half the area and two-thirds of the population of Edison Township (roughly the same area served by sewers, with the exception of Stephenville) is included in the municipal garbage district. In this area, a supervisor and 22 employees operate seven trucks to collect refuse. All costs of operation of the garbage district are borne by the users. Other areas of the township are served by private scavengers.

## **SANITARY LAND FILL**

The sanitary land fill program was initiated in 1959. Operated by a supervisor and four men, the program was devised to facilitate the eventual reclamation of the meadow lands along the Raritan River. In addition to burying all the refuse collected by the sanitation department in these swamplands, the township has a contract with the Boro of Metuchen for all its refuse. Private scavengers may dispose of their garbage at a fee. Because of the difficulty of predicting the rate of garbage accumulation, no date for completion of the program has been set.

## **ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION**

The Township Engineer's office consists of the Township Engineer, the assistant engineer and eight employees. The department does all engineering for the township, including designs for improvements and property surveys of township lands. It maintains records of township properties, utilities and capital improvements, and acts as consultant to the Planning Board for approval of roads, street layouts and sewers. It inspects to see that improvements are made according to specifications and maintains maps of the township. All physical changes in the township must receive the approval of the Engineer's office.

Inspection in Edison Township is carried out by the Building Inspector, the Plumbing Inspector and a staff of four. Electrical inspection is handled by the state, since Edison Township has no specific electrical code, but uses the state code. The township uses the Building Officials of America (BOCA) code, which has been adopted by the Council. Any change in the township building code must be approved by the Council. The Building Inspector also acts as the township Zoning Officer.

## **MUNICIPAL GARAGE**

The garage is located on New Durham Road and is staffed by three mechanics and a clerk. All maintenance and repairs on all township vehicles are done here. Including police and fire department equipment, the township owns 110 vehicles. The garage is open thirteen hours daily.



## Chapter VII

### DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



The Department of Finance is made up of the following divisions:

- Division of Accounts and Control
- Division of Disbursement
- Division of Tax Collection
- Division of Assessments
- Division of Licenses and Permits
- Division of Real Estate
- Division of Water Accounting

This department is administered by the Director of Finance, who is the township's chief financial officer. He is responsible for all financial activities other than those which are the responsibility of the Business Administrator (budget and purchasing). He is the treasurer, the custodian of school funds and the acting supervisor of real estate. He is responsible for the accounting, pre-auditing and control of all township revenues and expenditures; for the custody, receipt and disbursement of all township funds; for the safety of township investments; for development of fiscal policy for recommendation to the Mayor; and for safeguarding the township's financial interests. In performing these duties, he therefore has supervision over the seven divisions which perform these activities.

#### DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND CONTROL

This division is headed by a supervisor of accounts, who is responsible for the operation of the I.B.M. accounting machines that have replaced the former manual methods. This division maintains books of accounts and disbursements, controls budgetary expenditures, and maintains a central payroll system, including keeping Social Security, pension and insurance records.

## **DIVISION OF DISBURSEMENT**

This division is headed by the treasurer and has charge of the receipt, custody, deposit and disbursement of township funds. It renders regular accounting of cash receipts and disbursements; deposits funds in designated banks; has custody of investments and safekeeping of bonds and notes; has responsibility for safekeeping of school funds.

## **DIVISION OF TAX COLLECTION**

At the head of this division, the tax collector is responsible for the collection of property taxes, maintaining full and complete records, computing water and sewer charges, and collecting monies.

## **DIVISION OF ASSESSMENTS**

In 1963, an ordinance was passed establishing a full-time assessor to replace the part-time Board of Tax Assessors. The division of assessments is now headed by the tax assessor, assisted by not more than two assistants. The assessor and his assistants are appointed by the mayor with the consent of council, for a term to coincide with the mayor's term. The duties of this division include estimating the value of all real and personal property in the township for purposes of assessment and taxation; the preparation of tax lists; the maintaining of adequate assessment records for each parcel of real property; custody of an up-to-date tax map; and making appraisals for any township purpose.

The Board of Assessment for Local Improvements is appointed when necessary for assessment of local improvements, such as sidewalks, curbs, gutters and sewers, which will be paid for by the benefiting property owners. This board consists of three members appointed by the council, and they function according to state statute. It is the duty of this board to determine how much each property owner will be assessed for that particular improvement.

## **DIVISION OF LICENSES AND PERMITS**

This division, headed by the supervisor of licenses, receives all applications for licenses and permits, except those which are handled by the Board of Health and the Township Clerk. (These are defined by state statute.)

## **DIVISION OF REAL ESTATE**

Headed by the supervisor of real estate, this division is responsible for the management and sale of all township-owned property, and properties in the tax title lien category. By state law, if taxes on property are not paid before July 1st of the following year, the property must be sold at a tax sale. If no bids are forthcoming, the township places a tax title



lien on the property, which the owner has two years to redeem. Then the township must foreclose, if not redeemed. If needed for municipal use, the township may retain the property; if not it is open for sale. When a reasonable bid is made, the property is put up for public auction and sold to the highest bidder.

## DIVISION OF WATER ACCOUNTING

This division, which is also included in the Department of Public Works, is staffed by six employees, who keep all records on water consumption.

## SOURCES OF INCOME

A major portion of the revenues do not come from taxes. In 1962, the local property tax provided 26.55% of the total revenue for municipal purposes, with 73.45% coming from other sources. In 1963, the total budget is anticipated to be \$4,919,241.04. (See Chapter III, Department of Administration, for information on the budget). Of this amount, \$1,786,089.54 is to be raised by local taxation.

The following chart shows the realized revenue for 1962, and the anticipated revenue for 1963 from all sources. The item listed as Surplus Revenue Cash Appropriated is money appropriated from a surplus of cash built up through collection of taxes and miscellaneous revenue in excess of the amount expected in the preceding year.

<u>SOURCES</u>	<u>1962</u> <u>(actual)</u>	<u>1963</u> <u>(anticipated)</u>
SURPLUS REVENUE CASH APPROPRIATED	\$ 700,000.00	\$ 750,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:		
Licenses	53,301.16	47,000.00
Fees and Permits	157,944.18	135,000.00
Fines	33,003.00	30,000.00
State Road Aid	20,871.00	20,871.00
State Library Aid	505.49	500.00
Interests and Costs on Taxes	14,636.59	13,000.00
Bus Receipts Taxes	4,944.01	4,000.00
Franchise Taxes	327,731.21	327,000.00
Gross Receipts Taxes	1,113,866.37	1,110,000.00
Interest on Assessments	13,523.53	12,000.00
Interest on Investments	37,993.99	30,000.00
Adv. of Property Sales	547.88	540.00
School Building, State Aid	122,599.00	137,340.50
State Aid—Highway Lighting	4,336.07	4,300.00
Motor Fuel Tax Refunds	8,497.32	8,000.00
Fees for Assessment and Tax Searches	6,171.75	5,600.00
Municipal Disposal Area Fees	51,727.40	45,000.00
Trailer Court Fees	6,175.00	6,000.00
Private Water Co. payment in lieu of taxes	41,234.77	41,000.00
Property Sales Contract		146,000.00
Special Items of General Revenue	120,000.00	151,000.00
Receipts from delinquent taxes	166,541.65	140,000.00
Total General Revenues	\$3,047,151.37	\$3,133,151.50
Amount to be raised by taxes	1,737,181.53	1,786,089.54
Total Budget	\$4,784,332.90	\$4,919,241.04

*The above figures are for the municipal services budget only. The township also acts as collector for the school tax and the county tax.*



## ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

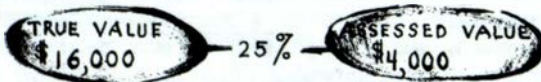
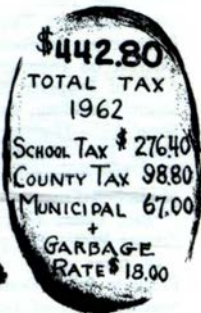
Each piece of real property in the township must be assessed by the Tax Assessor. During 1963, a reassessment program of the entire township was carried out by a professional reappraisal firm. Assessments are made on land, and on improvements or buildings on the land. Until 1962, a personal property tax on household effects, usually a flat percentage of the assessed valuation, was collected, but it was abolished by ordinance in that year. Total assessments in Edison in 1962 amounted to \$61,000,000. The current assessment ratio is 25% of the actual value of the property.

The following classes of property are tax-exempt: federal, state, county, municipal, schools, churches, cemeteries and veterans' buildings. State law allows veterans and widows of veterans an exemption on their property taxes. Application must be made to the local tax assessor.

### TAX RATE

It is the duty of the assessor to calculate the tax rate. This rate is the amount each taxpayer will pay, per one hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of his property. This rate is arrived at by dividing the net ratables of the township by the budget. The total of the municipal services tax rate, the school tax rate and the county tax rate becomes the tax rate for the township. In districts where municipal garbage service is received, there is an additional rate to support this service.

	1961	1962	1963
School Tax	5.94 (60%)	6.91 (62%)	7.76 (65%)
County Tax	2.29 (23%)	2.47 (22%)	2.48 (21%)
Municipal Tax	1.66 (17%)	1.69 (16%)	1.69 (14%)
Totals	\$9.69	\$11.07	\$11.93
Plus garbage rate where applicable:		.45	.53



## MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL DEBT

By state law, the municipal debt may not exceed 7% of the total assessed valuation of the township, as averaged over the last three years, except with the consent of the Division of Local Government in the State Department of the Treasury. Our total municipal debt in 1963 is \$2,787,000, which is under the debt limit.

Since the school system is an integral part of the township government, the school debt is considered as a municipal obligation and an item for school debt service is included in the municipal services budget. State law provides that a school debt may not exceed 8% of the total assessed valuation of the township, as averaged over the last 3 years, except with the consent of the State Board of Education, and until it is submitted and approved at a public referendum. The current school debt is \$5,000,000, which is over the limit.



## Chapter VIII

### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Under the supervision of the Director of Parks and Public Property, a staff of 17 persons keeps most of the public buildings in Edison clean and in repair. These buildings include the Municipal Building, the fire-houses, Old Town Hall (which is used for meetings), the library, and the Public Health Building. The Municipal Garage is maintained by the Department of Public Works. The switchboard operators in the Municipal Building are a part of this department, and the staff of the department sorts the daily mail.

#### PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

The township owns no parks, as such, within its borders, but maintains twenty playgrounds in the summer season throughout the area. Most of these playgrounds are located on public school grounds.

Roosevelt Park, a county park, is within the township boundaries. The facilities of the park, play equipment, lake, stadium, tennis courts, picnic equipment, etc., are available to township residents. The state maintains a small park surrounding Edison Light in Menlo Park.

The recreation department operates the playgrounds during the summer. However, the equipment is maintained and kept in repair by the Department of Parks and Public Property. The grounds are cleared, grass is cut and trees are trimmed when necessary.

The department built and maintains a boat dock at the foot of Meadow Rd. on the Raritan River. This dock is available to township residents with a permit.

An important service provided by this department is the care of trees in the community that are located on public property. The department also clears brush and cuts the grass on public property. It will arrange to pick up brush that has been cleared from privately-owned land.

A tree-planting program has also been established. In addition to planting trees on public property, the department also makes trees available at reduced cost to residents of Edison Township.



## **Chapter IX**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WELFARE AND RECREATION**



The Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation was set up with a Director and three divisions: health, welfare and recreation. Each division has an executive official who is responsible to the Director of the department. The Divisions of Health and Welfare occupy the Edison Health Center, 80 Idlewild Rd., Nixon Park. The Division of Recreation is located at 2965 Woodbridge Ave.

### **DIVISION OF HEALTH**

The executive official of the Division of Health is the municipal Health Officer, who is appointed by the Board of Health. He must meet state qualifications and is licensed by the state. He has supervision over all officers and employees of the Board of Health and enforces local health ordinances and the state sanitary code.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Board of Health is comprised of the seven Council members and is responsible for the health program of the township. State law directs local boards to enforce the state sanitary code and enact ordinances necessary for the protection, preservation and promotion of the public health. The Board of Health meets the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Municipal Building, immediately after the Council meeting.

### **EDISON HEALTH CODE**

The Edison Board of Health passed a comprehensive health code in 1961. It regulates most conditions of health, such as environmental sanitation which includes sewerage, garbage, water supply, pollution, swimming pools and nuisances; communicable diseases; dog control; food establishments; motels, apartment buildings and trailers.

## **PERSONNEL AND DUTIES**

Edison's Health Officer performs all the administrative duties of the division, enforces Edison's health code and the state sanitary code; conducts inspections of food establishments, dairies, water supplies, septic tanks, etc.; analyzes water, milk, etc.; supervises nurses; conducts the annual dog census; prosecutes violators; and promotes public health.

There are also two sanitarians and three public health nurses in the division. They must meet state qualifications and are licensed by the state.

The Health Officer also acts as the registrar of vital statistics. He keeps records of births, deaths and marriages, and issues licenses or certificates concerning them.

Other personnel include one clerk, the Board of Health Physician and a parochial school physician. The public school health program is conducted by the Board of Education and is included in their budget. School children and teachers are examined regularly.

## **DOG WARDEN**

The township contracts to use a dog warden's services for \$6,000 per year. He serves a group of towns, but maintains 24-hour service in Edison. The dog warden may be contacted by any citizen through the Police Department.

## **EDISON HEALTH CENTER**

The Edison Health Center, 80 Idlewild Rd., was opened in December, 1960. The Center provides offices for the Divisions of Health and Welfare; Baby-Keep-Well Station #2, (#1 is in North Edison), a laboratory and a lecture room.

The center offers periodic examinations, immunizations, nutritional advice, and guidance for infants and pre-school children who cannot otherwise obtain it. There is a dental clinic for children and for the aged. Additional clinics are planned. No charge is made for these clinics.

The laboratory is used for swab testing of utensils from food establishments, analyses of water supplies and the examination of milk.

## **OTHER HEALTH SERVICES**

In 1960 polio immunizations were given to 3,904 persons. Anti-rabies shots were given to 1,037 dogs. The Middlesex County Tuberculosis and Health League provided chest X-rays for 1500 residents. A diabetes detection program is also offered to Edison citizens.





*Edison Health Center.*

## **HOSPITALS**

There are four private hospitals available to residents: Middlesex General, New Brunswick; St. Peter's General, New Brunswick; Perth Amboy General; and Muhlenburg in Plainfield. A campaign to build a hospital in Edison Township is underway in 1963.

There are three county hospitals: Roosevelt Hospital, Edison, for the chronically ill and diseases of the chest; Middlesex County Hospital for the Chronically Ill, North Brunswick; and the Middlesex Rehabilitation and Polio Center, North Brunswick.

## **COUNTY HEALTH CAMP**

The Kiddie-Keep-Well Camp, located in Roosevelt Park, Edison, is a health camp for underprivileged boys and girls of Middlesex County. It is conducted in July and August every summer. The camp is financed by county, municipal and private contributions.

## **CEREBRAL PALSY CLINIC**

A Cerebral Palsy Clinic, maintained by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County, is situated in Roosevelt Park. The three acres of land are leased from the county for 99 years. The association is supported by the United Fund, and by private gifts in non-fund communities. \$35,000 in labor and materials was donated toward the \$220,000 building, which was erected in September, 1961.

The building contains four classrooms, six therapy rooms, four offices and other facilities. The program at the Center combines the techniques of medical science, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. The Edison Township school system staffs and administers classes in the specially-equipped schoolrooms. More than 40 students attend from all over Middlesex County, with each sending district paying tuition for its resident children attending.



## **DIVISION OF WELFARE**

Welfare is under the supervision of the Local Assistance Board, composed of three members appointed by the Mayor, with consent of Council. The members serve staggered terms of four years. Welfare functions are supervised and controlled by the State Department of Institutions and Agencies. Edison contributed \$10,000 in 1960 for Public Assistance under the State Aid Agreement. The County Welfare Board, also under state aid, administers Old Age Assistance, desertions, disability cases, and aid to dependent children. The state has additional programs for foster child care and the blind.

### **PERSONNEL**

The Welfare Director administers the program of the division. The Director is appointed by the Assistance Board and must meet state requirements. The Director is assisted by a secretary, and both serve as welfare investigators. There is one clerk working part-time for welfare and part-time for recreation.

### **FUNCTIONS**

The Division of Welfare administers programs of assistance to needy persons in cooperation with federal, state, county and municipal agencies. It grants assistance on a budget deficit basis for living expenses, medical services and hospitalization; distributes surplus food, and secures employment. It supervises court order cases such as desertion and bastardy.

To receive aid, a person must have resided in the township one year and in the state two years. The state reimburses 40% of the amount spent on local cases. Persons not meeting residence requirements are provided for usually by the municipality in which they formerly lived. The state reimburses 80% on out-of-state cases.

In 1960, the Welfare Division aided 74 local families and 15 from other municipalities. It distributed surplus food bags to 826 persons. The Division also distributes used clothing, food and other articles contributed by clubs and individuals.

## **DIVISION OF RECREATION**

The Division of Recreation is responsible for a year-round program of wholesome recreational activities for all the people of the township. The division has the powers and duties of a Board of Recreation Commissioners as authorized by state law.

## **PERSONNEL**

The head of the division is the Supervisor of Recreation, at present a part-time position. The Director of Health, Welfare and Recreation initiates and directs the recreational program. Other personnel are a clerk, who works part-time for the Division of Welfare, three part-time assistant supervisors, a part-time playground supervisor, one laborer, 31 playground instructors, a summer supervisor, a handicraft worker and a special events worker.

## **SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM**

Edison Township operates 20 summer playgrounds. They open immediately after the public schools close and are open from 9:00 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. on weekdays. Each playground has a supervisor assisted by other personnel according to the size of the playground. Activities include baseball, softball, horse shoe pitching, singing, dramatics and arts and crafts. There is an annual kiddies' day, and a junior Olympics with all playgrounds participating. Tennis instruction is given at Roosevelt Park.

The division sponsors trips to the Bronx Zoo, Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Walker-Gordon Farm, major league baseball games, Freedomland and other places of interest.

In 1960, a total of 4,117 children registered for the playground program.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Division assists in the operation of Little League baseball, a baseball junior league for boys aged 13-15, and a senior league for boys 16-21.

Edison is the only town in the state affiliated with National Basketball. There are basketball divisions for boys 10-15, a senior division age 15-21 and a men's division. There is a girls' division for Junior and Senior high school girls.

A bowling program was instituted in 1960. Thirty-five teams were formed for boys and girls from 8-15. Instruction is given by recreation assistants. The children participate in the annual American Junior Bowling Congress, conducted nationally on a mail-in score basis.

Teen-age and square dancing are sponsored in various areas. There is a family archery range on Woodbridge Ave. Adult classes are held in ceramics, leather and copper tooling, bridge, dancing and other fields according to interest shown.

A combination tennis, basketball, volley ball, etc. court, suitable for ice skating in the winter, was recently built on Woodbridge Ave. behind the Recreation Division Building.

## **OTHER FACILITIES**

The county parks, Roosevelt in Edison, Johnson and Donaldson in Highland Park, offer summer recreational facilities and winter ice-skating. Nearby state parks are Cheesequake and Manalapan. Edison State Park is under development in the Menlo Park section.





## Chapter X

# PLANNING AND ZONING

### PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING COMMISSION

As authorized by the New Jersey Municipal Planning Enabling Act, the municipal government in 1947 passed an ordinance creating a Planning Board and Zoning Commission to carry out the following functions:

- (1) To be the official agency for administering the provisions of the Land Subdivision ordinance.
- (2) To act as Zoning Commission in determining the use of land in the township, by recommending to Council the division of land into specified zones.
- (3) To prepare a master plan for the orderly growth of the township.

### PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

In Edison, the Planning Board consists of nine members: the Mayor; a member of Council, appointed by the Council; a municipal official appointed by the Mayor; and six citizen members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council. These members may not hold any other municipal office, except that one may be a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and one may be a member of the Board of Education.

### TERMS OF OFFICE

Terms of the Mayor and the municipal official shall terminate at the end of the Mayor's official tenure. The term of the councilman shall correspond with his official tenure. The public members shall serve for staggered terms of six years. All members serve without compensation.



## STAFF AND ADVISORS

The Planning Board engages a secretary and an attorney, both of whom attend all meetings, and receive compensation. The Zoning Officer (who is also the Building Inspector) and the township Engineer serve as advisors in addition to their regular duties in the department of Public Works. The Planning Board also hires professional experts to advise it and to assist in the preparation and revision of the master plan.

## BUDGET

The Planning Board receives its finances from the municipal budget, which is prepared by the Mayor and approved by the Council. In 1963, they were allotted \$6,090. for salaries and other expenses.

## MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Municipal Building on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. The chairman may call special meetings when needed.

## LAND SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

This ordinance was passed by the municipal government in 1954 and revised in 1962. It sets regulations and standards for approval of the subdivision of land in Edison, under the New Jersey Municipal Planning Act of 1953.

Procedure: The owner of a piece of property submits a sketch plat (or map of the subdivision) to the Planning Board for classification. The subdivision committee classifies the plat as major or minor. (A minor subdivision is three or less lots on an approved street. A major subdivision is more than three lots, or any lots on an unimproved street.)

If a plat is classified minor, and conforms to the zoning ordinance, it is approved by the subdivision committee and accepted by the Planning Board. No further action is needed, and the owner may proceed.

If the plat is classified major, it is returned to the owner, who then submits to the Planning Board a preliminary plat, containing details of the proposed subdivision. After public notice, a public hearing is held. Copies of the plat are submitted to the police, fire, health and engineering departments, and to the county Planning Board for recommendations. If approved by the Planning Board, the builder has three years in which to file a final plat, incorporating any changes required by the township on the preliminary plat. The builder must have installed improvements (streets, curbs, utilities, etc.) or post a performance bond to insure installation. Upon final approval, the Building Inspector is authorized to issue building permits. The builder must record final plat with the county recording officer within 90 days.

## APPEAL

Appeals may be made in writing, within ten days of any action by the Planning Board, to the municipal Council. After public notice and a public hearing, the Council shall act to affirm or deny the Planning Board's action. Any party may also obtain a review of any action by the courts.

## ZONING COMMISSION

Members of the Planning Board also act as the Zoning Commission. In 1950, the first Zoning ordinance and map were adopted and in 1957, they were amended. The duties of the Commission are to recommend to Council an over-all zoning plan for the township, and to carry out a continuing program of administration, review and revision as necessary.

## MASTER PLAN

The purpose of a master plan is to develop an appropriate pattern of land use, to avert community blight by requiring the physical development of the community according to legally prescribed standards. In 1957, a master plan was adopted which included population trends, existing land use, future land use, primary and secondary streets, schools, parks, recreation and zoning. In 1962, a new master plan was adopted which is much more comprehensive and which projects the growth of the township for the next twenty years.



*One of Edison's attractive new housing developments.*



## ZONING ORDINANCE

In 1963, a new zoning ordinance was passed to implement the master plan. This ordinance created twelve zones in Edison, with their respective structural, lot and area requirements. It also contained provisions for signs, off-street parking, the duties of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and administration of the ordinance.

The major changes in the 1963 zoning ordinance, which replaced an ordinance which was passed in 1957, included the establishment of a Highrise apartment zone, a Park-Institutional Zone, a Planned Business Zone and a provision for Cluster Zoning in Residential Zones AA, A and BB. Regulations for garden apartments in Residence BB, B and Local Business Zones were also included.

**HIGHRISE APARTMENTS**—Council was given the power to amend the zoning map to provide for apartments, no more than 10 stories high, in areas where such designation would provide for harmonious growth. Not more than ten percent of the total area shall be occupied by buildings, and the minimum lot area shall be determined by the number and size of apartments.

**PARK-INSTITUTIONAL**—this zone is designed to provide special provision for large park and institutional uses, such as religious institutions, educational institutions, homes for children or the aged, or public administration buildings.

**PLANNED BUSINESS**—this zone was created to provide for modern, integrated shopping centers.

**CLUSTER ZONING—(SPECIAL PROVISION FOR PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT)**—To permit a more varied residential pattern, developers of tracts of not less than 15 acres in Residential zones AA, A and BB may have the individual lot area requirements reduced, providing that the average lot area per family is not less than that required in the Zone.

Res. AA from 40,000 sq. ft. to 30,000 sq. ft.

Res. A from 20,000 sq. ft. to 15,000 sq. ft.

Res. BB from 10,000 sq. ft. to 8,500 sq. ft.

Lot width may not be reduced more than 15 percent.

Sufficient area within the tract shall be set aside for common open space and community purposes, and arrangements for maintenance of such open space shall be made.

(See Chart of Zones and Requirements)



## PLANNING AND ZONING

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Lot Area</i>	<i>Lot Width</i>	<i>Main Permitted Uses</i>
Res. AA	40,000 sq. ft.	150 ft.	Single dwelling, church, school, library, playground, private club.
Res. A	20,000 sq. ft.	100 ft.	Same as Res. AA.
Res. BB	10,000 sq. ft.	85 ft.	Same as Res. AA plus hospitals, or nursing homes, and garden apartments (on 3-acre tracts).
Res. B	7,500 sq. ft.	75 ft.	Same as BB plus rooming houses, and parking areas when adjacent to business or industrial zones. (Garden apartments on 2-acre tracts).
Hi-Rise Apts.	based on apt. size	—	Low-density, high rise apartments.
Park-Institutional	40,000 sq. ft.	150 ft.	Public park, school, academy, church, hospital, public building, single dwelling.
Local Bus.	7,500 sq. ft.	50 ft.	Retail store, restaurant, barber shop, cleaners, theater, bowling alley, offices, bank, service station and garden apartments.
Gen. Bus.	20,000 sq. ft.	100 ft.	Auto agencies, display rooms, repair shops, small custom shops, motels, veterinarian, laboratory, truck terminal.
Planned Bus.	5 acres	—	Shopping center.
Restr. Ind.	2 acres	200 ft.	Laboratory, offices, limited manufacturing.
Light Ind.	1 acre	150 ft.	Manufacturing, assembly, contracting, wholesale business.
Heavy Ind.	no min.	no min.	Any non-nuisance industry.

## ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

By an ordinance of 1950, revised in 1957 and in 1963, the Zoning Board of Adjustment was established, to provide for relief from the strict application of the Zoning Law, where this would create an unusual and particular hardship to a property owner.

### MEMBERS

Five citizens are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council, for staggered three-year terms. No member may hold any other municipal office. The board elects its own chairman. Members receive no compensation.

## **STAFF**

The Board engages a secretary and an attorney, both of whom attend all meetings and receive compensation. The Zoning Officer as a part of his regular duties also attends all meetings.

## **MEETINGS**

Meetings are held in the municipal building on the third Tuesday of each month. Special meetings may be called by the chairman.

## **DUTIES**

- (1) The Zoning Board of Adjustment may hear and rule in any matter where there is alleged error in interpretation of the zoning ordinance by the zoning officer.
- (2) The board may grant a variance from the strict application of the zoning ordinance where there are peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties.
- (3) The Board may grant building permits for special exception uses, as outlined in the zoning ordinance.
- (4) The Board may recommend to council that a variance be granted allowing a use in a zone restricted against such use, if it will not be detrimental to the intent of the zoning ordinance, or the character of the neighborhood.

## **PROCEDURES**

A property owner applies to the building inspector for a building permit. If the property does not conform to the zoning ordinance, the permit is denied. The owner may then appeal to the Board of Adjustment for a variance.

This board has final approval on the modification of physical requirements for building: i.e. size of lot, side yard, etc.

In the case of a request for a "use" variance, the board makes a recommendation to Council, and the council, by resolution, grants or denies the variance.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

All actions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment require public notice, and a public hearing prior to action.

## **APPEAL**

Any party may obtain review of any action by the courts.

## **BUDGET**

Money for this board also comes from the municipal budget. In 1963, they were allotted for salaries and other expenses \$4,700.



## Chapter XI

### HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL

In 1954, the Edison Housing Authority was formed to solve problems in the township in areas where much substandard housing was found. Application was made to the federal government for federal low-cost housing in the northern end of town in the area known as Potters. In September, 1959, North Edison Gardens, a 60-unit, federally-aided, low-rent housing project, accepted the first families for occupancy. In May, 1963, a 30-unit extension of North Edison Gardens was occupied. Seventy (70) units in the more populous Bonhamtown neighborhood area will be ready for occupancy in August, 1963. Forty-eight of the 70 units in the Bonhamtown area will be for senior citizens. The project in Bonhamtown is called the Julius C. Engel Gardens.

#### PROGRAM

Since its inception, the Authority has been successful in obtaining in excess of \$3,700,000 in direct Federal grants for housing and renewal activity in Edison. As a result of two renewal programs in North Edison, 170 acres of badly blighted land will be returned to productive community use. At the present time, these 170 acres are producing an estimated \$30,700 in tax income and this figure is expected to increase six-fold. Additional renewal projects are planned.

#### PERSONNEL

The Housing Authority is composed of six commissioners. Five commissioners are appointed by the Council for staggered 5-year terms. The sixth member is appointed by the State Director of Conservation and Economic Development and serves at his pleasure. The commissioners elect their own chairman and appoint an executive director. The Executive Director is salaried and hires his own help. All administrative duties and powers are vested in him. Funds for all salaries are received from the federal government. Offices are located in the North Edison Gardens and the Julius C. Engel Gardens.



## Chapter XII

### SCHOOLS



#### LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Education is directly responsible for the operation of the schools of the district, under Chapter 6 of Title 18 of the New Jersey State Statutes. This chapter provides for an appointed Board of Education. The five non-paid members of the board are appointed by the mayor for staggered terms of five years each. One new member is appointed in January and takes office in February of each year and a member may be re-appointed for one or more terms. The board selects its own president, annually. He is responsible for conducting the meetings and planning agenda. The board employs a full-time, paid secretary who may or may not be a member of the board. The Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month in the high school cafeteria. The meetings are open to the public. Our present secretary is a member.

The Superintendent of Schools is selected and appointed by the Board of Education. He is hired for a trial period, then given a contract. If satisfactory, he is then given tenure. His duties are to execute the policies of the board; supervise the operation of the schools; make recommendations to the board on objectives, policies and hiring of school personnel; and to evaluate the total teaching program.

Other supervisory personnel include the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, two elementary supervisors, school principals and vice-principals. The elementary supervisors work with the teachers and elementary principals on courses of study, teaching problems and techniques and selection of materials. The teachers are visited regularly by the supervisors and the principals and are free to ask for assistance at any time.

## STATE AND COUNTY CONTROL

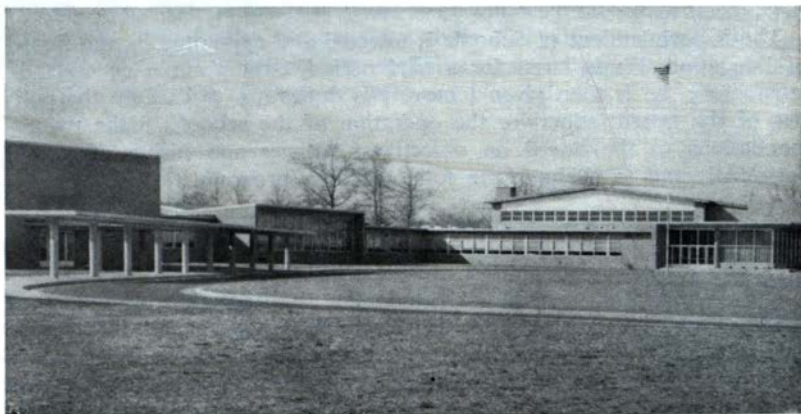
There is a County Superintendent of Schools appointed, for a three-year term, by the State Commissioner of Education, with consent of the State Board of Education. He acts principally in an advisory capacity or when his services are requested by local boards. He has charge of the apportionment of the state educational funds.

The State Board of Education sets standards for teachers, approves building plans for new schools, and supervises the execution of state requirements in respect to the curriculum and other matters. The Federal government exercises no educational supervision.

Our New Jersey state laws demand the attendance at school of children between the ages of seven and sixteen unless they are physically or mentally unable to participate. A child in Edison Township who will be five, on or before September 30 of a given school year, may enter kindergarten. Birth, vaccination, diphtheria and polio certificates are required. The state requires a minimum of 180 school days per year. The state sets standards for school classrooms and has to approve the use of rooms not coming up to these standards. Rooms in other public buildings, in annexes or in churches are not considered standard classrooms; but many concessions have been made in districts throughout the state because of the fast-growing school population.

## SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN

The actual total enrollment in Edison Township Public Schools in February of 1963 was 10,813. In addition to this number 80 pupils were enrolled in county vocational schools and more than 2,000 children were enrolled in parochial schools. A total of 61 children attended five special classes for the mentally retarded. Since September, 1961, the Edison Board of Education has conducted four (4) special classes



*Edison High School on South Colton Road.*

for cerebral palsy children at the Cerebral Palsy Center in Roosevelt Park. In 1962-1963 there were 43 of these pupils. Our town sends a few special children, such as the blind or cardiacs, to other special schools in Jersey City and Elizabeth; and provides bedside or home instruction for those who require it.

Table I shows the year completed, number of standard classrooms, number of sub-standard classrooms, number of pupils enrolled in 1961-62 and the grades included for each of our public schools.

**TABLE I**  
**1961-1962**

<i>School Constructed</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Standard Classrooms</i>	<i>Substandard Classrooms</i>	<i>Total Pupils Enrolled</i>
Piscatawaytown 1913, 1922	K-6	18	0	588
Bonhamtown 1908	K-4	4	1	141
Stelton 1926, 1951	K-6	17	3	632
Oak Tree 1908, 1951	K-6	22	2	959
Clara Barton 1923, 1928	K-6	24	0	857
*Lincoln 1952, 1956	K-6	23	0	1035
Washington 1953, 1957	K-6	26	0	700
James Madison 1959	K-6	15	0	470
Thomas Jefferson JHS 1959	7-8-9	35	0	1502
**Edison High 1956	9-12	42	0	2367 (split)
Opened in September, 1962				
John Adams JHS	7-8-9	41		
Benjamin Franklin	K-6	17		
John Marshall	K-6	17		
To open in September, 1963				
Menlo Park	K-6	17		
James Monroe	K-6	17		
*Completed in 1963		17 additional rooms		
**To be completed, 1963		38 additional classrooms		
Scheduled for completion, September, 1964				
New High School		44 rooms		



Attendance at parochial schools is limited by capacity and, in the case of high schools, by the comparatively long trip to school. Public money is not used toward the support of parochial or private schools of any type, but health services are provided by the township under the township budget. Parochial or private school pupils, living more than the prescribed distance from school, may ride on school buses on already established school bus routes.

Table II shows the names, location and grade levels of parochial schools receiving pupils from Edison Township. Also, a few pupils are received by St. Ladislaus Grade School in New Brunswick.

**TABLE II**

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grades</u>
St. Matthew's	Stelton-Edison	1-8
Our Lady of Peace	Fords-Edison	K-8
St. Francis'	Metuchen	K-8
St. Paul's	Highland Park	1-8
St. Peter's High School	New Brunswick	9-12
St Mary's High School	Perth Amboy	9-12

In June, 1960, a summer school program was started, at the high school level, for the repeating of courses or enrichment. It is hoped that in the near future this program can be extended to include the elementary grades.

Diplomas were awarded to 308 pupils in the first graduating class of Edison High School, in 1960. With the inclusion of a full high school course, interscholastic athletic competition was begun. A Guidance Department is functioning and is directly responsible to the high school principal. More than 30% of the first graduating class was accepted in college. In 1962 the High School was accredited by the Commission of Secondary Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The accreditation was for five years; but because of split sessions, the superintendent reports to the Commission, in May of each year, on improvement of this condition. The second high school, scheduled for completion in September, 1964, and the addition to the present high school will be necessary before split sessions can be eliminated at the high school level.

A regular schedule of pupil testing is followed in our schools: Primary and Advanced Reading Tests in grades one and two; mental maturity tests in kindergarten and grades four, seven and nine; pupil achievement tests in grades three through nine, annually; and standardized aptitude and preference tests in high school.

## TEACHERS

The teachers and supervisory personnel in Edison Township schools have been employed under a salary guide extending from a first year starting salary of \$4,300 to a \$7,200 maximum for a non-degree teacher to a starting salary of \$5,000 to \$8,200 maximum for a teacher with a Masters. Basic annual increment is \$200. Special rules are applied for such things as experience elsewhere and military service. A retirement program is provided.

The basic qualification for a teacher in the elementary schools is a B.S. degree with full certification at the elementary level. During the teacher shortage provisional certificates are issued if the prospective teacher has a B.S. degree and not less than six credits in Education, and is continuing to work toward full certification. Non-degree teachers with less than provisional certification are required to work toward a degree.

Our town provides special teachers in music, art and physical education, at the elementary level, and many teachers of special subjects at the secondary level.

### TABLE III

Teachers Employed (Principals and Supervisors Included) 1961-1962

Grade Kindergarten	20
Grades 1-6	177
Grades 7-8	47
Grades 9-12	76
Special Education Classes	10
Special Subjects, Elementary	14
Special Subjects, Secondary	42
Librarians	3
Guidance, full time	5
Psychologist, full time	1
Principals, non-teaching	11
Vice-Principals, non-teaching	3
Elementary Supervisors	2
Assistant Superintendent	1
Superintendent	1
Total	413

### TABLE IV

Training of Teachers (Principals Included) 1961-1962

Non-degree (less than four years)	26
College Graduates (four years)	290
Master's Degree (five years)	96
Doctor's Degree (six years)	1
	413

Procurement of highly qualified instructors is still a serious problem, but, in general, more candidates seem to be available than in former years. It should be noted that the percentage of non-degree teachers is diminishing. Many teachers enroll in summer sessions or extension courses in colleges.

## **PAYING FOR EDUCATION**

Most of the funds for school support are derived from local real estate taxes. The school building program is financed by bond issues, approved by the voters. State assistance represented 16.63% of the total cost of education in Edison during 1961-62. State Aid comes to us in the following ways: (1) 75% of the legal school bus transportation costs are reimbursed; (2) equalization aid based on average daily enrollment; (3) State Building Aid on an equalization formula. Federal support provided for 2.12% of the local cost in 1961-62. This was divided between PL 874 and National Defense Education Act. Tuition, for Cerebral Palsy pupils from other districts, paid 0.59%. The local school district carried the large share of the cost, 80.66%.

## **SCHOOL EXPENDITURES**

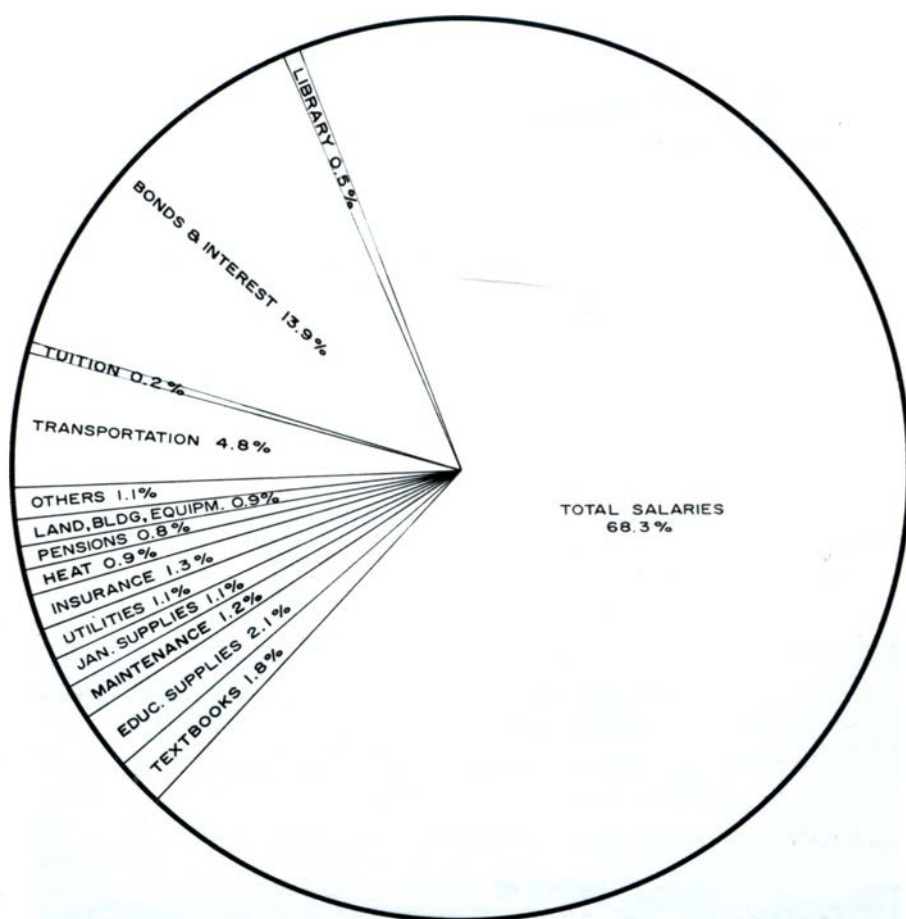
During the school year of 1961-62 the per pupil cost for the 9,947.5 ADE (average daily enrollment) pupils in grades K-12 was \$373.79 per pupil. The cost for our local program of secondary education totaled \$949,923.36 and resulted in a per pupil expenditure of \$419.98 for the 2,261.8 ADE pupils involved. At the elementary level, including special classes, the per pupil cost was \$326.78 for 7,685.7 ADE children and involved the sum of \$2,511,572.05. A total of \$3,461,495.41 was expended for current expense items in the school budget.

## **BUDGET**

Each January a new school budget is prepared by our Board of Education. This proposed budget is published and is presented to the Board of School Estimate. This board, as required by law, is made up of the Mayor, two councilmen and two members of the Board of Education. The public may express opinions about the school budget at the public hearing held by the Board of School Estimate, usually in the first week of February. The Board of School Estimate has the complete power to pass or reject the school budget. The members of this board hold their positions for one year and any additional or emergency funds, needed by the schools, must be approved by them and then included in the budget of the following year.



TABLE V  
SCHOOL EXPENDITURES  
1961 — 1962



TRANSPORTATION	\$ 210,500.00
TEXTBOOKS	76,000.00
EDUC. SUPPLIES	90,000.00
MAINTENANCE	52,000.00
JANITOR SUPPLIES	49,500.00
UTILITIES	49,500.00
LIBRARY	22,000.00
PENSIONS	32,600.00

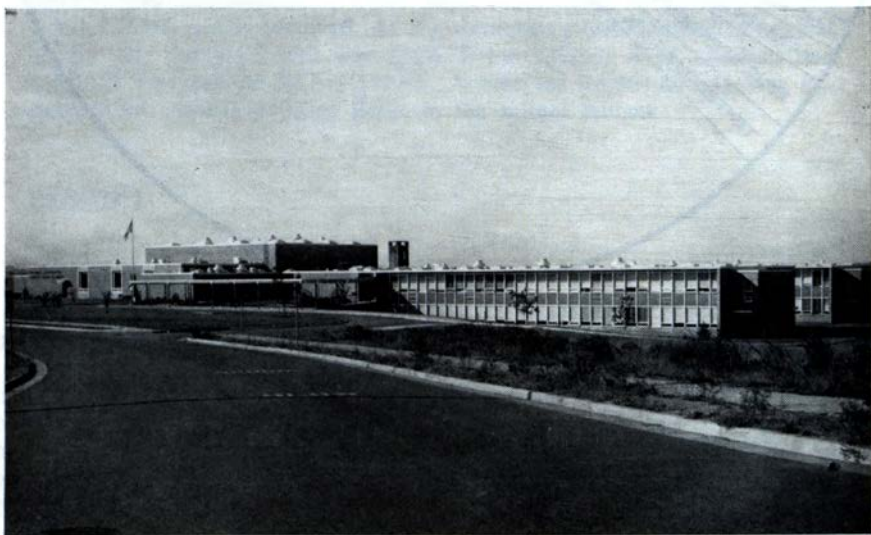
LAND, BLDGS. & EQUIP.	\$ 40,000.00
TUITION	10,000.00
INSURANCE	57,000.00
HEAT	40,000.00
BONDS & INTEREST	605,162.50
TOTAL SALARIES	2,982,300.00
ALL OTHER EXPEND.	46,850.00
TOTAL EXPEND.	\$ 4,363,412.50

## HEALTH PROGRAM

In the Edison Township school system, pupils in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are inspected annually by the school physicians; and pupils in grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are inspected annually by the school dentists. Pupils in grades 1, 5 and 9 are given tuberculin Tine tests; and 9th graders, pupils with positive reaction, and all employees are given chest X-rays annually. Buildings and premises are inspected for sanitary conditions.

## MAINTENANCE

In addition to janitor service provided for each school, there is one over-all maintenance man. Most repairs are done by contractors on a job basis. Major repairs are let out on contract to the lowest bidder.



*Thomas Jefferson Junior High School.*

## Chapter XIII

### FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Edison Township Free Public Library is temporarily located at 238 Plainfield Avenue, in the Stelton section. Any person residing in the township may use the library facilities free of charge.

#### LIBRARY HOURS

WINTER: Mon. and Wed.	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
	7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Tues. and Thurs.	9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
	7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Fri.	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
Sat.	10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
SUMMER: Mon. and Wed.	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
	7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Tues. and Thurs.	9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
Fri.	1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

The Edison Public Library was created in 1927 under a state statute which provides for a Board of Trustees responsible for the policies of administration. The Board consists of seven members: the Mayor and the Superintendent of Schools (ex-officio), and five citizens appointed by the mayor for terms of five years. The Board of Trustees selects the head librarian, who selects her own assistants with Board approval. At present, the library staff consists of the librarian, one full-time clerk and two part-time clerks.

The library is supported by local taxes. In 1963, the budget allotted \$19,956. for salaries and \$17,775. for the purchase of books and related expenses. This is approximately \$.75 per capita.

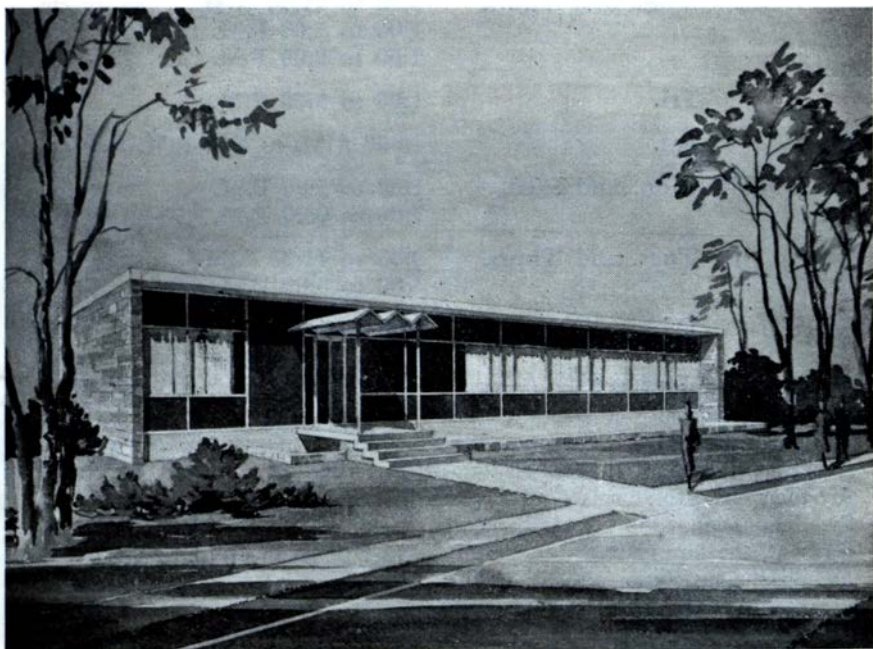


In addition to the library on Plainfield Avenue, library service is also maintained at the Oak Tree Firehouse and the North Edison Community Center. There are also library programs run by the P.T.A.'s in several of the schools.

Because of the tremendous growth of the township, library services at present fall short of being adequate. Recognizing the need for improved service, Council has voted a bond issue to build a new main library building, at a cost of \$200,000, on the corner of Plainfield Avenue and Division Street, near the Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. At present, the library contains 23,800 books. This building will enable the library to house an additional 25,000 books, and will contain a separate children's room, reference rooms, etc. The new building will be completed sometime in 1964. Plans for branch libraries for the various sections of the township are also being considered.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

A group of citizens interested in improving library service has formed a Friends of the Library group, which is open to any interested resident. The first project is to raise funds to furnish the new library building.



*Artist's conception of new Public Library building.*

## Chapter XIV

### CIVIL DEFENSE AND FIRST AID SQUADS



#### CIVIL DEFENSE

The New Jersey Civil Defense organizations were originally established by state law in 1942 and reactivated in 1950. It is mandatory that each municipality have a municipal Disaster Control council, with a director and board appointed by the Mayor.

Edison Township has a council of twenty members, plus the director. Each council member heads a particular phase of the civil defense and disaster control program. The director is the coordinator and has the final responsibility in case of a local disaster. All of these men are volunteers. The directors meet once a month.

The Civil Defense Council owns the following equipment:

- 1 heavy-duty rescue truck.
- 3 two-way FM radio sets.
- 6 emergency power supplies. (One of these is large enough to power the pumps for the municipal water supply system.)
- 27 sirens, plus the fire precinct sirens and some factory whistles in strategic areas throughout the township. Every Saturday at 12:15 P.M., the sirens are tested.
- 1 receiving and transmitting set on a fixed station, to keep in contact with county civil defense network.

The Civil Defense program is supported by the municipality. In 1963, \$7,608. was budgeted for salaries and other expenses. The money is spent in three ways: (1) training and equipping of personnel, (2) buying equipment, and (3) maintenance of equipment.

## FIRST AID SQUADS

There are now three separate first aid squads in Edison. This separation is mainly for fund-raising purposes. All members are volunteers and all officers are elected by the members for one year.

Squad #1—Located on Lakeview Blvd. in Piscatawaytown. Has fifty members, owns two ambulances, one truck for emergency use and one boat. Has a woman's auxiliary which assists the squad in time of disaster.

Squad #2—Located in the Safety Council Building on Rt. 27, near the Menlo Park firehouse. Has twenty members, but no women's auxiliary. Owns one ambulance.

Squad #3—Located in the Clara Barton firehouse, Fords. Has thirty members and a women's auxiliary. Owns one ambulance.

Ambulance and first aid services are provided free of charge to anyone requesting them. In addition to first aid equipment, the squads also have a portable respirator. The squads lend wheel chairs and crutches to anyone needing them.

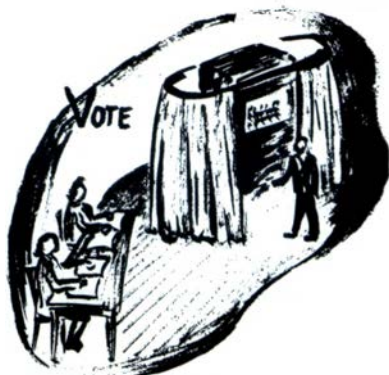
The first aid squads are part of civil defense and one member on the Civil Defense Council represents all three squads. All members are also members of the New Jersey First Aid Council.

The first aid squads are a completely volunteer organization, supported by voluntary contributions from the community and from the governing body. Each year, the municipal budget appropriates \$5,000 to be divided among the three squads.



## Chapter XV

# ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS



### QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

You may register to vote in Edison Township if you are:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. You are or will be 21 years of age on general election day.
3. A resident of Middlesex County for sixty days prior to the next general election.
4. A resident of New Jersey for six months prior to the next general election.
5. Not disqualified as an idiot, insane or criminal.

Anyone who will meet all of the above qualifications may register and vote in the preceding primary election. You must register in person. Registration in New Jersey is permanent. No declaration of party preference is made at the time of registration.

### TIME AND PLACE FOR REGISTRATION

You may register at any time during the year, except the forty days immediately preceding an election, when the registration books are closed.

Registrations are taken at the office of the Township Clerk in the municipal building, between the hours of 9:00 and 4:00, Monday through Friday. Or you may register at one of the offices of the Middlesex County Election Board, which are located at the corner of George and Bayard Streets in New Brunswick and in the Perth Amboy National Bank Building, Perth Amboy.

Special hours for registration are frequently held just prior to the forty day period when the books are closed.

## **RE-REGISTRATION**

You must re-register in New Jersey only if:

1. You fail to vote for four consecutive years.
2. You change your name by marriage, divorce or court decree.
3. You change your address. If you move within the county you may file a transfer card with the municipal clerk or the county clerk. If you move from one county to another, you must re-register.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS**

The Middlesex County Board of Elections sets up the election machinery in all municipalities in the county, and is responsible for the administration of the state election laws. The board consists of four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, appointed by the Governor for two-year terms.

The county clerk sets up the ballots and interprets the laws pertaining to elections. He is elected for a five-year term.

The municipal clerk has jurisdiction over local elections. He is appointed by the council for a one-year term. Our present township clerk has tenure, which is automatic after five appointments.

There are at present thirty election districts in Edison. The council establishes the boundaries of the election districts, after recommendation by the township clerk.

The County Board of Elections appoints a District Board of Elections for each of the election districts, consisting of four members, two from each party. Members of these boards are not required to live in the election district where they serve. These district boards are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the election duties in their respective districts.

## **GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Yearly elections for national, state, county and local officials, including referenda on public questions, are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Sample ballots are mailed to every registered voter one week prior to any election, giving instructions as to the use of the voting machines and designating the polling place for each district. Anyone who has registered may vote in a general election.

## PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Yearly elections for party candidates to run in the general election, and for party committeemen and committeewomen are held on the third Tuesday in April. Sample ballots are mailed to every registered voter, as before the general election. New Jersey has "closed primaries", which means that a registered voter must express his preference for one of the parties if he wishes to vote in the primary, and may vote in the primary for candidates of that party only. Voting in the primary constitutes registering in the party of your choice. You may not vote in the primary of another party (changing parties) until you have refrained from voting in two successive primary elections.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

Local elections are held on the regularly prescribed days for general and primary elections, in the odd-numbered years.

Since the adoption of the Mayor-Council form of government, on January 1, 1958, the Mayor and seven Councilmen are the only municipal officials elected. They are elected for staggered terms of four years, the Mayor and three Councilmen at one election, and two years later, the other four Councilmen. Candidates for office are chosen on a partisan basis from the township at large. They are nominated at the April primary election, and elected at the following November general election.

At present, the only parties offering candidates are the Democratic and Republican parties. In order for a party to be recognized under law, it must have polled at least 10% of the total vote at the last election at which members of the General Assembly were elected.

Candidates are placed on the primary ballot after they file with the Township Clerk, forty days before the election, with petitions signed by the registered voters of the municipality. There must be signatures equal in number to at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of the number of votes cast at the last general election. Citizens may sign as many petitions as there are offices open. Candidates receiving the majority of votes in the primary election are placed on the ballot for the general election. Position of names and parties on the ballot is established by drawing lots.

Independent candidates may run for office in the general election only. They must obtain petitions signed by registered voters of the municipality, equal in number to at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of the number of votes cast at the last general election. Independent candidates must submit their petitions to the county clerk at least forty days before the primary election.

Any voter is entitled to indicate his preference for any person, whether or not his name appears on the ballot. On all voting machines, there is space specifically for a "write-in" vote for each office.



## **COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN**

Also elected at the local level are the committeemen and committeewomen from each of the thirty local election districts. They are elected each year at the primary election, and are voted for only in the election district which they represent.

Citizens wishing to run for committeeman and committeewoman may do so by filing with the municipal clerk, a petition signed by ten registered voters of his party and district.

The committeemen and committeewomen constitute the local party committee and also serve on the county party committee. They perform all the necessary political organization work in their districts, share in shaping the party platforms, and in nominating party candidates. They represent the basic unit in party politics.

On the Monday after the primary election, the elected committeemen and committeewomen of each party meet to elect a municipal chairman, vice-chairman and other officers. The municipal chairman need not be one of the committeemen or committeewomen. On the following night, the committee chairman is chosen.

## **LOCAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS**

There are a number of political clubs of both parties, active in Edison Township, to which anyone may belong. There are ten democratic and seven republican clubs now active.

## **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Absentee ballots have been permitted since 1953. Application for such ballots may be made to the County Clerk, in person or by mail, up to eight days before an election. In the case of a local election, application is made to the Township Clerk.

Applicants must be registered before making application. An application must be signed by the applicant and accompanied by proof of the applicant's inability to vote in person because of (1) observance of a religious holiday, (2) illness, pregnancy or physical disability, (3) intention to be out-of-state on election day, or (4) resident attendance at a New Jersey school, college or university.

## **MILITARY BALLOTS**

A serviceman may make application for a military ballot without being registered, providing he is eligible to register. Or a friend or relative may make application for him. Proof of address and military service is required.

## **VOTING STATISTICS**

In the general (Presidential) elections of 1960, there were in Edison Township, 22,056 registered voters, of whom 20,168 persons voted.

## Chapter XVI

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



#### RAILROADS

The Pennsylvania Railroad's main line runs through the central part of the township. The Edison station is located in the Stelton section. Passenger service at this station is limited to a few scheduled stops daily, east and west-bound. Daily commuters usually use the Metuchen or New Brunswick terminals.

#### BUS LINES

The operation of bus lines is controlled by the Public Utilities Commission of New Jersey, which grants franchises to privately-owned bus companies. The municipality exercises no control over the transit companies, except that it must approve the re-routing of existing services.

There are no bus terminals within the township, but several lines provide service. Public Service Coordinated Transport has three local routes:

- (1) No. 134, between New Brunswick and Newark via Rt. 27.
- (2) No. 4, between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via Woodbridge Ave.
- (3) No. 6, between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via Menlo Park Shopping Center.

Public Service also operates No. 135, from New Brunswick to New York, via Route 27.

The Suburban Transit Company operates three routes:

- (1) No. 8, between New Brunswick and Plainfield Ave., via Rt. 27.
- (2) No. 8, between New Brunswick and Camp Kilmer.
- (3) Between New Brunswick and Dunellen, via Route 27 and Plainfield Ave.

Suburban Transit also operates a line to New York City.

The Plainfield Transit Company operates a route between Plainfield and Metuchen, which passes through the township on Park Avenue and Plainfield Road in the Oak Tree section.

Long distance bus lines traveling through Edison include Greyhound, Continental Trailways and Trailways Bus, with a terminal located at 18 French St., New Brunswick.

Taxi Service is available within the township and in nearby cities. There are four taxi stands in various sections of the township.

Edison Township is a major freight center, with many railroad spurs to industries, and a number of trucking terminals located along Route 1.



## DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE (Wesleyan in doctrine)—80 Jefferson Blvd.—KI 5-7097  
 COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—76 Glenville Road—LI 8-5375  
 EDISON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND  
 CONGREGATION BETHEL — Jefferson Blvd. and 6th Ave.—KI 5-7835 (Conservative)  
 GRACE REFORMED CHURCH—Woodbridge Avenue, Bonhamtown—LI 9-2141  
 GUARDIAN ANGELS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—37 Plainfield Avenue—CH 9-8870  
 MARCONNIER REFORMED CHURCH—Oak Tree Road and Woodland Avenue—PL 7-0061  
 MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH—Edward Avenue, North Edison  
 NEW DOVER METHODIST CHURCH—New Dover Road—FU 8-8179  
 OUR LADY OF PEACE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Amboy Avenue, Fords—VA 6-2276  
 PISCATAWAYTOWN BAPTIST CHAPEL—2195 Woodbridge Avenue—CH 9-7910  
 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH—Hoy and Hamilton Avenues, Fords—VA 6-4262  
 ST. MARGARET MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Woodbridge Avenue, Bonhamton  
 ST. MATTHEW'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Seymour Avenue—CH 7-5003  
 ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—445 Old Post Road—KI 5-3872  
 ST. STEPHEN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH—120 Pleasant Avenue—VA 6-7122  
 ST. THERESA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Fox Lane, Lindeneau—KI 5-6478  
 STELTON BAPTIST CHURCH—334 Plainfield Avenue—KI 5-3484  
 TEMPLE EMANU-EL (Reform)—76 Pleasant Avenue, Fords

## POLITICAL CLUBS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

Bonhamtown Women's Republican Club  
 Central Republican Club  
 Clara Barton Democratic Club  
 Clara Barton Women's Republican Club  
 Community Democratic Club  
 Edison Democratic Club, Inc.  
 Edison Oaks Democratic Club  
 Edison Township Women's Democratic Club  
 Edison Young Democratic Club  
 North End Republican Club  
 Oak Tree Democratic Club  
 Piscatawaytown Women's Democratic Club  
     (Oldest political organization in  
     township, 1936)  
 Republican Club, Thirteenth District  
 Stelton Republican Club  
 United Democrats of Edison, Inc.  
 West Side Democratic Club  
 Young Republican Club

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

(Excluding PTA's)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 324 (CLARA BARTON UNIT)  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 324 (CLARA BARTON UNIT)  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 435  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 435  
BONHAMTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EDISON TOWNSHIP  
CLARA BARTON WOMEN'S CLUB  
EDISON SAFETY AND RESCUE SQUAD #1 (NIXON)  
EDISON SAFETY AND RESCUE SQUAD #2 (MENLO PARK)  
EDISON SAFETY AND RESCUE SQUAD #3 (CLARA BARTON)  
ELKS (METUCHEN) B.P.O.E. #1914 (SERVES EDISON AS WELL)  
EXCHANGE CLUB  
EXCHANGETTES  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
GARDEN CLUB OF NIXON PARK  
GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
HEIGHTS OF EDISON CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EDISON  
KIWANIS CLUB OF METUCHEN—EDISON  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS — (POPE PIUS XII CHAPTER)  
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS (PARKWAY LODGE #174)  
LADIES AUXILIARY TO MENLO PARK RESCUE SQUAD  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP  
LINDENEAU-ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB  
LIONS CLUB OF EDISON  
LIONETTES  
LITTLE LEAGUE  
LOYAL ORDER OF THE MOOSE, LODGE #1342  
MENLO PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MOBILE HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
NORTH EDISON MOTHER'S CLUB  
PERTH AMBOY HOSPITAL WOMEN'S GUILD (FORDS-EDISON BRANCH)  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
POLICE RESERVES  
PUMPTOWN CIVIC GROUP  
RARITAN TOWNSHIP SQUARE CLUB  
STEPHENVILLE GARDEN CLUB  
STEPHENVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB  
TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF EDISON  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, POST #3117  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY, POST #3117  
WEST EDISON CIVIC LEAGUE  
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF EDISON RESCUE SQUAD #1  
WOMEN FOR EDISON  
WOMEN OF THE MOOSE, LODGE #1342





~~Due April 27, 1966~~  
~~4:30 P.M.~~  
~~# T1039~~  
~~Due Sept 30~~  
~~4:30 P.M.~~  
~~# 3190~~  
~~due Feb 13, 1968~~  
~~4:30 P.M.~~  
~~# 7207~~  
~~due Jan 5, 1967~~  
~~4:30 P.M.~~  
~~# T1039~~  
~~due 1-22-69~~  
~~4:30 P.M.~~  
~~# T-1897~~  
WHOM TO CALL

To Report a Fire — Dial Operator.

All other fire business call

HI 2-4500

Rescue Squad — Dial Operator for Emergency.

Other business

HI 2-4500

Police Department

CH 7-4200

Board of Education

CH 6-2828

Superintendent of Schools

LI 8-2184

Township Clerk

CH 9-4100

Business Administrator

CH 9-4100

Division of Health

CH 9-4100

After 4:30, call CH 9-7526

Water Department

LI 9-2903

After 4:30, call CH 9-4103

Building Inspector

CH 9-4100

Tax Office

CH 9-4100

Welfare and Recreation

CH 9-4100

Division of Licenses and Permits

CH 9-4100

Middlesex County Medical Society

HI 2-3344

NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY

March 8, 1972