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(Edison History -  
1971)

"Know Your  
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## Municipal Meetings

<i>Meeting and Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
BOARD OF EDUCATION (2nd Monday)	8 p.m.	Edison High School (even months) J. P. Stevens High School (odd months)
BOARD OF HEALTH (4th Wednesday)	immediately after Municipal Council	Municipal Building
HOUSING AUTHORITY (2nd Tuesday)	8 p.m.	Community Room Julius Engel Apartments Willard Dunham Drive
LIBRARY BOARD (1st Tuesday)	8 p.m.	Main Library
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (2nd & 4th Wednesday)	8 p.m.	Municipal Building
MUNICIPAL COURT	9 a.m. Monday 7 p.m. Thursday	Municipal Building
PLANNING BOARD (3rd Wednesday)	8 p.m.	Municipal Building
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (3rd Tuesday)	8 p.m.	Municipal Building

*Cover design by WILLIAM S. GIBSON, JR.*

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**1971**

**EDISON**

**NEW JERSEY**



**Know Your Township**

**League of Women Voters  
of Edison Township  
548-1544**

**\$.95 plus tax**



## Foreword

*Know Your Township, Edison, New Jersey* is presented to the public by the League of Women Voters of Edison. *Know Your Township* is a source of factual information about Edison's government, public services, and community life. The material was collected by League members through research, attendance at public meetings, and during conferences with township officials.

The League hopes readers will find the book interesting and informative, and that they will be stimulated to take a more active part in local government.

The League of Women Voters of Edison thanks the many township officials who have contributed generously of their time, advice, and knowledge of township government, in the preparation of this book. The League also wishes to acknowledge the many hours of work contributed by its members.

This edition is a revision of the League's 1954 and 1963 *Know Your Township* publications. Additional copies may be ordered by calling the League of Women Voters of Edison, 548-1544.



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### QUICK FACTS ABOUT EDISON

Incorporated:	March 17, 1870
County:	Middlesex
Area:	32 Square miles
Population (1970):	67,120
Distance to New York City:	approximately 35 miles
Form of Government:	Mayor-Council
Location of Municipal Building:	Woodbridge and Plainfield Avenues
Area Code:	201
ZIP Code:	08817
Official Newspapers:	Edison <i>Recorder</i> <i>The Home News</i> , New Brunswick <i>The News Tribune</i> , Woodbridge



### THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of all citizens in government and politics. The League is nonpartisan; it does not support or oppose any candidate or any political party. The national League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, the Edison League in 1953. Full membership is open to all women citizens of voting age.

# 1

## History and Development



Edison Township has existed as an independent municipality for over 100 years, but men have inhabited the area since prehistoric times. Stone relics, skulls and bone fragments from the Stone Age have been discovered throughout central Jersey, including the area around Piscatawaytown. The Lenni-Lenape Indians (called Delawares by European settlers) lived in settlements overlooking the Raritan River, and made a trail along it to the inlet of the Atlantic Ocean where Perth Amboy now stands.

The first European colonists in the area were Dutch, who pushed outward from New Amsterdam into the surrounding country and eventually claimed the entire area from Cape Cod to the Delaware River. In 1651, a large tract of land, from the Raritan River to the Passaic River, was deeded by the Dutch king to one Augustine Heermans.

As a result of war between England and Holland during the seventeenth century, all of New York and New Jersey were finally ceded to the English in 1674 after shifting back and forth between the two countries for almost a decade. In 1666, a grant was made to a group of English settlers for a tract of land extending from the Raritan River to the Rahway River. Two townships, named Woodbridge and Piscataqua (later Piscataway) were formed, with the dividing line running in a north-south direction through the center of what is now Edison. Middlesex County was created in 1682 by the General Assembly of East Jersey, convened at Elizabeth.

In 1681, a group of settlers bought approximately 10,000 acres of land from the Indians and established a ferry across the Raritan River near the present Albany Street bridge in New Brunswick. The ferry later became a vital link in the road from Trenton to New York, and Piscataway, located at the intersection of the river road and the ferry, became an established community. When Somerset County was created from Middlesex in 1683, Piscataway became the seat of the court for both counties.

The first church building in Edison was built in 1689 by the second Baptist Church in New Jersey, 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.

Edison's earliest public road, which is still in use, was Old Post Road; George Washington traveled along it on his way to New York City for his inauguration as president.

In 1702, New Jersey became a united royal colony under the administration of the Governor of New York, with Perth Amboy chosen as one of its capitals. As anti-crown sentiments increased during the



eighteenth century, Middlesex County was sharply divided between Loyalists and Patriots. In 1774, county committees met in New Brunswick as the first Provincial Congress, where they condemned the British Parliament for its acts against the colonists and appointed five delegates to the Continental Congress held that year.

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 recrossed by both armies as they advanced and retreated through the disputed territory.

After the Revolution, the entire area began to develop rapidly. The ferry across the Raritan was replaced by a bridge, and, in the first half of the nineteenth century, rail lines were laid through the township. Railroad stations were built at Stelton and Menlo Park in the 1870's and small villages developed around them. The township was now a prosperous farming community dotted with a few small villages, a situation which remained relatively unchanged until the Second World War.

In 1870, a group of disgruntled residents petitioned the state legislature to grant their independence from Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships. They won, and on March 17, 1870, the boundary lines were redrawn to create a new municipality: Raritan Township. The name was chosen from three proposals—Raritan, Metuchen, and Washington.

Raritan Township continued to develop, on a neighborhood basis rather than as a central community. In 1875, a building combining dwelling, store, post office and depot was built by the side of the railroad in Stelton. Until the 1950's this building served as the Stelton Railroad Station. Meanwhile, at the northern end of the township, Thomas Edison was at work in his Menlo Park laboratory where he perfected the incandescent lamp in 1879.

In 1900 the first trolley line was laid. The Lehigh Valley and Reading Railroads laid tracks in the township to provide freight service and factories began to spring up along the rail lines.

As the township developed, similar controversies to the one which precipitated the secession in 1870 arose. In 1900, the residents of what is now Metuchen, incensed over a dispute concerning capital improvements in their area, petitioned the state for a separate charter. This action left a hole in the middle of the township, depriving it of its urbanized heart, and reducing its area by three square miles.

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

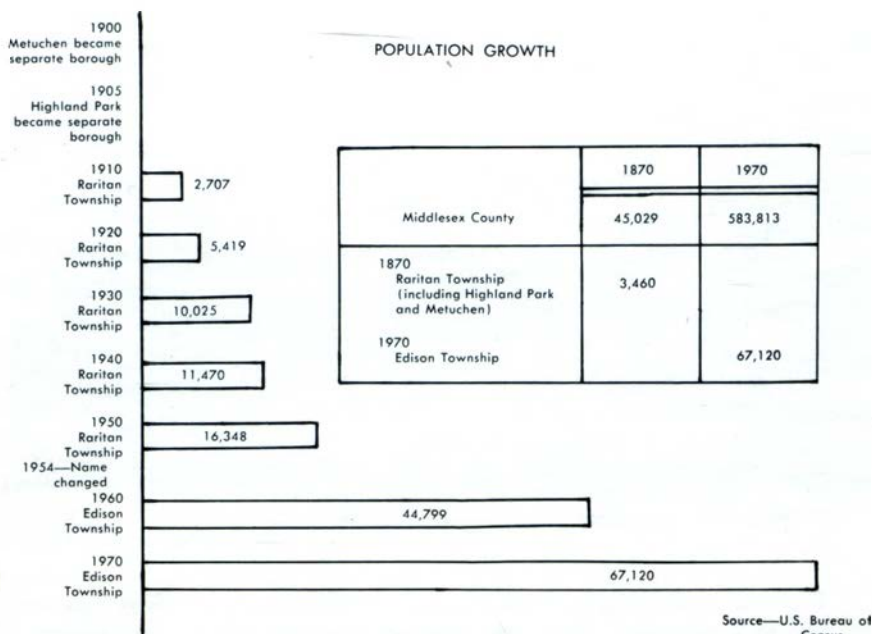
During World War I, the Federal Government bought approximately four and one half square miles from the township for use as a major munitions-producing center—Raritan Arsenal. Additional acreage was purchased by the government during World War II for the Camp Kilmer site. Both these facilities have been closed and most of the land returned to public use.

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

Because two other municipalities in New Jersey were named Raritan, the voters decided in 1954 to change the name of the township to Edison in honor of the great inventor who had worked here.

## Edison Today

Because the township developed as separate neighborhoods and villages, and because it lacks a geographical center, the sense of township unity tends to be weak. Until 1967, when the central post office was built, Edison was served by eleven post offices; it still encompasses ten telephone exchanges. Local newspaper and radio coverage emanate from three neighboring municipalities, two of which are smaller in size and population than Edison.





The township has grown tremendously in the past 50 years and several factors point to continued development. All major north-south highways in the state traverse Edison; the intersections of the New Jersey Turnpike, Interstate 287 and the Garden State Parkway provide easy access to and from the township. Middlesex County College, a junior college, is located and expanding on lands formerly part of Raritan Arsenal. A major portion of those lands is being developed as a manufacturing and warehousing center.

John F. Kennedy Hospital, located in Edison and opened in 1967, serves neighboring communities in the county, while Menlo Park shopping center provides a mart for the entire Central Jersey area.



*A large industrial park, located on part of the former Raritan Arsenal land.*

*Photo courtesy of Raritan Center*

From a rural-residential community in the 1920's, Edison has burgeoned into a major population, commercial, and industrial center. It is the second most populous municipality in the county and ranks fourth in area. A variety of industries are located here, ranging from automotive assembly to electronics, cosmetics, chemicals, machine tool and dies, plastics, textiles, building materials, consumer appliances, trucking and warehousing.

In 1920, Edison's population was 5,419; in 1970, the township's population was 67,120.



## 2 Form of Government



In New Jersey, the State Legislature has turned over great authority and powers to the municipalities. 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 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

Since its incorporation in 1870, Edison Township has had three forms of government: a Township Committee from 1870 to 1927; a Township Commission from 1927 to 1957; and the current Mayor-Council from 1958 to the present time.

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", which the voters approved at the November, 1956, general election. 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 Charter for Edison's form of government is on file with the Township Clerk in the Municipal Building.

The November, 1968, ballot contained a referendum to change to a nine-member council with six councilmen elected from wards and three councilmen elected at large. This referendum was defeated.

### The Mayor

The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the township who enforces all laws and policies. He has powers of appointment and removal of the Business Administrator and department heads with Council approval. Council may, by a two-thirds vote, override the Mayor's decision to remove a department official. With the assistance of the Business Administrator, the Mayor supervises the work of all departments.

The Mayor, with the aid of the Business Administrator, prepares the annual budget and submits it to Council for approval.

The Mayor may attend and participate in Council meetings, although he does not preside. He has no vote, except to break a tie on filling a vacancy on the Council. He may make recommendations for action in the public interest, and has veto power. He must make an annual report on the state of the municipality to Council and the public.

## The Council

The Council has the legislative and policy making power of the township and passes all the laws. Council appoints the Township Clerk, who serves as the Clerk of the Council. At Council's organizational meeting during the first week in January, Council members elect the Council president, who presides at all meetings and has a vote, but no additional powers.

The regular public meetings of the Council are held in the Municipal Building on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 p.m. Minutes of these meetings are available for inspection at the Clerk's office. Council may, by resolution, cancel one or more meetings in July or August. Special Council meetings may be called by the Mayor or at the request of any three Councilmen.

Council must approve all appointments made by the Mayor and 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.

In May, 1971, Council passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract to codify local laws, the first codification of local ordinances in the 100 year history of the township.

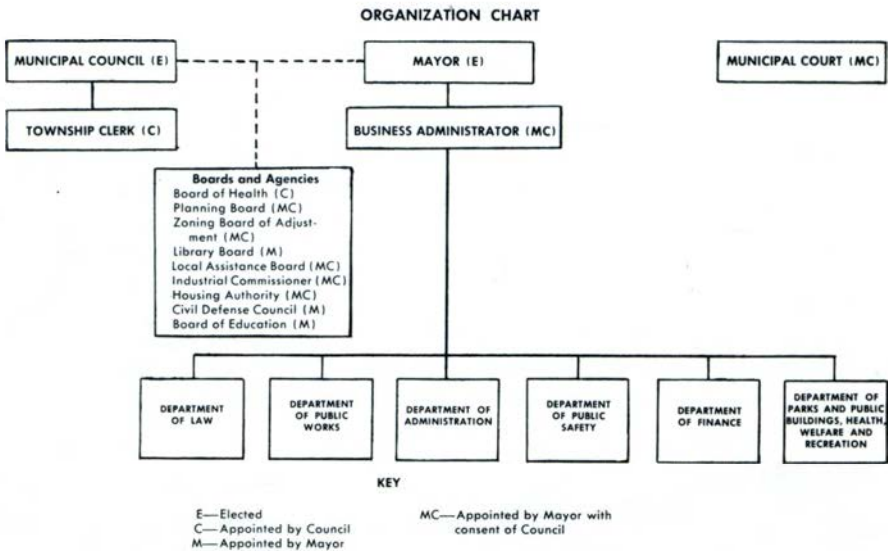


## The Township Clerk

The Township Clerk is appointed by and responsible to the Council. He is appointed for a one-year term; after five consecutive terms, tenure is automatic. 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 local government. This code established seven departments, but was amended by Council in February, 1970, to combine the Department of Parks and Public Buildings with the Department of Health, Welfare, and Recreation. Each department is headed by a director. State law and the local Administrative Code provide for certain non-departmental agencies and boards.





### 3

## 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 consent of Council, for a term of four years, on the basis of his administrative and executive experience and education.

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. The Business Administrator is the township liaison with the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs to which local governments may turn for such services as help in applying for federal grants, technical advice, and specialized training.

### Purchasing

The Business Administrator acts as the township purchasing agent and administers a centralized purchasing system. The head of each department requisitions needed items. The Business Administrator checks the funds available to a department and sends out a purchase order. Upon receipt of the items, the township pays the vendor.

With certain exceptions, bids must be received on items over \$2500. Sealed bids are submitted to the Business Administrator and opened in the presence of the department head affected. The purchase order is then awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

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

### Personnel

Council determines the need for jobs, sets salaries and working conditions and may, where permitted by New Jersey laws, recruit non-residents. The Business Administrator serves as personnel director. It is his duty to assist in the recruitment of qualified persons for township employment, prepare and maintain a job classification plan, establish and maintain a roster of all persons in the local government, establish an in-service training program and maintain a continuous study of the operation and effect of personnel methods and practices.

In Edison, department heads may hire their own employees. In 1971, the township employed 400 full-time and 190 part-time employees. The policemen and firemen on the full-time roster participate in a state-aided

and state-administered retirement plan. Other local government employees participate in a retirement plan, which is not state-aided. The New Jersey Legislature has given local government the power to adopt civil service by referendum; as of 1971 Edison has not done so. In 1959, Council passed an ordinance establishing position classification definitions and a pay-plan schedule. This schedule was last amended in 1971 to include seventeen classifications of full-time township employees. Salaries range from a minimum of \$3,100 to a maximum of \$5,800 for a Class #1 position. Employees whose salaries exceed this latter figure are termed "unclassified." 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.

### SALARIES OF SOME MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN 1971

Mayor	\$ 6,000	Part-time. Plus office expenses.
President of Council	2,200	Part-time.
Councilman	1,700	Part-time.
Business Administrator	19,500	Full-time.
Township Clerk	11,340	Full-time.
Director of Public Works	17,400	Full-time.
Township Engineer	19,500	Full-time.
Director of Finance	14,000	Full-time. Plus \$350 for serving as Custodian of School Funds.
Municipal Attorney	5,000	Part-time. Plus fees and charges.
Municipal Magistrate	8,500	Part-time.
Legal Advisors		
Planning Board	2,500	Part-time.
Zoning Board of Adjustment	4,000	Part-time.
Director of Parks, Public Property, Health, Welfare and Recreation	15,250	Full-time.
Assessor	14,560	Full-time.
Secretary, Zoning Board of Adjustment	1,900	Part-time.
Secretary, Planning Board	1,900	Part-time.
Chief of Police	19,800	Full-time.
Chief of Fire	17,000	Full-time.
Director of Public Safety	—	Mayor serves without additional compensation.
Health Officer	19,740	Full-time.

### Budget

The fiscal year of all New Jersey local governments 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 percent 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 New Jersey Division of Local Finance of the Department of Community Affairs. State law requires the budget be 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 school district and for the county government.

In May, 1971, Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with a consulting firm to make a survey of the township's needs for state and federal aid and to file grant applications for the township.



*Edison Municipal Building. The township government, Police Department, and the Municipal Court are housed here.*

Photo by L. Lybarger



## MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET

	1960 <i>Actual</i>	1970 <i>Actual</i>	1971 <i>Anticipated</i>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Surplus utilized	\$ 600,000	\$1,540,000	\$ 4,750,000
Miscellaneous anticipated revenue:			
Gross Receipts taxes	596,303	1,531,189	1,531,000
Franchise taxes	278,813	652,820	650,000
Replacement revenue—state Business	—	574,466	574,466
Personal Property Tax			
Interest on investments	26,097	333,155	250,000
Building aid allowance for schools—			
state aid	110,668	283,878	230,588
Building permits and other fees	134,076	236,682	231,000
State Sales Tax aid per capita	—	185,960	184,754
Municipal disposal area fees	—	146,386	146,000
Other miscellaneous anticipated			
revenues	147,779	382,748	376,910
Capital surplus	—	200,000	—
Free cash in tax title liquidation account	170,000	—	—
Receipts from delinquent taxes	128,094	276,593	252,000
Amount to be raised by taxes for support			
of municipal budget including reserve			
for uncollected taxes and addition to			
local school district tax	1,545,202	3,292,449	8,846,563
<b>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$3,737,032</b>	<b>\$9,636,326</b>	<b>\$18,023,281*</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Office of the Mayor	\$ 10,542	\$ 8,034	\$ 13,650
Municipal Council	10,142	14,233	14,875
Office of the Township Clerk	21,308	31,923	56,742
Department of Administration	21,975	45,030	51,850
Department of Law	19,582	19,349	22,000
Department of Finance	201,354	425,143	562,158
Planning Board and Zoning Board of			
Adjustment	15,545	19,633	21,275
Department of Parks, Public Buildings,			
Health, Welfare and Recreation	316,195	750,219	873,007
Free Public Library	23,005	114,787	235,761
Department of Public Safety	673,071	2,118,269	2,635,518
Department of Public Works	645,407	1,291,431	1,574,414
Contingent	350	—	1,000
Capital Improvements	228,534	318,940	1,300,922
Municipal Debt Service	204,672	583,389	662,586
Deferred Charges	—	154,286	55,679
Local School District Tax Deferred	—	—	6,326,262
Statutory Expenditures	99,707	405,903	416,000
Judgments	—	25,000	—
Local School District Debt Service	458,689	1,519,050	1,546,222
Local School Emergency Authorization	—	—	605,000
Reserve for uncollected taxes	299,995	734,646	1,048,360
<b>TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$3,250,073</b>	<b>\$8,579,265</b>	<b>\$18,023,281*</b>

\*See Note B page 21.

## 4

# Department of Finance

The Department of Finance is organized into six divisions:

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

The Department of Finance is administered by the Director of Finance, who is the township's chief financial officer. State law does not set any qualifications for finance directors, but Edison's Administrative Code requires training or experience in governmental finance and fiscal management.

The Finance Director is responsible for all financial activities other than those which are the responsibility of the Business Administrator: budget preparation and administration of purchasing. The Finance Director 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 management of the township debt; for development of fiscal policy for recommendation to the Mayor; and for safeguarding the township's financial interests. Edison's current Director of Finance is also serving as municipal Treasurer and Custodian of School Funds.

### Division of Accounts and Control

This division is headed by a Supervisor of Accounts, who is responsible for the operation of the computer system that has replaced former manual and accounting machine methods. The computer is a leased IBM 360. Edison was one of the first municipalities in New Jersey to install a sophisticated computer and to use a Management Information System. The computer is used by the school district, police, and Township Engineer, in addition to the divisions of the Department of Finance.

The Division of Accounts and Control maintains the central books of accounts and disbursements, controls budgetary expenditures, and maintains a central payroll system, including keeping Social Security, pension, and insurance records.

### Division of Custody and Disbursement

This division is headed by the municipal Treasurer, currently one of the responsibilities of the Director of Finance. He has charge of the receipt, custody, deposit and disbursement of township funds. The division renders regular accounting of cash receipts and disbursements; deposits



funds in designated banks; has custody of investments and safekeeping of bonds and notes.

By virtue of his appointment as Custodian of School Funds, the Treasurer is also responsible for the safekeeping of the township's school district monies.

### *The Budgets*

Edison monies support three budgets: the municipal services budget, the local school district budget, and part of the county services budget. The Edison *municipal services budget* is prepared by the Mayor and the Business Administrator, approved by the state Division of Local Finance, and adopted by the Municipal Council after a public hearing. This budget includes expenditures for salaries and expenses of the local elected and appointed officials, administration, court, police, fire, recreation, health, libraries, public works and for payment of principal and interest on bonds for municipal improvements and for the school debt. The municipal services budget is supported in part by local miscellaneous revenue such as: fees for building permits, tax searches, disposal area use, and trailer courts; municipal court fines; alcoholic beverage and other licenses; interest on investments and property sales. State and federal aid includes road and health aid and sharing of some state tax revenues such as: sales, motor fuel, franchise, and gross receipts taxes. Monies appropriated from surplus and current property tax revenues for municipal services are also used to balance this budget. See "Department of Administration" chapter for details.

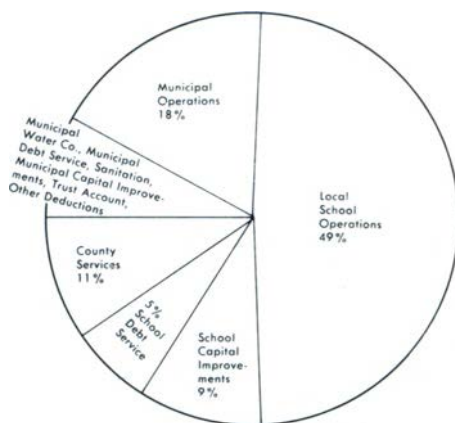
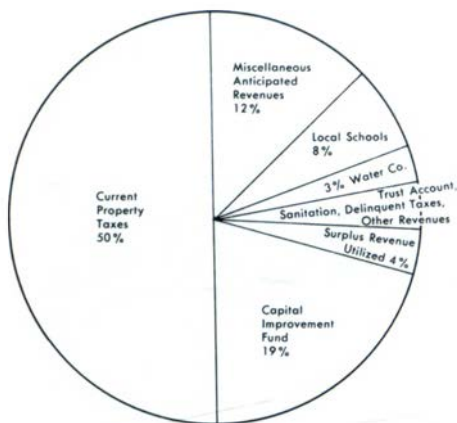
The Edison *school district budget* is prepared by the Board of Education and adopted by the local Board of School Estimate after a public hearing. This budget includes expenditures for teachers' salaries, administration, school supplies, and maintenance of buildings.

The school budget is supported by federal and state aid to education and the large part of the local property tax earmarked for schools. Funds to operate the school district must be paid in full by the municipality in approximately equal monthly installments. See "Schools" chapter for details.

The *county budget* is prepared by the county Budget Director, approved by the state Division of Local Finance, and adopted by the county Board of Chosen Freeholders after a public hearing in New Brunswick. The county budget provides for such services as health and welfare, highways and bridges, justice, vocational schools and the county college and parks. The county's miscellaneous revenues include sharing of certain state taxes, fees collected at county offices and clinics, and state aid primarily for welfare, highways and hospitals. The bulk of county revenue comes from part of the local property tax. In most states, counties collect their taxes directly from individuals; in New Jersey, however, the municipalities collect the county tax. The county's Board of Taxation is responsible for the fair apportionment of the county's tax burden among the 25 municipalities, on the basis of the true or adjusted value of the real property. Each municipality bills the local property owner for his share of the county tax. The county tax must be paid in full to the county by each municipality.



# COMBINED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF MUNICIPAL BUDGETS AND LOCAL SCHOOL BUDGETS EDISON, N.J. 1970



## 1970 REVENUES

\$ 1,540,000	Surplus revenue utilized
4,527,000	Miscellaneous anticipated revenues (eg: NJ Gross Receipts Tax, Franchise Tax, Business Personal Property Tax Replacement, interest on investments, fees and permits)
277,000	Delinquent tax receipts
18,914,000	Current Property Taxes
132,000	Other Revenues (eg: vital statistics, library fines, state aid-planning program, police reports)
735,000	Trust Account (eg: assessments for improvements, dog license fees)
1,080,000	Municipal Water Company
600,000	Sanitation
7,280,000	Capital Improvement Fund (includes school construction funds)
3,148,000	Local Schools (eg: state aid, tuition, interest on investments of school funds)
<b>\$38,233,000</b>	

## 1970 EXPENDITURES

\$ 5,579,000	Municipal Operations
500,000	Municipal Capital Improvements
583,000	Municipal debt service
3,526,000	County Services
93,000	Other deductions
465,000	Trust Account
700,000	Municipal Water Company
556,000	Sanitation
1,519,000	School Debt Service
15,401,000	Local schools operation
2,857,000	Schools Capital Improvements
<b>\$31,779,000</b>	



*Department of Finance gets help from summer employee.*

Photo by George Molnar, The News Tribune

## **Municipal and School Debts**

State law limits the municipal debt for capital improvements to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the equalized value of the real property of the township, as averaged over the past three years. This debt limit may be exceeded only with the consent of the Division of Local Finance of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Edison's municipal debt in 1971 is \$10 million, which is about one-half of the township's debt limit.

Before an ordinance authorizing the sale of bonds can be adopted by the Municipal Council, it must be advertised and a public hearing held. Of the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County, Edison had the only A-1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service in 1971. Standard and Poor's gave Edison an A rating in the same year.

The school debt is considered a municipal obligation, and an item for school debt is included in the municipal services budget. State law provides that a school debt may not exceed 4 percent of the total equalized valuation of the township real estate as averaged over the last three years, except with the consent of the state Commissioner of Education and the state Division of Local Finance, and until it is submitted and approved at a public referendum. The current school debt is about \$23 million, which is slightly over the limit; however the difference is absorbed by Edison's municipal borrowing power.



## Division of Assessments

In 1963, the township's Administrative Code was amended to replace the part-time Board of Tax Assessors with a full-time Assessor who is head of the Division of Assessments. The Tax Assessor is permitted two Assistant Assessors, and as of 1971, he had one Assistant Assessor, a clerical staff and a field investigator. The Tax Assessor and Assistant Assessor are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council. The Tax Assessor's term is concurrent with the Mayor's. Municipal tax assessors, who formerly had to meet no qualifications at all, are now required by state law to attend courses or pass an exam covering the same material. Assessors certified in this manner who serve for four years have tenure. Edison's present Tax Assessor has tenure.

The Division of Assessments assigns a value to real property in Edison for tax and assessment purposes; prepares the tax lists; maintains adequate assessment records for each parcel of real property; has custody of an up-to-date tax map; and makes appraisals for any township purpose.

### *The Board of Assessments for Local Improvements*

This Board is appointed by the Municipal Council when necessary for assessment for local improvements such as sidewalks, curbs, gutters and sewers, which will be paid for by the benefiting property owners. The board consists of three members who function according to state law and determine how much each property owner will be assessed for a particular improvement. The 1971 dedicated assessment budget is \$180,000; in 1960 it was \$95,000.

### *Assessment Practices*

Each piece of real property in the township is assigned a value for tax purposes by the Tax Assessor. Assessments are made on land and on improvements or buildings on each parcel of land. There are provisions for appeal. Property was revalued in 1963 and in 1971 by professional reappraisal firms. The target ratio of assessed value to true value for this county is now 50 percent. The following classes of property are tax-exempt: federal, state, county, municipal, school, church, cemetery, and veterans' buildings. State law allows qualified veterans, widows of veterans, and senior citizens exemptions on their property tax bills. Application for tax exemptions may be made at the Tax Assessor's office.

### REAL PROPERTY ASSESSED VALUE, EDISON 1971

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Assessed Value</i>	<i>Distribution</i>
Residential	\$142,404,975	56.8%
Industrial	59,001,739	23.5
Commercial	27,348,360	10.9
Apartments	15,606,450	6.2
Vacant	6,332,825	2.5
Farm	225,148	.1
	<hr/> \$250,919,497	<hr/> 100.0%

### *Tax Rate*

The Tax Assessor calculates the tax rate on real property by dividing



the net ratables of the township by the budgets' requirements for property tax revenues. The tax rate is expressed as the percentage each taxpayer will pay per \$100 of the assessed valuation of his property.

### Division of Tax Collection

The Tax Collector is head of this division. He prepares and mails property tax bills and maintains tax accounting records, computes water and sewer charges for the Department of Public Works, collects the tax monies, and conducts property tax sales. A property owner receives one property tax bill which includes taxes for four distinct purposes: municipal services, county services, local schools and monies to cover the deductions for senior citizens and veterans. In municipal garbage collection districts, there is an additional tax to support this service included in the property tax bill. Edison has achieved a 98 percent rate of tax collection each year since 1965.

### PROPERTY TAX RATES, EDISON, N.J.

	1960	1965	1970	1971
School	5.96 (61.9%)	3.06 (65.8%)	5.59 (72.1%)	3.61 (44.1%) (B)
County	2.00 (20.8%)	.96 (20.6%)	1.44 (18.6%)	1.72 (21.0%)
Municipal	1.66 (17.3%)	.46 ( 9.9%)	.58 ( 7.5%)	2.72 (33.3%) (B)
Exemptions (C)	—	.17 ( 3.7%)	.14 ( 1.8%)	.13 ( 1.6%)
	<u>9.62</u>	<u>4.65</u>	<u>7.75</u>	<u>8.18</u>
Municipal Garbage collection	.14	.24	.33	.35

### SAMPLE TAX BILLS, EDISON, N.J.

for \$30,000 homes purchased in each of the years listed

	1960	1965	1970	1971
Sales Ratio (A)	25%	50%	50%	50%
School	\$447.00	\$459.00	\$ 838.50	\$ 541.50
County	150.00	144.00	216.00	258.00
Municipal	124.50	69.00	87.00	408.00
Exemptions (C)	—	25.50	21.00	19.50
	<u>\$721.50</u>	<u>\$697.50</u>	<u>\$1162.50</u>	<u>\$1227.00</u>
Garbage (if applicable)	30.75	36.00	49.50	51.50

#### NOTES:

(A) Prior to 1965, the sales ratio (assessed value as a per cent of true value) was 25 percent. In 1965, the county ordered a 50 percent sales ratio for all the municipalities in the county.

(B) To minimize the 1971 tax increase, the Municipal Council effected a complex change in fiscal policy, switching support of the school budget from a fiscal year starting July 1, to a fiscal year starting January 1. This redistributed reserve funds, temporarily changing the per cent of tax dollars assigned to schools and municipal services.

(C) Exemptions were introduced as part of the breakdown of tax rates by the county Tax Board in 1964. Exemption tax is to replace monies deducted from the tax bills of qualified veterans and senior citizens.

## **Division of Licenses and Permits**

This division, headed by the Supervisor of Licenses, processes all applications for licenses and permits, except those which are handled by the Board of Health and the Township Clerk as defined by state law. See "Helpful Information."

## **Division of Real Estate**

The Supervisor of Real Estate is head of this division which is responsible for the management and sale of all township-owned property, and property acquired by foreclosure for non-payment of taxes. 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. The township must foreclose if not redeemed within the two years. If the property is needed for municipal use, the township may retain it, or if not needed, it may be sold. When a reasonable bid is made, the property is put up for public auction and sold to the highest bidder.



5

## Department of Public Safety



• Fire Houses

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

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### *Administration and Organization*

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, under the direct control of the Mayor. The Division is administered by the Chief of Police, who is appointed from the ranks by the Mayor and approved by the Municipal Council.

Within the Division of Police there are four major Bureaus: Uniform, Detective, Juvenile and Traffic. Each of these Bureaus is headed by a captain.

#### *Personnel*

The Division of Police consists of over 100 policemen and one part-time policewoman. Police appointments are made by the Director of Public Safety, after recommendation by the Chief of Police. The state sets basic physical requirements. Applicants must be between 21-30, at least 5'8", and able to pass a physical examination. A high school diploma is mandatory in Edison Township. All police are trained for a period of six weeks at the State Police Academy in Sea Girt or at the Middlesex County Police Training Center. Edison also has a trained volunteer Auxiliary Police Corps.

Following a probationary period, state law decrees that tenure is automatic upon permanent appointment. Policemen are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service and at the age of 51, and are included in a state pension plan. All promotions within the department are made by the Mayor on the basis of seniority and merit.

There are on-going in-service training programs at the local, state, and federal levels. Edison's tactical squad, the first in the county, now consists of over 60 men. A \$30,000 grant from the Federal Government for a Narcotics Bureau was approved for Edison in 1971. Police are sent for further training to schools such as the FBI Academy and traffic institutes.

#### *Duties*

The major duties of the department include crime prevention and detection, law enforcement, traffic regulation, and drug prevention. The de-



partment cooperates with the County, State and Federal Police. A teletype machine and monthly and annual reports facilitate communication. The Police Department assists the schools in safety education. School crossings are patrolled by over 60 school guards, and by uniformed men at main highway crossings. Policemen present programs to PTAs, service clubs, and students, on crime and drug prevention.

### *Equipment*

There are over 20 fully equipped cars and one traffic truck in Edison; the truck is used for the maintenance of traffic equipment. In addition, a specially designed truck, containing fingerprinting, photographic, and clerical equipment, is utilized by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The marked police cars are equipped with three-way radios, sirens, flashers, first-aid kits and flares. The police have gas guns, a Thompson sub-machine gun and riotguns at their disposal. Each policeman carries a pistol and handcuffs, and can obtain leg cuffs and restraining jackets.

### *Jail*

There are six jail cells in the basement of the Municipal Building including two for women. These 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 Center. 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, and 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 percent 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*

Under the Administrative Code, fire protection is incorporated into the functions of the municipal government, under the direction of the Chief of Fire. The Chief is appointed by the Mayor, approved by the Municipal Council, and is responsible to the Mayor, who acts as Director of Public Safety.



*Edison Fire Department brings a serious blaze under control.*

Photo by George Molnar, The News Tribune

### *Organization*

The Chief 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 Marshal, and is responsible for the strict enforcement of all laws and regulations relating to fire prevention. The Chief is assisted by a Duty Captain and a Captain who heads the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Edison Township has both paid and volunteer firemen. There are approximately 70 paid firemen and 180 volunteers.

There are six fire houses in Edison Township, within five fire precincts, located in the following areas:

Precinct 1—Raritan Engine Company #1—Plainfield Avenue  
Raritan Engine Company #1—Route 27 and  
Langstaff Avenue

Precinct 2—Edison Volunteer Fire Company #1—Route 27  
near Parsonage Road

Precinct 3—Raritan Engine Company #2—Amboy Avenue

Precinct 4—H.K. Volunteer Fire Company #1—840 New Dover  
Road

Precinct 5—Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Company #1—1 Beverly Street



The head of each fire precinct is the chief of the individual volunteer fire department. He acts as assistant to the Chief of Fire, and is responsible for fire-fighting within his precinct.

### *Personnel*

Volunteer firemen must be citizens, residents of the township, between the ages of 21-40, and able to pass a physical examination. The head of each precinct is responsible for setting other qualifications and for training requirements.

Paid firemen must be citizens, between the ages of 21-35, able to pass an extensive physical examination, and must qualify for the New Jersey State Pension Fund. Every paid fireman comes from the volunteer ranks. A broad educational and experiential background is preferred. The present chief encourages continuing study, for which the firemen are reimbursed.

Every fireman, paid and volunteer, is given a training course in all phases of fire protection. There is an eight-week initial training period and a six month probationary period for paid firemen. In-service programs are frequent and mandatory, and drills are held periodically. Paid firemen work 42 hours a week, on an eight-week cycle. There are 17 paid firemen on duty at all times.

There are promotion and pension plans for paid firemen, who attain tenure after the probationary period, and who are eligible for retirement after 25 years in the department.

The Chief of Fire is selected from the ranks, on the basis of administrative and educational background and fire fighting experience.

### *Equipment*

There are 20 pieces of modern equipment, including 12 pumpers. The water capacity of Edison Township exceeds the minimum requirements of the American Insurance Association.

### *Functions*

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for a comprehensive fire inspection program, concentrating on mercantile establishments, garden apartments, and industries. The Bureau also provides in-service training programs at all township hospitals and nursing homes, speakers for schools and service clubs, and decals to designate the homes of invalids. The department also dispatches ambulance calls.

The Division of Fire is responsible for 32 square miles, including ten miles of the N. J. Turnpike and ten miles of Route 287. It responded to over 1100 fire alarms in 1970. In addition to being responsible for Edison Township, the Division of Fire also has a mutual aid policy with all surrounding municipalities, and is often called upon for assistance.



## 6

# Department of Law and the Municipal Court



### Department of Law

The Department of Law is headed by the Township Attorney; his title in the local Administrative Code is "Director of Law." All matters which are legal in nature are directed to him, and he represents the township in litigation, administrative proceedings, and various other legal matters. He is also legal advisor to the Mayor, Council, and department heads on all municipal matters.

His duties include: attendance at Council meetings, drafting of new ordinances, amendments to ordinances, resolutions, deeds and other legal documents. The Township Attorney is appointed by the Mayor for a four-year term. His annual retainer is \$5,000 and he is paid additional fees for specific matters.

The Municipal Prosecutor is also in the Department of Law, under the supervision of the Director. The local Prosecutor's duties are confined to the presentation of cases on behalf of the State, municipality or complainant in the Municipal Court.

### Municipal Court

Edison Township's Municipal Court is the local 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. The court is regulated by a state statute passed in 1947, after New Jersey adopted the new State Constitution, which 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 requires that a magistrate be a lawyer but need not be a resident of the municipality. However, he cannot appear before another magistrate as a 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.

Edison has a part-time magistrate, appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council for a three-year term. Court convenes at the Municipal Building on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings.

The Clerk of the Court is appointed by the Mayor for a period of one year.



## 7

# Department of Public Works

This department is responsible for the township's roads, sewers, water, sanitation, building inspection and plumbing inspection. In addition, it runs a sanitary landfill operation, the municipal garage, and an engineering office. The Director of Public Works, whose term is concurrent with that of the Mayor, heads a staff including nine division supervisors.

### Roads

Edison Township has a total of 267.4 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 227.1 miles to be maintained by the township. Slightly more than 85 percent of township roads (188.6 miles) are improved roads.

The road department is responsible for maintenance of all existing roads. This includes snow removal, repairs, and necessary improvements. The township owns graders, rollers, trucks and snow plows for this purpose.

New road construction is submitted to private contractors on a bid basis. However, the Department of Public Works, through the Township Engineer's office, sets specifications for new road construction, width of streets, sidewalks, curbing and parking. 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. The amount currently received is \$20,871.

### Sewers

About 70 percent of the geographical area of Edison Township and 75 percent of its population are served by storm and sanitary sewers. The installation of sewers is paid partially by 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. The township owns and operates 14 pumping stations to pump the sewage into the Authority lines.

By 1976, three main trunk lines will be funded and built at an esti-



mated cost of \$7,620,000. Application has been made for federal aid totaling approximately \$3 million to help defray township costs.

## **Water**

The water department is divided into two sections: water accounting, which keeps all records on water consumption; and water generating and distribution, which is responsible for the physical operation.

The township water department, The Edison Water Company, serves about one-third of the area and one-half of the population of Edison. 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. The main source of water is the Elizabethtown Water Company, with the township's system of wells as a secondary source. All expenses of running the water department are paid by the users, with no revenue being taken from the general tax funds.

Municipal water utility revenues were \$464,186 in 1960, \$848,068 in 1970. Expenditures in 1960 were \$358,962; in 1970, expenditures were \$701,167.

Residents of areas not served by the municipal water department purchase water directly from the Elizabethtown Water Company or the Middlesex Water Company. Rates are set by the Public Utility Commission.

## **Gas, Telephone and Electric**

These utilities are under the direct control of the Public Utility Commission.

New Jersey Bell supplies telephone service to Edison Township and Public Service Company supplies electricity. Gas is provided by Elizabethtown Gas Company and Public Service Company.

## **Sanitation**

The sanitation division is responsible for street cleaning, and refuse and garbage collection.

About one-half of the area and two-thirds of the population is included in the municipal garbage district. All costs of operation of the garbage district are borne by the users. Other areas of the township are served by private scavengers and are paid for by the users. Garbage must be collected at least twice a week.

The sanitary landfill program was initiated in 1959. The program was devised to facilitate the eventual reclamation of the meadow lands along the Raritan River. In addition to burying in these meadow lands all the refuse collected by the sanitation department, the township has contracts with the Borough of Metuchen and the City of Perth Amboy for use of the sanitary landfill. Private scavengers may dispose of their garbage at a fee; township residents may use the area free of charge. The area is open weekdays and Saturdays throughout the year, and is located on Meadow Road.

The Municipal Garage is located on New Durham Road. All maintenance and repairs on all township vehicles are done here.



A junk car ordinance, passed in May, 1970, deals with the disposal of abandoned cars and provides fines and penalties for violations. The department supplies names of operators who will pick up abandoned cars from private or public places at no cost.



*The Edison Municipal Garage. Residents may bring glass for recycling to the bins located here.*

Photo by Edison Detective Bureau

A glass recycling program, started in 1971, will be expanded or changed as needed. The township plans a program for collection and disposal of newspapers.

### **Engineering and Inspection**

The Township Engineer is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council. He must be qualified by training and experience and licensed in the state of New Jersey.

The Township Engineer's office does all engineering for the township, including designs for improvements and property surveys of township lands. The Division of Engineering 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 improvements to insure that specifications are met, and maintains maps of the township. All physical changes in the township must receive the approval of the Engineer's office.

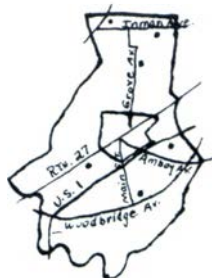
Inspection of new building in Edison is carried out by the Building Inspector, the Plumbing Inspector and their staff. Edison has its own Plumbing Code. Electrical inspection is handled by the state, since Edison Township uses the state code. The township uses the Building Officials Conference of America code which is revised annually and 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.

Safe-and-sanitary conditions and density are regulated and enforced by the Board of Health.



8

## Department of Parks and Public Buildings, Health, Welfare and Recreation



• Township playgrounds  
and parks not on school  
grounds

Originally organized as two separate departments, the Department of Parks and Public Buildings and the Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation were combined in February, 1970, under one Director.

### Public Buildings

The public buildings for which this department is responsible include the Municipal Building, the firehouses, the libraries, the Health Center, the Animal Shelter, and Old Town Hall, which clubs may use for meetings. The present Municipal Building was completed in 1954. Application has been made to the federal government to purchase over six acres of former Camp Kilmer land, for the site of a future municipal complex. The Municipal Garage is maintained by the Department of Public Works.

### Edison Parks and Playgrounds

The township maintains 35 playgrounds under the supervision of the Recreation Department. Some of these playgrounds are located on public school or parochial school grounds, and are in full operation for eight weeks during the summer. A program of events may be obtained from the Department of Recreation or the schools.

In 1970, the Council authorized funds to acquire land for two small parks, about eight acres on Winter Street, and nine acres on Vineyard Road. Woodland Park, on Grove Avenue north of Oak Tree Road, was deeded to the township by a developer of homes in the area. The local Planning Board has recommended that 60 acres off Central Avenue, now zoned light industrial, be rezoned parkland. Application has been made to the federal government to acquire these 60 acres, formerly Camp Kilmer land, for the site of a future township park and recreation area. The department built and maintains a boat dock at the foot of Meadow Road on the Raritan River. The dock is available to township residents. A license for its use is available at the Municipal Building.

Another service provided by this department is the care of trees, grass and shrubbery located on public property. In addition to planting trees on public property, the department sells trees at reduced cost to residents of Edison Township.

### Other Recreational Facilities

Roosevelt Park, a 208 acre county park, is located within Edison, off Route 1 between Parsonage Road and Grandview Avenue. The facilities



of the park, including play equipment, lake, stadium, tennis courts, and picnic equipment, are available to township residents. The county sponsors a wide variety of activities in the park, including plays and concerts during the summer and ice-skating and sledding in the winter. The Kiddie-Keep-Well Camp, Scout areas, Roosevelt Hospital and the Cerebral Palsy Center are also located there.

The state maintains a 30 acre park and a small museum at Edison Tower off Route 27 on Christie Street. Admission is charged to visit the museum. The grounds, however, are not available for recreation or picnics.

Two private country clubs with golf courses and many private swim clubs are located in the township.

## **Division of Recreation**

The Division of Recreation, located at 2965 Woodbridge Avenue, is responsible for a year-round program of recreational activities for residents. The division has the powers and duties of a Board of Recreation Commissioners as authorized by state law.

### *Personnel*

The division is headed by the Supervisor of Recreation. His staff includes assistant supervisors, a summer supervisor, playground supervisors, playground instructors, a clerk, a handicraft worker and a special events worker.

### *Summer Playground Program*

Edison Township operates 35 playgrounds for eight weeks during the summer. Their hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Each playground has a supervisor assisted by other personnel, according to the size of the playground. Activities include baseball, softball, 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 five all-purpose courts. In addition, the division sponsors trips to professional sport events and other places of interest. In 1970, a total of 5,000 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, a senior league for boys 16-21; basketball divisions for boys 10-15, a senior division age 15-21, a men's division, a division for junior and senior high school girls; a Pop Warner Football League consisting of five teams; women's, girls', men's and junior softball leagues, and a bowling league.

The division also sponsors a student theater workshop, which presents children's plays, a golf tournament, a ham radio club and a model airplane club, fencing instruction, adult classes in ceramics, leather and copper tooling, bridge and other fields according to interest shown, and two senior citizens groups.

An all-purpose court suitable for tennis, basketball, volleyball, and ice-skating, is located on Woodbridge Avenue behind the Recreation Division Building. Other ice-skating facilities are located at Hilltop Play-



## Elections

**General Election** First Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Elections for national, state, county, and local officials and referenda on public questions are held at the November election. The only municipal officials elected in Edison are the Mayor and seven Councilmen, all elected at large. They are elected in the odd-numbered years, for four-year terms. The Mayor and three Councilmen are elected at one election, and the other four Councilmen at the General Election two years later.

**Primary Election** Generally first Tuesday after first Monday in June. The Primary is an election to:

- nominate party candidates to be on the General Election ballot,
- elect county committeemen and committeewomen from their respective election districts,
- elect state committee members in gubernatorial years,
- elect delegates and alternates to the national party conventions in Presidential years.

Only the Republican and Democratic parties participate in the New Jersey Primary Election, which is a "closed" Primary. Minor party and independent candidates do not take part in the Primary; however, to appear on the General Election ballot, they must file petitions before the Primary Election deadline.

In Edison, party candidates for Mayor and Council are nominated at the Primary Election. Edison's party candidates are placed on the primary ballot after they file petitions with the Township Clerk, 40 days before the Primary Election. Petitions must be signed by registered voters of Edison, in numbers equal to at least one-half of one percent 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 each party's Primary Election are placed on the ballot for the General Election, as the official party candidates. Local independent candidates' petitions must be filed with the County Clerk 40 days before the Primary Election. Their petitions must also be signed by registered voters of Edison, in numbers equal to at least one-half of one percent of the votes cast at the last General Election.

*To vote in the Primary Election*, the voter designates, at the polls, the political party in whose Primary he wishes to vote. He is thereafter considered a member of that party and may not vote in the Primary Election of the other party until he has refrained from voting in two successive Primary Elections.

### REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTES CAST, EDISON, N.J.

Year	Type of Election	Votes Cast	Registered Voters	Percent Turnout
1968	Presidential	25,951	30,220	85%
1969	Local and Gubernatorial	22,511	30,530	73%
1970	Congressional	19,736	29,623	66%
1971	New Jersey Legislative and local		31,257	

# Voter Registration

Registration is required in order to vote in New Jersey.

To register a prospective voter must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- who, at the time he applies
- resides in the district in which he expects to vote
- who will, at the time of the next ensuing election,
- be 18 years old or more,
- have resided in New Jersey for six months,
- in the county for 40 days

(except for federal elections, when the residency requirement is 30 days) and who is not an idiot nor insane nor disqualified as a criminal.

Note: Attendance at a college, confinement to a hospital, institution or jail, or military assignment do not in themselves establish residence.

*How to register:* In person, at  
the Middlesex County Board of Elections,  
313 State Street, Perth Amboy  
or County Administration Building, New Brunswick  
the Office of the Township Clerk, Municipal Building, Edison  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Special evening hours for registration are held just prior to the 40 day period preceding an election.

To register, the prospective voter signs a registration form, or makes a mark.

If physically incapacitated, write the County Board of Elections, enclosing a doctor's affidavit.

Naturalized citizens must present their naturalization papers when they register to vote.

No declaration of party preference is made at the time of registration.

*When to register* A prospective voter may register at any time of the year during office hours; however, in order to vote in a specific election, the prospective voter must be registered at least 40 days prior to that election or 30 days in the case of a federal election.

Registration in New Jersey is permanent, but a voter must *Re-Register* if he:

- failed to vote at any election during four consecutive years,
- moved to another county,
- changed name by marriage, divorce, court decree
- (If in the 39-day period before an election, may vote in that election by signing both names.)
- was disqualified as a criminal.

*Moving within the county* Voter must notify the Township Clerk or the County Board of Elections on the form provided.

(If in the 39-day period before an election, he may vote in former election district in that election by signing an affidavit concerning residence.)



# Voting

Voting is in person, unless qualified for an absentee ballot. A sample ballot is mailed to all registered voters eight days before Primary and General Elections, giving polling place, hours, instructions for the use of the voting machine, and listing the candidates for each office and the public questions. Position of names and parties on the ballot is established by drawing lots. There is space on the voting machine for "write-in" vote.

**Absentee Ballots** Apply for absentee ballots not less than eight days (seven days for presidential elections) before the election, in person or by mail to the County Clerk. The deadline for Military Absentee Ballots may be waived. State serial number (if applicable), home address, address to which ballot should be sent, and reason for request. Sign with same signature used at polls. Ballot and instructions are mailed to the voter. Absentee ballots must reach the County Election Board by the close of Election Day. **NO ONE RECEIVING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT SHALL BE PERMITTED TO VOTE AT HIS POLLING PLACE.**

**Civilian Absentee Ballot** A registered voter may apply for a Civilian Absentee Ballot if voter is:

- to be out of the state on Election Day,
- physically incapacitated (including blindness or pregnancy),
- observing a religious holiday,
- a student residing at school.

Residents who have requested the Post Office to redirect mail to another address during the time of mailing sample ballots, should inform the County Board of Elections because sample ballots cannot be forwarded.

**Military Service Ballot** This absentee ballot may be used, whether registered or not, if you are qualified to vote and are:

- a person in the military service or his spouse or dependent,
- a patient in a veterans' hospital,
- a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces out of this state or his spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying him.

A friend or relative may make application for you by applying to the County Clerk. Ballot and instructions are mailed to the voter.

**Presidential Ballot** A registered voter moving from the state or to another county may use an Absentee Presidential Ballot to vote at his former address for President and Vice-President **ONLY**, if unable to establish residence requirements at his new address.

**New Resident's Presidential Ballot** A new resident of New Jersey, meeting all requirements for voting except the six-month residence by the time of the election, may use a New Resident's Presidential Ballot to vote **ONLY** for President and Vice-President. An affidavit of residence must be filed with the County Clerk or Township Clerk at least 30 days prior to election, at which time the voter receives an application for the ballot. Voting in subsequent elections requires permanent registration.



## Administration of Elections

**District Board of Elections** Four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, for each election district, are appointed by the County Election Board upon recommendation of the municipal party committee for a term of one year. Members of the District Election Board are not required to live in the district where they serve. The District Board of Elections conducts the elections at the polling place. In 1971, there were 49 election districts in Edison. Between 500 and 600 registered voters should reside in each election district. The Municipal Council establishes the boundaries of the election districts, after recommendation by the Township Clerk. The Township Clerk is the chief Elections Officer for Edison Township.

**County Board of Elections** Two Democrats and two Republicans are appointed by the Governor upon nomination by party officials, for two-year terms. The County Election Board sets up the machinery for voting and is responsible for the administration of the elections and has the authority to settle controversial questions connected with elections. The County Clerk, elected for a five-year term, assists in the administration of elections.

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVERNMENT

<i>VOTING ADDRESS</i>	<i>REPRESENTATIVES</i>	
	<i>Government</i>	<i>Political Party</i>
Local Election District		committeeman committeewoman
Edison	Mayor seven Councilmen	Municipal Party Committee
Middlesex County	seven Freeholders	County Party Committee
New Jersey 7 B State Assembly District	two Assemblymen from district and one at-large from County	State Party Committee one committeeman and one committee- woman from each county
7th State Senatorial District	three State Senators Governor	
United States 15th Congressional District	one member of House of Representatives two United States Senators	National Party Committee one committeeman and one committee- woman representing the state party organization
	President and Vice-President	National Party Conven- tion—delegates and alternates elected at the Primary.



*Children participating in the summer recreation program at Hilltop playground take time out to pose for a picture.*

Photo courtesy of Edison Recreation Department

ground on Grandview Avenue, at the playground at Marshall School, at Hi Woods Playground on West Grant Avenue, and opposite Edison High School.

Classroom gyms, and cafeterias at the junior high schools are open Wednesday evenings for teen social and recreational activities.

### **Division of Health**

The Divisions of Health and Welfare occupy the Edison Health Center, 80 Idlewild Road.

The executive official of the Division of Health is the municipal Health Officer who 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. In January of 1970, the Metuchen Board of Health affiliated with the Edison Division of Health, making all services available to the residents of both communities.

### **Board of Health**

State law requires every municipality to have a Board of Health. The Edison Board of Health is comprised of the seven members of the Municipal Council. State law directs local boards to enforce the state sanitary code, and enact ordinances and prescribe penalties necessary for the protection, preservation, and promotion of the public health. The Board of Health meets the 4th Wednesday evening of the month in the Municipal Building, immediately following the meeting of the Municipal Council.



### *Edison Health Code*

In 1961 the Edison Board of Health passed a comprehensive health code. 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. In 1970, the Board adopted an Air Pollution Code with penalties of \$5 to \$500 and/or up to 30 days. The township also has a clear packaging ordinance for fish, poultry and meat.

### *Personnel and Duties*

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

In addition, he also acts as the Registrar of Vital Statistics. He keeps records of births, deaths, and marriages, and issues licenses or certificates concerning them.

Personnel employed by the division are: Health Officer-Registrar, office supervisor, two administrative secretaries, one senior administrative secretary, deputy registrar, three sanitary inspectors, two field investigators, two part-time veterinarians, municipal dog warden, eight public health nurses, five part-time physicians, two school dentists, and other part-time personnel as the need arises.

The public school health program is conducted by the Board of Education and is included in their budget. See "Schools" chapter, Health Services.

### *Dog Warden*

In view of the increased demand for animal services, a Municipal Animal Shelter has been constructed. The shelter is located on Talmadge Road at the junction of Edison and South Plainfield. Twenty-four hour service is maintained by the dog warden and his full-time staff. The Animal Shelter has its own vehicle and is self-sustaining through licenses, fees and fines.

### *Edison Health Center*

The Edison Health Center, 80 Idlewild Road, was opened in December, 1960. The Health Center provides offices for the Divisions of Health and Welfare; Baby-Keep-Well Station; examining room; Audiometric Testing Room and a laboratory.

The division offers examinations, immunizations and guidance for infants and pre-school children who cannot otherwise obtain these services; preventive inoculations, including those needed for overseas travel; female cancer detection clinics; audio-visual screening; and tuberculosis skin testing. Applications for the dental clinic at John F. Kennedy Community Hospital are available and are processed at the Health Center.

### *Other Health Services*

The division furnishes the medical and nursing service in all five parochial schools located in Edison, as well as the health supervision programs in nursery schools, and is responsible for all communicable disease investigations. Programs such as flu immunization and diabetes detection are provided for the senior citizens.

The Edison Mobile Health Unit, a remodeled house trailer, was officially put into operation in April, 1965, and is housed at the Health Center. The trailer is self-sustaining and is permanently connected to a vehicle so that if any major emergency arises which might require medical facilities on the site, the unit could be moved out and utilized for that purpose. The trailer is also used for Baby-Keep-Well and mass immunization programs. This Mobile Health Unit was one of the first of its kind in New Jersey.

The Mobile Unit has a schedule of stops in various areas of Edison, serving residents who are unable to attend the Health Center clinics due to transportation difficulties. The cooperative efforts of the division and the John F. Kennedy Community Hospital have made available a Pre- and Post-Partum follow-up program, glaucoma detection and Family Planning Clinics.

Future plans for the Division of Health are to construct a new Health Center on James Street adjacent to John F. Kennedy Community Hospital.

### *Hospitals*

There are five private hospitals in the area: Middlesex General, New Brunswick; St. Peter's General, New Brunswick; Perth Amboy General,



*A young patient in the pediatric ward of John F. Kennedy Community Hospital.*

Photo courtesy of John F. Kennedy Community Hospital



Perth Amboy; Muhlenburg, Plainfield; and John F. Kennedy Community Hospital, Edison.

### *John F. Kennedy Community Hospital*

Founded in 1967, this non-profit community hospital provides general hospital services. The 205 beds presently available to patients include 165 beds for medical-surgical patients, six beds in the Intensive Care Unit, four beds in the Coronary Care Unit, twelve in pediatrics and eighteen obstetric beds.

The \$6 million hospital was financed by federal funds and by the citizens, businesses, and industries of the Edison-Metuchen-Woodbridge area.

Since its inception, the hospital has been operating at nearly 98 percent capacity, averaging some 10,000 in-patients each year and a total of 27,000 out-patients annually.

The hospital merged in 1970 with the Middlesex Rehabilitation Center now located in North Brunswick. This merger will result in a \$12,868,000 construction project expanding the existing facilities into a 415 bed Total Health Care Complex. Included in the new structure will be expanded general hospital services, rehabilitation and extended care facilities.

### *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. The camp is financed by county, municipal, and private contributions. When needed, the Health Department provides transportation to the camp.

### *Cerebral Palsy Center*

A Cerebral Palsy Center, 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 Cerebral Palsy Association is supported by the United Fund, and by private gifts in non-fund communities. Thirty-five thousand dollars in labor and materials were donated toward the building which was erected in September, 1961.

The building contains eight classrooms, therapy rooms, four offices, an auditorium 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 80 students from Middlesex County attend the center with each district paying tuition prorated for the number of children attending.

### *Division of Welfare*

The Division of Welfare, an agency of the municipal government, is governed by a Local Assistance Board. The Board is composed of three members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council. The members serve staggered terms of four years. The Division of Welfare is supervised by a director who is appointed by the Local Assistance Board.

### *Functions*

The County Welfare Department provides public assistance to families with dependent children, the working poor, the blind and medically disabled, and the aged. The primary function of the Local Division of Welfare is to provide assistance in such cases only until an individual's eligibility for county assistance is determined.

The local division, in granting assistance, cooperates with federal, state, county, and local government agencies, and receives reimbursement from the state in an amount equal to 75 percent of the amount spent on local cases.

In order to receive local assistance, applicants must be state residents for a minimum of two years, and township residents for at least one year. When out-of-state residents are granted aid by the local division, the state reimburses the local division 80 percent of the amount spent on a case. State residents living in Edison for less than a year receive assistance from local welfare, but it is reimbursed by the New Jersey municipality where the recipient formerly resided. Eligible persons may receive local assistance on a budget deficit basis for living expenses, food stamps, medical services, and other necessary expenses. The division also supervises court orders in child care and desertion cases.

In 1970, the local welfare division assisted 57 cases, a total of 82 people. In 1971, Edison Township allocated \$10,000 for local assistance to be granted in accordance with the State Aid Agreement.

Assistance to special cases of need such as the blind or foster child care, is available through a variety of programs offered by the state.



## Planning and Zoning

### Planning Board

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

- to prepare a master plan for the orderly growth of the township;
- 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, and zoning ordinance changes;
- to be the official agency for administering the provisions of the Land Subdivision ordinance.

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 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. Edison also cooperates with the Middlesex County Planning Board to foster regional planning coordination.

### *Budget*

The Planning Board receives its monies from the municipal budget which is prepared by the Mayor and approved by the Council. In 1971, the Planning Board was allotted \$13,225 for salaries and other expenses.

### *Meetings*

Meetings are held in the Municipal Building on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 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. The Building Inspector issues a building permit, and the owner may proceed.

If the plat is classified major, the owner then submits to the Planning Board a preliminary plat, containing details of the proposed subdivision. After public notice, a public hearing is held. 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 install improvements such as streets, curbs, sidewalks and utilities, and post a performance bond to insure their installations. Upon final approval, the Building Inspector is authorized to issue building permits. The builder must record final plat with 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 through the courts.

### **Zoning Commission**

Members of the Planning Board also act as the Zoning Commission. 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 of the zoning ordinance, to insure that it conforms with the master plan.

### **LAND USE AND ZONING**

	<i>Existing Land Use</i>	<i>Existing Zoning</i>	<i>Zoning According to 1968 Master Plan</i>
Vacant	46.0%	—	—
Residential	20.4	45.1%	32.4%
Industrial	11.6	40.1	34.7
Roads, Railroads and Utilities	10.7	10.2	17.0
Recreation and Institutions	9.3	1.8	12.6
Commercial	2.0	2.8	3.3

### **Master Plan**

The purpose of a master plan is to develop an appropriate pattern of land use and to avert community blight by requiring that the physical de-



velopment of the community follows legally prescribed standards. Edison adopted and implemented master plans in 1957 and 1962. A new master plan was adopted in 1968, but as of 1971, it has not been implemented by changes in the zoning ordinance.

In the 1968 master plan, the residential zones are as follows:

Low Density	1 unit/acre	5.6%
Medium-Low Density	2 units/acre	25.8%
Medium Density	4 units/acre	16.0%
Medium-High Density	6 units/acre	45.2%
High Density	15 units/acre	7.4%

## **Zoning Board of Adjustment**

By an ordinance of 1950, revised in 1957 and in 1963, the Zoning Board of Adjustment was established. This ordinance provides 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 at 8 p.m. Special meetings may be called by the chairman as the need arises.

### *Duties*

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;
- grant a variance from the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance where there are peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties;
- grant building permits for special exception uses, as outlined in the Zoning Ordinance;
- recommend to Council that a variance be granted which allows a use in a zone restricted against such use, if it will not be detrimental to either the intent of the Zoning Ordinance or to the character of the neighborhood.

### *Procedures*

A property owner applies to the Building Inspector for a building permit. If the proposed property change 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: for example, size of lot or size of side yard.

In the case of a request for a non-conforming "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. All property owners within 200 feet of the property in question must be notified of the proposed change. In 1970, 127 variances were requested. From October, 1970, to June, 1971, about three-fourths of the requested variances were granted, the majority for additions to single family dwellings. A decision about a request must be rendered by the board within 60 days of the hearing or within 90 days of the original request.

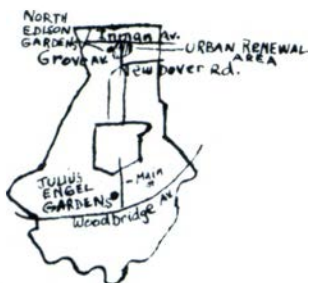
#### *Appeal*

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

#### *Budget*

Money for the Zoning Board's operating expenses comes from the municipal budget. In 1971, they were allotted \$8,050 for salaries and other expenses.





## 10

# Public Housing and Urban Renewal

### Housing Authority

The Edison Housing Authority was established in 1954 by municipal ordinance, as provided for in the New Jersey Local Housing Authorities Law, for the purpose of solving problems of substandard housing in the township. An "authority" is a public corporation with the power to levy and collect service charges, issue revenue bonds, and operate independently. It does not have the power to levy taxes. The Edison Housing Authority has a dual function: administering Edison's Urban Renewal Program and the township Public Housing program.

The Edison Housing Authority consists of six Commissioners who serve without pay. Five of these are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Municipal Council and serve for overlapping five-year terms. The sixth is appointed by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and serves at the pleasure of the state Commissioner. Only one of the six Commissioners may be a township employee.

The Commissioners elect their own chairman and other officers, hire an attorney, and appoint an Executive Director, who is salaried and hires his own staff. The Director and his staff receive their salaries out of both Urban Renewal and Public Housing funds in proportion to their assigned responsibilities. Housing Authority employees operate under the New Jersey civil service system.

The main office of the Edison Housing Authority is located in the Community Center building at Julius C. Engel Gardens. Other offices, including that of the Public Housing Manager, are located at North Edison Gardens. The Housing Authority holds regular monthly meetings at the Julius C. Engel Gardens Community Center on the second Tuesday evening of each month.

### Public Housing

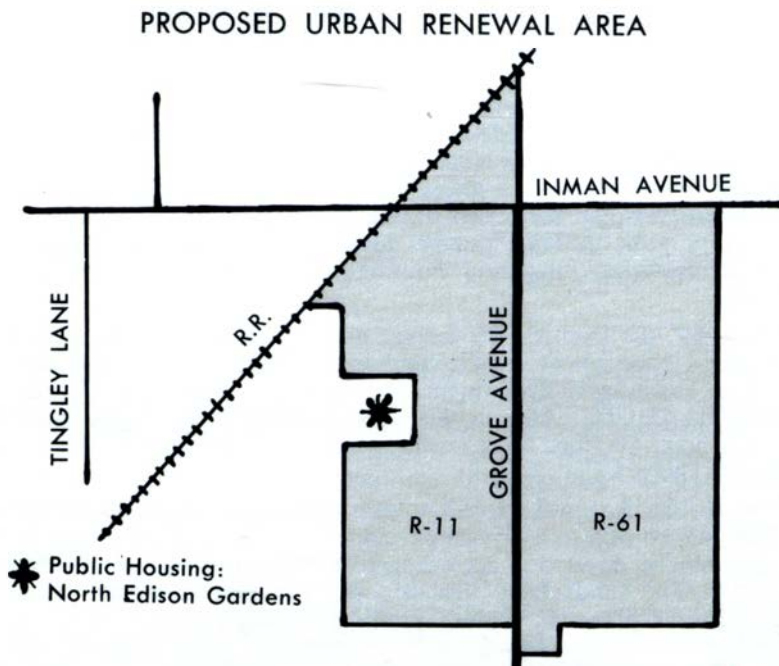
Edison has two Public Housing projects, both garden apartments, with a total of 160 units. North Edison Gardens, located near the intersection of Inman and Grove Avenues and bounded on three sides by the Urban Renewal Area, has 90 units of varying size, some with as many as five bedrooms. The first 60 units were built in 1959, largely to provide needed relocation space for township families being displaced by Urban Renewal. In 1963, 30 additional units were completed, as was another project, Julius C. Engel Gardens, located on Willard Dunham Drive near Main Street and Woodbridge Avenue. Forty-eight of the 70 units in Julius C. Engel

Gardens are designated for senior citizens. Construction of all public housing was financed through authority-issued bonds, with payment of interest and principal guaranteed by the federal Public Housing Administration. Operating funds consist of rental monies received.

Eligibility for rental in public housing is determined according to Edison's Public Housing rental policy. Tenants are required to sign leases and are charged rents based on their incomes.

### Urban Renewal

Edison's Urban Renewal program was begun by the Housing Authority in 1955. Redevelopment was proposed for 171 acres in the vicinity of Inman and Grove Avenues, now designated Tracts R-11 and R-61. Over 200 families, about half of them homeowners, then lived in the area. Much of the housing was substandard, and health and safety hazards were numerous. The program is funded two-thirds by Federal loan and one-third by cash or "in-kind" contributions from the township, such as road, sewer, and school construction and donation of township-owned land.



The Housing Authority first obtained a federal grant (no repayment) through the Urban Renewal Agency for preliminary studies to determine the project's feasibility. They then hired a planning firm to study the proposed area and draw redevelopment plans. At the same time, they applied to the Public Housing Administration, a separate federal agency, for an FHA loan to build 100 units of public housing. This was needed to help satisfy the federal requirement of providing within the township for re-



location of displaced families. The loan, granted in 1956, insufficient for 100 units, financed the construction of only 60 units.

The first Urban Renewal plans submitted by the Housing Authority to the Urban Renewal Agency were rejected on the grounds of insufficient provision for family relocation. At the time the Federal Government was having problems funding Urban Renewal projects.

Edison was directed in 1958 by the Urban Renewal Agency to revise its plan to a two-stage scheme. The 77 acres of Tract R-11, adjacent to the public housing site, was to be developed first, to be available for relocation sites. Tract R-61, east of Grove Avenue, was to be developed later. By 1959, these plans had been drawn and were approved; the federal loan, to be used for costs of project planning, land acquisition, demolition of existing structures, and legal fees, had been acquired; and the Housing Authority had begun land acquisition.

Although plans for the second phase of the Urban Renewal project and for 30 more units of public housing were in progress in the early 1960's, citizen dissatisfaction with the entire program had been steadily growing. In November, 1963, this led to a halt in the program and an evaluation by a special Mayor's committee. By March, 1964, the committee concluded that the Urban Renewal plans would foster a racially and economically segregated situation.

In October, 1964, the federal government approved the development of the two tracts as one. New studies of the area, new family surveys, and plan amendments would be made, and the federally required Citizens Advisory Committee would be reactivated and expanded. By 1967, the new Urban Renewal plan had been drawn up for the second project. In the fall of that year, citizens' groups developed Urban Renewal guidelines aimed at fostering integrated housing and citizen involvement in the program.

By 1969, the loan for the second project had been secured. In 1970, the Federal government consolidated the FHA, the URA, and the PHA into one cabinet-level department, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). Also in this year, Edison's Mayor appointed three new members, all from the Citizens Advisory Committee, to fill Housing Authority vacancies.

The Urban Renewal Project is now nearing the final phase in which the land will be sold to a private developer chosen by the Housing Authority, and will be developed according to a plan approved by the Housing Authority. The funds from this sale will be used to repay the federal loan. Edison's plan will feature multi- and single-family residences, including senior citizen housing, with considerable range in rental and sale price. Also included will be a neighborhood shopping area, park, community center, church, and a small light industrial tract.

## 11 Schools



The New Jersey Legislature is required by the Constitution of New Jersey to "provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools" for all children between the ages of five and 18 years. The local Board of Education is directly responsible for the operation of the schools in the local district.

### State Department of Education

The state Department of Education is composed of: a state Board of Education, a policy-making body, and a Commissioner of Education, who serves as the general supervisor over all schools which receive any state funds. Members of the state Board and the Commissioner of Education are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. 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 educational matters. The federal government exercises no educational supervision.

### County Superintendent

The County Superintendent, an agent of the state Department of Education, serves as a link between the state and the local school districts. He is charged with the enforcement of rules pertaining to certification of teachers, financial reports and pupil registers. One superintendent for each county is appointed by the Commissioner of Education; the appointment is confirmed by the state Board of Education.

### Local School District

The local school district was created by the New Jersey Legislature as a unit for exercise of local authority and initiative. It derives its authority from acts of the New Jersey Legislature, and can perform only those acts for which some authority exists, expressly stated or implied, in Title 18A—Education, New Jersey Statutes Annotated, or in the rules and regulations of the state Board of Education.

### Board of Education: Edison Township

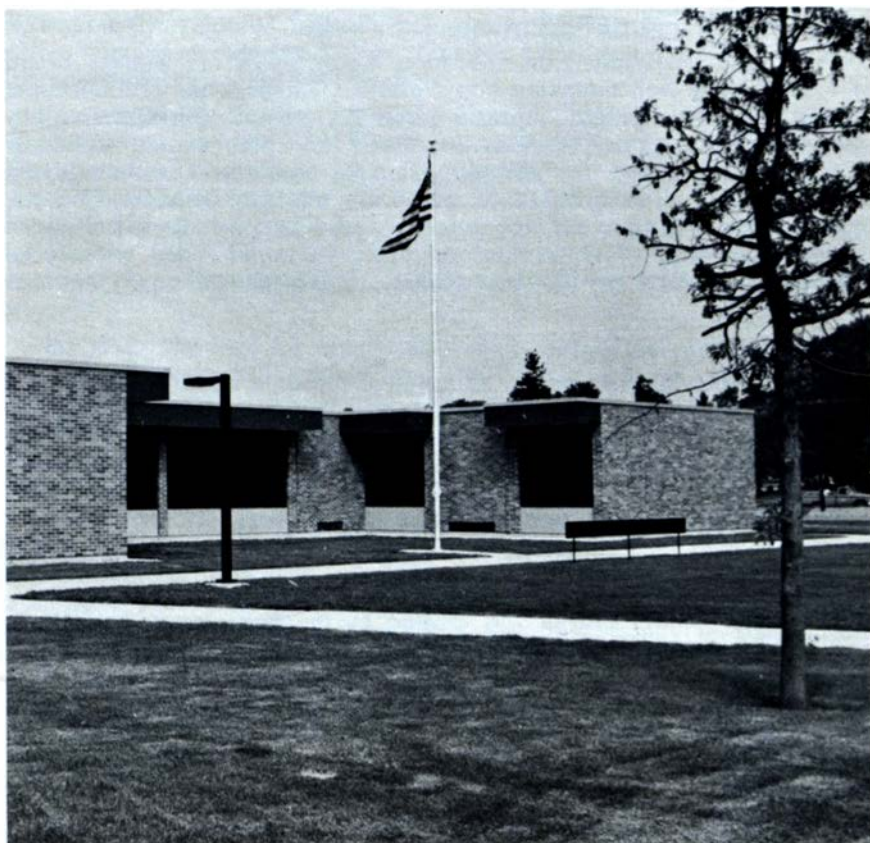
The Board of Education is directly responsible for the operation of the schools in the district, under Title 18A of the New Jersey State Statutes.



Edison Township is classified as a Type I school district in accordance with provisions of Title 18A. A Type I school district provides for an appointed Board of Education. The seven non-paid members of the board are appointed by the Mayor for staggered terms of three years each. The board annually selects its own president, who is responsible for conducting meetings and planning agenda. The board employs a full-time Secretary of the Board and an office staff. The Board of Education meets on the second Monday evening of each month, alternating between Edison High School and John P. Stevens High School. The meetings are open to the public.

The board has the legal responsibility to pass on courses of study and staff appointments proposed by the superintendent. The board must prepare, adopt, and deliver an itemized budget to each member of the Board of School Estimate and must approve, by resolution and roll call vote, all expenditures of school funds.

The local board is also responsible for maintaining bookkeeping procedures consistent with state regulations, and for providing an official



*Dr. Martin Luther King School, one of Edison's new elementary schools, opened in September 1970.*

Photo courtesy of The Home News

audit of all school funds by a qualified public accountant in accordance with the compulsory audit program administered by the state Department of Education.

### **Administrative Staff**

The Superintendent is appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Education for a term not to exceed five years. He must hold a Master's degree and he must have a New Jersey School Administrator's certificate. He need not be a resident of Edison. Tenure is granted after three years in the position, or after two years if transferred from another position in the district.

The duties of the Superintendent include implementing all Board of Education policies; coordinating the curriculum of the school system; recommending the hiring or discharge of school personnel and their tenure; and recommending teaching methods, testing, and purchase of textbooks.

Other administrative personnel include the Assistant Superintendent of Schools; a director of secondary education; a director of elementary education; a director of adult education; a director of guidance, testing, and special programs; a director of special services; a director of personnel; and school principals.

### **Teaching Staff**

As of January 1971, Edison Township employed 824 teachers. Certification requirements are set by state law. Teachers' salaries for 1971-2 are determined by a 13-step salary guide extending from a first year starting salary of \$8200 to a \$13,700 maximum for a teacher with a Bachelor's degree, to a starting salary of \$10,600 to a \$17,300 maximum for a teacher with a Doctorate. All tenured teachers receive an additional increment beyond the salary guide ranging from \$300 to \$700. Department heads at the junior high schools receive an additional \$500; at the senior high schools, department heads receive an additional \$800. Substitute teachers with certification are paid \$28 per day; without certification \$24.

### **Edison Township Education Association (ETEA)**

This association is an affiliate of the New Jersey Education Association. Membership is composed of professional personnel, including teachers, full- and part-time nurses, librarians, and athletic coaches. Its purpose is to provide for a continuous study of the teaching profession, and to negotiate all teaching contracts with the Board of Education.

### **Schools and School Children**

The total enrollment in Edison Township public schools in June, 1971, was 15,149. In addition to this number, 88 pupils were enrolled in county vocational schools and more than 1800 children were enrolled in private and parochial schools. Edison has 15 elementary schools, three junior high schools, a special education building, and two senior high schools. Diplomas were awarded to more than 900 students in Edison's two high schools in 1971. Approximately 64 percent of those graduating went on to institutions of higher learning.



## SCHOOL BUILDINGS, ENROLLMENT, CLASSROOMS

<i>School Name and Number, Location</i>	<i>Year Built (Additions)</i>	<i>Number of Class- rooms</i>	<i>Grades Enrolled</i>	<i>Special Rooms</i>	<i>Total Enroll- ment June 1971</i>
Bonhamtown #4 Woodbridge Avenue	1908		Offices of the Superintendent, Special Services		
Piscatawaytown #3 Woodbridge Avenue	1913 (1916-1921)	18	K-6	Gym	457
Clara Barton #7 Amboy Avenue	1920 (1929)	24	K-6	Library Gym	639
Oak Tree #6 Oak Tree Road Annex	1922  (1950-1952)	26	K-6	Gym Library	553
Stelton #5 Plainfield Avenue	1923 (1950)	20	K-6	Gym Library	417
Lincoln #8 Brookville Road	1951 (1956-1963)	33	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	876
Washington #9 Winthrop Road	1953 (1957)	26	K-6	Multi-Purpose	638
James Madison #10 New Dover Road	1959 (1968)	33	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	706
Franklin D. Roosevelt New Dover Road	1969  (James Madison Satellite)	12		Special Education Building	99
Benjamin Franklin #11 Woodbridge Avenue	1961 (1966)	29	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	782
John Marshall #13 Cornell Avenue	1961	17	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	396
Menlo Park #14 Monroe Avenue	1963 (1966)	26	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	803
James Monroe #15 Sharp Road	1963	13	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	378
Lindeneau #16 Blossom Avenue	1966	18	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	564
Woodbrook #17 Park Avenue	1967 (1970)	29	K-6	Library Multi-Purpose	710
Dr. Martin Luther King #18 Tingley Lane	1970	16	K-6	Library Gym-Audi- torium Hearing Rm.	392
James Madison Primary #20 New Dover Road	1971	24	K-2		
SECONDARY SCHOOLS					
Thomas Jefferson Junior High Division Avenue	1959 (1968)	46	7-9	Library Gym-2 Multi- Purpose	1080

<i>School Name and Number, Location</i>	<i>Year Built (Additions)</i>	<i>Number of Class- rooms</i>	<i>Grades Enrolled</i>	<i>Special Rooms</i>	<i>Total Enroll- ment June 1971</i>
John Adams Junior High New Dover Road	1962	41	7-9	Library Gym Multi-Purpose	1065
Herbert Hoover Junior High Jackson Avenue	1967	42	7-9	Library Cafeteria Gym	1108
Woodrow Wilson Junior High		under construction, September, 1972, opening expected			
Edison High School Colton Road	1956 (1963)	78	9-12	2 Gyms Library Auditorium Cafeteria	1610
John P. Stevens High School Grove Avenue	1964 (1970)	78	9-12	Library Gym Cafeteria Auditorium	1790
Board of Education Offices, Old Post and Colton Roads	1959				

## State Educational Requirements

New Jersey imposes minimum curriculum requirements for both the elementary and secondary schools in Title 18A. For the elementary grades these are: at least 2½ hours per week of health, safety, and physical education, certain geography, civics, and history courses, and measures of fire prevention. Health, safety, physical education, and two years of American history are required in the high schools. Curriculum planning, except for the above requirements, is delegated to the local Board of Education. The state requires a minimum of 180 school days per year.

## Testing

A regular schedule of pupil testing is followed in the public schools. The tests include: achievement tests in grades one to nine, national aptitude and achievement tests to college-bound 11th and 12th grade pupils, reading readiness test in the spring of the kindergarten year, mental ability test in grades four, seven, and nine during the same period as the achievement test, and differential aptitude tests in grade eight in mid-October.

## Special Services

The Special Services Department is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the Beadleston Acts of 1956 and 1966, which require schools in New Jersey to identify, classify and provide appropriate educational programs for all handicapped children. The department is staffed by a director, a coordinator of special education, school psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, learning disability specialists, remedial reading teachers, school nurses and a consulting psychiatrist.



## Health Services

The school health service is staffed by three physicians and four dentists, on a part-time basis, and 21 full-time nurses. A screening-type physical examination is given by the physicians to pupils in grades K, two, five, eight, 11, and for all new students. Sports physicals are done prior to each sports season. Physical examinations are done to fulfill requirements for working papers. Dental screening is done by the dentists in grades K, two, four, six, eight, ten, and 12. Screening programs conducted by the school nurses include visual tests for all students and hearing tests for students in grades K-six, eight, and 11, and all new students. The Tuberculin Tine test is given in grades one, five, nine, 12, and to all new students.

## School Library Services

The American Library Association recommends the following standards for school libraries: ten books per pupil, a minimum of one librarian per 500 students, and a clerk for every 600 students. Although the Edison school libraries did not meet these standards in 1971, they are functional and are constantly being improved as funds become available.

## Summer School Program

In 1960, a tuition-free summer high school program was established. Thirty-nine courses were offered at the two township high schools in 1971, for make up, grade improvement and enrichment. There is also an elementary summer school, which includes the federal Title I program.

## Adult Education

The Edison Township Adult and Continuing Education School is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Board of Education. The program is headed by a director, whose salary is paid by the Board of Education. Teachers' salaries and other costs are covered by modest tuition fees. The program is available to all who wish to participate regardless of residence. In the 1970-71 program, there was an enrollment of 2400 and over 80 courses were offered. Classes are usually held at John P. Stevens High School on Tuesday evenings and at Edison High School on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. There is a tuition-free high school completion program which is available to anyone over 18 years of age. There are also tuition-free courses in English and citizenship for the foreign born. Senior citizens, 65 years or older, who are residents of Edison, may attend any adult class free of charge.

## Paying for Education

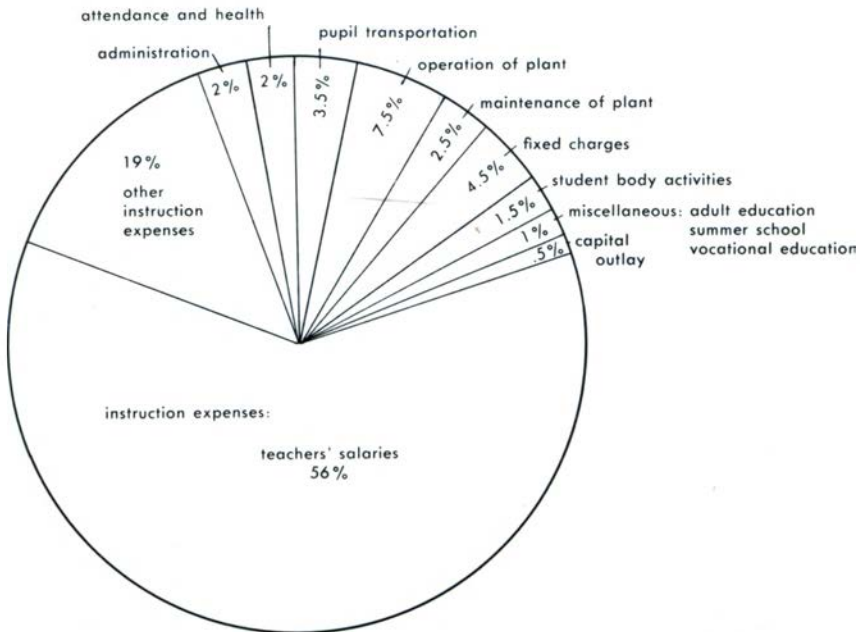
The Edison Township public schools are financed primarily by local real estate taxes. Edison also receives state aid and some federal aid. In the year 1971-72, the anticipated revenues are as follows:

Local taxes	\$14,471,266
State Aid	2,116,864
Tuition—other districts	50,000
Miscellaneous	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,688,130</b>

## Budget

Each January a school budget is prepared by the 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 in 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.

### EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL EXPENDITURES—1971-72



Teachers' salaries and other instruction expenses	\$12,662,405
Administration	306,120
Attendance and health	354,241
Pupil transportation	568,800
Operation of plant	1,237,519
Maintenance of plant	353,848
Fixed charges	761,089
Student body activities	211,000
Miscellaneous: Adult education	49,308
Summer school	75,000
Vocational	3,850
Capital outlay	104,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,688,130</b>



### **Parent Teachers Association**

Every public school has a Parent-Teachers Association which functions independently, carrying out its own programs and projects. All local PTA units, as well as the Superintendent, the Board of Education, and the Edison Teachers Education Association participate in the Edison Township Council of PTAs, which provides for greater communication, co-operation, and coordination between school and home.

### **Other Educational Facilities**

Middlesex County College on Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, established in 1964, offers day and evening programs and grants Associate degrees.

### **Know Your Schools**

Additional information about the Edison Township school system may be found in the local League publication, *Know Your Schools*, a survey of Edison Township's schools. Copies may be ordered by calling the League of Women Voters of Edison, 548-1544.

## 12 Free Public Library



Library service in Edison dates back to 1928 when a referendum to establish a municipal library was passed; the Library Act was adopted, and a Board of Trustees was appointed. In the following 40 years, with the township population increasing seven-fold, schools and other services received a major portion of the municipal budget and the Library fell far below standards set for adequate service. Its slow but steady growth took a sharp jump upward in the early seventies and by the end of December 1971, the 1972 requirements for state aid will be met.

### SOME OF MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING STATE AID IN 1972

At least one full-time paid employee or equivalent in part-time, for each initial and succeeding 4,000 population.	<i>Edison Needs</i> 17	<i>Edison Has (1971)</i> 24
Own 8,000 volumes or one book per capita, whichever is greater.	67,120	Approximately 64,000, August 1, will reach quota by end of year.
Purchase annually number of volumes equal to one-tenth of population.	6,712	8,000 in first seven months
Open for service at least five days per week; must include some evening and Saturday hours. At least 60 hours.	Main Library: 64 hours, 5 evenings, Saturdays Clara Barton: 37 hours, 2 evenings, Saturdays North Edison: 48 hours, 3 evenings, Saturdays	

### Buildings

The original 246-book library was located on Woodbridge Avenue at Thomas Street. In the next 37 years, the Library had three homes, including three rooms in the Municipal Building for many years. In January, 1965, the new Main Library, at 340 Plainfield Avenue, was opened; two years later the Children's Room there was finished.

The Clara Barton Branch, at the corner of Pleasant and Hoover Avenues, was opened in November 1969. Renovations and improvements to the lower level were completed in 1971.

The North Edison Branch, on Library Place, near the intersection of Grove Avenue and Oak Tree Road, was dedicated in October, 1971. Lim-

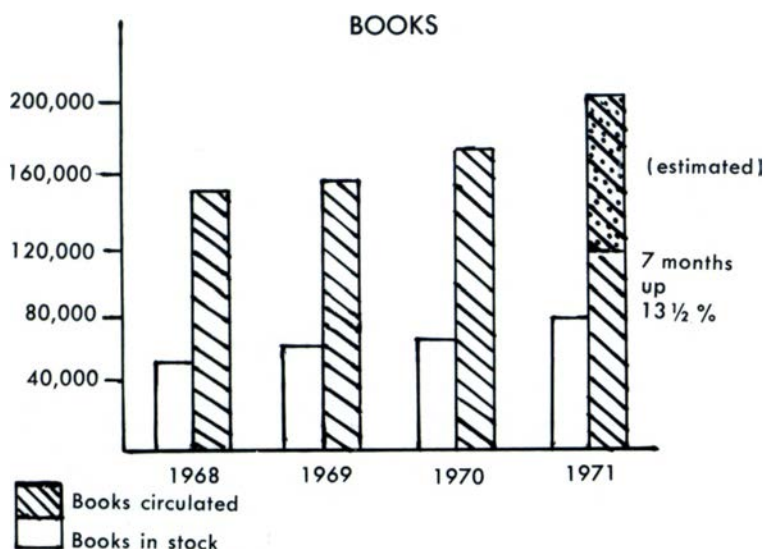


ited services formerly supplied at John Adams Junior High School were transferred to this branch.

## Books

In 1970, \$35,000 was spent for books. The 1971 budget includes appropriations of \$5,000 for periodicals, \$5,000 for equipment, \$72,000 for books and \$8,000 for part of the new major microfilm program.

In 1970, the Edison libraries had approximately 28,000 registered borrowers. In the first seven months of 1971, new borrowers numbered 1,956.



## Administration

Responsibility for library policies and for selection of the Library Director rests with the Board of Trustees. By state law, this Board consists of seven members: the Mayor, the Superintendent of Schools and five citizen members, one appointed by the Mayor each year for a five-year term. Board members are not paid for their services. The Edison Library Board meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month, with additional meetings called when necessary.

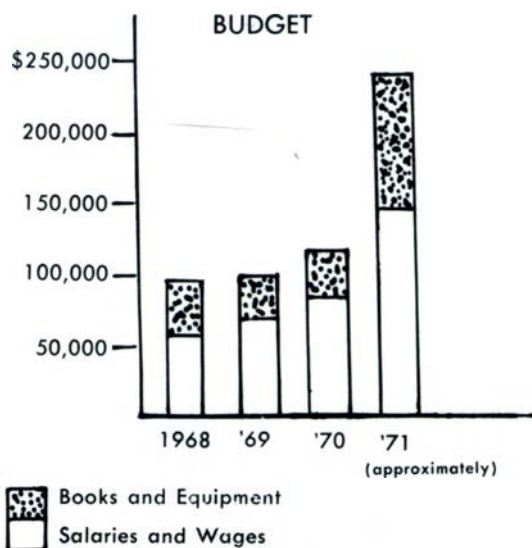
The Director administers the Library in accordance with policies set by the Trustees and, subject to Board approval, selects the staff and prepares the budget. Staff members are divided into two main categories: professional and clerical. Professional workers are those with a Master's degree in Library Science. It has also been possible in past years for some workers to be certified as professional by reason of experience and in-service training. As of 1971, Edison had three Graduate Librarians and two staff members with certification, included in a full-time-equivalent staff of twenty-four.

## Finances

Most of the funds for the operation of the Library are included in the annual budget of the township. Library expenditures in 1970 were \$116,803. The library budget is less than one and one-half percent of the municipal budget appropriations.

State aid also is available, the actual rate of 25¢ to \$1.25 per capita being determined on a sliding scale depending upon the degree to which certain requirements are met. Payments are made on October first, based on the expenditures of the preceding year. Edison qualified for minimum state aid of 25¢ per capita in 1971.

Federal funds, for some years granted for library construction, have been drastically reduced as an economy measure. Contributions in the form of money, materials and services have also been received from the Friends of the Library and from other interested organizations and individuals. The Library has no trust funds as of 1971.



## Special Services

The Library provides weekly Story Hours for pre-school children in the Main Library and Clara Barton Branch, a "Summer Reading Club" for children of grades one-three and four-six and two weekly creative dramatics groups for grades one-three and four-six. There is an alternate weekly film program for children ages six-12.

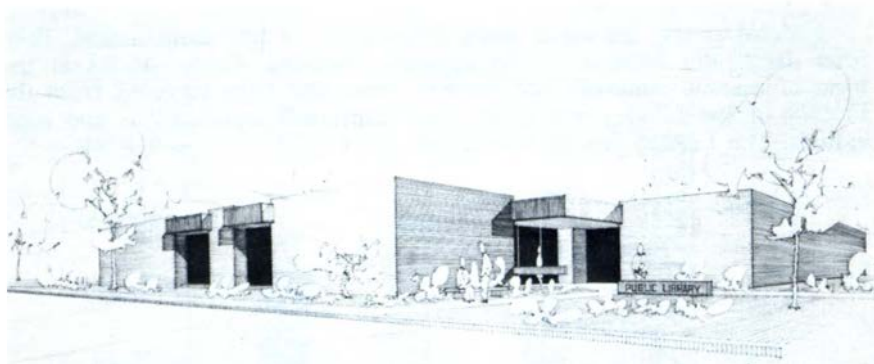
Exhibits on many subjects, both of a local nature and of outside interest and sources, are placed in the Library for the pleasure of residents. These and other programs are publicized in local newspapers.

## Regional Services

As a result of a 1964 study, New Jersey has set up a three-level library



network for the state, planned to make it possible for anyone in the state to have access to any desired material through organized channels. Woodbridge is the Area or middle level Library for Edison and four neighboring communities. Services available from our area library include interlibrary loans, handled through the local library, and various forms of professional assistance such as technical processing, book examination, union catalog and microfilm of periodicals, and a film library. Access to highly specialized materials, available only at the state's four research libraries, may be obtained through the Area Library.



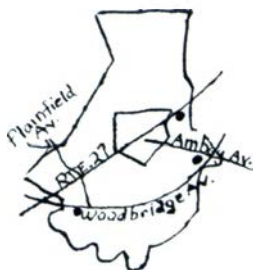
*North Edison Branch of the Edison Public Library.*

### **Friends of the Library**

This organization, formed in the early 1960's, is made up of citizens interested in promoting Library programs in any non-administrative way possible. It has been responsible for exhibits, programs with authors and artists, bookplates and other public relations programs designed to make Edison residents more aware of the library services available to all. The Friends were particularly active at the time the Main Library on Plainfield Avenue was built; they raised a great deal of money which made possible items which could not be funded from the limited municipal budget. They also were largely responsible for arousing enough interest among residents to have the main building constructed.

# 13

## Civil Defense and First Aid Squads



### Civil Defense

In 1955, the State of New Jersey Civil Defense and Disaster Control Plan was enacted. With this plan, the definition of civil defense was broadened to include local disasters as well as enemy attacks.

Three levels of civil defense organization were defined: municipal, county, and state. The State Civil Defense Director is responsible to the Chief of Staff, federal Department of Defense.

The mayor of each municipality must appoint a Civil Defense Council and a Director of Civil Defense. In Edison Township the Civil Defense Council consists of the Director, every municipal department head and an industrial coordinator. The Director of Civil Defense is responsible for planning and coordinating disaster control operations. Each council member heads a particular phase of the civil defense and disaster control program.

The civil defense program is funded by the municipality. In 1971, \$5,000 was budgeted for salaries, and the purchasing and maintenance of equipment.

### First Aid Squads

There are three first aid squads in Edison Township, each responsible for a section of the township. All members are volunteers and have completed standard and advanced first aid courses.

Squad #1 is located at 33 Lakeview Boulevard, near the Municipal Building. In 1971, there were forty-two regular members, twelve active life members, twenty cadets and a ladies' auxiliary of twelve members. The squad owns three ambulances, one crash truck and two boats.

Squad #2 is located at 75 Route 27 north of Parsonage Road. In 1971, there were twenty-four senior members and eleven cadets. The squad owns two ambulances.

Squad #3 is located at 1079 Amboy Avenue. As of 1971, the squad had thirty-five senior members and ten cadets. The squad owns two ambulances.

Ambulance and first aid services are provided free of charge. In addition the squads will lend to residents wheel chairs, crutches, and other convalescent equipment.

The first aid squads are part of civil defense and one member of the



Civil Defense Council represents all three squads. The squads are members of the New Jersey First Aid Council.

The first aid squads are supported by contributions from the community and by the municipal government. In 1971, the municipal budget appropriated \$13,500 to be divided among the three squads.

The following are 1970 first aid statistics:

	<i>Calls</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Volunteers Hours</i>
Squad #1	2,538	38,503	8,653
Squad #2	880	12,368	3,240
Squad #3	<u>1,423</u>	<u>16,652</u>	<u>5,165</u>
Total	4,841	67,523	17,058

## Public Transportation



■ Penn-Central RR Stations

### Railroads

The Penn-Central main line runs through the central part of the township. The Edison station is located near the intersection of Plainfield and Central Avenues. There is a shelter but no ticket office. 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. The Metropark station in Iselin, just north of the Edison border at Wood Avenue and Route 27, is a park-and-ride facility for 776 cars. The Penn-Central metroliner stops there as well as all other trains.

### 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. Edison exercises no control over the transit companies, except that it must approve re-routing of existing service.

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

- (1) #134, between New Brunswick and Newark via Route 27.
- (2) #4, between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via Woodbridge Avenue.
- (3) #6, between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via Menlo Park Shopping Center.

Transport of New Jersey also operates #135 from New Brunswick to New York, via Route 27.

The Suburban Transit Company operates two routes:

- (1) #8, between New Brunswick and Camp Kilmer.
- (2) Between New Brunswick and Dunellen via Route 27 and Plainfield Avenue.

Suburban Transit also operates a line to New York City with several stops in the eastern and northern sections of the township.

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



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

### **Taxis**

Taxi service is available within the township and nearby cities.

### **Airports**

Newark Airport can be reached in approximately 25 minutes by car. Taxis and limousine service to the airport is available.

Linden Airport, located on Route 1 north of Edison, handles light aircraft.

### **Main Highways**

The New Jersey Turnpike, Interchange 10, opened in 1969, is located off Woodbridge Avenue in Edison. There are also several entrances and exits in Edison onto Interstate Route 287. Access to the Garden State Parkway is in nearby Woodbridge. U.S. Route 1 and New Jersey Route 27 pass through Edison.

## Political Organizations

### Political Parties

A "political party" as defined by state law is a party which polled for the General Assembly at least ten percent of the total vote cast in the state in the last year in which members of the General Assembly were elected. At present only the Republican and Democratic parties qualify. The organization and regulation of political parties in New Jersey are provided for in the state election laws, Title 19. The law establishes municipal, county and state committees within the parties which perform the necessary party work and shape the party platforms.

*National Party Committees* Each has 100 members, one committeeman and woman representing each state party organization. The national committees call national party conventions, and other functions are determined by each party's bylaws.

*State Party Committees* One committeeman and woman from each county are elected in gubernatorial years at the Primary Election for a four-year term. The state committees' principal functions are: maintain party organization, call state party conventions, recommend candidates, choose two members to represent the state organization at the national committee, collect and disburse funds. The Chairman of each State Committee nominates one member of each County Election Board each year to serve for a two-year term.

*County Party Committees* One committeeman and committeewoman are elected at the Primary Election from each election district for a one-year term. The principal functions of the county committee are: maintain party organization, recommend candidates, and receive and disburse funds. The County Chairman may appoint challengers for elections. The County Chairman of each party is chosen one week after the Primary. A citizen wishing to run for party committeeman or committeewoman may do so by filing a petition with the Township Clerk. The petition must be signed by at least ten registered voters of his party who reside in his district.

*Municipal Party Committees* Each party committee consists of the members of the County Committee residing in the municipality. Members promote party interests by working to increase party membership, getting out the vote, checking voting lists, and acting as challengers at the polls.

On the Monday after the Primary Election, the newly 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 elected committeemen or committeewomen.

### Political Clubs

There are a number of political clubs which are active in Edison, to which anyone may belong. Contact the Municipal Chairman of your party for more information. (See Directory of "Municipal Officials" on back inside cover.)



## Houses of Worship

Byzantine Catholic Center—James Street

Church of The Guardian Angels—37 Plainfield Avenue 985-7565

Church of The Nazarene—80 Jefferson Boulevard 985-7097

Community Presbyterian Church—76 Glenville Road, Box #374  
287-1666

Edison Jewish Community Center—Congregation Beth-El—  
91 Jefferson Boulevard 985-7272

Grace Reformed Church—Woodbridge Avenue 287-2141

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church—Grove Avenue

Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church—Beaver Street, North Edison Gardens

New Dover United Methodist Church—690 New Dover Road 381-9478

Oak Tree Presbyterian Church—455 Plainfield Road 549-4178

Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church—Amboy Avenue, Edison  
P.O. Box 7, Fords 738-7940

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church—50 Calvert Avenue East 549-6054

Piscatawaytown Baptist Church—2193 Woodbridge Avenue 985-6717

Raritan Valley Baptist Church—592 Old Post Road 287-5442

St. Helena's Roman Catholic Church—950 Grove Avenue 548-3361

St. James Episcopal Church—2136 Woodbridge Avenue 985-2023,  
985-5552

St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church—81 Seymour Avenue, Box #226  
985-5063

St. Paul's Lutheran Church—445 Old Post Road 287-0888

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church—120 Pleasant Avenue 738-0564

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church—Fox Road 572-1269

Stelton Baptist Church—334 Plainfield Avenue 985-1484

Temple Emanu-El—100 James Street 549-4442

The Church of Jesus Christ—20 Knapp Avenue 985-5120

Wesley United Methodist Church—5053 Woodbridge Avenue 738-0232

THIS LIST COMPRISES HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN EDISON.  
FOR THOSE IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES, CONSULT THE  
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY.

# Municipal Officials

*as of October 1971*

MAYOR:	Bernard J. Dwyer
COUNCILMEN:	
James J. McDonnell, Council President	
Lewis M. Bloom	Frank G. Lankey
Matthew J. Bolger, Jr.	Thomas H. Paterniti, D.D.S.
Edward W. Grygo, Jr.	William Toth, M.D.
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:	John A. Delesandro
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:	Joseph F. Hughes
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:	
TOWNSHIP CLERK:	William R. Godwin
TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:	Arthur J. Tucker
TAX ASSESSOR:	John J. Zimmerman
COLLECTOR:	John W. Mooney
BUILDING INSPECTOR:	Richard F. Knudson
PLUMBING INSPECTOR:	James A. Rossi
SUPERVISOR LICENSES AND PERMITS:	Louis E. Rohland
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION:	William A. Raymond
TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:	
MAGISTRATE:	Stephen J. Capestro
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR:	Roland Winter
PLANNING BOARD:	Paul E. Anderson
	Martin L. Duyk
	Valentine Meszaros, Chairman
	Charles F. Irving, Secretary
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:	Theodore Litwin, Chairman
	William J. Dunham, Secretary
HOUSING AUTHORITY:	James S. Wales, Jr. M.D., Chairman
	Carl Palmisano, Executive Director
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:	Charles A. Boyle
BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Ernest F. Breden, President
	Thomas J. McEvoy, Secretary
DIVISION OF HEALTH:	Dr. A. Peter Capparelli, Registrar of Vital Statistics
	Health Officer
WELFARE:	Mrs. Marion Bingert, Director
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	James F. Hazel
POLICE CHIEF:	John W. Ellmyer, Jr.
FIRE CHIEF:	H. Ray Vliet
MUNICIPAL CHAIRMEN:	Republican—George Lane
	Democrat— Thomas Paterniti, D.D.S.



# EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## FOR INFORMATION ON:

## CALL:

ASSESSMENTS	Assessor	287-0900
BILLS AND ACCOUNTS	Collector	287-0900
BIRTH CERTIFICATES	Health Center	287-0900
BOARD OF EDUCATION		287-1545
BOARD OF ELECTIONS (COUNTY)	New Brunswick	246-3648
	Perth Amboy	442-0510
BOAT BASIN LICENSE	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
BUILDING PERMIT	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
DEATH CERTIFICATE	Health Center	287-0900
DOG LICENSE	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
DRIVER'S LICENSE	Motor Vehicle	549-0078
	Office, Metuchen	
ELECTIONS (LOCAL)	Township Clerk	287-0900
ELECTRICAL PERMIT	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
FIRES (TO REPORT)		287-0100
"FISH"—volunteer neighbor-to-neighbor help		826-6868
FISHING LICENSES	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
HOMEMAKER SERVICE OF		249-4066
MIDDLESEX COUNTY	Health Center	287-2030
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS		
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION	Superintendent	548-2184
(5 years old on or before September 30)		249-7600
LEGAL ASSISTANCE (COUNTY OFFICE)	Main	287-2298
LIBRARY	Clara Barton	738-0096
	North Edison	548-3045
MARRIAGE LICENSES & CERTIFICATES	Health Center	287-2030
MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC (COUNTY)	New Brunswick	246-3557
	Perth Amboy	442-1666
MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION STATIONS		382-5151
MOVING PERMITS	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
MUNICIPAL BUILDING		287-0900
PASSPORT	County Offices	246-0400
POISON CONTROL CENTER	Perth Amboy	442-3700
	General Hospital	
POLICE		287-0700
POST OFFICE		287-4311
RABIES CLINICS	Health Center	287-0900
REGISTERING FOR THE DRAFT	County Offices	246-0400
RECREATION	2965 Woodbridge	287-0900
	Avenue	
RESCUE SQUAD		287-0100
ROADS	Division of Roads	287-1660
SCHOOLS	Superintendent	548-2184
SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAYED	Announced on radio station	
OPENING (INCLEMENT WEATHER)	WCTC, 1450 AM	
SEWERS	Division of Sewers	287-2297
SWIMMING POOL LICENSES	Division of Licenses	287-0900
	and Permits	
TAX ASSESSMENTS	Assessor	287-0900
TAX COLLECTIONS	Tax Collector	287-0900
VIOLATIONS BUREAU		287-0900
VOTING AND REGISTRATION	Township Clerk	287-0900
WELFARE	Health Center	287-2030
ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS BOOK	League of Women	548-1544
	Voters of Edison	

(Edison History)- 1954

"Know Your Township"  
1954

REFERENCE

ASK AT DESK

For Reference

Not to be taken from this r

# TOWNSHIP

A FACTUAL SURVEY OF  
RARITAN TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, N. J.

Edison Twp. Pub. Library  
340 Plainfield Ave.  
Edison, N.J. 08817

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BY  
FROM LIBRARY

The League of Women  
Voters of Raritan Township



Price 50 cents





EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

REFERENCE

# KNOW YOUR TOWNSHIP

Edison Twp. Pub. Library  
340 Plainfield Ave.  
Edison, N.J. 08817

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

by

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP

1954

Price 50 cents



## ***Purpose and Policy***

The purpose of the League of Women Voters shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

The League of Women Voters of Raritan Township may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Platforms of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

## ***Foreword***

This handbook has been prepared by THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP in the belief that good government and good citizenship begin at home. To be informed citizens of our community, we must know how our local government works and what services it offers. It is our earnest hope that KNOW YOUR TOWNSHIP will help our citizens to meet their political responsibility by assisting them to become informed and enabling them to take an active part in their local government.

This booklet would have been impossible without the generous co-operation of our township and school officials who supplied the information and assumed responsibility for checking the accuracy of the facts. The League also wishes to acknowledge the many hours of work contributed by its members and Marguerite Dolch, for the cartoons, John Sowick, who rendered the charts and graphs, L. H. Hart for use of information gathered by him and E. N. Jeffers, who rendered the map and street directory.



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## Chapter I

# HISTORY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



In the old cemetery adjoining "White Church" on Woodbridge Avenue in Piscatawaytown there is a tombstone dated 1693. This is considered to be the oldest relic of the early days of white settlement in Raritan Township. However, there are records that indicate beginnings prior to 1650. A census dated 1682 listed 400 inhabitants in the township. To go back even further, stone relics, skulls and other bone fragments have been found in the Piscatawaytown area that prove that humans inhabited this area as far back as the prehistoric Stone Age.

Several hundred years before the arrival of the first white settlers in New Jersey, groups of Lenni-Lenape or Delaware Indians lived on the cliff overlooking the Raritan River and on the site of the present town of Piscataway or "Piscataqua" as it was known by the Indians. Only the place names now remind us of those early inhabitants of our township. These Indians made a trail from the river, past the village at Piscataway, to the inlet of the sea where Perth Amboy now stands.

### FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

In 1681 an enterprising group of white settlers bought about 10,000 acres of land from the Indians and established a ferry near the site of the present Albany Street Bridge. They enlarged the Indian trail into a road extending from Perth Amboy to Delaware Falls and thereby firmly established Piscataway as a growing community. In 1683 the town became the seat of justice for the newly-created Middlesex and Somerset Counties. By 1689 the Second Baptist Church of New Jersey built a church by the side of the road now known as Plainfield Avenue. In 1714 the Episcopal Mission Church of St. James was organized as a parish in Piscataway. Both of these churches still flourish though the original buildings no longer stand.

### AMERICAN REVOLUTION

In 1702 the Proprietors of both East and West Jersey surrendered their



governing rights to the British Crown. This made New Jersey a united Royal Colony under the administration of the Governor of New York. Perth Amboy was chosen as one of the capitals of the Colony and continued to hold this position until after the Revolution. Disagreements between the Royal Governors and the popularly-elected Assemblies put New Jersey on the side of the Colonists though there were many who remained loyal to the King. In 1774, however, county committees met in New Brunswick as the First Provincial Congress and affirmed their loyalty to the Colonial cause.

There were no major battles fought in Raritan Township but skirmishes took place at Bonhamtown, Fords, and elsewhere along the road we now know as Woodbridge Avenue. The whole area was traversed many times by Washington and his troops and by the British Redcoats as they advanced and retreated across this disputed territory. When the war ended Washington rode to his inauguration in a coach of state along the Old Post Road from the Raritan Ferry on his way to New York City.

### **RARITAN TOWNSHIP COMES INTO BEING**

Before March 17 in 1870 what we know now as Raritan Township was merely a part of Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships. This date marks the birth of Raritan Township. Boundary lines were drawn up and the area was incorporated as a separate township. The name "Raritan" from the Raritan Tribe of the Lenni-Lenape or Delaware Indians was chosen from three proposals: Metuchen, Washington, and Raritan.

### **RARITAN TOWNSHIP, A FARMING COMMUNITY**

For many years after its incorporation, Raritan Township remained a prosperous farming community. The area lay on the direct route between New York and Pennsylvania and with the steady improvements in communications the farmers prospered. The Raritan Bridge, now known as the Albany Street Bridge, was built in 1795. Turnpike roads and steamship lines were established in the early 1800's. The Pennsylvania Railroad entered the Township in the 1830's. In 1840 the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company, (later bought by the P.R.R.) ran the first all-rail line between New York and Philadelphia. These years saw the countryside of Raritan Township gradually become a combination rural and residential area.

### **AREAS BECOME IDENTIFIED**

The building of small railroad stations along the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1870 created such villages as Menlo Park and Stelton. In 1871, for example, James D. Stelle decided to divide into small lots a portion of his large section of the Stelle holdings. It began to grow into a residential area and the country road that ran between Plainfield and Piscataway was soon transformed into a wide, tree-lined highway. In 1875



a combination dwelling-store-post-office-depot was erected by the side of the railroad tracks. This building still serves the community as the Pennsylvania Railroad Station of Stelton.

The Lehigh Valley and the Reading Railroads as well as the Pennsylvania Railroad cross our township. Communities of suburbanites grew up along these lines next to small factories. The construction of a trolley line across the township in 1900 and the electrification of the railroads in the 1930's brought more city dwellers into the township. Further division of farms into small lots created the Clara Barton residential area. In 1920 the population of the township was 5,419. The next ten years saw the population doubled.

## GOVERNMENT

In 1927 the community adopted commission form of government. Before this date a Township Committee of three governed the community. Until 1937 we had a nine-member elected school board. In the November General Election in 1937 the Board of Commissioners put the question of a change to an appointed school board in the form of a referendum to the voters. It was passed thus giving us our present five-man appointed Board of Education.

At the time of the change to commission form of government, we were in the midst of the days of prosperity before the great depression. Anticipating further rapid growth, a Planning and Zoning Commission was appointed to draw up an over-all township scheme which would control the rapid division of land and the building of new roads and streets. Because of the depression this commission lasted but one year. All new municipal construction came to a standstill except for the building of the Piscataway Sewage Treatment Plant. This had to be completed under mandate from the State. The first two units of our present town hall were built when federal funds were made available through the PWA.

## TOWNSHIP TERRITORIAL LOSSES

During the 84 years of our existence as Raritan Township we have had several losses of territory. When the State Legislature of 1900 revised township laws, the area now known as Metuchen claimed that these laws gave the Township Committee too much power and would deprive Metuchen of local improvements. Records indicate that original disharmony grew out of a dispute as to whether Metuchen residents or the Township as a whole should be assessed for capital improvements undertaken in the Metuchen area. The dispute ended in 1900 when the Metuchen residents petitioned the State to incorporate as a separate borough. This action put the "hole in the middle" of the township and reduced the area by three square miles.

In 1905 the residents in what is now Highland Park followed Metuchen's example and petitioned the state for recognition as an independent



borough. The dispute this time was over the fact that while about \$400,000 worth of ratables were in their area and were providing a large portion of the township's income, the residents didn't feel that comparable improvements or services were forthcoming. Incorporation of Highland Park reduced Raritan Township by about two square miles.

During World War I the federal government bought about four and a half square miles from the township for the creation of the Raritan Arsenal. During World War II the federal government purchased the land for the Camp Kilmer site. This left approximately 30.5 square miles to the township.

## **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

In the middle 1940's Raritan Township experienced a tremendous industrial boom. The Memorial Tower in Menlo Park which is built on the spot where the first incandescent bulb was made by Thomas Edison is a fitting symbol for our post-war industrial growth. At present we have over 50 industrial installations including such well known manufacturing and industrial names as Benzol Products, Inc., L. A. Dreyfus Co., Johnson & Johnson, Lincoln Mercury, Pabco, Richmond Radiator Co., Seaboard Refractories, Socony Paint, Westinghouse, U. S. Envelope, W. T. Grant, Burlington Mills and many others.

Industry has found Raritan Township an attractive place to locate for many reasons. The Lincoln Highway (Route 27 surfaced in 1923), the New Jersey Highway (Route 25 built in 1928) and the New Jersey Turnpike (built in 1950) furnish good highway connections with all points. The presence of the railroads and the near-by waterways have also contributed to ideal transportation links to all points for industry. The township is centrally located (35 miles from New York City) and therefore industries find availability of raw materials and a wholesale market near by. We also have available acreage and adequate water supplies and power facilities to offer industry as well as a sound labor market and a favorable tax situation.

## **PRODUCTS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY**

Products of local industry are many and varied with no one commodity or service dominating. Products and services include adhesives, automobiles, building materials, chemicals (organic, industrial and pharmaceutical), dairy products, electrical supplies, electronic equipment, fire brick, fuel oil products, lumber, machine tools and dies, meat packing, metal products, oxygen and acetylene products, paints and varnishes, paper products, plastics, plumbing fixtures, scrap materials, shipping and warehousing, television parts and receivers, textiles, and transportation and trucking. Many of our plants are considered the major installation of their companies.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

The influx of industry has been accompanied by an extraordinary growth of small homes and developments in the township. The government mortgage guarantee program for veterans stimulated the construction of such developments as Haven Homes, Nixon Park, Stephenville, Washington Park, Lincoln Village, Old Post Homes, and many others.

Estimates on the percentage of Raritan Township residents employed in local industry have been set at between 10 to 30%. This is a relatively low figure but may be accounted for by the fact that many employees of the newer industries commute from previously established homes in nearby communities. In general, recent employees are local residents, and more and more of the older employees are making their homes in the township because of the availability of housing.

Our local governing body encourages industries to come to the township. The Commissioner of Public Safety has been designated recently as Chairman of Industrial Development and works with the county in promoting industrial growth. Lately, changes have been made in our present Zoning ordinance to increase the acreage available for industry. At present it is estimated that industry pays about 30% of the local real estate tax.

\*Note: Much of the historical background for this chapter was gathered from a History of Raritan Township by Agnes Saunders and Louis DuBois and from a paper by Raymond P. Wilson, on the history of the township.





## Chapter II

### FORM OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL

Raritan Township is governed by commission form of government adopted in 1927, 16 years after the state had passed the enabling legislation, the Walsh Act. In this form of local government all departments of government are divided into five main categories; Department of Public Safety, Department of Revenue and Finance, Department of Parks and Public Property, Department of Public Works and Department of Public Affairs. Five commissioners are elected every four years on the second Tuesday of May. The last local election was held in May of 1951. It is a non-partisan, run-off election. The five candidates who receive the greatest number of votes are considered elected. No candidate may run under a party label. By state law no candidate, in his election campaign, may spend more than ten cents per registered voter as of the last national election. The office of mayor is not on the ballot.

The five commissioners who make up the Board of Commissioners are the only elected municipal officials in our local government. (Note: Fire Commissioners are elected in five fire districts. See Chapter X). Shortly after their election the commissioners hold an organization meeting where they determine by majority vote which of the five will act as mayor and which will preside over each of the five departments. Then the work of the government is divided among these departments as the commissioners so wish. A majority vote rules. Also at this meeting the board appoints all department superintendents, the township attorney, the township clerk, engineer, tax assessors, the tax collector, the treasurer and the auditor. State law requires that these appointments be made by the Board of Commissioners as a whole.

The mayor has no administrative or coordinating power, as each of the five commissioners is held directly responsible for the efficient administration of his department and has an equal vote on the board. However, the mayor has certain appointive powers; namely, the appointment, without confirmation of the Board, of six of the nine members of the Planning and Zoning Board, the members of the Library Board, the Board of Education, the School Board of Estimate and the Disaster Control-Civil

Defense Council. The Board as a whole appoints one of its members to the Planning and Zoning Board and appoints all of the members of the Board of Adjustment.

## **MAKING LAWS**

All local laws are called ordinances and are passed by a majority vote of the commissioners after a public hearing. All ordinances must be published in one or more local papers advertising the date of the public hearing. Laws or ordinances concerning revenue measures must have a two-thirds vote or four out of five to pass.

## **ENFORCING THE LAWS**

The Police Department is the enforcing agent for all local ordinances. Reports can be made to the commissioner in charge of police from other commissioners concerning violations of ordinances under their departments. Also any person can bring charges against any other person before the magistrate for violations of any local ordinances.

## **MEETINGS**

The Board of Commissioners holds meetings twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday nights at 8 o'clock. However, these meeting dates may be changed by resolution of the Board at any time. The mayor or three members of the Board may call a special meeting at any time. All meetings are open to the public. The commissioners meet in caucus as their business demands it. All meetings are held at the Municipal Building at the corner of Plainfield and Woodbridge Avenues in the Piscatawaytown area.

## **POWER TO CHANGE**

For the purpose of strengthening local self-government, the State Legislature in 1950 enacted the Optional Charter Law (the so-called "Faulkner Plan") which provides for the election by citizens of a Charter Commission to study their local government. This may be done on petition of the voters or by authorization of the governing body. If the Charter Commission concludes that the structure of local government can be improved, it may recommend one of the approved Charter plans best fitted to the needs of the community. This recommendation must be accepted or rejected by the voters at a subsequent election. It is also possible for the voters to petition their governing body to accept a particular form of local government.

## **PERSONNEL**

Each commissioner is directly responsible for the hiring of the personnel in his department. There is no civil service, job classification, or any set basis for the promotion or dismissal of employees. The commissioner doing the hiring or recommending the appointment is responsible for setting the qualifications with the exception of the few employees who must meet standards established by the state. All department heads are appointed by



resolution of the board as a whole ONLY on the recommendation of the commissioner in charge. None of our employees are covered by Social Security but many are members of state retirement systems. A civil service system for our employees would have to be adopted by the voters through a referendum. To date no such referendum has been put before the voters.

Following is a chart showing what municipal employees we have, what they do and how much we pay them. (Based on 1954 Budget).

## PERSONNEL CHART BY DEPARTMENTS

### Department of Revenue and Finance

<i>Job and Description</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Salary 1954</i>	<i>Hourly Wage 1954</i>
*COMMISSIONER: elected director of department (four year term)			\$3,000.	
Director's Clerk		X	\$4,200.	
*Board of Assessors				
chairman	four years		\$2,200.	
member	four years		\$1,700.	
member	four years		\$1,700.	
*Treasurer	four years		\$3,300.	
Clerk		X	\$3,200.	
Tax Collector	four years		\$5,400.	
5 clerks				
4 full-time		X	\$4,000.	
		X	\$3,750.	
		X	\$2,800.	
		X	\$2,900.	
1 part-time		X	\$1,600.	
*Auditor	four years		\$3,600.	

### Department of Public Safety

*COMMISSIONER: elected director of department (four year term)			\$3,000.	
Chief of Police	has tenure		\$5,500.†	
Captain of Police	has tenure		\$5,100.†	
4 Desk Lieutenants	has tenure		\$4,800.†	
2 Detective Lieutenants	has tenure		\$4,800.†	
4 Sergeants	has tenure		\$4,400.†	
28 Patrolmen	has tenure	minimum	\$3,200.†	
		maximum	\$4,200.†	
*10 special officers (school crossings)		effective Apr. 1954, per day	\$ 5.00	
*Traffic Control, number varies (erection signs, paint crosswalks, etc.)		hired as needed		\$1.70
Magistrate	three years		\$4,000.	
Building Inspector, Zoning Officer: enforces building code, issues permits, enforces zoning regulations	four years		\$6,000.	
*License Clerk	four years		\$1,400.	
*Violations Clerk	four years		\$ 800.	
Clerk for violations bureau		X	\$2,600.	
*Dog Warden	by contract		\$1,000.	

NOTE: salaries of police department are 1953 salaries. Budget provides for increases in 1954, but it is necessary to amend the ordinance regulating these before the salary increase becomes official.

## Department of Public Works

<i>Job and Description</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Salary 1954</i>	<i>Hourly Wage 1954</i>
COMMISSIONER: elected director of department, also currently serving as Mayor (four year term)		as Mayor	\$3,000. \$ 500.	
Sup't. of Streets (also Sup't. of Garbage Dept.)	four years		\$5,000.	
12 Garbage collectors		X		\$1.70
20 Road Maintenance Crew		X		
7 drivers				\$1.70
4 mechanics and graders				\$1.95
9 laborers				\$1.70
Sup't. of Sewers	four years		\$5,000.	
3 sewer maintenance crew also double in storm sewer dept.		X	\$4,500. \$3,600. \$3,400.	
*Township Engineer, on retainer; paid on unit cost basis per job (staff of 50 in engineer's organization)	four years		\$1,800.	
Township Clerk: keeps records of Board of Commissioners, also in charge of elections and registrations	four years		\$3,830.	
*Secretary under Township Clerk		X	\$2,800.	
*76 election clerks: work on election days and mail sample ballots (municipality pays for municipal and special elections only)	X		\$ 20. per election	
Librarian: in charge of Township library	four years		\$3,584.	
Assistant to librarian	four years		\$3,040.	
Part-time assistants (2)		X	\$ 15.00 \$ 10.00	per mo. per mo.
*Civil Defense secretary (also serves as welfare secretary)		X		\$1.20

## Department of Parks and Public Property

<i>Job and Description</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Salary 1954</i>	<i>Hourly Wage 1954</i>
COMMISSIONER: elected director of department (four year term)			\$3,000.	
Sup't. of Buildings and Grounds	four years		\$5,000.	
5 in maintenance crew		X		
4 Park Dept. laborers				\$1.70
1 custodian				\$1.40
*Recreation Director in charge of recreation program	four years		\$3,600.	
*Summer Recreation supervisors: expect to hire 19 for recreation program		X maximum minimum	\$ 210. per mo. per mo.	



## Department of Public Affairs

<i>Job and Description</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Hired</i>	<i>Salary 1954</i>	<i>Hourly Wage 1954</i>
COMMISSIONER: elected director director of department (four year term)			\$3,000.	
Welfare Director: executive of- ficer of welfare department	four years		\$3,750.	
Secretary to welfare department		X	\$2,590.	
Health Officer: executive officer of health department (licensed by state)	four years		\$3,580.	
*Health Officer acts as Dog Licens- ing Warden	four years		\$1,175.	
*Secretary to health department		X	\$1,175.	
Nurses, three at			\$3,680.	
†Registrar of Vital Statistics	indefinite term		\$50 per certificate issued (fees go to state)	
*Health Physician: assists health officer	four years		\$1,700.	
*Township Physician	four years		\$1,700.	
*Township Attorney: retained; paid per legal assignment; on call whenever governing body needs counsel	four years		\$2,600.	
Plumbing Inspector: enforces plumbing code, issues permits (li- censed by state)	four years		\$4,000.	
*Overseer of the Poor: handles non- support cases, bastardy cases, burials of poor and unidentified persons	indefinite term		\$1,320†	

\*denotes part-time

†denotes tenure of office

## Chapter III

### FINANCE, ASSESSMENT PRACTICES, BUDGET



#### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND FINANCE

The commissioner assigned the Department of Revenue and Finance usually has all financial matters of the township under his jurisdiction. This includes all personnel involved in the assessment of taxes, the collection of taxes, the treasurer's office and the auditing of the books. The commissioner recommends for four-year appointments, concurrent with his own, the township treasurer, the three assessors and the auditor. These are all part-time positions. He also recommends for a four-year appointment the township tax collector at a yearly salary of \$4,900. His job is considered full-time. In 1953 the clerical staff included nine full-time employees and one part-time clerk.

#### TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The township tax collector's office is located on the ground floor of the Municipal Building at the corner of Plainfield and Woodbridge Avenues. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Twice a month on the night the Board of Commissioners meets (2nd and 4th Wednesdays) the office is open from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There are six full-time clerks and one part-time clerk in this office. They also work for the tax assessors when needed.

Tax bills are sent out twice yearly; on the first of January for an estimated half yearly tax and on the second of June for a final bill—less the first half. Many tax payers never see these bills if their homes are mortgaged with a company who handles the tax payments, as the tax office mails the bills directly to the mortgage company. Taxes may be paid quarterly; on Feb. 1st, May 1st, Aug. 1st and Nov. 1st. If taxes are not paid when due, interest and penalty charges amounting to 8% per annum are added to the bills. In 1953 \$14,311.27 came into this office as income from interest and costs on taxes. For 1954 \$6,000 is expected from this source.

The following chart shows the percent of taxes collected from the total levied over the past six years:

1948 — 86.07%	1950 — 90.19%	1952 — 93.44%
1949 — 89.17%	1951 — 92.13%	1953 — 95.24% (estimated)



The tax collector receives through his office all monies collected on the real estate tax, on search fees, the franchise tax and the gross receipts tax. Such money collected is banked daily and turned over to the township treasurer monthly, accompanied by the tax collector's report. All procedures followed in this office are controlled by state statute.

### **TREASURER'S OFFICE**

The treasurer is a part-time appointee of the township at \$3,000 a year. He is assisted by a full-time clerk who keeps the treasurer's office on the first floor of the Municipal Building open from 9 to 4:30 on weekdays. The treasurer's duties are:

- (1) to deposit all money received in the respective accounts—school, county, fire districts, etc.
- (2) to keep the records of all school and municipal bonds and interest due and make payments thereon.
- (3) to issue all checks for all departments . . . these checks are countersigned by the township clerk and mayor.
- (4) to balance every department account and render a monthly report to each commissioner.

The commissioners through resolution have authorized the Perth Amboy Nat'l Bank, The First Bank and Trust Company of Perth Amboy and the First National Bank of Highland Park as the official banks of the township. The Fords Bank has also been designated but is rarely used.

### **PROPERTY IN TAX TITLE LIENS**

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. If the property is not redeemed by the owner in two years the township must foreclose. The township may retain any of this property if the Board of Commissioners considers that it is needed for municipal use. The rest is open for sale and exposed to public auction. When a reasonable bid is made to the township, the property is then put up for public auction and sold to the highest bidder.

In 1952 a program to foreclose on the greater part of the property held in tax liens was begun in an effort to get the property back on the tax books. In 1951 over one million dollars in tax title liens were outstanding. Under the 1952 program, the township contracted with the township attorney and his partner to foreclose on 3200 titles of more than 5000 delinquent properties.

### **TAX MAP**

Whenever property changes hands a record is made of the transaction and is so shown on a tax map. This map is kept up to date by the township engineer. In 1953 \$5,488 was spent for this work. \$5,500 has been appropriated for this in the 1954 budget.

### **THE BUDGET**

By state law 40 days after the first of the year all municipalities must introduce a budget for the coming year. For the past five years Raritan Township has had a phenomenal growth that naturally has been reflected



in its budget. In 1953 the total expenditures including the school budget and our share of the county budget were \$2,681,379.52. It is expected to be \$3,096,191.83 for 1954, truly a "big business."

Not all money collected by the township government is used for municipal services. It serves as a collecting agent for the local schools, the county government, and, as the fire districts are run independently here, the fire districts as well.

State laws govern the procedure local governments must follow in setting up their budgets. A prescribed form must be used and the budget must appear in this form in a local paper before the scheduled public hearing at which time it can be adopted on third reading pending approval of the Division of Local Government in Trenton. This state department checks the budget to see that it is in accordance with state laws and procedures. Usually two papers advertise the township budget; the Daily Home News and the Perth Amboy News. The public hearing is normally held during the first part of March.

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUDGET**

Money spent for the municipal services directly controlled by the five commissioners appears in our budget under the five department headings. A brief summary of these expenditures can be seen in the following chart:

	1953 (actual)	1954 (anticipated)
Dept. of Public Affairs	\$ 48,495.00	\$ 59,995.00
Dept. of Revenue and Finance	126,513.18	120,538.00
Dept. of Public Safety	237,300.00	291,800.00
Dept. of Public Works	326,809.82	342,000.00
Dept. of Parks and Public Property	121,100.00	122,800.00
Totals	<u>\$860,218.00</u>	<u>\$937,133.00</u>

(Note: In addition to these five department expenditures, the municipal services budget provides for capital improvement, a contingency fund, and our debt service.)

Work on this municipal budget begins in December when the Board of Commissioners holds preliminary meetings to plan a program of services and improvements. They must consider how much money will be available to spend from the various sources and how much the tax payers will be asked to pay towards the support of these expenditures.

### **SOURCE OF INCOME**

Raritan Township is fortunate in the sense that its income is not entirely dependent upon real estate tax payer's ability to pay their taxes. In 1952 the tax payers were asked to pay only \$113,000 or 11.7% of the total amount spent for municipal services. This total was \$965,695.11. In 1953 the tax payers paid a total of \$300,000 or 26.1% of the total spent, \$1,148,403.99. For the 1954 budget the tax payers will be expected to support the municipal budget to the extent of \$360,000 which represents 22.9% of the total to be spent for this purpose. It is estimated that in 1953 30% of the real estate tax in the township was paid by industry. This means home owners are paying a very small percent of the total money spent for municipal services.



Two municipal services included in most municipal budgets do not appear in ours. These are fire protection and garbage collection.

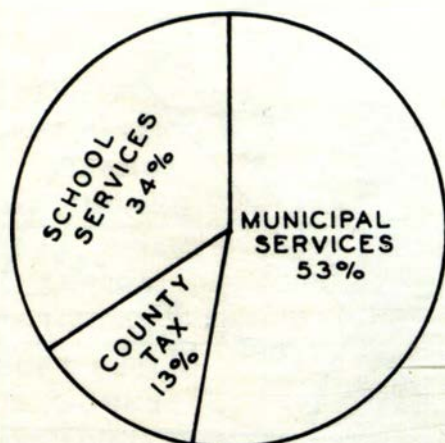
In 1952 \$1,351,652.73 was realized in cash from sources other than the real estate tax. These sources include Miscellaneous Revenues and Surplus Revenue Cash Appropriated. This latter is money appropriated from a surplus of cash built up through collection of taxes and miscellaneous revenue in excess of the amount expected in the preceding year. The budget is always based on a conservative estimate of collections. An 85% collection is used as a basis for the budget, but for the past six years collections have averaged around 91%. Collections for 1953 were made on 95.24% of taxes levied, the highest it has been in the history of the township. This high rate of collections and a higher realization on anticipated miscellaneous revenues gives the township a cash surplus to be used as income if they wish in the coming year's budget. For the past two years \$440,000.00 has come from this source. For 1954 \$480,000.00 has been appropriated in the budget. \$229,000.000 is left as a reserve fund.

Following is a chart showing the realized revenue for 1953 and the anticipated revenue for 1954:

SOURCES	1953 (realized)	1954 (anticipated)
1. Surplus Revenue Cash Appropriated .....	\$ 440,000.00	\$ 480,000.00
2. Miscellaneous Revenues		
Miscellaneous Licenses .....	7,191.50	7,000.00
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses .....	11,346.50	10,000.00
Fees and Permits .....	16,992.81	12,000.00
Fees for Municipal Improvement		
Assessment Searches .....	1,284.00	800.00
Fines and Costs—Municipal		
Magistrate's Court .....	14,007.50	10,000.00
Interest and Costs on Taxes .....	14,311.27	6,000.00
Interest on Assessments .....	1,277.19	1,000.00
Receipts from Legal Advertising		
for Property Sales .....	4,148.86	4,000.00
Franchise Tax .....	136,408.13	125,000.00
Gross Receipts Tax .....	417,964.27	400,000.00
Bus Receipts Tax .....	10,558.40	9,000.00
State Road Aid, C.62,P.L.47—		
Formula .....	20,871.00	20,871.00
State Aid Highway Lighting .....	2,610.43	2,500.00
Motor Fuel Tax Refund .....	1,783.50	1,500.00
3. Special Items of General Revenue		
Anticipated with prior written consent		
of Director of Local Gov't State		
Road Aid C.62,P.L.47,		
Construction Fund .....	4,000.00	10,000.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$ 698,755.36	\$ 619,671.00
4. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes .....	51,124.12	35,000.00
Tax Lien Collections .....	131,282.34	75,000.00
5. TOTAL REVENUES AT THIS POINT .....	\$1,321,161.82	\$1,209,671.00
6. Amount to be raised by taxation		
(a) to be added to Local		
District School Tax .....	137,036.00	136,971.00
(b) Local Purpose Tax .....	300,000.00	360,000.00
TOTAL OF GENERAL BUDGET REVENUES.....	\$1,758,197.82	\$1,706,642.00

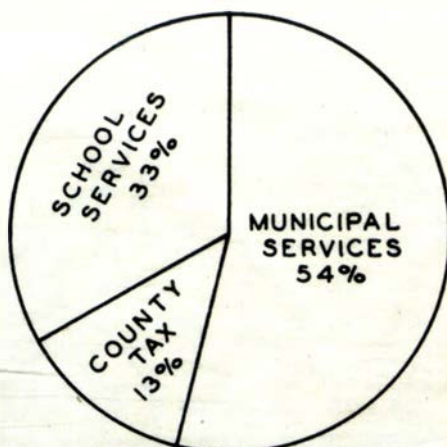
## EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS

The following graph shows Raritan Township's expenditures as they have been apportioned in the three general categories (county, school, municipal) for the past four years:



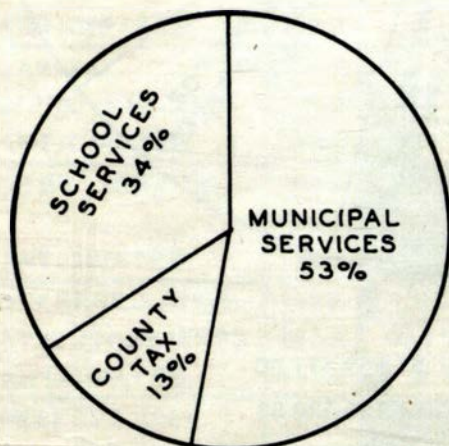
1951

TOTAL \$1,863,709.56



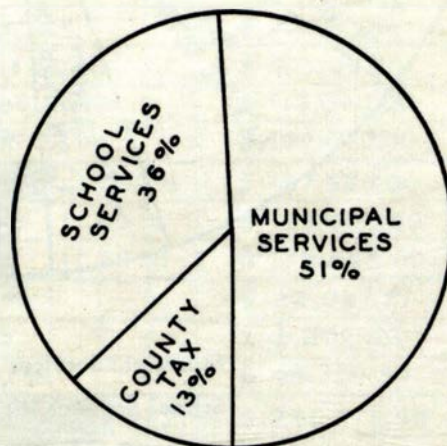
1952

TOTAL \$2,302,782.40



1953

TOTAL \$2,750,448.70

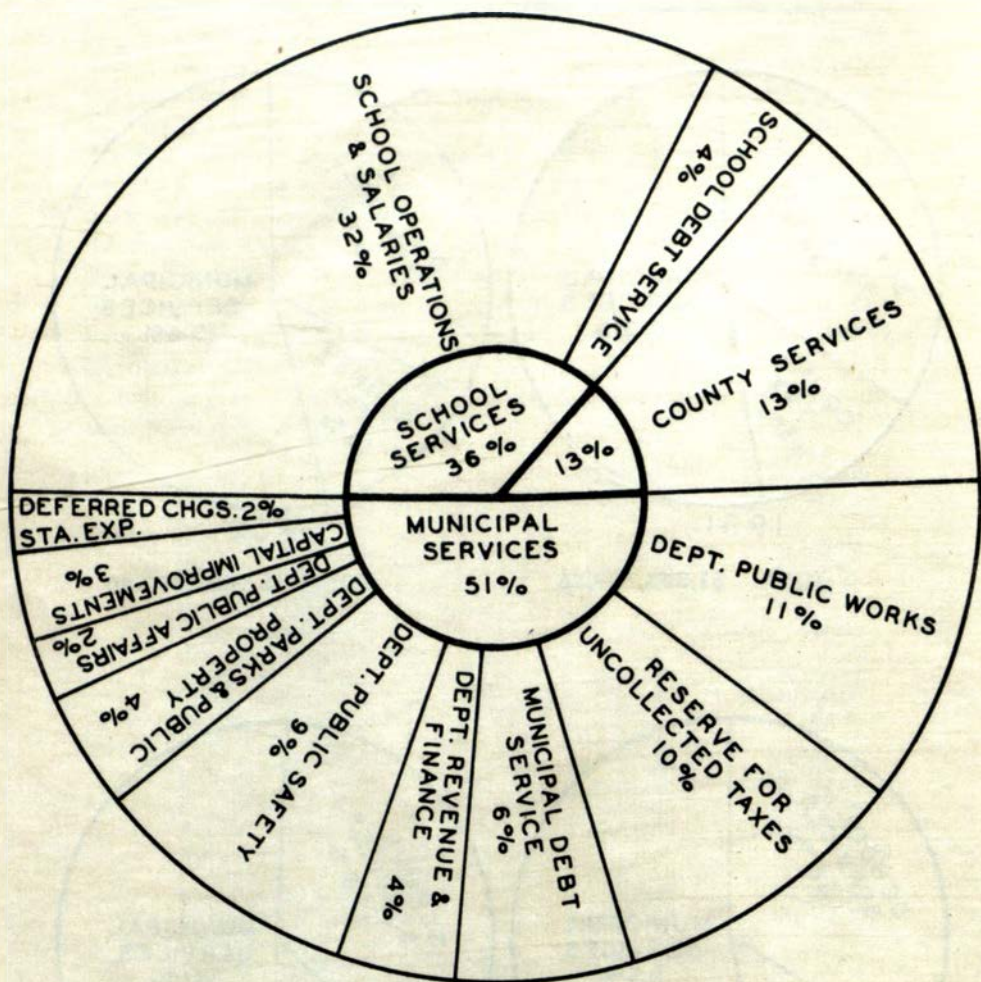


1954

TOTAL \$3,096,091.83



**THE 1954 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS BROKEN  
DOWN BY DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES**



Municipal Services	\$1,569,571.00
School Services	1,126,520.83
County Services	400,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,096,091.83</b>

# THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES

0 5 10 15 20 25 30

DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS ANTICIPATED	1952	3.55%				\$ 43,520.00
	1953	3.39%				\$ 48,495.00
	1954	3.82%				\$ 59,995.00
DEPT. REVENUE & FINANCE ANTICIPATED	1952	6.99%				\$ 85,647.00
	1953	8.85%				\$ 126,513.00
	1954	7.68%				\$ 120,538.18
DEPT. PUBLIC SAFETY ANTICIPATED	1952		16.15%			\$ 198,000.00
	1953		16.61%			\$ 237,300.00
	1954		18.59%			\$ 291,800.00
DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS ANTICIPATED	1952			20.4%		\$ 250,100.00
	1953			22.87%		\$ 326,809.82
	1954			21.79%		\$ 342,000.00
DEPT. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY ANTICIPATED	1952	8.04%				\$ 98,000.00
	1953	8.48%				\$ 121,000.00
	1954	7.82%				\$ 122,800.00
CONTINGENT ANTICIPATED	1952	0.24%				\$ 3,000.00
	1953	0.21%				\$ 3,000.00
	1954	0.19%				\$ 3,000.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ANTICIPATED	1952	6.30%				\$ 77,000.00
	1953	8.05%				\$ 115,000.00
	1954	6.37%				\$ 100,000.00
DEBT SERVICE ANTICIPATED	1952		15.32%			\$ 187,980.00
	1953		11.89%			\$ 169,843.50
	1954		11.44%			\$ 179,584.00
DEFERRED CHGS.. STATUTORY EXPS.. ANTICIPATED	1952	1.80%				\$ 22,037.61
	1953	0.16%				\$ 2,292.49
	1954	2.91%				\$ 45,730.50
RESERVE UN- COLLECTED TAXES ANTICIPATED	1952			21.21%		\$ 260,075.89
	1953			19.49%		\$ 278,567.01
	1954			19.39%		\$ 304,223.50



## ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

By state law all property in the township, real and personal, must be assessed. This is done by a Board of Assessors composed of three men who work on a part-time basis. They are appointed for a four-year term by the Board of Commissioners on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Revenue and Finance. At the time of the appointments the chairman of the board is designated by the Commissioners. The township is divided into three districts with an assessor responsible for each. After he recommends the appointments and the Board of Commissioners makes them final by resolution, the Commissioner of Revenue and Finance has no further jurisdiction over the assessors, nor does the Board of Commissioners. Our assessors are directly responsible to the County Board of Taxation which in turn is supervised by the Director of the Division of Taxation of the State.

By law the local assessors must first submit their books to the public by advertising a date when they may be inspected, then submit them to the County Board for approval by Jan. 10 of each year. This county board has until March 10 to approve the township books at which time they become the basis of the current budget. The local assessors are required to file with the County Board duplicate records of their assessments and these are available for public inspection at any time.

Because the state law requires that our local budget be presented to the public for approval and passed before the County Board of Taxation must give final approval of the assessors' books, the rates set forth in that budget are only estimated ones. Also, because the local budget has not been approved at the time the tax bills are sent out for the first and the second quarter, nor has the county tax board approved the assessment rolls, it is therefore necessary that the first and second quarter tax amounts be calculated at the previous year's tax rate. This means that the first tax bill a tax payer receives is an estimated bill only, the last one being the final, adjusted bill.

How does the Board of Assessors arrive at an assessment of individual properties? The total assessment on property represents a percent of the current value or market price of property. The County Board of Taxation reviews the rates between local assessed valuations and market values of property and arrives at an average rate of assessment. By state law it is the duty of the County Board to establish an equalization of this relationship between current value and assessed value among all municipalities in the county. At the present time this equalization program is being developed. For 1953 the average rate for Middlesex County was 22%. Our township average rate was around 17% of real value. Business and industrial property in Raritan Township is assessed at a higher rate; about one third more than private residential property.

The local assessors are directed by the County Board to be governed by the county average in arriving at assessments of property. They



watch current sales, record improvements on properties through building permits issued, and re-evaluate past assessments in the light of present market values. Previous assessments are reviewed if there is any question that they are not in balance with the surrounding area or if a particular owner requests it. Legally an assessor need not review past assessments, but the practice here has been to review them periodically. If local assessors do not do this when the County Board or the State Tax Commissioner feels it should be done, the Commissioner can direct the County Board to cause a re-assessment to be made by an outsider appointed by the Commissioner. Figures arrived at in this way then become the legal assessments. A county board may dismiss a local assessor through recommendation to the state Commissioner.

Can a particular assessment be appealed? Yes. A taxpayer may first appeal to his local assessors. If his appeal is refused he may go to the County Tax Board which will hold a hearing. If no relief is granted him he may go to the State Board of Taxation.

There are three separate types of assessments; on land, on improvements on the land, and on personal property. The personal property tax is considered to be a token assessment by our assessors. For private property owners it is usually a flat percentage of the improvements assessed. Township citizens who rent residential property do not pay it. For business and industries an inventory sheet is sent out by the assessors requesting an equipment and inventory list at true value. Then the assessors strike a rate from these figures. The percentage ratio between real and assessed value depends upon the business or industry in question.

## **TAX EXEMPT PROPERTY**

The following classes of property are tax exempt; Federal, State, County, Municipal, Schools, Churches, Cemeteries and Veterans' Buildings. About 3% of the total property in the township falls into this classification if federal property is not included. The Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer are the two pieces of federal property in the township.

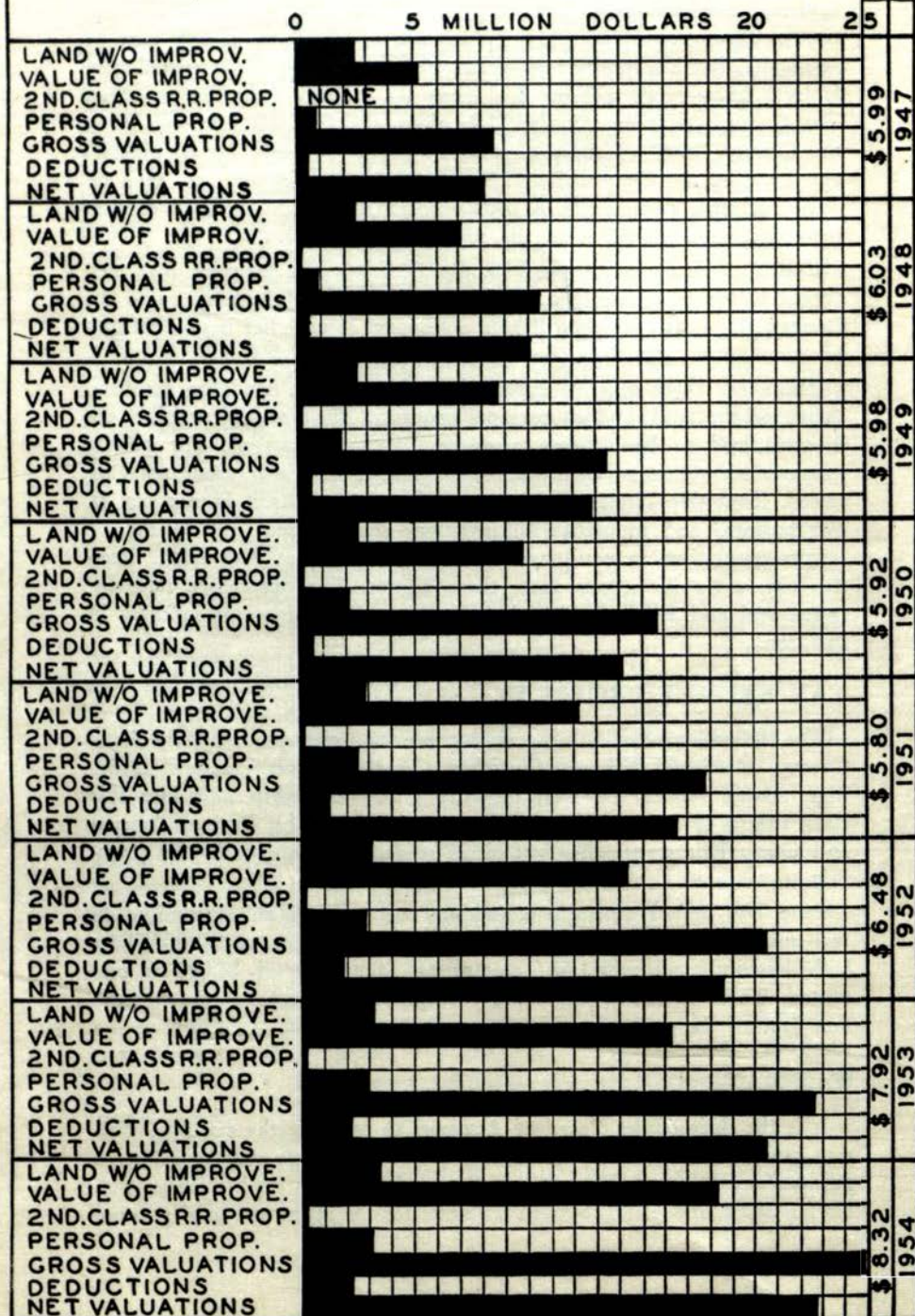
State law allows veterans or widows of veterans an exemption on real and personal property up to an assessed valuation of \$500. Where both husband and wife are veterans an exemption of \$1,000 is permitted. There is also a household exemption for everyone covering the first \$100 of the assessed value of household goods.

## **TAX RATE**

It is the duty of the Board of Assessors to calculate the tax rate. This rate can be defined as the amount that each tax payer will be asked to pay per one hundred dollars of the assessed valuation on his property as his fair share of the total budget. The rate for the municipal local purpose



# A CHART SHOWING TOWNSHIP GROWTH IN RATABLES FROM 1947 TO 1954





tax is arrived at by dividing the net ratables of the township by the municipal appropriations. The school tax rate is arrived at by dividing the net ratables by the total school appropriations (including the debt service for the schools which always appears as a part of the municipal budget). In 1953, based on that year's total assessed valuation of \$20,526,302 each tax point returned \$2,053.00. There is a rate determined by the County Board of Taxation as each tax payer's share of the County Budget.

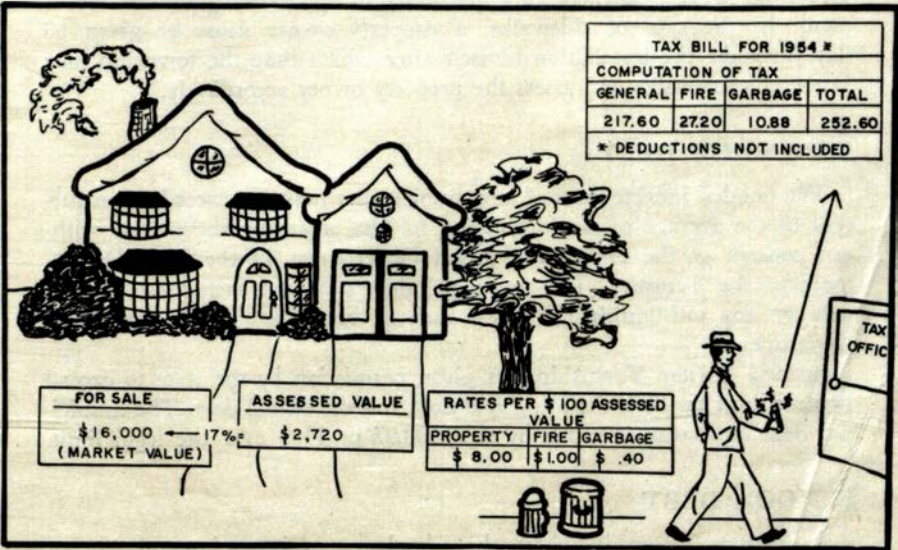
Our local assessors have other rates to determine. They calculate a rate for each fire district (see Chapter X). Also, a separate rate is determined to support the garbage collection service in those sections of the township which receive the service. When our municipal budget is published in February three rates are included: the county, the local school districts and the municipal rate:

	1952	1953	1954 (estimated)
County	\$1.69	\$1.84	\$1.78
School	4.19	4.62	4.95
Municipal	.61	1.46	1.59
	<u>\$6.48*</u>	<u>\$7.92*</u>	<u>\$8.32*</u>

\*(per \$100 assessed valuation)

When the garbage collection rate and the fire district rates for each of the five districts are added, the total makes up the amount the tax payer will pay per \$100 assessed valuation of his property.

### FOLLOWING IS A PICTORIAL PRESENTATION OF A HYPOTHETICAL TAX PAYER'S BILL





## **ASSESSMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS**

By state law certain types of improvements in the township must be paid for by property owners benefiting. Such things as sidewalks, curbs, gutters and sewers are capital improvements that are introduced in the form of ordinances at the request of property owners affected. With the exception of sidewalks, these ordinances establish a separate Board of Commissioners of Assessment consisting of three members to serve until the completion of a particular job. It is the duty of this board to determine how much each property owner will be assessed for that particular improvement. It is not mandatory that the township pay any certain percent of the total cost of the improvement with the exception of an improvement that will necessitate the floating of bonds. In that case five percent of the total must be provided by the governing body. By state law payments of these assessments by the property owners cannot be extended beyond the life of the improvement, but it is up to the governing body to determine within those limits how many years the payments will take. 100% assessment can be made against benefiting property owners, and if the township has surplus cash that can be used for such improvements where no bonds need be floated, the debt limit of the township need not be affected. At the time of the introduction of the ordinance authorizing any improvements, affected property owners have the opportunity to express their opinions at the public hearing on the ordinance. Once the ordinance is passed such property owners are legally bound to pay the added assessment. The special Board of Commissioners of Assessment, after determining the total cost of such improvement and what percent the township will pay, apportions the rest among all affected property owners. They conduct a hearing to give such property owners an opportunity to appeal the proposed assessment. In the case of sidewalks, a property owner must be given 60 days to make the installation himself after which time the township may install the sidewalks and assess the property owner accordingly.

## **TOWNSHIP DEBT**

The bonded indebtedness of any municipality may not exceed seven percent of the average assessed valuation for the preceding three years without consent of the Division of Local Government in the State Department of the Treasury. The municipal debt does not include the school debt or any self-liquidating debts, such as bonds issued for the Water Department.

In 1953 Raritan Township was given permission by the state to exceed its debt limit for both the municipal debt and the school debt. The municipal debt limit was exceeded by \$200,000.97 or 14% over the legal limit.

## **SCHOOL DEBT**

In Raritan Township where the school system is an integral part of

the township government, the school debts are considered municipal obligations. The governing body includes the school debt service in its budget because it handles all matters from the sale of bonds to the retirement of bonds through its offices. State law provides that the school debt may not exceed eight percent of the township's assessed valuation unless such debts have been approved at a public referendum. Even with such a referendum the debt cannot exceed the legal limit without consent of the State Board of Education. The 1953 school bond issue authorizing more than a million and a half dollars for the new Junior-Senior High School will bring our school debt to \$2,273,172.26 or 14% above the legal limit.

Exceeding our debt limit affects our credit rating as a township and makes it necessary for us to pay higher interest rates on our bonds.

## **PURCHASING**

According to state law, all purchases over \$1,000 must be approved by the Board of Commissioners as a whole. Such purchases must be advertised for competitive bids. If bids are not forthcoming, needs are re-advertised. If there are still no bids, the commissioners may pass a resolution permitting one purchase of such goods up to \$2,000 on the open market. We have no central purchasing department. Each department buys its own equipment and supplies.





## Chapter IV

# TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES

## TRANSPORTATION

**Railroads:** The Pennsylvania Railroad's main line runs through the central part of the township and maintains stations at Stelton and Menlo Park. Passenger service at these points is limited. There are a few scheduled stops daily, east and west bound, at Stelton and Menlo Park. The Lehigh Valley Railroad passes through the north and south of the township and the Port Reading Railroad maintains a line east-west through central Raritan Township. Daily commuters to and from Raritan Township usually use the Metuchen or New Brunswick terminals.

**Bus Lines:** The Public Utilities Commission of New Jersey controls the operation of and grants franchises to privately owned bus companies. There are no municipal controls over the transit companies except in the case of re-routing existing services. In that instance, re-routing is subject to approval of the Public Utilities Commission and also to consent of the municipal governing body.

Although there are no bus terminals within the township, several lines service the residents. Public Service Co-ordinated Transport has two routes through the township: (1) No. 134, between New Brunswick and Newark, via the Lincoln Highway (route 27), (2), No. 4, between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via Woodbridge Avenue. The Suburban Transit Corporation has three routes: (1), No. 8, between New Brunswick and Plainfield Avenue (at Paisley Homes) via Lincoln Highway, (2) No. 8, between New Brunswick and Camp Kilmer via Lincoln Highway and Plainfield Avenue, and (3) the Dunellen route between New Brunswick and Dunellen via Lincoln Highway and Plainfield Avenue. The Plainfield Transit Company maintains a route between Plainfield and Metuchen passing through the township on Park Avenue and Plainfield Road in the Oak Tree area.

Long Distance bus lines travelling through the township include Greyhound, National Trailways, American Bus Lines, Quaker City Bus Co.

and the Lincoln Limited. The first three of these maintain terminals at 18 French Street in New Brunswick. The remaining two, Quaker City and Lincoln Limited, take on passengers at designated points along Route No. 25.

**Taxi Service:** Taxi service is available within the township and nearby towns and cities. The only taxi stand in the township is located in the Stelton area at Camp Kilmer.

## TELEPHONE SERVICE

Telephone service throughout Raritan Township is provided by the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. Eight exchanges originating in five places serve the township: (1) Metuchen, ME-6, (2) New Brunswick, CH-7, CH-9, KI-5, (3) Perth Amboy, HI-2, VA-6 (4) Plainfield, PL-5, and (5) Rahway, RA-7. Many residents have wondered why the telephone exchanges serving Raritan Township could not be made uniform. A representative of Bell Telephone Co. has explained that exchanges are built to serve a definite population area with a "community of interest" rather than a geographic area. These are separated by dividing lines that are easily identified such as roads, highways or power lines. Thus the west end of the township up to the power line that runs through Washington Park is served by exchanges in New Brunswick, homes on the east side of the high tension line are served by Metuchen, and so on.

The following chart shows phone exchanges, post office addresses, voting districts and fire districts designations for various sections of the township.

SECTION	ELECTION DISTRICT	MAIL VIA	TELE. EXCH.	FIRE DIST. NOS.
Bonhamtown	14	Metuchen	Metuchen	1, 3
Clara Barton	4, 5, 6, 7	Fords	Metuchen, P. A.	3
Clive Homes	2	Metuchen	Metuchen	5
Durham Road	8	Metuchen, Nixon	Metuchen	1
Fords	4, 5, 6, 7	Fords	Perth Amboy	3
Haven Homes	19	High. Pk., N. B.	New Brunswick	1
Lahiere Park	8	Nixon, Stelton	New Brunswick	1
Lincoln Village	15	Nixon	Metuchen	1
Lindeneau	10, 11, 12	Nixon	New Brunswick	1
Menlo Park	3	Menlo Park	Metuchen	2
Midwood	3	Iselin	Metuchen	4
New Dover	1, 3	Iselin	Rahway	4, 5
Nixon Park	15, 16, 17	Nixon	Metuchen	1
Oak Tree	1	So. Plainfield	Metuchen	5
Old Post Homes	13	Nixon	New Brunswick	1
Paisley	18, 19	Nixon	New Brunswick	1
Phoenix	7	Fords	Metuchen	3
Piscatawaytown	10, 12, 13	Nixon	New Brunswick	1
Potters	1	So. Plainfield	Plainfield	5
Pumptown	2	Metuchen	Metuchen	5
Raritan Homes	13	Nixon	New Brunswick	1
Roosevelt Park	4, 5	Metuchen	Metuchen	3
Stelton	8, 9	Stelton, N. B.	New Brunswick	1
Stephenville	2	Metuchen	Metuchen	5
Vineyard Village	16	Nixon	Metuchen	1
Washington Park	17, 18	Nixon	Metuchen, N. B.	1

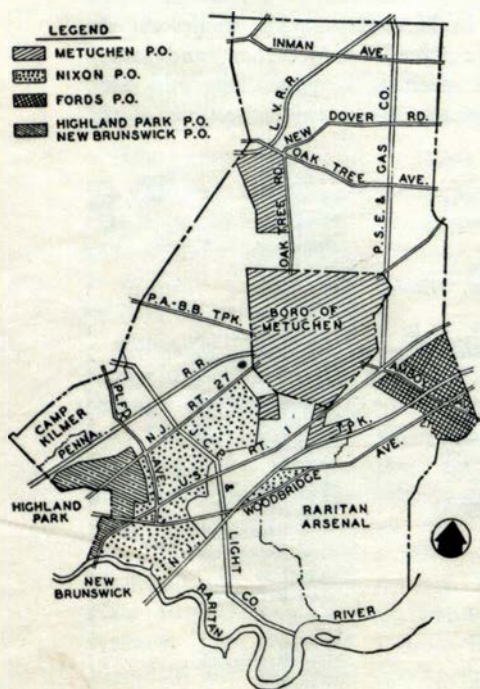


## MAILING SERVICE

Residents of the township are served through ten post offices. Again this has come about because post office services were first set up to serve the population areas regardless of geographic boundaries. Hence the New Brunswick and Highland Park post offices extend their services into the south-west section of the township, the Plainfield Post Office has R.F.D. routes into the north section, the Rahway and Iselin post offices into the north-east, the Perth Amboy Post Office into the south-east. Metuchen Post Office serves the central section and the one post office in the Township with R.F.D. routes and delivery service, the Nixon Post Office, serves the southern section. The Stelton and Menlo Park post offices have general delivery service only.

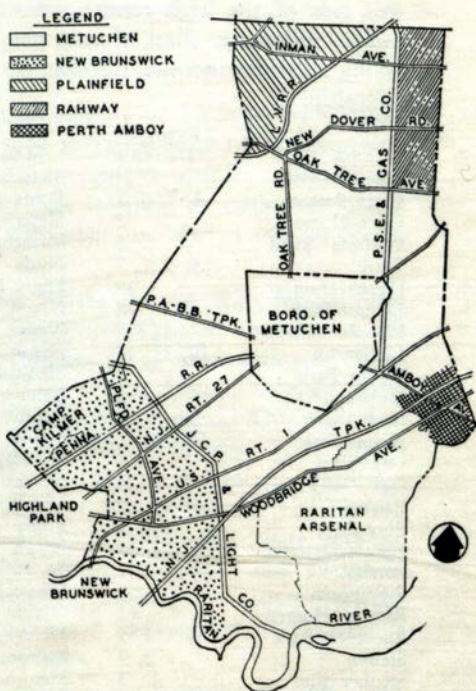
The following map indicates the areas receiving house delivery and from which post offices.

MAIL SERVICE  
HOUSE TO HOUSE DELIVERY



The following map shows telephone exchanges and which areas they serve.

TELEPHONE SERVICE



## UTILITIES

**Water:** Raritan Township is served by three separate water companies, one of which is the Raritan Township Water Department. The territory covered by our Township department extends from the Piscataway Township line on the north to Highland Park on the west, to the Raritan River on the south and to Bonhamtown on the east. The Middlesex Water Company supplies the other sections of the township except the Oak Tree section which is supplied by the Plainfield Union Water Company. The major portion of the residents are served by the township water department.

An ordinance passed in 1929 made the water department a part of the township government functions. This ordinance was not amended until January 1953 when a series of amendments and supplements were adopted establishing a new schedule consistent with the costs and conditions of the present times.

**Control of Department:** The water department is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Affairs at present. The original ordinance decrees that the commissioner in charge of the department be the president of the board of directors, which must consist of the Board of Commissioners as a whole. The township attorney, the township clerk, the township treasurer and the township engineer are part of the "company" and function as necessary.

**Personnel:** There is a superintendent of the department who is in direct charge of its operations and personnel. Currently there are fifteen employees, seven on hourly rates and eight on monthly salaries. There are four regular clerks, two full-time meter readers, one meter setter and trouble shooter, and one pump man who is assisted occasionally by a part-time worker. The outside maintenance and construction crew consists of a foreman and five men. In 1950 the employees had the opportunity to join the state pension plan and many did.

**History:** When the department was first established in 1929 it served an area with an estimated population of 5,000 along twenty-five miles of water mains. The first report of the company in 1930 showed 383 customers with 54,000,000 gallons of water purchased. In 1952 the area served had a population of around 10,000 with about sixty miles of water mains and 4,715 customers. Today there are over 5,000 customers. There are about 140 fire hydrants served.

**Source of water:** Water is obtained from three sources: Elizabethtown Water Company, the Highland Park Water system and six wells owned by the Raritan Township Water Department. The source of water supply of the Elizabethtown Water Company is the Raritan River, the Millstone River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The Highland Park supply



is from the Raritan River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. All are surface supplies. The township supply comes from deep wells in rock 353 to 507 feet deep and are powered by turbine pumps. Six wells out of twelve produce water in commercial quantities. A seventh may be usable later as mains are extended. Future expansion is tied in to our ability to obtain a major part of our supply from the Elizabethtown Water Company.

**Budget:** The water department has a self-sustaining budget which is not a part of the municipal budget. The rates are based on the necessary expenditures of the department. The 1954 budget is broken down as follows:

<i>Anticipated Revenue</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>	
Rents (sale of water) .....	\$228,476.00	Operating costs .....	\$200,000.00
Rent of Fire Hydrants .....	16,950.00	Capital outlay .....	39,000.00
Misc. (fees, interest on delinquent accounts, all other misc.) .....	12,000.00	Payment on bonds .....	13,000.00
		Payment on interest .....	2,593.00
		Contribution to State Pension fund .....	2,833.00
Total .....	\$257,426.00	Total .....	\$257,426.00

If more money is collected than is anticipated it does not go into the municipal cash surplus but can be used for capital improvements in the department if they are of a minor nature. Any major installation of water mains, pumps, etc., would have to be financed through borrowing. (Note: The company's borrowing power has no relationship to the township's borrowing capacity.) At present the water department is retiring bonds issued for the drilling of wells, the pump houses built recently and additional mains to the industrial area.

## UTILITIES: LIGHTING

**Street Lighting:** Electricity for both public and private consumption in our township is furnished by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company whose offices are in New Brunswick. The Commissioner of Parks and Public Buildings is at present in charge of street lighting. If residents wish a street light, they make a request to the commissioner. After investigating the need, the size of light that may be required, etc., he may authorize the Public Service Company to make the installation of the new light. The township pays for the electricity used by the light but not for the light itself or the cost of installation. In 1953 the township paid to Public Service a total of \$53,109.75 for 1,956 lights. Our 1953 monthly bill averaged about \$4,800. The 1954 budget appropriates \$56,000 for our lighting bill.

## Chapter V

# ELECTIONS, POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS



### QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

You may register in Raritan Township and anywhere else in the State of New Jersey if you meet the following qualifications (as set forth in State Election Law-Title 19).

1. You are a citizen of the United States.
2. You are 21 years of age on General Election Day.
3. You have resided in New Jersey for one year prior to General Election Day.
4. You have resided in your county (Middlesex County) for five months prior to General Election Day.

Anyone who will meet all of the above qualifications by the next General Election Day may register and vote in the preceding primary election. Our state election laws state that you may not register or vote if you are "an idiot, insane, or disqualified as a criminal."

### TIME AND PLACE FOR REGISTRATION

You may register any day in the year except the 40 days immediately preceding an election. Registrations are taken in the township clerk's office at our Municipal Building between the hours of 9:30 and 4:30 Monday through Friday. Also you may register with the County Election Board at 46 Bayard St. in New Brunswick or at the Board's office in Perth Amboy. You must register in person. Registration in New Jersey is permanent.

### WHEN YOU MUST RE-REGISTER

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

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Under a law passed in 1953 civilians as well as servicemen were given the right to cast absentee ballots by mail. Application for such ballots may be made to the county clerk in person or by mail up to eight days before an election. In case of a local election application is made to the



municipal clerk. A civilian must have been registered before making application. A serviceman may make application without being registered. A civilian may cast an absentee ballot only if he (1) will be out-of-state on election day or (2) if he will be sick or disabled. A civilian application must be signed by the applicant and reasons for the application clearly stated. A friend or relative may make application for a serviceman. Naturally, no one receiving an absentee ballot is permitted to vote in person.

## **GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Yearly elections for National, State and County officials and votes on public questions are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Sample ballots are mailed to every registered citizen giving instructions for use of the voting machine and designating the polling place for each voting district. Anyone who has complied with the registration requirements may vote in a General Election.

## **PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Yearly elections for party candidates to run in General Elections and for party committeemen and committeewomen are held on the third Tuesday in April. New Jersey has "closed primaries." This means a registered voter must express his preference for one of the parties and may vote in the primary for candidates of that party only. Voting in the primaries constitutes registering in the party of your choice. You may not vote in the primaries of another political party (changing parties) until you have refrained from voting in two successive primary elections.

## **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The only municipal officials who are elected in Raritan Township are the five township commissioners. This election is held every four years on the second Tuesday in May. The last election was in 1951, the next will be in 1955. This is a non-partisan election requiring no primary. Candidates are nominated by filing individual petitions 40 days before the election. Petitions must be signed by registered voters of the community. There must be signatures equalling at least half of one percent of the vote cast at the last general election. Citizens may sign five petitions or as many petitions as there are offices open. Any resident is eligible to run if he is a qualified voter and has lived in the township for two years. Candidates must run without a party label but may bracket themselves into groups to gain strength. The five candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected. Write-in votes are permitted in all types of elections.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS**

The Middlesex County Board of Elections sets up the election machinery and has jurisdiction of the administration of the state election laws. The Board consists of four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, who are appointed for two years by the governor.

The County Clerk sets up the ballots and interprets the laws pertain-



ing to elections. The township clerk has jurisdiction over all municipal elections. He also recommends to the Board of Commissioners reapportionment of districts as needed. There should be no more than 1,000 registered voters in a district. The Board of Commissioners may set up new districts by resolution.

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. The County Board depends upon local political organizations to make recommendations for these positions. These district boards are charged with the responsibility of conducting and carrying out the election duties in their particular districts.

## LOCAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

All political organizations begin at the local level with the committeemen and committeewomen. At the primary election each year each political party elects one committeeman and one committeewoman for each of the election districts. In 1949 Raritan Township had six districts, in 1952, fifteen districts. At present we have nineteen districts. As the population grows there may be more. We have at this time 38 committeemen and committeewomen for each political party. An individual wishing to place his name on the ballot as committeeman files a petition signed by 10 registered voters of his party with the municipal clerk who in turn checks the petition to see that it is in order and then certifies to the County Board of Elections the names of all candidates filing.

The committeemen and women constitute the local party committee and also serve on the county party committee. They are called county committeemen and committeewomen. They perform all the necessary political organization work in their district, share in shaping the party platforms and in nominating candidates. They represent the basic unit of party politics. Most individuals in politics have begun at this level.

## POLITICAL CLUBS

In Raritan Township at the present time there are many political clubs. Anyone who wishes may join such clubs. There are nine Democratic clubs and eight Republican clubs with the number always increasing. Many party policies are discussed and acted upon in these clubs.

## VOTING STATISTICS IN RARITAN TOWNSHIP

At the time of the 1953 general election there were 13,759 registered voters in Raritan Township. At that election (we voted for governor of the state) only 64% of this number cast a ballot.

Year of Election	No. Registered	No. of Voters	% Voting
Nov. 1948 (Presidential)	7042	5854	83%
May, 1951 (Local)	8033	5477	68%
Nov. 1952 (Presidential)	13146	11997	91%
Nov. 1953 (State)	13759	8821	64%

Our population is estimated at 26,000 at this time. If we use the National Average and say that 70% of those would be eligible voters, this would mean that 4,441 or 24% are not registered who might be.





## Chapter VI

### SCHOOLS, LIBRARY SERVICE

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Education has the direct responsibility for our township education system. The Board sets policies and determines expenditures. It is composed of five members appointed by the Mayor without confirmation of the Board of Commissioners. Each member serves for five years, one being appointed in January of each year. The Board elects its own president annually. All serve without pay. The Board employs a secretary whose job is full time at a salary of \$6,600 plus a \$700 expense account. At present the secretary is also a member of the Board. The Board of Education meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Bonhamtown School where the Board maintains its offices. All meetings are open to the public.

#### 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 with 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 Raritan Township who will be five on or before September 30 of a school year may enter kindergarten. Birth, vaccination and diphtheria 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 churches or in annexes are not considered standard classrooms, but many concessions have

been made in districts throughout the state because of the fast-growing school population.

## SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

The Superintendent of Schools is selected and appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Education. By State law he may have tenure of office after three years' service. Our present superintendent was first appointed for one year, then put under a five-year contract and is now under tenure. His present salary is \$9,000. His duties are to execute the policies determined by the Board and to make recommendations to the Board on objectives, policies, and appointments of personnel.

We have a full-time elementary supervisor and coordinator, a position established for the first time in our system in 1954. Her duties are to work with the teachers and help improve classroom instruction. At present, the salary for this job is \$4,900.

There are six non-teaching principals and two head teachers. The head teachers are in the smaller schools; the Bonhamtown School and the Sand Hills School. The State has recommended the retirement of these two schools as soon as possible, but according to the present and anticipated enrollment, this cannot take place until 1962.

## TEACHING STAFF

In the 1952-53 school year there were 118 teachers in the Raritan Township school system. Thirty new teachers and one new principal were hired for the 1953-54 school year making a total of 148 teachers. For the year 1954-55 it is anticipated that twenty additional teachers will have to be hired making the total 168 teachers in our school system. The length of service and training of the teaching staff for the school year 1952-53 are presented in the following tables:

### LENGTH OF SERVICE (PRINCIPALS INCLUDED)

School Year	1 yr. or less	2 to 3	4 yrs.	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	over 35	total no. of teachers
1950-51	14	16	7	20	5	13	5	8	4		93
1951-52	27	15	9	16	10	10	9	3	8	1	108
1952-53	30	30	1	20	8	8	12	6	9		124

### TRAINING OF TEACHERS (PRINCIPALS INCLUDED)

	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
Non-Degree (less than 4 yrs.)	27	27	30
College Graduates (4 yrs.)	50	57	69
Master's Degree (5 yrs.)	16	24	24
Doctor's Degree (6 yrs.)			1
TOTALS	93	108	124

## SPECIAL TEACHERS EMPLOYED

Besides the regular class room teachers and the non-teaching principals, our school system hires special instructors. In 1952-54 we had 13 such instructors as follows:



- 2 traveling music teachers for the system
- 3 manual training teachers for the system
- 3 sewing and cooking teachers for the system
- 1 art teacher for the system
- 1 librarian in the system
- 1 physical education teacher for boys (not below grade 5)
- 1 physical education teacher for girls (not below grade 5)
- 1 hospital instructor (for Roosevelt Hospital class)

(NOTE: Proposed additional staff for 1954-55—1 physical education teacher, 1 music teacher, 1 art teacher.)

## TEACHERS SALARY SCHEDULE AS OF 1954

	<i>Non-Degree</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Masters</i>
Minimum	\$2900.	\$3100.	\$3300.
Maximum	4700.	5000.	5200.

Note: It takes 9 years for a teacher to go from the minimum to the maximum salary. New teachers hired are given credit not to exceed three years' teaching experience on the salary guide.

SUBSTITUTE PAY: Regular pay—\$9.00 a day. Certified personnel with five years or more experience, fifteen or more consecutive days of teaching, thirty or more days teaching in any school year and outstanding performance receive \$11.00 per day.

## MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

There is only one full-time maintenance man for our school system. Most repairs are done by contractors on a job basis. Major repairs are let out on contract to the lowest bidder. Two schools have three full-time janitors: Stelton and Oak Tree Schools; two have two full-time janitors: Clara Barton and Piscatawaytown Schools; the other four smaller schools have one each. This makes a total of fourteen janitors for the system. \$51,025.39 was paid in salaries for our janitor and maintenance staff in 1952-53; \$59,100 was budgeted for 1953-54; and \$62,500 has been budgeted for the year 1954-55. Supplies for the janitors and maintenance crew have cost from nine to ten thousand dollars per year. The fuel bill for the entire school system has jumped from \$12,000 in 1952-53 to \$16,000 in the 1954-55 budget.

## HEALTH PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOLS

There are two doctors whose salaries total \$4,040 and two nurses whose combined salaries are \$7,650 for our school system. All the children are examined by a school doctor in the course of a school year, and special examinations are given when necessary. Pupils in grades 4 and 7 are given tuberculin patch skin tests throughout the year; and 9th grade pupils and employees, including the teaching staff, are chest x-rayed annually. Classrooms, school buildings and premises are inspected for sanitary conditions. We have one dentist on a part-time basis at \$1,500.

Infirmaries are located in all of the schools.

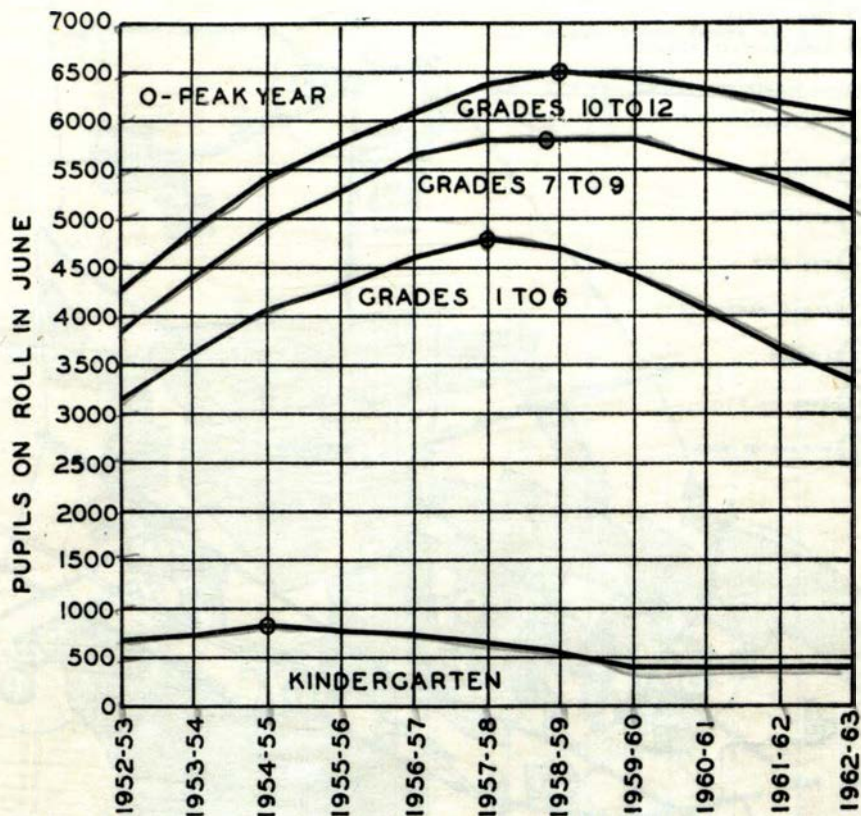
Total budget for this program in 1952-53 .....	\$16,679.52
Appropriation for this program in 1953-54 .....	20,500.00
Appropriation for this program in 1954-55 .....	21,600.00

## SCHOOL POPULATION

Raritan Township is one of the fastest growing communities in the state and has been confronted with overcrowded classrooms and the need for

new school buildings over the past few years. In the last five years, two large additions have been built at the Stelton and Oak Tree Schools and two new elementary school buildings have been completed: the Washington School and the Lincoln School. Construction of a new Junior-Senior High School was authorized by referendum on Nov. 3, 1953 and is expected to be ready by the fall of 1955.

The following chart shows the anticipated growth of the school population in the next ten years—from 1952-53 to 1962-63. (Prepared June 1, 1953, by McHugh and McCrosky, Community and Regional Development Consultants, 23 E. 26th Street, New York 10, New York.)

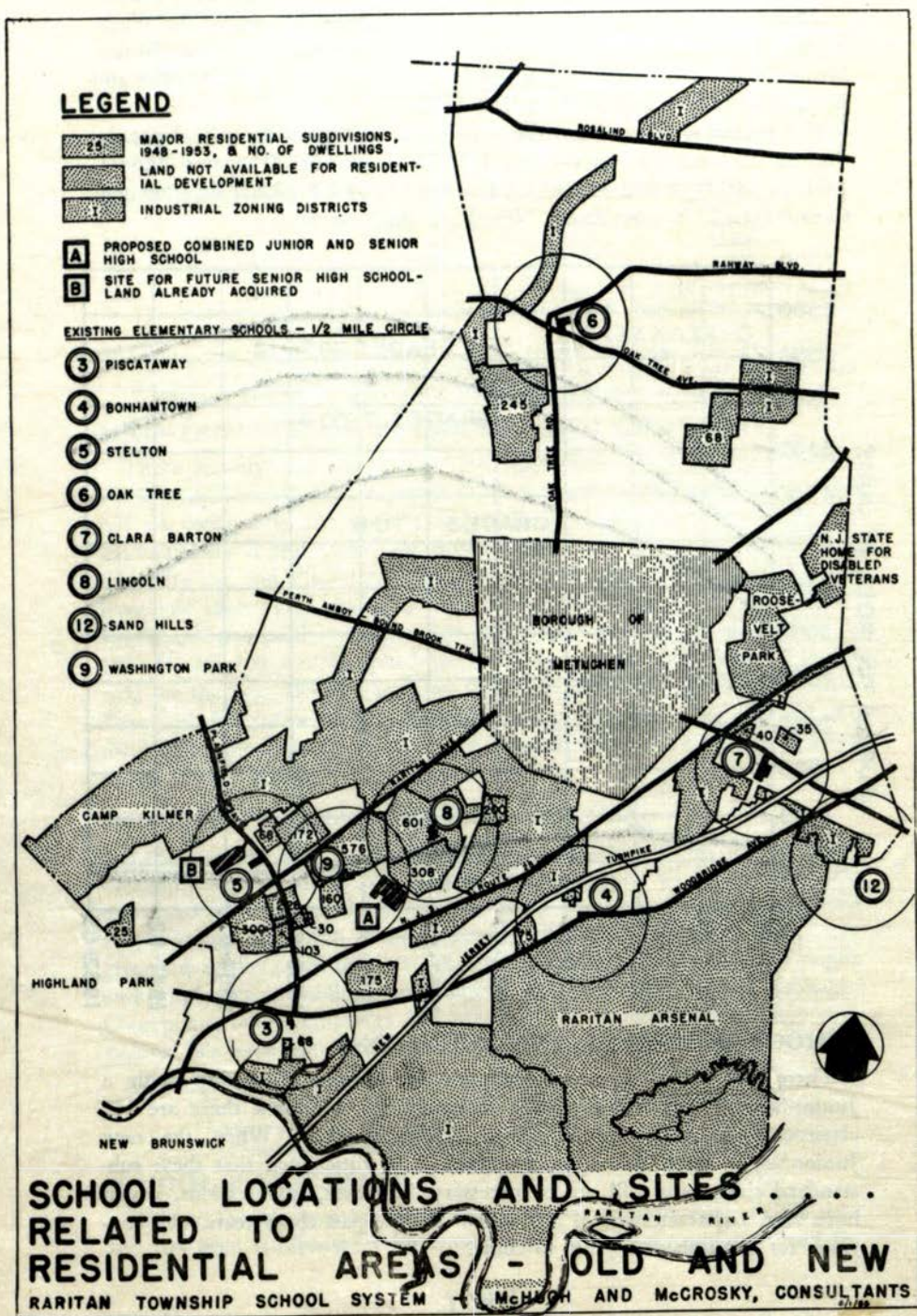


### SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND LOCATIONS

There are eight elementary schools in Raritan Township with a Junior-Senior High School under construction. At present there are 113 classrooms in use, nine of which are substandard. When the new Junior-Senior High School is completed, it is anticipated that these substandard classrooms will not be necessary. However, split sessions, which have been a characteristic of our system for the past three years, will continue for a number of years to come.



The following map shows the location of the schools and the residential areas they serve:



For the school year 1953-54, the elementary schools were operating in the following manner: (Note: All Ninth Grade pupils attend the Clara Barton School).

SCHOOLS	GRADES	No. TEACHERS	SPECIAL TEACHERS	No. PUPILS SCHOOL WAS BUILT FOR	No. PUPILS NOW ENROLLED	SPLIT SESSIONS
PISCATAWAY Built in 1913 Addition 1922	K-8	20 regular 1 special	Industrial Arts Music	(35 per class) 550	644	3-1st Grade 3-2nd Grade
BONHAMTOWN Built in 1908	K-2	5 regular		140	170	None
CLARA BARTON Built in 1923 Addition 1928  Addition 1950	K-9 (Freshman High)	23 regular 7 special	Cooking Sewing Mech. Draw. Manual Tr. Library Phys. Tr. Music	700	761	1st Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade
OAK TREE Built in 1908 Addition 1951	K-8	25 regular 1 special	Industrial Arts	700	887	None
STELTON Built in 1926 Addition 1950	K-8	23 regular 1 special	Home Ec.	550	736	3-1st Grade 4th Grade
LINCOLN Built in 1952	K-4	17 regular		330	533	4 Kdgs one-3rd all day Remainder Split
WASHINGTON Built in 1953	K-5	16 regular		450	560	3rd Grade 5th Grade
SAND HILLS Built in 1890	3-6	4 regular		119	140	none



## HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

High school children from the township from grades 10 (sophomore) to 12 (senior) go to receiving high schools in the surrounding towns. The present high schools receiving township pupils are: New Brunswick, Highland Park, Perth Amboy and Metuchen. In addition, the three county vocational schools in New Brunswick, Woodbridge and Perth Amboy receive township pupils. In 1952-53, the township paid \$147,286.30 in tuition to these various high schools and \$23,450.33 for transportation to the schools, an average of \$398.91 per pupil per year. For the school year 1953-54 we expect to pay \$190,000 in tuition alone. For 1954-55 we anticipate it will cost us \$206,540 in tuition fees.

The following chart shows our high school pupils' attendance over the past four years:

	1950-51	(as of Feb. 28, 1954)		1953-54
		1951-52	1952-53	
New Brunswick	82	108	139	136
Perth Amboy	65	105	122	118
Metuchen	145	123	140	146
Highland Park	125	111	104	100
Somerville	2			
Woodbridge				1
South River				2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>503</b>

	1950-51	(as of Feb. 28, 1954)		1953-54
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS		1951-52	1952-53	
New Brunswick				
(No. 1)	39	44	43	45
Perth Amboy (No. 2)	28	21	30	32
Woodbridge (girls)	20	20	20	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>

## PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

There is one private school and five parochial schools that receive Raritan Township pupils. The private school is the Suz-Anne School for Retarded Children at 1745 Park Avenue in the Oak Tree section of the township.

The five parochial schools accommodating our pupils are St. Paul's, St. Francis', Our Lady of Peace, St. Peter's High School and St. Mary's High School. St. Matthew's parish will have a new grammar school in Stelton near the new Washington School which is expected to be completed by September of 1954. It is impossible to determine the number of Raritan Township pupils attending these parochial schools because parish boundaries do not conform to township boundaries; and because Raritan Township has no one postal address, school records do not indicate residence of children as "Raritan Township, N. J."

## **SCHOOL FINANCE:—Income**

As is true throughout New Jersey, more than four-fifths of the cost of operation of schools in Raritan Township falls upon one source of revenue; local real estate. New school construction is financed through bond issues approved by the voters. We have had an extensive school construction program over the past five years. Money received from these bonds shows as income in the school budget and appears under the Land, Buildings and Equipment item as a budgetary expenditure. In 1952-53 outlay for this item was \$381,105.82; more than one quarter of the entire budget. Percentage-wise this lowers the actual ratios of all other items under both income and expenditures in the school budget of that year. In the fall of 1953 the voters approved by a vote of 4 to 1 a school bond issue of over a million and a half dollars for the new Junior-Senior High School. When these bonds are issued the amount will appear as income in the school budget of that year.

The State of New Jersey contributes a certain percent of the total monies spent for education in this township. It was 18.3% for 1953. It is a comparatively small amount as shown in the charts below. State aid is not keeping pace with essential increases in the cost of operating our schools and this burden must fall on the property owners of the township in the form of increasing rates in their property tax. State aid comes to us in five different ways; (1) 75% of the school bus transportation costs are reimbursed by the state based upon the previous year's cost of transporting children who live 2 to 2½ miles away from their schools; (2) the state matches funds spent in our manual training program up to \$5,000. The township has received the maximum for many years; (3) we are reimbursed for dependent charges, children in our system who are wards of the state; (4) equalization aid under state formula based on average daily attendance; and (5) estimated aid under cigarette tax, State Law 66-1948.

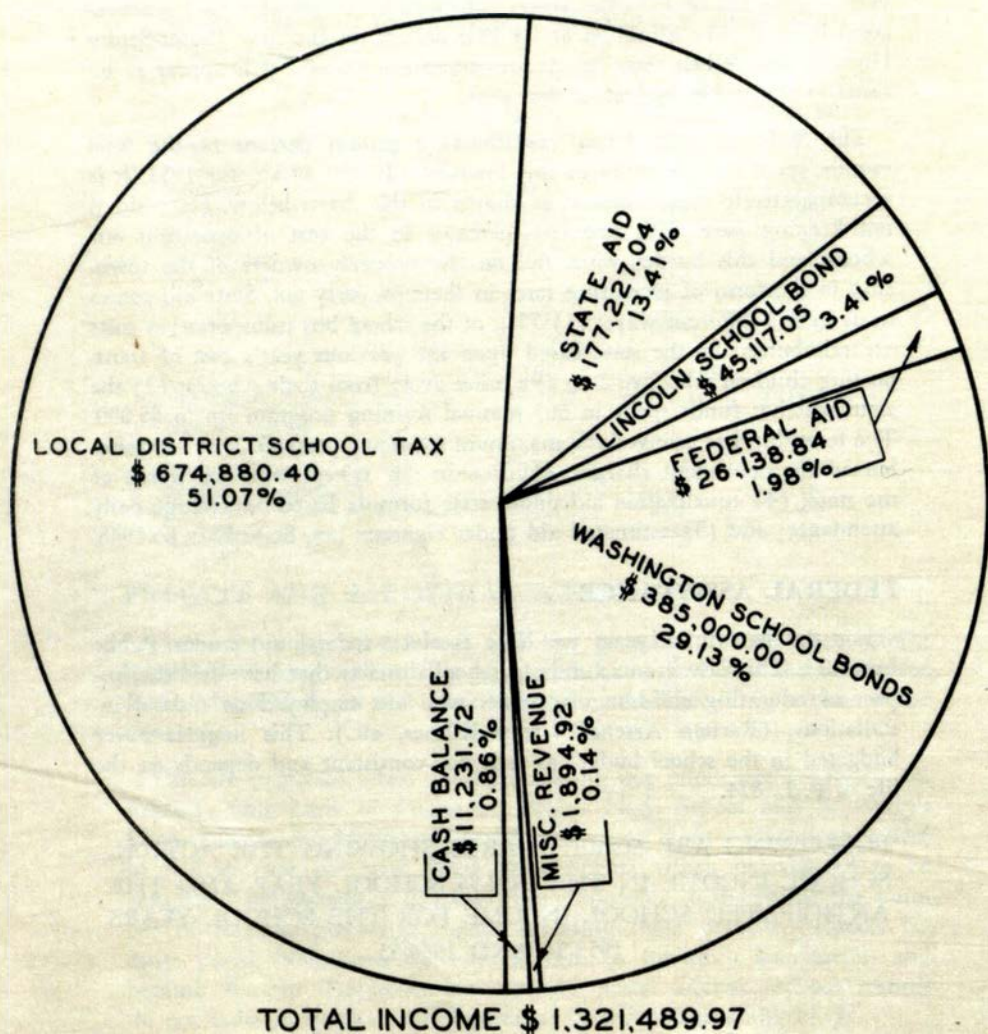
## **FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

For the past three years we have received federal aid under Public Law 874. This law grants funds to school districts that have felt the impact of educating children of parents who are employed on federal installations; (Raritan Arsenal, Camp Kilmer, etc.). This item is never budgeted in the school budget as it is non-consistent and depends on the life of P. L. 874.

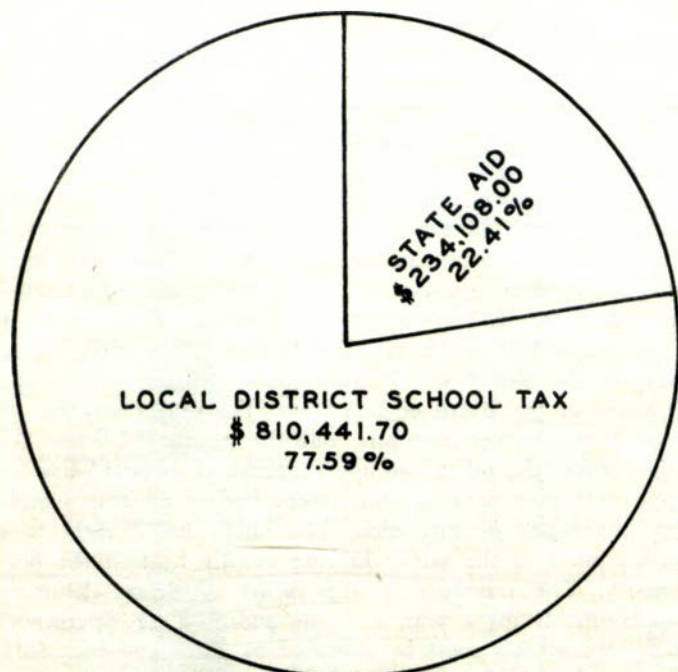
FOLLOWING ARE SOME CHARTS SHOWING THE ACTUAL SCHOOL INCOME IN THE 1952-53 SCHOOL YEAR AND THE ANTICIPATED SCHOOL INCOME FOR THE SCHOOL YEARS 1953-54 AND 1954-55



# ACTUAL SCHOOL INCOME FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1952-53

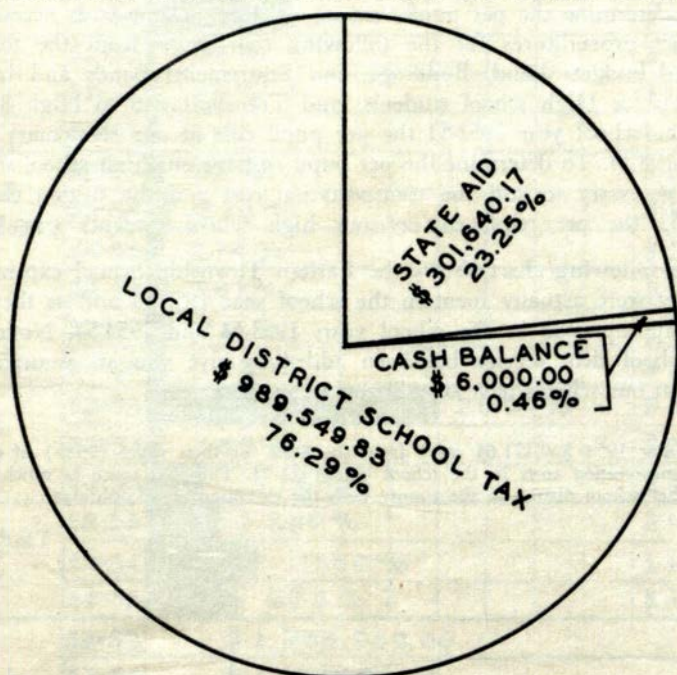


SCHOOL INCOME ANTICIPATED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1953-54



TOTAL INCOME \$ 1,044,550.00

SCHOOL INCOME ANTICIPATED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1954-55



TOTAL INCOME \$ 1,297,190.00



## **SCHOOL EXPENDITURES**

To get a true picture of what our schools have cost us each year, it is necessary to add to the school budget as it is published by the Board of Education the amount of money that is paid out each year to retire the school debt service. This item appears in the Municipal Budget but is added to the Local District School Tax to compute the school tax rate each year. Each January when the new school budget is decided upon by our School Board and presented to the public in one of the local papers, it does not become the actual budget until the Board of School Estimate conducts a public hearing and finally passes it. The Board of School Estimate is required by law to be made up of three members of the Board of Commissioners including the mayor and two members of the Board of Education. The Mayor appoints the two Board of Commissioner members and the president of the Board of Education makes the other two appointments. This board has the complete power to pass or reject the school budget as it is submitted to them by the Board of Education. The public has a right to express an opinion on it at the public hearing usually held in the first week in February. The members of the Board of School Estimate hold their appointments for a year, and any additional or emergency funds needed by the schools must be approved by them and included in the following year's municipal budget.

## **PER PUPIL COST IN LOCAL SCHOOLS**

To determine the per pupil cost in our local schools it is necessary to subtract expenditures for the following four items from the total expended budget: Land, Buildings, and Equipment; Bonds and Interest; Tuition for High school students; and Transportation to High Schools. For the school year 1952-53 the per pupil cost of our elementary pupils was \$198.34. To determine the per pupil cost for our high school students it is necessary to add the transportation cost and the tuition costs. In 1952-53 the per pupil cost of our high school students was \$398.91

The following chart shows the Raritan Township School expenditures as they were actually spent in the school year 1952-53 and as they have been appropriated in the school years 1953-54 and 1954-55. Notice that the school debt service has been added to give you an accurate total of what our schools have or will cost us in these years.

NOTE: For 1954 \$60,151.64 came from the State for their share (75%) of our bus transportation costs in the school year 1952-53. This was twice as much as any other school district in the county with the exception of Woodbridge.







## **LIBRARY SERVICE**

The Raritan Township Free Public Library Association held its first meeting on December 14, 1926, for the purpose of founding a Free Public Library. The library was opened to the public on January 29, 1927. The following year it was presented to the township. This first library had 246 books on its shelves and was located at the corner of Woodbridge Avenue and Thomas Street. Encouraged by the initial success of the library, the association put to the people at the election in November of 1928 the question of making the library a service of the local governing body. The referendum was passed by a large majority and a board of trustees was then appointed by the mayor.

The library remained on its original site until November 1931 when it was moved to the corner of Woodbridge Avenue and Myrtle Street. Then in May of 1938 the library was again moved, this time to its present location in the Municipal Building at Woodbridge and Plainfield Avenues.

In 1953 an inventory of the library revealed 15,391 books, 24 magazines, 2 newspapers, a genealogy collection, government documents and a mounted picture collection at the disposal of its borrowers. The library also offers phone reference service.

Records on library activity in 1953 showed that 21,075 books were borrowed. Of this total about 80% was fiction, 20% non-fiction. In addition 391 magazines were borrowed. Approximately 14% of the population (3,600 out of 26,000 population) are members of the library; 2,500 adult members and 1,100 junior members. Out of that number only 1,372 are active borrowers.

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

The main library in the Municipal Building is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 5:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. During summer months these hours are changed.

There are two depositories for our public library; one located in the Oak Tree Firehouse on Oak Tree Road which is open from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, and another located in the Clara Barton School on Amboy Avenue which is open from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

Money collected from fines and paid books amounted to \$520.60 in 1953. \$476 of this total was collected by the main library. Any proposed additions to the staff are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees which is appointed by the mayor and includes five members, the mayor and the superintendent of schools. All serve without pay. Our present library staff includes the head librarian, one assistant and two part-time assistants.

## **BUDGET**

The library budget is approved by the Board of Trustees of the library first, then submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. In 1953 the salaries paid to our librarians totaled \$6,570.48. Other expenses which include the buying and repairing of books, etc., was \$2,729.52. For 1954 we expect to pay \$8,000 in salaries and \$3,000 for operating expense or a total of \$11,000 for our library.



## Chapter VII

### HEALTH



#### ADMINISTRATION

Raritan Township has a Board of Health which controls whatever program of service we have in this department. The Board is made up of five members and by provisions in the state law must be the five elected members of the Board of Commissioners. Whatever commissioner is assigned the Board of Health at the organization meeting automatically becomes the president of the Board of Health. At present he is the commissioner in charge of the Department of Public Affairs. The Board meets once a month. They have elected to reconvene after the Board of Commissioner's Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month and sit as our Board of Health. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Municipal Building. The Board sets health policies for the township, recommends health ordinances to the Board of Commissioners for action and in general administers the department.

#### PERSONNEL

At present there are eight employees of the township directly responsible to the Board of Health. They are a full-time health officer, three full-time registered nurses, one part-time health physician, one part-time secretary to the Board, and one part-time registrar of vital statistics. The full-time plumbing inspector is currently assigned to this department.

Both the plumbing inspector and the health officer have an office on the second floor of the Municipal Building. This office is open from nine to five each week-day. The registrar of vital statistics has his office in his home at 40 Bloomfield Avenue in the Clara Barton section. The health officer, the physician, the secretary, the registrar of vital statistics and the plumbing inspector are all appointed by resolution of the Board of Commissioners on recommendation of the commissioner in charge and serve for a term of four years concurrent with that board. Qualifications are set by the State Board of Health for the health officer and the plumbing inspector only. Both must pass examinations given by the State Board before they may receive their appointments. The nurses



have tenure of office. The health officer and the plumbing inspector may have tenure if they serve under their licenses for five consecutive years. The registrar of vital statistics has tenure of office, but his office has been abolished by state law and his duties will be taken over by the health officer when he retires.

The work of this department is financed by general taxation through the municipal budget. In 1953 \$20,315.00 was spent in salaries and \$4,920.00 in other expenses, making a total of \$25,235.00 spent for the work of this department. For 1954 \$21,435 has been appropriated for salaries and \$6,300 for other expenses, bringing the total to \$27,735.00 to be spent for health services.

## **DUTIES OF PERSONNEL**

**Health Officer:** The State Board of Health outlines the duties of this office. The health officer shall act as the executive officer of the Board of Health and be the general agent for the enforcement of ordinances pertaining to health matters as well as the enforcement of the sanitary laws of the state. He shall conduct inspections to insure environmental sanitation. This would include inspection of dairies, restaurants, taverns and stores, inspection of private water supplies and septic tanks, etc. He has the use of the New Jersey State Agriculture Experiment Station laboratories and the State Department of Health Laboratories to have analyses made of private water supplies, milk, food suspected of being adulterated and the laboratory work done on dogs and other animals suspected of rabies. He shall supervise the work of the three nurses. He also issues dog licenses as the dog licensing warden.

**Board of Health Physician:** He annually administers our free immunization program against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, a program at present sponsored by our health department. He also acts in an advisory capacity to the health officer in the event of communicable diseases and outbreaks of food poisoning.

**Secretary of the Board of Health:** He keeps the minutes of the board's meetings and makes all reports of communicable diseases to the state department.

**Board of Health Nurses:** Our three registered nurses are supervised by the State Health Department. Each nurse has a district in which she performs the following duties: Visits expectant mothers to instruct them in prenatal health. Following the birth of a child, she delivers the birth certificate and offers advice on the care of the infant. She assists the school physician with his semi-annual examination of Parochial school children. She also assists the school dentist with a yearly examination of teeth and makes arrangements in needy cases for necessary medical and dental treatment. (Note: children attending public

# EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

schools receive the same service but this care is provided by the Board of Education under state law.) The nurses conduct the Baby-Keep-Well station at Potters Crossing. Either the health officer or the nurses visit every home where a communicable disease has been reported. They explain periods of isolation and the rules of quarantine. Homes are posted with placards for the following diseases; diphtheria, meningitis, polio, small pox and scarlet fever. This is controlled by state law.

**Plumbing Inspector:** He issues all plumbing permits, inspects all plumbing work done in the township, and in general enforces the local Plumbing Code.

**Registrar of Vital Statistics:** He keeps all records of births, deaths and marriages occurring in the township. He also issues necessary licenses in these connections.

## HEALTH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Funds have not been made available to do much in this field in Raritan Township. A free chest x-ray program conducted by the Middlesex County Tuberculosis League is sponsored by our health department. A free anti-rabies program for dogs is also in force. These programs are well advertised at the time they take place. The following chart indicates the extent to which our residents took advantage of our three health preventive programs in 1953:

Immunization Program .....	children receiving series.....	108
	children receiving booster shots.....	103
Anti Rabies Clinic .....	number of dogs inoculated.....	619
Free Chest X-ray Program .....	number X-rayed (excluding school population).....	660

## HOSPITALS

There are three private hospitals available to the residents of Raritan Township. The township governing body makes contributions to these hospitals (\$700 to each) to help cover the cost of hospital and clinic treatment for those who cannot pay. The remainder of the cost of indigent cases is covered by the county and the hospital. The three hospitals are:

Middlesex General Hospital in New Brunswick .....	106 beds
	25 bassinets
St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick .....	188 beds
	45 bassinets
Perth Amboy General Hospital .....	275 beds
	45 bassinets

(NOTE: This hospital is adding 75 additional beds at present and will eventually have 400 beds.)

In addition to these private hospitals township residents also have the use of the three county hospitals; Roosevelt Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, located in Raritan Township, with 228 beds; Middlesex



County Hospital for the Chronically Ill located on Georges Rd. in North Brunswick, with 55 beds; and the Middlesex County Polio Center located on Georges Rd. in North Brunswick, with 20 beds. (An addition is to be opened soon.)

### **SPECIAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

The Kiddie-Keep-Well Camp, located in Roosevelt Park in Raritan Township, is a health camp for underprivileged boys and girls of Middlesex County. It is financed by county, municipal and private contributions and is operated by the Middlesex County Recreational Council. The camp serves 150 boys in July and 150 girls in August every summer. In 1953 Raritan Township contributed \$450 to this camp. The 1954 budget provides \$500 for this. The county operates a small day camp for boys at Johnson Park in Highland Park every summer.

## Chapter VIII

### WELFARE



#### ADMINISTRATION

The Welfare Department at present comes under the Commissioner of Public Affairs. Its functions are supervised and controlled by the State Department of Institutions and Agencies. By state law we have a Local Assistance Board holding the administrative responsibility on the local level. This board must be composed of three persons, one of which must be a woman who has had some welfare experience. There may not be more than one member who holds an elective position on the local governing body. The members of the board with the exception of the commissioner are appointed for a two-year term by the Board of Commissioners and serve without pay. The Commissioner of Public Affairs is at present the member of the board representing the governing body. He acts as chairman. This board has no regular meeting date but meets whenever necessary.

We have an Overseer of the Poor working on a part-time basis at this time at a salary of \$1,300. In 1946 this office was abolished by state legislation. However, officials then in office were not affected, but on termination of their appointments, no other Overseer of the Poor may be appointed. Our present Overseer of the Poor is under tenure. Her duties as outlined by state statute make her responsible for court cases such as non-support and bastardy. She collects monies from the father for these cases following court orders and distributes them to the families. She also makes arrangements for burial of persons not on relief but who are without funds. Her duties will be taken over by the Welfare Department when she reaches the age of retirement.

#### PERSONNEL

The executive official in the Welfare Department directly responsible to the Board of Assistance is the Welfare Director appointed by this board for a five-year term at \$3,550 a year. Under present state law he



has no tenure of office. The state sets requirements for this position. The appointee must be a graduate of a recognized university or college, must have majored in Social Science subjects, and must have served for at least two years in a public or recognized private welfare agency, one year of which must have been in a supervisory capacity. Before his appointment is made by the State Board of Assistance, he must appear before that board and take an oral examination giving his experience in personnel work, social service and his past record of investigation experience.

Our director is assisted by a secretary, at present the only other employee in the department. She works part-time for the Welfare Department and part-time for the Health Department. She was appointed for an indefinite term by the Commissioner of Public Affairs at a salary of \$2,490.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT**

Emergency relief is the principal form of financial assistance paid by the township. Under this program 40% of the amount paid out to relief clients is later reimbursed by the state. Emergency relief is given only to those applicants who do not come under the four Federal-State-County programs. These programs are (1) Aid to the Blind, (2) Aid to the Totally and Permanently Disabled, (3) Old Age Assistance, (4) and Aid to Dependent Children.

Who is eligible for emergency relief in our township? Anyone requesting such relief must meet requirements set by the state. He must list all his resources, and responsible relatives who are able to give aid are required to do so. He must have resided in the state for two years and in the township for one year. The amount of aid granted is determined by a chart drawn up by the State Division of Welfare and is based on age, occupation, number in the family and similar factors. Vouchers are given for groceries, rent, fuel, and other needs. In 1953 one hundred cases appealed to our Welfare Department for such relief and received this assistance. The township's share of the expenses was \$6,066.77.

The township Welfare Department also takes care of financial emergency relief funds, such as transportation, burials, medical bills, hospitalization, dental care, etc. Money spent for this type of relief for 1953 was \$1,236 and included eight cases.

In addition to financial assistance, the Welfare Department renders aid and advice in the following matters: refers clients to the proper county and state agencies; recommends deferments to the Selective Service Board if investigation proves the case to be worthy of such action; brings parents to court for non-support or abuse of children; helps persons secure employment; aids in collecting unemployment benefits, insurance and dis-

ability compensation; and advises needy persons on social security matters. In 1953, 618 persons were given this type of aid and advice by our department.

## **INSTITUTIONAL CARE**

When individuals need institutional care in the case of the aged, indigent, orphaned and delinquent, our Welfare Department secures their admittance to the proper county or state institutions. The cost of such care is borne equally by the county and the state. Non-institutional care of dependent children is handled by County and State agencies.

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

All juvenile matters are referred to the County Courts by the township. At present, accused young people are housed in the county jail or workhouse before their cases are heard. A juvenile detention home has been constructed by the county in North Brunswick but as yet is not in use. Thirty-seven cases were referred to the county courts from Raritan Township in 1953. However, the Raritan Township police department and the welfare department attempt to handle complaints on an unofficial basis, and parents of delinquent children are more often prosecuted on the theory that parents are primarily responsible.

The County Juvenile Court has appointed a Juvenile Conference Commission in each municipality to work with delinquents who are referred to it by the court. Our Commission is made up of four members serving for a term of one year. They have had two cases referred to them in the six months they have functioned.

## **PRIVATE WELFARE AGENCIES**

Raritan Township is included in the Community Welfare Council of New Brunswick and vicinity. This council is supported by voluntary contributions through the United Fund, and we are asked to contribute to its work during the yearly "red feather" United Fund drive. The Council acts as a coordinating body and attempts to study the communities' needs and resources. It supplies information to participating agencies, promotes efficiency, and tries to prevent duplication of services among the local private health and welfare agencies. The Council provides a directory of health and welfare agencies in the area, a copy of which may be secured from their offices at 78 Carol Place in New Brunswick.





## Chapter IX

### RECREATION

A recreation program for the children of the township is carried on under the Department of Parks and Public Property. The commissioner in charge of this department has directly under him a Superintendent of Building and Grounds who is appointed for a four-year term at a yearly salary of \$4,600. Under him is a part-time recreation director appointed for four years whose salary is \$3,400.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

The Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds has five full-time employees under him who maintain our public buildings as well as our township parks. Part-time help is hired as the need arises. We have two public buildings. The first is the old town hall facing the Piscatawaytown playground which is off Woodbridge Avenue and is known as the Raritan Township Commons. This building was built about 40 years ago and was originally a school house. Now it is used as a meeting place for civic organizations and a storage place for the department's equipment. The second public building is the present Municipal Building which is located at the corner of Plainfield and Woodbridge Avenues and was built in 1936 with the help of PWA funds. At this writing plans for an addition to this building are under way. An appropriation of \$70,000 for this construction was passed by the Board of Commissioners in the fall of 1953. Because bids exceeded \$91,000, an emergency appropriation of \$40,000 was passed in February of 1954 making the total appropriation for the new wing \$110,000.

The Buildings and Grounds Department has the following equipment: 1 truck, 1 station wagon, 1 tractor and 1 jeep.

#### TOWNSHIP PLAYGROUNDS

We have ten playgrounds in nine sections of the township: in Piscatawaytown across from the old town hall, Clara Barton behind the school, Lindeneau south of Haven Village two blocks off Route 1, Stelton

behind the Stelton School, Bonhamtown behind the Grace Chapel Church and near Bonhamtown School, Oak Tree behind the Oak Tree School, Lincoln on the Lincoln School playground area, Henry St. called the Mid-wood playground on private property at the end of Henry Street, and Potters off Inman Avenue in the back of the Community Center. (This playground is on property owned by the Community Center.) The playgrounds near the schools are on school property but are maintained during the summer by this municipal department as are the playgrounds on private property.

## **TOWNSHIP PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

The playgrounds have varying types of playing equipment for the children: swings, slides, sandboxes, benches, tables, climbing bars, etc. Additional equipment is continually being added. There are big league back stops at three of the playgrounds: at Stelton, Clara Barton and Lindeneau.

## **SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM**

Under the Recreation Director there are 14 playground supervisors who work full-time during the summer. There was one part-time crafts teacher at the Lindeneau playground in the summer of 1953. The program begins in April and ends in the middle of August. In the summer of 1953 the playground attendance doubled over the previous summer. Three new playgrounds were equipped and dedicated at the beginning of the summer. A total of 1,812 children were registered in the program. Among the activities conducted at the various playgrounds were such games as softball, basketball, baseball, horseshoe pitching, ping-pong, quoits, volleyball, table shuffleboard, quiet games such as checkers, puzzles, etc. The department furnished all the equipment for these games. Also interplayground tournaments were held and extensive arts and crafts programs were developed. The crafts classes proved very popular. More than 300 classes were conducted in the 1953 program drawing an attendance of 4,388 children. This program included projects to attract children from kindergarten through the 8th grade.

Special events were included in the program. Day trips were made in chartered buses chaperoned by the playground supervisors to points of interest to children. Hobby shows, contests, picnics, pet and doll shows, parades, field days and tournaments were some of the special events in the program. Also teenage block dances were held in the parking lot at the rear of the Municipal Building. The music was furnished by records and an amplifying system owned by the department.

## **ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

An athletic program for men and boys is also a part of the summer



recreation program. Senior, Pony and Midget baseball leagues and a men's softball league were active during the 1953 season. Three junior and senior men's basketball league programs were conducted at the Piscataway, Clara Barton, Stelton and Oak Tree Schools in the fall of 1953. A basketball program for girls was begun for the first time at these schools. Eight teams of junior-senior high school girls participated in a game schedule.

### **SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

There is a limited intermural sports program as an extra-curricular activity for the boys of the upper grades sponsored by the township school system. At present there is no program for the girls.

### **ADULT RECREATION FACILITIES**

The adult township recreation program at present is limited to athletic league activities and events for men. The adult population of the township may turn to programs available to them in the surrounding cities and towns. Community center activities which are patronized by township residents are located in Metuchen, Plainfield, Perth Amboy and New Brunswick under the auspices of the YMCA, YWCA, YMHA, and all denominational churches.

The County parks, one in the township, Roosevelt Park, and two in Highland Park, Johnson Park along the Raritan River north of Highland Park and Donaldson Park at the foot of Third Avenue and extending to the Raritan River, offer summer recreation facilities for the families in the township. Johnson Park contains 168 acres and has ample picnic facilities, tennis and quoit courts, archery range, baseball and football fields, bicycle and bridle paths, a trotting track, and a pond for fishing and skating. It also has an enclosed wild life habitat for deer, rabbits, peacocks, and other small animals. Roosevelt Park, directly east of Metuchen but in the township, also offers excellent summer recreational opportunities. Donaldson Park in addition to many excellent facilities has a fine trap-shooting range.

## Chapter X

# FIRE PROTECTION



### HISTORY OF FIRE DISTRICTS

Raritan Township is divided into five fire districts, each governed by a five-man Board of Fire Commissioners, each independent of the other and independent of the municipal governing body. The State Laws governing the fire districts date to before the turn of the century. Few other municipalities have continued the fire districts in operation. As areas have become urban in character fire protection has been incorporated into the functions of the municipal government.

The fire district laws were passed to enable areas without organized fire protection to provide this service. To establish a fire district it is necessary to present petitions signed by twenty or more taxpayers in the area. Then the municipal governing body designates the physical boundaries of the proposed fire district and passes a resolution recognizing the existence and validity of the district. It is still possible to create a fire district in this manner since the laws governing the fire districts remain on the books with little change.

Fire districts may be abolished by resolution of the Board of Commissioners upon presentation of petitions signed by twenty taxpayers of the district, after duly advertizing the proposed resolution in a local newspaper five days before a public hearing on the subject. The resolution may be passed or rejected by the municipal governing body only after a public hearing at which all interested parties must be heard. In the event of abolition of the fire district, all monies of the district must be turned over to the township treasurer's office.

### ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Each of the five fire districts is governed by a Board of Fire Commissioners elected by the voters in each district for a term of three years. Two are elected annually, except in the third year when only one is



elected. These elections are held each year on the third Saturday in February between the hours of two and nine p.m., or for as long as is necessary to accept the vote of the district. Candidates for these offices are nominated by direct petition signed by ten or more registered voters of the district. These petitions must be submitted to the clerks of the Boards of Fire Commissioners five days before the election. When a vacancy occurs on the Board, a replacement may be elected by the remaining members to serve until the next election when an official replacement is elected to fill the unexpired term.

Persons eligible to vote in a fire district election are those who were registered at the time of the preceding general election and those who have come of age since, providing these last make application to the clerk of the Board of Fire Commissioners at least two days prior to the election. Since the state law governing fire district elections is not the same law regulating the primary and general elections, and was passed prior to permanent registrations in New Jersey, no provision has been made to allow persons who have registered since the preceding election to vote, even though their names appear in the signature registry as eligible voters. Because fire district boundaries do not coincide with the election district boundaries, it is difficult to determine exactly the number of eligible voters in each fire district and in some cases an election district is divided into two fire districts, making any knowledge of the number of eligible voters impossible.

The fire district elections are the only elections other than the municipal government elections held in the township. Rarely is there much of a turn-out of voters; if 10% of the voting population casts a ballot it is considered exceptional.

At this election the voters also vote on the fire district budgets.

## **BUDGETS AND SALARIES**

Each member of the Boards of Fire Commissioners in the township is paid a fee of \$6.00 for each meeting attended, the sum of which may not exceed \$100 in any year. The secretaries of the Boards may receive an additional sum not to exceed \$120 annually. The treasurers, who are appointed for a term of one year, may receive additional compensation in an amount not to exceed \$200 per year.

Although the fire district budgets must be approved by referendum, only the total of appropriations must appear on the ballot. Law does not require that an itemized budget be presented. The total of appropriations in a fire district budget may not exceed the legal taxing limit of (\$.005) five mills on the dollar per last assessed valuation of the ratables in each district. (see chart)

Proposed bond issues must also appear on the ballot and be subject to approval of the electorate in each district. Serial Bonds may be issued in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for such things as the purchase of



land, buildings, and equipment. Such bonds may be retired over a period of not more than thirty years.

Legal advisor to the district boards, who is at present also our magistrate, is preparing for presentation to the State Legislature, an amendment to the law governing the debt limit of fire districts, whereby such districts would be permitted to exceed this limit in proportion to the value of ratables in the district. The limitations of the present law have been felt by our Fire District No. 1 which has been planning for the construction of another fire house in the district.

Fire district tax rates are determined by our municipal Board of Assessors. Rates vary from one district to another depending on the ratables in each district and the amount to be raised for operation of each. (see chart) After the fire district elections, the boards present their budgets as approved by the voters and the Board of Assessors strikes the rate for each district.

## **FIRE COMPANIES**

The fire companies in the respective districts in the township are organized to meet the particular needs of the area. Some have completely volunteer service and some have a limited staff of paid firemen in attendance at the fire house at all times. However, the greater part of all fire company personnel consists of volunteers. To qualify as either an active salaried or volunteer firemen, a man must meet certain requirements. He must be a citizen, a resident of the fire district for one year and pass a state physical examination. To qualify for the salaried group, he must be between 21 and 30 years old. A volunteer must be between the ages of 21-35. Salaries for the paid firemen range from \$3,000 to \$4,000 in District No. 3, from \$3,200 to \$5,300 in District No. 1, depending upon standing and rank. Paid firemen automatically become members of the New Jersey State Police and Firemen's Pension Fund. Instruction and training in all phases of fire protection is given all firemen, paid or volunteer, and periodic drills are called to check on efficiency and effectiveness.

## **FIRE PROTECTION RATING**

Fire districts in the township are rated as to the extent and availability of fire protection by the Schedule Rating Organization of New Jersey. Rates are determined by a demerit system which considers water supply, alarm system, type of fire department, police protection, building codes and municipal fire protection laws. (see chart) Lack of enforcement of an ordinance constitutes non-existence of the law in determining rates. The Schedule Rating Organization rates for the fire districts affect the premiums each property owner must pay for fire insurance.

A chart follows, giving additional fire district information.



<i>Fire Districts</i>	<i>No. 1</i>	<i>No. 2</i>	<i>No. 3</i>	<i>No. 4</i>	<i>No. 5</i>
General Location of District	Nixon, Stelton, Piscataway	Menlo Park	Clara Barton	Midwood	Oak Tree, Potters
1954 Assessed Valuation by District	\$13,058,716.	\$439,336.	\$4,691,953.	\$213,240.	\$2,856,861
1954 Fire Tax Rates	<b>\$.69</b>	<b>\$2.33</b>	<b>\$.97</b>	<b>\$1.81</b>	<b>\$.53</b>
1954 Budgets (not including debt service)	\$87,717.25	\$8,597.04	\$46,352.85	\$2,800.	\$16,150.00
No. eligible voters in 1954	7,490	666	unknown	unknown	unknown
No. ballots cast in 1954 Fire District election	1,722	55	320	31	313
Schedule Rating Organization Fire Protection rates	D	E	D	E	E
Highest possible rate	C	C	C	C	C
No. salaried firemen	9	none	4	none	none
No. Volunteer firemen	50	45	46	27	35
Automatic Alarm System	yes	no	yes	no	no
Alarms received by phone	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fire house attended at all times	yes	no	yes	no	no
Has organized Civil-Defense Disaster Control Aux. firemen	yes	no	yes	no	no
Meeting date of Board of Fire Commissioners	4th Tues.	2nd Tues.	1st Mon.	1st Tues.	1st Tues.

## Chapter XI

### POLICE, TRAFFIC CONTROL, COURTS



#### ADMINISTRATION

Under commission form of government the police department must come under whichever commissioner is assigned the Department of Public Safety. That commissioner directly controls this department. The Police Department is administered by the Chief of Police in accordance with the policies set by the commissioner and by rules and regulations incorporated in ordinances passed by the Board of Commissioners.

#### PERSONNEL

The Raritan Township Police Force at present has on its staff forty policemen and no policewomen. The Chief of Police and the Captain of Detectives are the executive officers of the staff. Of the other 38, four are desk lieutenants, four are sergeants, two are lieutenant detectives and the rest are patrolmen. Appointments are made by the commissioner in charge without written examinations. The state sets physical requirements and gives physical examinations. All other qualifications are set by the commissioner in charge of the department. He has set as minimum qualifications that all patrolmen must have a grade school education and preferably a high school education. The department undertakes the problem of training the men. In 1948 six men were sent for training to the Newark Police Academy. In 1949 two additional men were sent there. In 1951 six men were sent to the Trenton State Police School. Six more were sent there in 1952 and four were sent to the Sea Girt State Police School. Plans are that the rest of the men in the department will be sent to this school, two at a time, for a six weeks course until all have been trained.

All promotions are made by the commissioner in charge on the basis of seniority and merit. The policemen are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service and at the age of 51. None are under Civil Service status but are protected by tenure of office under State Law. Tenure is automatic upon appointment. Policemen are included in a state pension plan.

The department is divided into the regular police department headed by the Chief of Police and a detective bureau assigned to the captain of



police. The men in the detective bureau are plain clothes policemen. The Chief of Police is appointed by the commissioner in charge to serve during good behavior, at a present salary of \$5,500.

## **DUTIES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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 at Police Headquarters located in the Municipal Building in Piscatawaytown permits the receiving of communications from police departments in other localities in and out of the state.

The laboratory facilities of the State Police and the F.B.I. are used whenever necessary. When issuing pistol permits, the department sends duplicate sets of finger-prints to the F.B.I., the State Police and the County Prosecutor's office. In cooperation with the State Police, monthly and annual reports are sent to the F.B.I.

The department cooperates with the schools in safety education for children. School crossings are patrolled by special officers as well as regular patrolmen. At present there are ten special officers on a part-time basis and seven regular patrolmen patrolling 17 school crossings in the township.

Patrolmen are supplied by the department for public gatherings. For large private affairs citizens may request the services of a patrolman who is then assigned to serve in his off-duty hours and is paid by the person requesting the service. This service is not required by law, but is administered at the discretion of the commissioner in charge.

## **EQUIPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT**

Our department has seven police cars, all equipped with three-way radios and sirens. Five have dome flasher lights and are lettered on the side and rear to identify them as police cars. Two are used in the detective bureau and have no identifying marks on them. First aid kits and fusee flares are in all of the cars. The department has three types of gas guns, one Thompson sub-machine gun and four riot guns. It also has leg cuffs and two restraining jackets. All patrolmen carry their own pistols and hand-cuffs which are furnished by the department.

## **JAIL**

In the basement of the Municipal Building are three jail cells. These are primarily used for detention of persons before hearings. There are two regular cells and one separated from the others for women. They are all equipped with toilet and water facilities. Violators of local ordinances or State Motor Vehicle regulations in the township are usually sent to the County Workhouse in North Brunswick or, in the event of Grand Jury cases, to the County Jail for incarceration pending disposition of the case, and to the Diagnostic Center at Menlo Park if diagnostic reports are needed. The cells have no provisions for preparing meals, so



any persons detained must have food brought in to them by the patrolmen. When women are detained, a part-time matron is brought in. The addition to Town Hall, now under construction, provides for additional facilities and will include two more cells for men, two for detention of women and one padded cell.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

In 1953, \$218,849.94 was spent in our Police Department. Of this, \$165,159.32 went for salaries. For all other expenses, including such things as equipment, operating expenses of the department, pension funds, etc., \$53,690.62 was spent. The 1954 budget provides \$262,500 for the department. Of this, \$199,500 will go for salaries; \$63,000 for other expenses. The minimum salary for patrolmen is \$3,200, the maximum \$4,200. A patrolman may reach the maximum in four years. The special officers at school crossings are paid on a basis of \$5.00 per day, effective April, 1954.

## POWER TO LICENSE

The power to license is derived from local ordinances which set forth the conditions under which licenses or permits may be issued. The principal of licensing business is based on the municipality's desire to control conditions under which business may operate in order to protect the public. Also, licensing can be looked upon as a legitimate source of income for the township.

The fees or costs of obtaining a license or permit are controlled by the ordinance authorizing each particular license. Also the penalties for the abuse of the licenses are included. All licenses issued by the Police Department must be signed by the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Township Clerk. The Police Department is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the conditions of all licenses.

A part-time employee under the Department of Public Safety, the License Clerk, is appointed by the commissioner in charge to serve during good behavior at a current salary of \$1,400 to assist in this program.

Receipts from all licenses and permits are retained by the township. In 1953, the municipality realized \$7,191.50 from Miscellaneous Licenses; \$11,346 from Alcoholic Beverage licenses; and \$16,992 from Fees and Permits.

The types of licenses issued for control only include:

	<i>Amount paid per year</i>	<i>Issued by</i>
Dog Licenses .....	\$ 2.25	Health Officer
Restaurant Licenses seating capacity		
under fifty .....	10.00	Police Clerk
over fifty .....	20.00	
Building Permits first \$1,000 .....	2.00	Building Inspector
each add. \$1,000 .....	1.00	
maximum fee \$1,000.00		



	<i>Amount paid per year</i>	<i>Issued by</i>
Canvasser's License (veterans licensed free of charge) non-veteran's .....\$ 40.00		Chief of Police
all fingerprinted		
Plumbing Permits		Plumbing Inspector
Inspection of plans and issuing of Permit ....\$ 3.00		
Inspection and testing of fixtures such as automatic gas and hot water heaters, tankless heaters .....	1.00	
Inspection of fixtures, (water closet, etc) each .....	1.00	
Inspection of each fresh air stack .....	1.00	
(fees paid when permit applied for)		
Carnivals and Bazaars .....\$ 25.00		Police Clerk
(note: local carnivals and bazaars held for benefit of charity licensed without charge)		
Trailer Camp Licenses		Dept. Public Safety
Inspection fee .....	\$100.00	
per trailer chg. ....	10.00	
Street Opening Permits per sq., yd.		Township Clerk (Dept. Public Works)
unimproved .....	4.00	
macadam .....	7.00	
concrete .....	10.00	
Sewer Permits .....	1.00	
The types of licenses issued for control AND revenue include:		
Alcoholic Beverage License .....	\$350.00	Township Clerk
Tobacco and Cigarettes .....	2.50	Police Clerk
Taxi Stands .....	Vehicle 12.50	
	Driver 2.00	
Used Car Lots		
to 10,000 sq. ft. ....	300.00	
over 10,000 sq. ft. ....	500.00	

## TRAFFIC CONTROL

All stop signs, no-parking signs and speeding signs are erected by the Police Department. Such signs must first be authorized by an ordinance passed by the Board of Commissioners on recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Safety. Also, all state regulations pertaining to such signs must be observed by such ordinances. In the 1952 budget, \$6,812.18 was spent on labor and materials for this program. In 1953, \$13,000 was spent. The 1954 budget appropriates \$22,000 for this program. It is the duty of the Police Department to see that these signs are obeyed.

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The Commissioner of Public Safety is in charge of traffic lights at present. Lights on State Highways are installed by the State Highway Department. The Board of Commissioners may request the installation of such new traffic lights, whereupon the State Highway Department will make a survey to determine the advisability of making such an installation before giving its approval. If they do not approve, the commissioners can do nothing about it. If they do approve, the township pays for the electricity used to operate the light and for 25% of the installation costs. Traffic lights on County roads are erected with the cooperation of the county government. Traffic lights on township roads are the responsibility of the municipal government.

## **DOG WARDEN**

The township does not hire its own dog catcher. Instead, they contract to use a dog warden's services for \$1,000 a year. He is usually an individual who serves a group of towns. When citizens wish to report a dog either as a nuisance or a health menace, they call the township police. If the dog has bitten someone, the case is reported to the health officer, whose duty it is to keep the dog under surveillance. In any event, the police contact the dog warden wherever he might be and request he come into the township and pick up the dog.

## **MAGISTRATE'S COURT**

Our Raritan Township 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. Our present magistrate has held office for 10 years. His appointment is made by the Commissioner of Public Safety for a three-year term at a salary of \$4,000. His job is considered part-time. Court convenes in the Municipal Building on Monday nights and Thursday mornings.

## **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

Most cases handled by our magistrate are traffic violations. Some violations can be handled by the violations clerk if a hearing is waived. Then a fine is paid according to a set scale. It is the responsibility of the magistrate to set this scale. There are certain traffic violations that must be heard by the magistrate, but it is up to him to determine which these shall be. Usually reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, drunken driving, and grossly excessive speeding cases are those on which the magistrate requires a hearing.

The violations clerk acts as the court clerk as well as the police clerk. At present this job is held by a man who is also on the police staff. As violations clerk and court clerk, he keeps the records of the court and sends in all necessary reports to the county and state authorities. The 1954 budget provides for the hiring of an assistant to the violations clerk.



## **DISBURSEMENT OF FINES**

All fines collected are disbursed in the following manner:

1. Money collected on Motor Vehicle arrests made by state troopers and Motor Vehicle Inspectors goes to the State Dept. of Motor Vehicles.
2. Money collected on motor vehicle arrests made by local officers goes to the county.
3. The municipality retains all court costs. At present these are \$5.00. The township also gets all money collected on disorderly conduct, criminal cases, and fines imposed for violation of local ordinances.
4. Fines on the mistreatment of animals go to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
5. Fines on violations of weights and measures laws go to either the state or the county depending upon which authority files the complaint.
6. Fines for violation of fish and game laws go to that state department.

All money collected by the court is banked immediately. The court books are audited quarterly by both township and state court auditors. In 1951, the court realized \$18,764 from fines. In 1952 the total was \$25,766. In 1953, it was \$42,653.50.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

At present our court room is inadequate. The addition to the Municipal Building will rectify this situation. A main meeting room 30 feet by 47 feet to seat 128 spectators and provide a raised desk and judge's chair is included in these plans. Also, there will be a separate judge's office and a room for the violations bureau and court records, as well as a conference room to be used by lawyers during court hearings.

## **APPEAL FROM MAGISTRATE'S COURT**

An appeal must be taken first to the county courts. If an appeal is made, the fine must be paid or a bond posted which is held until disposition of the appeal.

## **INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**

Our municipal court can have no jurisdiction over juvenile cases. But our magistrate does conduct informal hearings with parents to attempt to solve juvenile problems and keep them out of the County Juvenile Court. Many problems such as neighborhood fights and domestic problems are also solved through informal hearings. This means no formal charges are made, and individuals are invited to appear before the magistrate. There is no compulsion to comply with the magistrate's decision, but usually this is an effective approach in solving problems that might develop into formal charges. The magistrate has the power to cite individuals for contempt of court.

## Chapter XII

### STREETS AND ROADS, SANITATION



#### STREETS AND ROADS

This department is at present under the Commissioner of Public Works. Under him is a road superintendent and twenty employees. The superintendent's salary is \$4,700. He is appointed for a term concurrent with that of the commissioner. His duties can be summed up to include the responsibility for repairs, maintenance and improvements of all township owned roads plus snow removal on these roads when necessary. A program of improvements is at present financed under general taxation rather than assessments to benefiting property owners. Both methods of financing road improvements are legally allowable. The state contributes a small amount towards maintenance and construction of new roads. No particular master plan is being followed on road improvements, the amount of money available each year being the determining factor in how much improvement will be made. Main roads are given first consideration. This department is responsible for the placing and replacing of street signs. At present there are about 100 such signs in the township.

The township garage and headquarters for this department is on the township commons next to the old town hall in Piscatawaytown. The department has two graders, two rollers, six road trucks and two old Ford trucks. It also has seven snow plows that can be attached to the trucks.

At present there are 165 miles of township owned roads, 17 miles of county roads and 10 miles of state highways in the township.

In 1952 a total of \$133,643.41 was spent in this department. That included both salaries and materials. In 1953 \$185,260.90 was spent. \$182,000 is included in the 1954 budget for this department. In addition the state provides about \$21,871 for new road construction each year.

#### SEWER DEPARTMENT

Raritan Township has two sewage disposal plants; one near Raritan



Arsenal to serve the Clara Barton section in the southeast part of the township and the other in Piscatawaytown near the Raritan River called the Silverlake Treatment Plant which serves the southwest section of the township. This means that the most populated areas of the township have sanitary sewers. There is a total of 80 miles of sanitary sewers. The Clara Barton plant was built in 1929, the Piscatawaytown plant in 1938 with the help of PWA funds. In both plants the treatment method used is chlorination and the treated waste is piped into the Raritan River. The systems work on a gravity flow basis. In 1929 the township engineer drew up plans for a Stelton Sewer system but this system never materialized because of the great depression. If the area is to be sewered in the future it will have a gravity flow towards Camp Kilmer and Highland Park. The area near Route 27 between Highland Park and Metuchen where many new housing developments now stand is served by sanitary sewers through a series of pumping stations which pump the effluent into the Piscatawaytown system. Most of these pumping stations were constructed and paid for by the builders of the developments. They are now owned and maintained by the township department. There are four at the present time.

Raritan Township has signed with the Raritan Valley Trunk Sewer which is in process of design at the present time. This will be a county sewer system for the entire Raritan Valley serving portions of Somerset and Union Counties as well as Middlesex. The township engineer is presently making surveys to determine how our present sewer systems will tie in with this larger system. It will eventually mean the township will have to construct trunk lines to connect with the main trunk sewer. When the Raritan Valley Trunk Sewer is in operation (estimated time, 1958), areas not now sewered in the township may be, as there will be no need for the construction of new treatment plants, the most expensive part of any sanitary sewer system. Presently, our two plants are treating around 500 million gallons of waste a year. This is on the increase. The cost to the township to become a part of the Raritan Valley Trunk Sewer will be based on a per gallon per day flow plus type of flow. The Trunk Sewer will mean substantial savings to the township in the long run as it removes the necessity to modernize our present plants or to build additional disposal plants in the future.

Because of urgent considerations in the northwest section of the township (Stephenville, a development of some 400 homes where no sanitary sewer system was in operation), in 1953 the township contracted with Metuchen to receive sewage from that area in their treatment plant, and sanitary sewers are now under construction for this area. They are expected to go into operation late in the fall of 1954.

Areas still to be sewered in the future are the northern part of the township (Potters and Oak Tree), the northeastern section (Menlo Park area), and the southwestern section (Stelton). In these areas individual septic tanks or cess pools are in use.



## **CONTROL**

The State Board of Health sets standards for treatment of sewage which the local department must meet. The local Board of Health has the responsibility for control of individual septic tanks and cess pools to prevent such systems from producing health hazards for the community. In sections of the township there is pollution of surface water.

## **PAYMENT OF SERVICE**

The sewer department is financed under general taxation and is included in the municipal budget. In 1952 \$39,200 was spent for this service. In 1953 \$46,000 was spent. This same amount has been budgeted for this department for 1954.

When sanitary sewers are installed in areas not sewerred, they are paid for under an assessment to property owners benefiting with the municipal government usually paying a small portion. An ordinance requires all property owners to tie-in to a new system under penalty of a \$25.00 fine plus \$10 for each day they may delay tying in. The property owner pays for the cost of connecting his house system to the sewer in the street.

## **PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT**

At present the Commissioner of Public Works is directly responsible for this department. Under him we have a Superintendent of Sewers and three employees. The department has two pick-up trucks, one station wagon and about 600 feet of boring machinery for cleaning sewer pipes. The department has recently purchased some modern mechanized cleaning equipment.

## **STORM SEWERS**

In 1953 provision was made in the budget for a new department to take care of storm sewers. At this writing, the personnel in the Sanitary Sewer Department has been working in this new department. Because drainage problems cause flood conditions in parts of the township during heavy rains, this department was created to work towards possible solutions. \$29,000 was provided in the 1953 budget for this work. In the 1954 the budget again shows \$29,000 for this department.

The County Governing Body has control over all culverts under all types of roads, but clogging of streams and blocking of drainage pipes must be attended to by the local department. At present the township has a comparatively small storm drainage system. When storm drains are installed the cost is borne by the township and not by benefiting property owners.

## **GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

The township is divided into three garbage districts; the northeast section (Henry St., Menlo Park and Oak Hills), the southeast section (Clara Barton), and the southwest section (Piscatawaytown and Stelton).



The northwest section (Oak Tree) is not included. The department has one superintendent, twelve employees and five covered garbage trucks. The superintendent at present is also the superintendent of roads. Collections are made twice a week. To determine when these collections are made in the three districts, a citizen may call Charter 9-3137 or the township clerk. An ordinance controls the manner in which garbage must be stored and how it is to be put out for collection.

Garbage districts are set up either by request of citizens affected through a petition to the commissioner in charge, or by recommendation of that commissioner. At present the Commissioner of Public Works is in charge. In both cases, the Board of Commissioners as a whole must pass on an ordinance creating the district.

Garbage is dumped in the township-owned dumping area to the south on land bordering the Raritan River. It is a partial land-fill operation. Some is covered with gravel, other garbage is burned off. The land now being used for dumping is a low marsh area and will eventually be reclaimed. There is an ordinance prohibiting dumping in any other part of the township under penalty of a fine.

## **BUDGET**

The budget for this department is separate and not included in the township budget. The commissioner in charge of the department submits a budget which must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. Then it is turned over to the assessors who determine the rate the tax payers will pay based on the total assessed valuation of the three districts. In 1952 the rate was \$.41 per \$100 of assessed valuation. In 1953 the rate was again \$.41. The 1954 rate is expected to be the same. Only residents within the garbage districts and receiving the service pay this tax. For a citizen with property assessed at \$1,000 a garbage tax of \$.50 would mean a \$5.00 tax bill for the year.

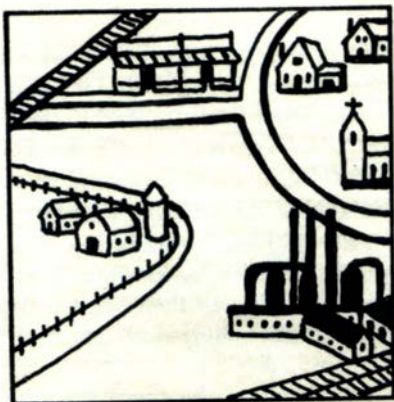
The total garbage budget for 1953 was \$65,000. In 1954 \$70,000 was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Areas not in a township garbage district must rely on private companies for this service.



## Chapter XIII

### PLANNING AND ZONING, HOUSING



#### PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

In the winter of 1946-47, as a result of agitation by several civic groups, the Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance establishing a Planning Board and Zoning Commission. In 1929, in anticipation of a building boom in the township, a Planning Board had been established, but with the onset of the depression, the board died through lack of re-appointment of its members, although the ordinance creating it was never taken off the books until repealed by the present ordinance.

Our present Planning Board and Zoning Commission is an advisory body making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners which, when approval is given, makes them municipal law by ordinance. There are nine members of the board. One is the mayor ex-officio, one is a municipal official appointed by the mayor and currently is the township engineer, one is a member of the Board of Commissioners appointed by that body as a whole and the remaining six are public members appointed by the mayor but holding no other municipal office unless it be membership on the Zoning Board of Adjustment or on an appointed Board of Education. The public members serve without compensation for six years with staggered terms of office. The chairman and secretary of the board are chosen by the board from among these six. The township budget appropriates a certain sum for expenses of the Board. These expenses include costs incurred from engineering work, advertizing of zoning ordinances and amendments, printing of zoning maps and incidental expenses of the secretary of the board. In 1953 \$2,000 was spent for this work. The 1954 budget provides \$3,500.

The board meets regularly on the third Wednesday of each month in the Municipal Building in Piscatawaytown.

When the board was established, it undertook two major projects which were imperative in nature: the establishment of land subdivision rules and regulations, set up by ordinance in April of 1948; and a zoning map and zoning regulations, set up in July of 1950. The necessary power to implement such ordinances was granted by state legislation in 1949. Following these projects, and along with the continuing pressure of individual prob-



lems connected with them, the Planning Board is moving toward the establishment of a Master Plan to provide for the best possible future use of existing physical facilities of the township. At this time it is also reviewing and revising all municipal procedures to conform with 1953 state legislation.

## **ZONING REGULATIONS**

The 1950 zoning ordinance was established "to limit and restrict to specified districts or zones, and to regulate therein, buildings and structures according to their construction and the nature and extent of their use, and the nature and extent of the uses of land, in the township of Raritan . . ."

Definitions of the zoned areas on the zoning map which accompanied the ordinance and its amendments are condensed as follows:

Residence "A" Single family dwellings with customary accessory buildings and uses; church, library, school, public park or playground and country club; and under certain conditions any form of agriculture or horticulture for non-commercial use; on lots of no less than 20,000 square feet with 100 foot frontage.

Residence "B" All of "A"; together with multiple-family dwellings, boarding and rooming houses and tourists homes, on lots of no less than 7,500 sq. ft. with 75 ft. frontage.

Residence "C" All of "B"; on lots of no less than 5,000 sq. ft. with 50 ft. frontage.

Rural All of "A," together with any form of agriculture or horticulture for commercial use and several other specified buildings and signs.

Business Primarily for the conduct of retail trade and general business, with exceptions specifically prohibited.

Business Same as Business with greater yard areas.

Restricted

Light Industrial: Primarily for the conduct of bulk commerce and light industry, with exceptions specifically prohibited, and including all of residence and rural zones except dwellings.

Heavy Industrial: Primarily for the heavier types of industry except prohibited nuisances or hazardous uses.

The Zoning ordinance also imposes requirements for size of yards, height and bulk of buildings, position of accessory buildings and size of off-street parking areas.

## **ZONING OFFICER AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Provisions in the zoning ordinance are enforced by the building inspector known thereunder as zoning officer. Zoning permits are issued by him prior to construction or alteration of buildings or signs. Occupancy permits are also issued by him and he must keep records of all permits and copies of all plans submitted.

Appeals from decisions made by the zoning officer may be made to the Zoning Board of Adjustment which must render a decision within 60 days after the hearing of which owners of property within 200 feet of the affected property must be notified.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is composed of five members, none holding an elective office or municipal position. The members serve for three years with staggered terms of office and are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. This board meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month and holds special meetings when necessary. It may authorize and recommend variances from zoning regulations to relieve practical difficulties or undue hardships upon property owners.

### **BUILDING CODE AND BUILDING INSPECTOR**

The present building code dates back to 1927. It is currently being reviewed for revision to conform with state and national studies. It is limited in its restrictions and attempts only to control the structural safety of a building.

The building code is enforced by a Building Inspector. His position was made full-time in 1953. His annual salary as building inspector was \$4,000 in 1953. As Zoning officer he received an additional \$2,000. He issues building permits which also can act as zoning permits.

In his 1952 yearly report to the Board of Commissioners he stated that homes and factories have been constructed in the township at an average of seven million dollars a year in construction costs since 1947. The big jump in building came in 1950. For the past three years construction has averaged nine million dollars a year. He estimated the population at 25,500 persons and 7,500 housing units. The housing boom for the township took place from 1948 to 1952. At present he expects it to stabilize at about 150 new homes a year. He also stated that he did not think we could expect a future housing boom as there were no longer any more extensive tracts of suitable acreage which would attract large scale developments.

### **PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

An ordinance passed in 1952 established a Plumbing Code and the position of Plumbing Inspector. He is appointed to a four-year, full-time position by the Board of Commissioners upon recommendation of the Commissioner in charge of the department to which he is assigned at the time of the organization meeting of the Board of Commissioners. At present he is under the Department of Public Affairs. His salary for 1953 was \$3,800. The 1954 budget provides \$4,000. He issues plumbing permits, inspects plumbing installations, and in general enforces the Plumbing Code.

### **HOUSING**

The zoning composition of Raritan Township indicates that, as might be expected, the great majority of dwellings are owner-occupied. Many new housing developments have resulted in the great increase in popula-



tion, and with one exception (Paisley Homes), they have been built since the war's end in 1945; these are mainly private, owner-occupied dwellings. The United States census figures over the past 20 years reveals this growth:

1930 .....	10,025 population (classified as rural community)
1940 .....	11,470
1950 .....	16,348 (classified as an urbanized community)
1954 .....	estimated 26,000

There is one garden apartment project (Garfield Park) now being built across from Roosevelt Park and one project (Redfield Village) part of which is located in Raritan Township and part in Metuchen. Beyond these, there are less than ten other so-called apartment buildings. There are six licensed trailer camps located mainly along U.S. Highway 1.

## POTTERS

There is one section of the township which poses a serious housing problem to the community. This is Potters Crossing where more than 1,500 persons live, most of them in substandard housing. The section has developed in this manner during the last ten years without serious effort to enforce building laws. Recently a special committee to study the problems connected thereto was set up by the Board of Commissioners, composed of the Building Inspector, the Health Officer and a detective from the Police Department. The committee's first step was to have the area, which covers less than two square miles, carefully surveyed by the township engineer. Some of the residents were found to be living in homes built on township-owned land, including "paper" streets. The committee then initiated the steps necessary to take legal action against these "squatters." Twenty-five cases involving the eviction of illegal residents are awaiting court action at this writing. Since about 50% of the land is township-owned and 40% is held in tax liens, further action will be necessary and will depend upon the disposition of the test cases.

The second step, the township officials feel, is to reduce the number of residents to "bona fide" land-owners and renters only.

Additional suggestions have been offered for consideration by township officials as follows:

1. Application for federal low-cost housing has been discussed but will not be considered until sewers can be provided. Sewers for the area which drains away from the Raritan Valley trunk sewer and toward the Rahway River have been discussed with the Rahway River trunk sewer authority.
2. Changes from rural zones to light industrial zones in areas in and around the section have been under consideration.
3. Enforcement of building code and permits for new construction to control the indiscriminate erection of buildings contrary to the building and plumbing codes.
4. The elimination of illegal uses of the land, such as the raising of pigs, stills, etc., and condemnation of health menaces, such as polluted wells, etc.



## Chapter XIV

### **DISASTER CONTROL- CIVIL DEFENSE, FIRST AID SQUADS**



#### **ORGANIZATION**

By recent legislation New Jersey added provisions to its three-year-old Civil Defense program by forming Disaster Control units by municipality and county areas. Previously, under the Civil Defense pattern of organization there were civil defense councils on the local level, area civil defense organizations that might take in one or more counties and the State organization. This pattern was not changed by the new legislation passed in the fall of 1953 but additions were made whereby it has become mandatory that each municipality have a Municipal Disaster Control Council with a director and board appointed by the mayor with supreme power in time of disaster of a peace-time nature. Civil Defense councils are appointed by the mayor also but the council itself elects its chairman. This body as the name implies is empowered to act only in time of war. The State has the exclusive power to declare an emergency. Under our new Municipal Disaster Control Council, the local director has the power to declare a state of emergency if the disaster is local in nature. Legally, the pattern of the organization is such that whereas the Civil Defense Council must be a part of the Disaster Control units, there may be additional personnel added.

The New Jersey Civil Defense organizations were originally established by state law in 1942 and were reactivated in 1950. The organization begins with the municipal units (Raritan Township Civil Defense Council) then come the Area units (Raritan Area Civil Defense Council which happens to coincide with the boundaries of Middlesex County) and last the State Civil Defense Council. Our Raritan Area Civil Defense Council has a communications truck and some special equipment stationed at their control center in New Brunswick. They have set up a communications network among all hospitals in the county.

#### **LOCAL PERSONNEL**

Our Raritan Township Municipal Disaster Control Director and our



Civil Defense Chairman are one and the same person appointed by the mayor for an indefinite term of office as are the members of the council. The council consists of 16 members, each responsible for one phase of disaster control. Each council member recruits his own staff to aid him in his work. There is also a part-time secretary who takes care of all clerical work of the council. She is the only member of the organization receiving a salary. At present the secretary also acts as the secretary for the Welfare Department.

## **DUTIES OF COUNCIL**

Each council member heads one particular phase of the civil defense and disaster control program; Much of the work is still in the planning stage.

1. The director is the coordinator and has the final responsibility in case of a local disaster. In case of an area or state-wide disaster he receives his directives from above.
2. Police: The chief of police and one other member of the police staff serve on the council. They are responsible for the training and equipping of the police force for effective action in time of emergency. They also recruit auxiliary police units among the citizenry and plan for their training. In order for a police auxiliary to be certified as a member he must attend an 18-hour police course as well as a certified first aid course. He attends police drill regularly. We have at present 190 trained auxiliary police in the township.
3. Public Utilities and Transportation: One council member is responsible for working out a plan with the public utility companies and all transportation companies for complete cooperation with the council in case of an incident. A directory is in the process of being compiled listing all trucks, station wagons, etc. that may be commandeered in case they are needed.
4. Water Supply: One member of the council is responsible for whatever plans will be necessary to insure purity and continuance of the water supply in time of need. We will have to rely on a portable supply. The council owns a portable generator which can supply power to a pump at a township well.
5. Schools: The superintendent of schools is required to be a member of the council and is in charge of all matters pertaining to the schools. All township schools contain air raid shelter areas. A program of education for the children which has included drills has been under way for the past two and a half years.
6. Fire Department: A member of the council is responsible for the coordination of all five fire districts in time of need. Equipment available and the plan of action in time of disaster is his responsibility. Also he has the problem of setting up static water supplies and coordinating the action of the five fire districts to insure fire coverage of the entire township at all times.

7. Health and Medical Care: A doctor heads this department in the council. He is in charge of all health precautions and necessary medical functions including the setting up and staffing of field hospitals, supplying medicine and the care of the sick and wounded. As part of his staff he has an individual whose responsibility is to coordinate the available nurses and plan for a program of special training for them. Also included on his staff is a liaison officer who coordinates the activities of the three first aid squads in the township with the council.
8. Mortuary Service: One member of the council has the responsibility for care of the dead.
9. Red Cross: A member of the council acts as a coordinator between the Red Cross and the Council. There are five chapters of the Red Cross from surrounding areas which serve the township.
10. Industrial Coordinator: This member of the council is responsible for whatever part industry must play in time of disaster. Drills within plants are planned and carried out, shelters are provided and necessary cooperation within the plants and with the surrounding area is mapped out. Some of the larger plants in the township have arranged their own alarm systems which will also serve to notify smaller plants in the area as well as the adjacent community.
11. Demolition Squads: A council member heads whatever program of demolition might be necessary in time of disaster. He has a file of all heavy duty equipment in the township that can be made available. Five men have been trained under the federal program to act as chiefs of demolition squads.
12. Wardens: A member of the council is responsible for the planning, recruiting and training of block, district, and section wardens in the township. Ideally we should have 1 warden per block of homes but residents have been very slow in volunteering for this duty. A first aid course is required of each individual who wishes to be a block warden. The warden is the key neighborhood individual in the civil defense structure. For the most effective protection in time of disaster one member of each family should have first aid training.
13. Control Center, Communications: One member of the council is responsible for setting up plans for communications. He is also in charge of the emergency power supplies and communications equipment owned by the council.

## **EQUIPMENT OWNED BY COUNCIL**

1. Six Emergency Power supplies, one large enough to power pump for the municipal water supply system.
2. Eight Sirens.
3. Communications and Control Center Equipment: intercommunication



system for control center; one AM-FM receiver to receive information for civil defense forces from WCTC-FM.; two portable receivers on batteries; a receiver to monitor police and ambulance radios; three two-way FM radio sets in each of the ambulances of the first aid squads; one receiving and transmitting set on a fixed station to keep in contact with the county civil defense network; one Gonset Communicator to keep in contact with all ham operators in the county; and four electric megaphones for public address, crowd control, etc.

## **PROGRAM TO ALERT PUBLIC**

The eight sirens owned by the council plus seven fire district sirens and some factory whistles are placed in strategic spots throughout the township to alert the public in time of disaster. Every Saturday at 12:15 noon they are tested. What is known as a "kitchen card" giving full instructions on what the signals are and what to do when you hear them are to be distributed township wide by the auxiliary police. There are two signals known as the "red signal" and the "white signal." The red signal means immediate danger and will be fluctuating notes of a siren or short blasts of factory whistles for three minutes. This signal will mean "keep calm, take cover and stay put." The white signal is the all clear. This will be three steady one minute blasts interspersed by two minutes of silence. This means, "obey instructions of civil defense officials. Enemy attack is over."

For a local disaster call we have what is known as the "three sixes." This will be six blasts blown three times and then repeated. On this signal all auxiliary police, firemen and first aid squads will report to their stations.

For radio reports to the public during air raids plans have been set up to use channels 640 and 1240 on all radio dials broadcasting instructions while we are under attack with all other points on the dial dead. A system has been worked out where these broadcasting signals will jump from one spot in the country to another so quickly that no attacking planes will be able to use them as a guide.

## **CIVIL DEFENSE BUDGET**

The Civil Defense program is supported almost exclusively under general taxation and appears in the municipal budget. In 1952 \$12,500 was budgeted for this service. The same amount was budgeted in 1953. The 1954 budget includes \$10,000 for civil defense. A stock pile of medical supplies was obtained under the federal matching funds program.

The civil defense money is spent in three general categories: (1) The training and equipping of personnel, (2) equipment and (3) what little maintenance is required on the equipment.

## **FIRST AID SQUADS**

Our three first aid squads in the township are coordinated by the

Raritan Township Safety Council. The chairmen of the volunteer squads serve as members of the council. Each squad maintains an ambulance. Squad No. 1 is located in the Safety Council Building at the rear of the fire house on Plainfield Avenue in Piscatawaytown, No. 2 is housed in the Safety Council Building near the fire house in Menlo Park and No. 3 uses the Clara Barton fire house.

Our Safety Council is a member of the New Jersey State First Aid Council which coordinates the work of First Aid Squads throughout the state. Disaster Control Councils automatically include the Safety Councils in the organization. Our Disaster Control Council has equipped our three ambulances with two-way radios.

At present membership in the Safety Council numbers 78. Anyone holding a current Red Cross card may apply to the individual squads for membership. Meetings are held once monthly and practice sessions are also called once a month. Squads No. 1 and No. 3 have Women's Auxiliaries. The first aid squads arrange with the Red Cross to give first aid courses upon the request of groups of twelve or more persons.

Ambulance and First Aid service is provided free of charge to anyone requesting it. In addition to standard First Aid equipment, the Safety Council has a portable apparatus which may be used to give respiratory relief to polio patients.

The Safety Council is a completely volunteer organization supported by voluntary contributions from the community and from the governing body. The Board of Commissioners included \$3,000 for this organization in the 1954 budget.

The First Aid Squads may be reached by telephoning the police at the Municipal Building.



## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP

*(Excluding Parent-Teachers Associations, Political Clubs, Labor Unions)*

AMERICAN LEGION POST 435	LINDENEAU ITALIAN-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB
AMERICAN LEGION POST 324	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	RARITAN TOWNSHIP
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF	LINCOLN VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
RARITAN TOWNSHIP	LINDENEAU ITALIAN-AMERICAN
CLARA BARTON LEAGUE OF VOTERS	SOCIAL CLUB
CLARA BARTON LADIES AUXILIARY OF	LIONS CLUB OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP
THE FIRST AID SQUAD No. 3	MENLO PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
CLARA BARTON WOMAN'S CLUB	NIXON PARK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL OF AFFILIATED CIVIC LEAGUES	POTTERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP	RARITAN PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
ELIZABETH PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION	ROOSEVELT PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
EXCHANGE CLUB OF STELTON	RARITAN TOWNSHIP SAFETY COUNCIL
FORUM CLUB OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP	STELTON IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE
GARDEN CLUB OF NIXON PARK	STEPHENVILLE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA	STEPHENVILLE GARDEN CLUB
HAVEN HOMES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	STEPHENVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB
HENRY STREET COMMUNITY CLUB	TERRA NOVA GARDEN CLUB
HILLTOP WOMEN'S CLUB	VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS No. 3317
H & K AUXILIARY OF MIDWOOD	WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY
SECTION OF THE FIRE DEPT.	ORGANIZATION
KIWANIS CLUB OF METUCHEN	WEST RARITAN CIVIC LEAGUE
LADIES' AUXILIARY OF EDISON VOL. FIRE	WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF RARITAN
DEPT. No. 1 (MENLO PARK)	ENGINE CO. No. 2 (CLARA BARTON)
LAHIERE PARK CIVIC LEAGUE	WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO VETERANS AND
LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE LINDENEAU	CIVIC ORGANIZATION OF NIXON PARK
ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB	

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE—Washington Park School, Stelton  
 COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Sturgis Road, Nixon  
 GRACE REFORM CHAPEL—Woodbridge Avenue, Bonhamtown  
 MARCONIER REFORM CHURCH—Oak Tree Road, Oak Tree  
 MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH—Edward Avenue, Potters  
 MT. ZION FREE WILL BAPTIST—Virginia Avenue, Potters  
 NEW DOVER METHODIST—EPISCOPAL CHURCH—New Dover Road, Oak  
 Tree  
 OUR LADY OF PEACE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Amboy Avenue, Fords  
 PISCATAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH—Woodbridge Avenue, Piscatawaytown  
 RARITAN TOWNSHIP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
 ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH—Woodbridge Avenue, Fords  
 ST. MARGARET MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Woodbridge Avenue,  
 Bonhamtown  
 ST. MATTHEWS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Seymour Avenue, Stelton  
 ST. STEPHEN DANISH EVANGELICAL CHURCH—Pleasant Avenue, Fords  
 ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—Fox Avenue, Fords  
 STELTON BAPTIST CHURCH—Plainfield Avenue, Stelton

## PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS AND VETERINARIANS

### Physicians

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
BOYES, J. G.	(residence) Inman Ave., South Plainfield	Plainfield	PL. 6-9271
BRONSTEIN, MILTON R.	12 Carlton St., Fords	Fords	VA. 6-5606
CALVIN, CHARLES	(residence and office) 1134 Woodbridge Ave., Fords	Clara Barton	HI. 2-3558
CHILDERS, EUGENE L.	5 Raleigh Rd., Nixon	Wash. Park	CH. 7-0425
COWEN, M. I.	1407 Oak Tree Rd., Iselin	Oak Tree	ME. 6-0995
DOLIN, JOSEPH	357 Woodbridge Ave., Nixon	Piscataway	KI. 5-0185
GANDEK, CHARLES	460 Woodbridge Ave., Nixon (residence) 3 Morgan Dr., Highland Park	Piscataway Haven Vlg.	CH. 7-1665 CH. 7-1141
GOSSELIN, E. J.	New Dover Rd., Rahway	New Dover	RA. 7-9454
HANSON, E. K.	684 Amboy Ave., Fords	Fords	HI. 2-0031
STEINBERG, THOMAS I.	58 Glenville Rd., Nixon	Lincoln Vlg.	ME. 6-0664-J
STEINMAN, ROBERT C.	Plainfield Ave., Stelton	Stelton	CH. 9-2010
TOTH, WILLIAM	736 Amboy Ave., Fords	Fords	HI. 2-4023
WEIGEL, E. P.	(residence) Inman Ave., South Plainfield	Plainfield	PL. 6-0444

### Dentists

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
CURCIO, RAYMOND	1090 Amboy Ave., Fords	Clara Barton	ME. 6-3011
COHEN, PAUL H.	1393 Oak Tree Road, Iselin	Oak Tree	ME. 6-1730
SPERBER, MICHAEL	Lincoln Highway, Stelton	Stelton	CH. 9-3329

### Veterinarians

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
KORNBLATT, L. B.	Metuchen Veterinary Hospital, 975 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen	Highway 27	ME. 6-1991
OLSEN, PETER E.	Raritan Hospital for Animals, Lincoln Highway, Stelton	Stelton	KI. 5-0278



*One - 12/3/73*

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District No. 2, Menlo Park Fire House .....	MEtuchen 6-4148 or Operator
District No. 3, Raritan Engine Co., No. 2 .....	MEtuchen 6-3033 or Operator
District No. 4, H-K Henry St. Fire House .....	MEtuchen 6-9578 MEtuchen 6-3241-M or Operator
District No. 5, Oak Tree Fire House .....	MEtuchen 6-9392 or Operator
Board of Education .....	MEtuchen 6-0406
Township Clerk .....	CHarter 7-1351
Health Department .....	CHarter 7-0767
Welfare Department .....	Kilmer 5-4498
Tax Office .....	CHarter 7-0060

