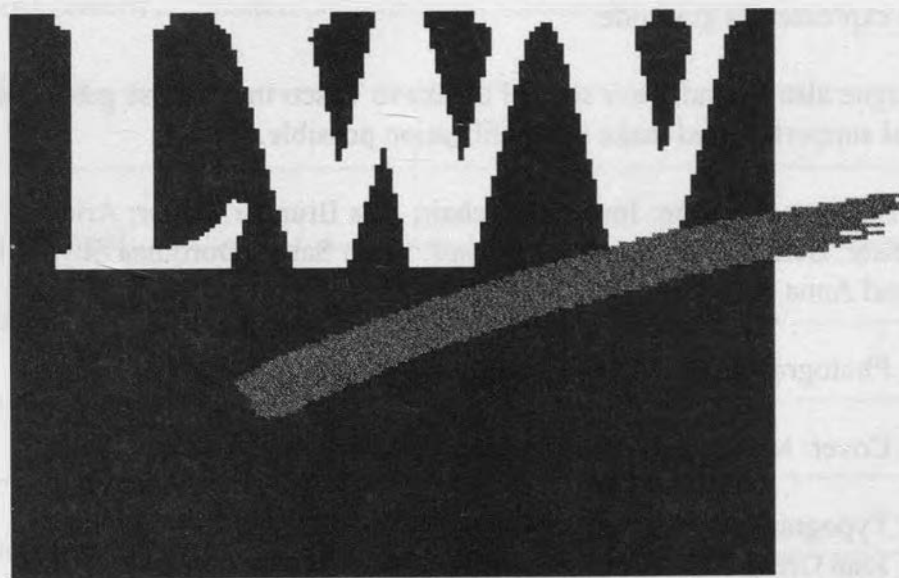


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This Is Linden



By the League of Women Voters of Linden

The Linden League of Women Voters is pleased to present to the public this fifth edition of "This Is Linden." Like previous editions, it is a publication designed to serve as a portrait of the city—its government and its schools, its services and its amenities.

This book was prepared by a committee of League volunteers who worked with city officials to compile the information in these pages. To those officials who gave of their time to provide and review the information contained herein, the League expresses its gratitude.

The League also extends very special thanks to Tosco Inc., whose generous financial support helped make this publication possible.

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Preface

In the months preceding an election, amidst the partisan and occasionally acrimonious debate that often inundates citizens, the League of Women Voters remains one source of non-partisan information on candidates and issues.

The League, a volunteer organization, sponsors forums at which candidates are invited to discuss issues and answer questions for the public. It compiles and distributes free publications which not only profile the candidates and their positions on selected issues but also provide detailed descriptions of ballot questions. It conducts voter registration drives. And it offers a toll-free number (1-800-792-VOTE) which members of the public can call to obtain information about the voting process, the way the government works, who the representatives for given areas are and how they can be contacted.

VOTING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A person must be registered in order to vote in any election in New Jersey. A prospective voter must register at least 29 days preceding an election, must be at least 18 years of age, must be a citizen of the United States, and must reside in the district in which that person will vote. Registration may be done in person or by mail through the office of the county board of elections, the municipal clerk, the N.J. Department of Motor Vehicles, or the League of Women Voters. Once registered, registration is permanent in New Jersey unless, having moved, you fail to answer a confirmation notice, do not vote during the period of the next two federal elections and ignore a second notice.

About a week prior to election, a sample ballot is sent to all registered voters. This identifies the number of the election district and tells the voter where to vote, the hours when the polls are open, the names of the candidates and the offices for which they are running, public questions and how to use the voting machine.

Voters who cannot vote in person may apply for a civilian or military absentee ballot through the county or municipal clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be returned to the county board of elections by the close of election day.

General elections for national, state, county and municipal officials are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Public questions and bond issues are also voted on at this time.

Primary elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June. This is an election to nominate party candidates for the general election. New Jersey has what is known as a restricted primary; that is, a voter must be declared a Democrat or Republican to vote in that party's primary. Party affiliation is declared when voting in the party's primary for the first time. In order to change party affiliation, a signed declaration must be made at least 50 days preceding the primary. Forms for this may be obtained from the municipal clerk's office.

School board elections are nonpartisan and are held on the third Tuesday in April to elect board members and approve school budgets.

History of Linden

The area Linden now occupies was first explored by Europeans when men from Henrick Hudson's "Half Moon" visited in 1609. One of them reported that "The lands were pleasant with Grasse and Flowers and goodly trees... and very sweet smells came from them." The land was claimed by the Dutch, who retained possession until the conquest of New Amsterdam by the English in 1664.

Ownership of the land in this part of New Jersey became a matter of hot debate, and even lawsuits. One month after the defeat of New Amsterdam, the English governor, Colonel Richard Nichols, received a petition from settlers from Long Island seeking to move to Arthur Kill (beyond the river) west of Staten Island. Nichols gave his consent to the six petitioners, known as the Associates. They made arrangements to deal with the Indians, and were successful in purchasing a large tract of land for the sum of 154 English pounds sterling or its equivalent in trade goods. The contract was dated November 24, 1664. Among the Indians who signed the document with a mark were Warinanco and Mattano. The land purchased was bounded on the south by the Raritan River, on the east by the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull, on the north by the Passaic River, and extended 34 miles inland.

This deed of purchase from the Indians was confirmed on December 2, 1664, by Governor Nichols, apparently giving clear title to the six Associates. However, unknown to him, King Charles had given the entire state of New Ceaserea (New Jersey) to his brother, James, Duke of York. He, in turn, granted the land to two friends, Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley, on June 24, 1664. Due to the extreme difficulty of communication in those days, Governor Nichols was not informed immediately of the transfer of land to Berkeley and Carteret and was unaware of that transaction when he confirmed the sale of the land several months later to the six Associates, who then proceeded to take possession.

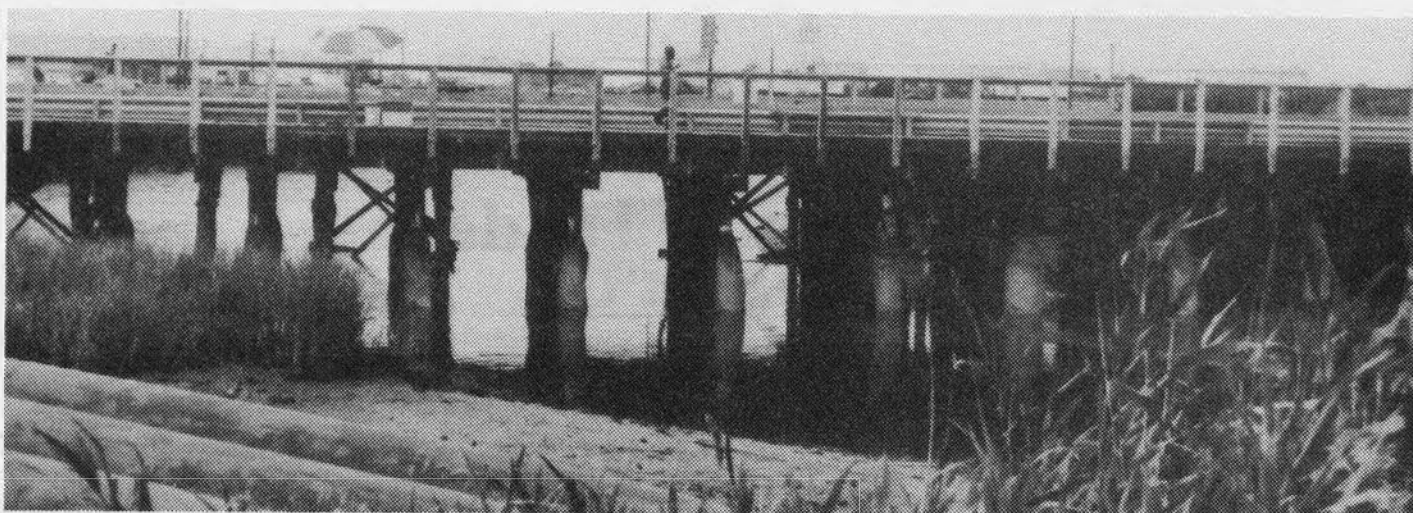
Trouble over the ownership of the land arose in 1682 when East Jersey, which included Elizabethtown, was sold by Berkeley and Carteret to William Penn and eleven other men. Each of these men sold half of his

share and these twenty-four men became known as the Proprietors. The battle over the ownership of this land raged for 100 years between the Associates and the Proprietors, or their descendants, and was finally settled by default in favor of the Associates when distraction in the form of the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act and the Revolutionary War intervened.

Prior to the purchase of the land by Europeans, the land comprising Linden was used by the Indians as hunting grounds and was traversed by them on their way to the sound for fishing. There are indications that St. George Avenue, Tremley Point Road and Lower Road were originally Indian trails, branches of their great highway, the Minisink Trail. The Indians were of the Lenni-Lenape tribe of the Delawares, of which no trace remains today. They were removed first to New York State and finally to the Western states, where they were placed on reservations. A few collections of Indian relics and a number of place names of rivers, towns and parks are all that remind us today of their early presence here.

The Linden area remained entirely rural for 150 years after and the first settlers arrived and established farms on the rich, flat lands in the area now known as Tremley. It was named after Jean Traubles, a French Huguenot who changed his name to John Trembley. He owned land in the southern portion of Linden, extending to the Kill Van Kull. The name underwent several changes of spelling and now has become Tremley.

The first signs of village life appeared around the taverns. One of these was the Wheatsheaf tavern built in 1745 on St. George Avenue at the corner of Chestnut Street in what is now Roselle. In Colonial times, the tavern was the natural gathering place of the community in the absence of any other public building. It was the stagecoach stop, the post office and, during the Revolutionary War, the place where the militia gathered and trained. By 1750 there was a small cluster of eight or ten houses around the Wheatsheaf tavern and the first school in Linden was established nearby. When Linden became an incorporated township in 1861, the governing body met there and continued to do so for many years.



A bridge over Piles Creek, near the point where it flows into the Arthur Kill.

During the Revolutionary War period, Elizabethtown and Perth Amboy were two strategic points in New Jersey; consequently, Union County was traversed by both armies. Inhabitants of the area were subjected to foraging by troops of both armies and skirmishes were frequent.

General Howe arrived on Staten Island on July 6, 1776, unopposed by the inhabitants. It became a haven for loyalists to the Crown and many from East Jersey fled there. It is likely that some of them traveled down what is now Tremley Point Road and were carried to Staten Island on the ferry operated by Peter Trembly.

It is also possible that Washington and his troops, in retreat from Long Island to Trenton in late 1776, passed through Linden, followed by the British. Elizabethtown was occupied by the British by November 30, 1776. It is certain that Washington passed through Linden on St. George Avenue on his inaugural trip in April 1789.

The history of Linden as a separate entity began with the formation of the Township of Linden on March 4, 1861, incorporating the small villages of Wheatsheaf, Mulford (now Roselle), Tremley and Upper Rahway. Three-fourths of this area had been part of the Township of Rahway and the remaining portion was in the Borough of Elizabeth, except for a small section in the Township of Union. The neighboring towns of Rahway and Elizabeth had been incorporated just a few years before and the rural residents living between them had been forced to pay city taxes. This aroused resentment and gave them the impetus to break away and form their own township. Boundary lines of the new township were made with reference to various landmarks such as stones, trees, barns, rivers and railroad

tracks and measured in chain lengths.

There are two explanations for the choice of the name of Linden. One is that Mrs. Tenny, who lived on Dark Lane (now Park Avenue), disliked the name so much that she hung out a sign with the name Linden Road in front of her house. Subsequently, Abram Ward suggested the new township should be called Linden. Another legend has it that the many new German residents, for whom the linden tree had a special appeal, made the same suggestion.

The coming of the railroad to Linden in 1835-36 brought a change in the character of the community. Several New York businessmen found it more attractive to live in Linden and commute to their jobs in the city and then began settling in proximity to the railroad station. By 1880 they were requesting such amenities as sidewalks and street lights. The farmers in the outlying regions resented paying taxes for services they didn't need and the ground was thereby laid for a separation of Linden into a borough and a township. The Borough of Linden was incorporated on March 28, 1882, and consisted of one square mile in what is now the central business district. About three-fourths of the borough land was owned by three men: Walter Luttgen, Ferdinand Blancke (who later sold the majority of his holdings to August E. Knopf), and Mecker Wood.

A further division of Linden occurred in 1884 when residents of the section known as Mulford voted to withdraw and form a separate borough to be called Roselle. A dispute over sewage caused the split. The rural residents of Linden did not want a sewer line from Mulford passing through their land and they petitioned against it in 1893. The following year the people of

Mulford voted to separate.

Linden assumed its present governmental form as the City of Linden on January 1, 1925, when the consolidation of the Township of Linden and the Borough of Linden took effect.

A profound change started taking place at the turn of the century with the coming of industry to Linden. Situated as it was on the main line of a major railroad, with access to the sea, a large land area, and close to New York, Linden was well-suited to industrial development. Starting with the Standard Oil refinery and following with many large manufacturing firms, Linden rapidly became a major industrial center. Within 50 years Linden was transformed from a small village with outlying farms to a thriving city. The last farm, fronting on East St. George Avenue, went out of existence in the mid-1960s. The senior citizens complex was built on part of that farm.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Linden has a land area of 11.4 square miles. One-fourth of its boundary is on Staten Island Sound and nearly as much on the Rahway River.

Linden is bounded on the north by Elizabeth and Roselle, and on the southwest by Rahway, Clark, Winfield and Cranford. In area, Linden ranks sixth among cities of New Jersey and second in Union County, Elizabeth having two square miles more. In aspect, Linden is mainly flat, with an elevation ranging from sea level to a height of 90 feet at Wood Avenue and Ninth Avenue.

POPULATION

Scarcely 1,000 persons, nearly all American-born, resided in Linden in 1900. Ten years later the population had increased to 6,598, reflecting the new industrial character of the town. Linden's population grew steadily until it reached its peak of 41,409 in 1970. There has been a gradual decline since then with the latest count in 1990 showing 36,701 residents.

The 1990 census provided the following data:

Per capita income	\$16,308
Median family income	\$42,634
Percentage of families below the poverty line	4.0 %

Form of Government

Linden has a mayor-council form of government. The mayor shares some executive and legislative powers with council.

The mayor, who serves for a term of four years, has the power to veto ordinances passed by council.

The mayor appoints members to several autonomous boards, such as the Planning Board, Library Board, Board of Health, Shade Tree Commission and the Linden-Roselle Sewage Authority. The mayor also may form special committees to fill particular needs - for example, the Cultural Affairs Committee, Mayor's Youth Committee, Environmental Commission and Citizens Advisory Board.

The mayor is the head of the police department and appoints its employees. He or she appoints the chief of police and such captains, lieutenants and sergeants as may be authorized. These personnel appointments shall not take effect until confirmed by the council.



Dais in the council chambers at City Hall

If the office of the mayor becomes vacant, even temporarily, for any reason, the city council president acts as mayor pro-tempore, with all the powers of mayor for that period. A vacancy in the mayor's office is filled for the unexpired term at the next general election.

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 8 p. m. in the council chambers in City Hall and are open to the public. After the official part of the session is over, the public is invited to ask questions or express views. Caucus sessions are held at 7 p. m. on the Monday preceding the council meeting. The public may attend and may speak at the discretion of the council president.

CITY ATTORNEY

The city attorney is appointed by the city council for a term of three years, without tenure. Duties include rendering legal advice to the mayor and council and to the various boards. The city attorney drafts ordinances and prepares deeds, contracts and other legal documents required by the council and attends all council meetings as legal advisor. Legal actions brought by the city are prosecuted by a separate law enforcement officer.

CITY COUNCIL

The council is the legislative body of the municipality. The city council consists of one member elected from each of the 10 wards for a three-year term, and the council president, who is elected at large for a four-year term.

Powers of the council include passing, adopting, amending and repealing ordinances or resolutions required for the government of the city. Council controls and regulates the finances of the city and raises money by borrowing or taxation.

The council may override a veto of the mayor by a two-thirds majority of all its members.

The council generally appoints subordinate officials of the municipality, such as fire chief, city attorney and members of some boards and commissions.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The Municipal Court, located in City Hall, is presided over by a municipal court judge appointed for a three-year term by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. The position is part-time and the judge, who is required to be a lawyer, may continue private practice. The court is in session every Tuesday and the first Thursday.

Persons accused of certain crimes committed within the municipality must be brought before the municipal court judge within a reasonable time after their arrest.

The municipal court judge conducts trials, without a jury, of non-indictable offenses involving violations of motor vehicle and traffic laws, local ordinances and fish and game laws, which are punishable by fines or jail sentences of six months or less.

The judge may also issue warrants authorizing arrest or search by a law enforcement officer.

The municipal judge is authorized to conduct preliminary hearings on indictable charges of serious crimes and may then order the accused person held on bail or in custody for the grand jury, which can return an indictment. If the judge finds evidence of the crime to be insufficient, the judge may discharge the accused person, but must send a copy of the complaint, endorsed with the court's findings, to the county prosecutor.

Family problems and neighbor disputes are often referred to a two or three-person board for a mediation hearing and the board, in turn, recommends action to the judge.

CITY CLERK

The city clerk is appointed for a three-year term. After completing a state-registered municipal clerk's course and being re-appointed, the clerk attains tenure after five years of service.

The duties of the city clerk are prescribed by state law. As clerk of the council, duties include handling all council communications, keeping the minutes of council meetings, and recording all ordinances and resolutions passed by city council.

The office of the city clerk is generally the information bureau for the city to which residents may look for answers relating to city government. The city clerk is the official charged with carrying out the duties relating to elections. These include accepting registrations of new voters and transfers of eligible registered voters. The clerk is in charge of the election machinery on election days.

The city clerk is responsible for the safe-keeping of most of the city's records. As keeper of the seal for the city, the clerk affixes this seal on documents and papers which require it. Other duties are administering oaths of office and serving as the secretary of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission and as the Civil Service municipal officer. In that capacity, the clerk certifies the Civil Service workers. The clerk is empowered to issue marriage licenses.

In Linden, the city clerk also serves as registrar of vital statistics. He or she is appointed to the position by a resolution of the board of health for a period of three years and may be re-appointed. The deputy city clerk assists with the duties of the office and serves in the absence of the city clerk.

FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY RELATIONS

Municipalities in New Jersey have no constitutionally guaranteed powers. The New Jersey Constitution gives to the legislature the authority to grant or mandate powers to local governments as well as to withdraw such powers from them.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs was established in 1967 to serve the local municipalities and deal with total community development.

Federal, state and county governments provide many services to municipalities in the fields of education, health and welfare. The federal government operates three post offices in Linden and provides services of the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture, Internal Revenue Service, FBI and other agencies.

The state government supplies a part of the local relief funds as well as aid to the schools.

Union County governmental affairs are administered by a county manager (appointed by the board of freeholders for an indefinite term), with the freeholders acting in a legislative capacity. Freeholders are elected at large for three-year terms, with three being elected each year.

Linden is in the 20th state legislative district, along with Elizabeth, Rahway and Roselle. It is

represented by one state senator and two assemblymen.

On the federal level, two senators, elected from the state at large, represent New Jersey citizens in the United States Senate. Linden is split among three congressional districts, the 7th, 10th and 13th.



City Hall is on N. Wood Avenue, at the center of the main business district.

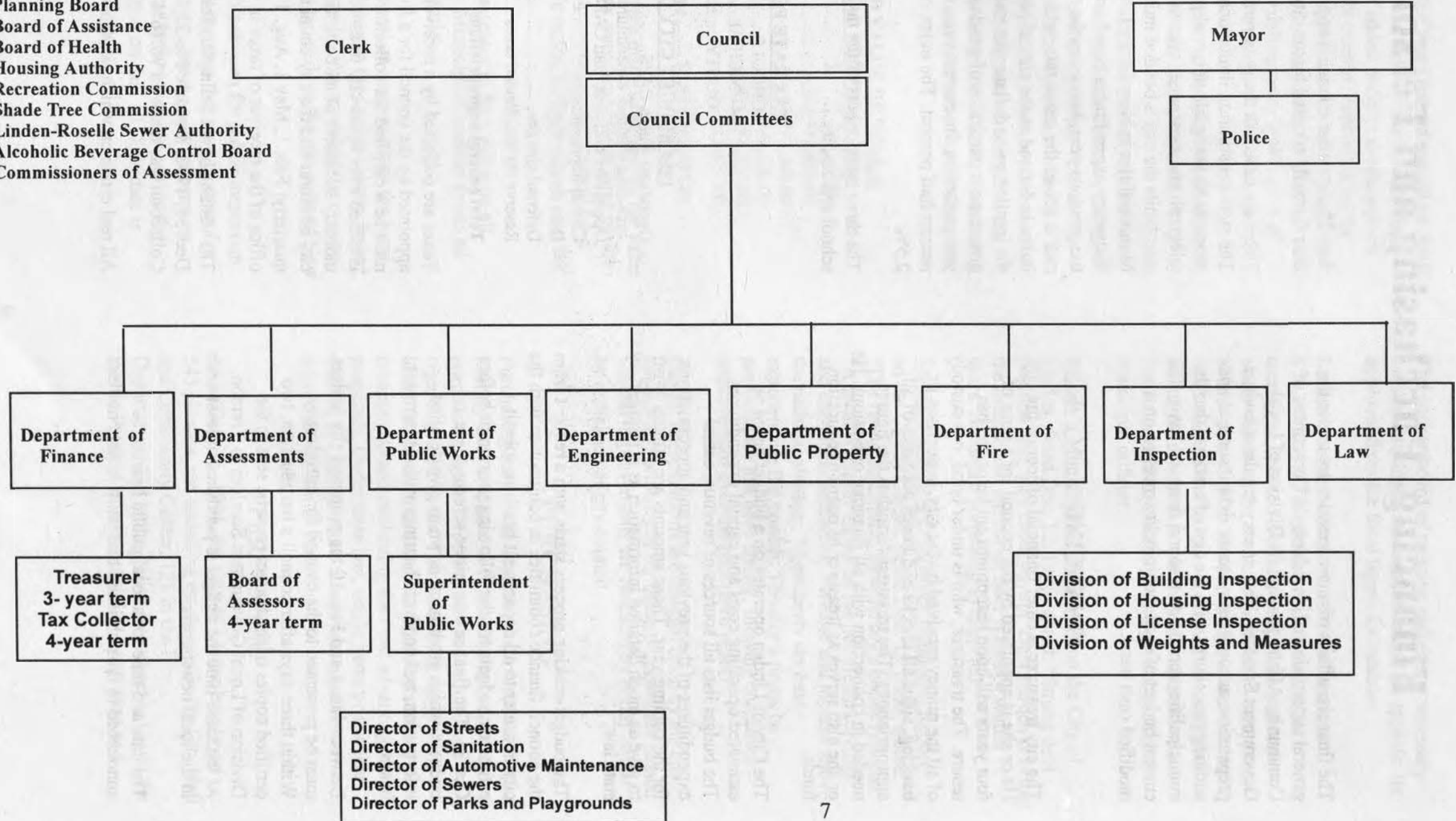
ORGANIZATION OF LINDEN GOVERNMENT

AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES

Municipal Court
 Board of Adjustment
 Planning Board
 Board of Assistance
 Board of Health
 Housing Authority
 Recreation Commission
 Shade Tree Commission
 Linden-Roselle Sewer Authority
 Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
 Commissioners of Assessment

LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE POWER

EXECUTIVE POWER ONLY



Financing, Purchasing and Personnel

The financial affairs of municipalities are under the general supervision of New Jersey's Department of Community Affairs through its Division of Local Government Services. This agency regulates budget preparation, accounting systems, debt insurance and auditing procedures with the aim of assuring that the municipalities remain on a sound financial basis. The current budget of each municipality must be on a modified cash basis.

FINANCING

The city treasurer is chief financial officer of the city. He or she is appointed by the council for a term of four years and upon reappointment he or she has tenure. The treasurer, who is under bond, has custody of all the money received by the city, supervises its banking, signs all checks and keeps accounts of all appropriations. The treasurer furnishes the figures needed in connection with all financial operations. He or she also serves as treasurer of board of education funds.

The City of Linden operates on a budget based on estimated operating costs and capital expenditures. The budget lists all sources of revenue, actual expenditures of the previous year and appropriations for the coming year. These amounts are broken down to give as much detailed information as is required by state law.

The budget-making process starts with a request from the council finance committee in conjunction with the city treasurer to all department heads to submit estimated budgets for the following year on or before Oct. 31. The finance committee screens these budgets, which are broken down to give detailed information, and conducts hearings with department heads.

Between Jan. 1 and Feb. 10 the proposed city budget must be presented to the council for introduction. Within three days after council's introduction, two certified copies of the budget must be sent to the Division of Local Government Services in Trenton. At the same time the budget is published at least once in the local newspapers.

The date and time for a local public hearing is announced in the published budget. It is held not less

than 28 days after council's approval. The budget is then formally adopted by the city council.

Taxes are based on the requirements of the budget. The state constitution limits local taxation to real property and tangible personal property of telephone, telegraph and messenger system companies. State law also limits the city's bonded indebtedness.

Municipalities in New Jersey have limitations on the budgetary expenditures based on the expenditures of the previous year, known as the CAP law. The CAP rate is 5% or the index rate, whichever is less. The index is defined as the annual percentage increase in the implicit price deflator for state and local government purchases of goods and services for the year preceding the current year, rounded to the nearest half percent. The index rate for 1995 was 2.5%.

The three components of the tax rate are municipal, school and county.

TAX RATE FOR 1996

SCHOOLS.....	1.34
MUNICIPAL.....	.75
COUNTY.....	.51

1996 BUDGET CITY OF LINDEN

Operations within CAPS.....	\$38,340,010.00
including statutory expenditures	3,300,000.00
Operations excluded from CAPS.....	3,870,502.05
Capital improvements	170,000.00
Debt service	4,517,000.00
Deferred charges	1,062.56
Reserve for uncollected taxes	2,840,000.00

Total general appropriations \$53,038,574.61

Taxes are collected by a receiver of taxes who is appointed by the council for a four-year term and must be a certified tax collector. The money collected is turned over to the city treasurer on a daily basis. A monthly statement of all collections is given to the city treasurer and the city council. Taxes are payable quarterly: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov. 1 at the office of the receiver of taxes in City Hall.

The volume of tax delinquencies for the year ending Dec. 31, 1995, amounted to \$3,762,450.97. Collection was made on 96.16% of the tax levy.

All real estate on which taxes, assessments and

municipal liens of prior years remain unpaid on April 1 must be advertised and sold for the amount due with interest and cost added, subject to redemption within two years or six months, depending on the buyer of the tax sale certificate. Under state law the rate of interest charged on unpaid taxes shall not exceed 8% unless the delinquency is in excess of \$1,500, in which case a charge of 18% is allowed.

The city auditors inspect the books of the receiver of taxes and make spot checks on tax payment.

Under state law, property used exclusively for religious, education, charitable or cemetery purposes and not operated for profit is exempt. Veterans are allowed a deduction of \$50 from their total tax bill. Senior citizens who qualify and certain permanently and totally disabled persons and certain surviving spouses are allowed a deduction of \$250. The total amount of the deductions is returned to the city from the state.

ASSESSED VALUE OF REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY 1996

Vacant land	\$ 29,445,200.00
Residential.....	1,362,382,800.00
Apartment.....	61,772,500.00
Commercial	381,261,100.00
Industrial	981,184,800.00
Public utilities	16,213,657.00

Total assessed value \$2,832,260,057.00

Property assessments are made to determine the value of real property for tax purposes. This is done by the tax assessor, who is appointed by the council for a term of four years. He or she is required to hold a tax assessor's certificate.

The law requires an assessor to fix a value on all property as of Oct. 1. Municipalities must assess all property at the same ratio.

Any taxpayer may appeal an assessment to the local assessor's office and then to the Union County Board of Taxation before April 1. An appeal of the county board's decision may be made to the tax court of New Jersey.

The Linden tax books are open for public inspection at all times. State law requires that they be open for one day early in January after the new assessment lists are completed and before they are sent to the county board of taxation on Jan. 10. This date is advertised in the local papers.

The county board of taxation makes any necessary adjustments in the assessments based on appeals. Its approval fixes the local figure for ratables.

Linden's bonded debt as of 1995 amounted to \$16,151,000.00 for the city. State law limits municipal debt to 3.5% of average assessed real estate valuation for the three preceding years, plus 4% for school debt. The percentage of net debt as of 1995 was .88%. Net debt is defined as total debt minus the school debt which falls within the 4% limitation and any self-liquidating debt, such as for municipal utilities.

Moody's Municipal Credit Report on the City of Linden, dated Dec. 12, 1995, stated: "Strong debt position with very rapid payout. Debt burden is below the median and almost all debt is retired within 10 years. No future borrowing is expected."

Standard & Poor's Creditweek Municipal Report on the City of Linden, dated Dec. 18, 1995, stated: "The rating on Linden, New Jersey's bonds reflects: *A local economy based on the petroleum refining and chemicals industries; *Wealth and income above the national average; *A property tax base experiencing flat growth. The city's financial performance has been strong, showing consistent improvement over the past three years."

Capital improvements are decided upon by the city council and ordinances for those purposes are passed. Capital improvements are financed by bonds issued by ordinance of city council.

PURCHASING

Purchasing for all city departments, except the Public Library and the Board of Education, is done by the purchasing agent. Departments send requisitions regarding their needs. The purchasing agent then looks for the most economical prices by seeking competition and evaluating the most advantageous proposals. Under state law, single items or services costing \$11,700 or more in one year must be advertised for sealed bids.

PERSONNEL

As of Dec. 31, 1995, the City of Linden employed 545 persons, not including employees in the City Hall and Community Center, 121 in the Fire Department, 135 in the Police Department, 121 in the Public Works Department and 111 part-time and

seasonal employees in the Recreation Department and City Hall.

Linden has operated under the provisions of the state Civil Service law since 1944. Applicants for positions must pass a Department of Personnel test to gain

employment and there are further tests for promotions. Disabled veterans receive preferential status. City employees are covered by the State Employee Retirement system. Provisions of the State Pension Act for firemen and policemen have been adopted.

ASSIGNED VALUE OF REALTY

Category	Assigned Value
Residential	1,000,000.00
Commercial	2,000,000.00
Industrial	3,000,000.00
Public Utility	4,000,000.00
Total	10,000,000.00

The assigned value of realty is determined by the Board of Assessors. The value is based on the current market value of the property. The Board of Assessors is composed of three members, one of whom is the Mayor. The Board meets quarterly to review and adjust the assigned values.

The assigned value of realty is used for the purpose of determining the amount of property taxes to be levied. The value is also used for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid to the Mayor and the members of the Board of Assessors. The assigned value of realty is also used for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid to the City Clerk and the City Treasurer.

The assigned value of realty is also used for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid to the City Engineer and the City Surveyor. The assigned value of realty is also used for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid to the City Attorney and the City Auditor.

Police Department

As of January 1996, the Police Department had a complement of 127 officers, as follows:

- 1 chief of police, responsible directly to the mayor and city council
- 5 captains
- 10 lieutenants
- 17 sergeants
- 18 detectives
- 76 police officers

Civilian personnel employed by the department were:

- 1 police physician
- 1 police electrician
- 1 full-time police matron
- 1 part-time police matron
- 8 clerk-typists

The New Jersey State Civil Service Department sets qualifications and requirements for applicants for the Police Department. Promotions are based on Civil Service examinations.

The Police Department is made up of five divisions: Administrative, Auxiliary Services, Detective, Patrol and Traffic.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Division is responsible for the operation of the entire department. Comprised of the chief of police, an administrative captain and two secretaries, it oversees all other divisions.

Functions of the division include setting goals and objectives, budgeting and accounting, timekeeping, payroll preparation and personnel management.

The city has implemented E-911 for reporting any emergency involving police, fire or ambulance. Residents now only have to dial 9-1-1 to reach a trained dispatcher. Whenever a call is made to 9-1-1, the location and name of the subscriber are automatically displayed to the dispatcher.

The Auxiliary Police, a branch of the Office of Emergency Management, operate under the Police Department. A police officer serves as liaison to the Auxiliary Police, whose members are Linden citizens serving without pay. Their services are used during

times of disaster; they also serve as aides to regular police whenever needed. They participate in civic functions such as parades, public assemblies, festivals, sporting events and other public events warranting police presence. The state mandates that these men and women receive periodic training in first aid, CPR, traffic control and court procedures.

The Linden Police Athletic League, better known as PAL, was organized in June 1952 by members of Linden Local 42 of the Policemen's Benevolent Association, some business and professional people and other citizens. It is headed by a director and an assistant director. Its purpose is to prevent juvenile delinquency and promote athletic programs.

The PAL owns and operates the city's first full-time youth center. In March 1957, it purchased a building at East Blancke Street and Maple Avenue and converted it into a youth center for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 14, regardless of race or creed.

AUXILIARY SERVICES

The Auxiliary Services Division is responsible for the Records Bureau, computer section, property room, evidence vault, training section and communications equipment.

The Records Bureau is the nerve center of the Police Department. It collects and assembles information coming to the attention of police. It is responsible for marking and safekeeping all evidence and confiscated property. It forwards reports to the prosecutor's office for grand jury presentment and trial. It also prepares statistical data.

DETECTIVE

The Detective Division is responsible for follow-up investigations of crimes committed by people 18 and older. Cases are reviewed by the bureau commander and assigned to a detective. Detectives routinely deal with the prosecutor's office, state police, FBI and police departments throughout the state.

State statutes require a history and fingerprinting of applicants for such jobs as school employees and those seeking permits to purchase handguns or rifles. Fingerprints are taken in triplicate, with copies sent to

the state police and FBI.

The Detective Bureau is responsible for enforcing alcohol beverage control laws. An Auto Squad has been established as well as a unit which deals with Megan's Law and juvenile sex cases.

The Juvenile Bureau investigates crimes by youths under 18 years of age. Included are drug and alcohol violations and child abuse and sexual abuse cases. A bureau commander serves as liaison to the schools. A Law Enforcement Liaison Office at Linden High School has materials on drug and alcohol abuse, AIDS, family problems and referrals to county agencies.

The Narcotics Bureau investigates violations of the drug laws. It also handles violations of the vice laws and sometimes other cases. The bureau is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A Drug Response Unit (DRU) from the bureau is on call for follow-up on large drug seizures.

The bureau works closely with the Narcotics Strike Force of the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

PATROL

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Linden Police Department. Its objectives are to prevent crime, apprehend criminals, enforce laws, maintain order, regulate traffic, investigate accidents and provide services to the public.

The division is made up of 81 uniformed officers, headed by a captain, who provide 24-hour protection to the 11 square miles of factories, businesses and residential areas in the city.

The city is divided into eight sectors for radio car patrols. A car is assigned to each sector and carries a first aid kit, respirator and other equipment essential

to responding to emergency situations.

The Foot Patrol is assigned to the business district.

The Canine Corps also is assigned to the Patrol Division. It consists of six dogs, five handlers and one non-handler sergeant who serves as liaison between the corps and the office of the patrol commander. The Canine Corps, established in 1982, works closely with other local, state and federal agencies as well as neighboring communities.

TRAFFIC

The Traffic Division investigates fatal accidents and reviews all accident reports. It is responsible for 43 school traffic guards employed by the Police Department. Qualified officers supervise the use of breathalyzers to test the sobriety of drivers suspected of drunk driving. Traffic Bureau personnel also operate radar units in areas of complaints or excessive speed. Officers have investigator status and are qualified motor vehicle accident reconstructionists.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing involves making average citizens partners with police in the effort to make their community a better and safer place in which to live and raise their children.

In August 1992, a 60-foot trailer was leased and placed on the corner of Charles Street and St. George Avenue. It is staffed by volunteers from the Police Department.

The Mayor's Youth Commission and the Public Works and Recreation Departments contribute to programs aimed at improving youth relations and providing a safe haven for young people, without drugs or peer pressure, at the trailer.

Fire Department

The Linden Fire Department is responsible for preventing and extinguishing fires and protecting life and property in the city.

The department is headed by a chief who is appointed by the city council and has Civil Service status, as do all members of the department.

A fire committee consisting of at least three members of city council, appointed by the council president, serves as liaison between the department and council on all administrative matters.

The total deployment is 123, broken down as follows:

- 1 chief
- 6 deputy chiefs
- 17 captains
- 13 lieutenants
- 86 firefighters

STATIONS

The department operates four fire stations, manned by five engine companies and one truck company, in addition to a new ambulance and a reserve ambulance, both staffed by certified firefighters/EMT (emergency medical technicians) daily from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Station 1-- At Wood and Morris Avenues. Built in 1916, it houses a 1500-GPM pumper, a 2000-GPM pumper, the Linden Fire Department ambulance and a reserve ambulance.

Station 2-- At St. George Avenue and DeWitt Terrace. Built in 1947, it houses a 1750 GPM-pumper.

Station 3-- At Elizabeth and Chandler Avenues. Built in 1929, it houses a 1750-GPM elevated boom pumper and a Quint (ladder-pumper) apparatus.

Station 4-- At 2400 South Wood Avenue. Built in 1978, it houses a 1500-GPM foam/pumper (carrying 500 gallons of foam).

Reserve apparatus includes one aerial truck, two 1000-GPM pumpers and one special service unit. Additional vehicles include one training van, one fire alarm system maintenance truck, five fire prevention cars and two chief's cars.

Fire alarms are received by central dispatch in City Hall at 911. The department responds to any type of emergency call. All members receive advanced first aid training. All newly appointed officers are required to become certified first aid and CPR instructors and all newly appointed firefighters must be certified EMTs.

SERVICE

The department also maintains a Fire Prevention Bureau. Established in 1937, it works to eliminate conditions that cause fires through inspections, code enforcement and education. To stimulate public interest, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducts an annual fire prevention poster contest for public and parochial schools in the city. It also conducts an annual display of fire apparatus, fire prevention equipment, fire detection equipment and other fire-related items in front of City Hall during October in observance of Fire Prevention Week.

The Fire Prevention Bureau works closely with other city agencies whenever needed. Some members also are active with the Union County Arson Investigation Squad which investigates arson-related incidents throughout the county.

An Insurance Service Office classifies all municipalities based on their fire defenses and vulnerability to fire. Linden has a B rating (the highest is A). The city owns all of its 650 hydrants.

Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management is headed by a coordinator. It has only one full-time employee, a secretary.

During local disasters, the mayor is empowered to declare a state of emergency and assume leadership of all departments. The local coordinator then serves as his principal advisor and is responsible solely to the chief executive.

Emergency management is financed by local government with state and federal matching funds.

The Linden Office of Emergency Management operates in 13 areas of responsibility. They are:

- (1) **Planning:** Headed by the coordinator; provides ways and means for organizing and carrying out activities.
- (2) **Personnel and administration:** Headed by the coordinator; recruits volunteers, keeps records, maintains liaison with the Red Cross and provides for publicity and public education.
- (3) **Police:** Headed by the chief of police or his delegate; trains civilians to serve as auxiliary police.
- (4) **Fire:** Headed by the fire chief or designated deputy; assumes on-site command at fire-related emergencies.
- (5) **Transportation:** Headed by an expert in the field; responsible for transportation of personnel and the dead and injured in an emergency in vehicles made available

through the cooperation of business, industry and others.

- (6) **Public health:** Headed by the health officer; responsible for setting up first aid stations and transporting casualties to hospitals.
- (7) **Public works:** Headed by the city engineer; handles road clearance, demolition of buildings and maintenance of utilities.
- (8) **Disaster analysis:** Handled by the deputy coordinator.
- (9) **Radef:** Headed by a trained Radef officer; responsible for matters involving radiological monitoring and training.
- (10) **Rescue:** Aids in rescue work; Linden has a rescue truck equipped with an emergency generator, ladders, industrial first aid kit, stretchers, blankets, ropes and water rescue equipment.
- (11) **Welfare:** Headed by the welfare officer; works with the Red Cross and, in an emergency, cares for evacuees.
- (12) **Communications:** Headed by a radio officer; responsible for maintaining contact with the Union County Emergency Operating Center.
- (13) **Shelters:** Headed by a shelter manager; responsible for assigning space in shelters in the event of nuclear attack; requests for supplementary aid would be made to the county coordinator in Westfield.

Planning and Zoning

New Jersey municipalities have codes and regulations that govern development--where various types of residences, business and industry may be located, for example, or what the minimum lot size and maximum height may be, or where parks and green belts will be situated. These and many other items fall under the jurisdiction of either the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

In Linden, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment members serve without pay. Both boards have secretaries and attorneys who are appointed with city council approval.

PLANNING

The master plan is a policy document designed to guide the physical development of the city, both private and public. It is the key to all planning functions, including physical improvements undertaken by various municipal agencies.

Its goals are:

- To establish reasonable goals for future development of the city.
- To assist in providing a basis for gradual improvements.
- To provide ample public facilities throughout the city, taking into consideration population concentrations and anticipated future population growth.
- To present proposals for safe and convenient traffic circulation.
- To look at reasons for current problems in building conditions, land use development, traffic circulation and public facilities, and to propose solutions for such problems.
- To encourage adoption and enforcement of modern codes and ordinances to assure safe, sanitary and decent building conditions.

To encourage a continuous review of local conditions in order to keep the master plan up to date.

ZONING

Linden's zoning ordinance was adopted in 1981 and updated in 1993. Based on the master plan, it has 21 zoning categories. Details on those categories are available from the Construction Code Department.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment hears any appeals of decisions by the construction code official pertaining to the zoning code.

The state has a uniform construction code that applies to all building trades. Its regulations are administered by the local construction code official, who has Civil Service status.

Electrical installations, which must conform to national code requirements, are inspected by the subcode official who works in the Construction Code Department.

Plans for plumbing installations or alterations must be filed with the plumbing subcode official and conform to national standards. Inspections are made as required.

Construction permits must be obtained for new buildings, additions, alterations, remodeling, roofing and siding. Certificates of occupancy are issued when the building under construction is completed and all building code and zoning ordinance requirements have been met. The Construction Code Department makes at least four main inspections during construction of all buildings; other inspections are made to check on framing, nailing and type of materials. If violations are found, the builder is given an opportunity to make corrections. If those corrections are not made, a penalty can be imposed or the permit can be revoked.

Linden Public Library



The main library on East Henry Street is one of three library facilities in the city.

The Linden Public Library serves the community from three locations: the main library, at 31 East Henry Street; the Sunnyside Branch, at 100 Edgewood Road; and the East Branch, at 1425 Dill Avenue.

Anyone who lives, works, owns property or attends school in Linden is entitled to a free borrower's card. Non-residents may get a family card by paying a \$25 annual fee. Borrowers can apply for a card at the main library or at any branch.

Most books may be borrowed for 28 days; new books for seven or 14 days; sound recordings for seven days and video-cassettes for three days. Fines for most overdue items are 10 cents per day.

The library is a member of INFOLINK, a regional library cooperative serving Union, Middlesex, Essex and Hudson counties. The cooperative provides inter-library loans and other reference services to residents. Additionally, through a reciprocal borrowing agreement, residents may use their Linden Library cards in most libraries in Union and Middlesex Counties as well as at other electronic data bases.

As this book was going to press, the library had received a state grant to implement LAN—the Local Area Network. This will enable patrons to use computers in the main library and both

branches to check what material is available at libraries throughout Union, Middlesex, Essex and Hudson counties.

The total number of books in the Linden library system in 1996 was approximately 125,000. In addition, there is a collection of 5,600 recordings, musical, historical and dramatic and a variety of pamphlets and pictures.

The library maintains 350 periodicals and newspaper subscriptions. Many magazines and newspapers are kept on microfilm. Local newspapers are complete on microfilm. The New York Times is on microfilm from its first issue in 1851. As an aid to research, indexes to the Times and other periodicals also are available.

In 1986, a group of interested citizens formed the Friends of the Linden Library. The organization, which has its annual meeting in January, conducts a book sale each year and sometimes other fund-raisers for the library. It presents periodic programs throughout the year. Membership in the Friends is open to any interested person; details are available from the library.

The library and the Friends of Linden Library sponsor a variety of programs such as summer reading clubs, lectures, book reviews, musicals and exhibits. The library also provides meeting

places for community groups at the Sunnyside and East branches.

Although the main library is not accessible to wheelchairs, both the Sunnyside and East branches are. Both branches have accessible restrooms and, as this book was being published, plans were under way to install automatic doors at the two branches. Large print books are kept in a special section at the main library; there also are some at the East branch, and additional volumes are available by request at both branches. In addition, the Linden Public Library can put interested persons in touch with the New Jersey State Library for the Blind and

Handicapped, which provides books on tape by a free mail service. The library is supported by local taxes, some state funds and some grant moneys.

The Board of Trustees consists of nine members, including the mayor and superintendent of schools, ex-officio. They are appointed by the mayor for five-year terms. The library's board oversees its funds and selects the library director.

While subject to change, the staff usually consists of nine professional librarians, 16 clerical workers and five maintenance people. The staff is supplemented by six part-time workers of high school age who shelve books.

Recreation Department

The Linden Recreation Department is administered by a superintendent of recreation with a full-time staff consisting of an assistant superintendent and two supervisors and a part-time sports supervisor. The department employs over 200 part-time and seasonal personnel, including playground and community center supervisors, directors and leaders. Supplementing the department is a full-time maintenance and clerical staff.

Outdoor recreation facilities include two little league fields, 10 tennis courts, ice skating areas, 15 supervised playgrounds, nine day camps and 36 parks with a total of 104.77 acres. Two school playfields are also used for recreation programs--McManus Middle School and the Edward R. Cooper Athletic Field. Wheeler Park, a county-owned facility, has a playground area and a renovated pool which are used for supervised department activities. The largest city-owned park is the 34.58-acre Memorial Park, located between South Wood Avenue and Lower Road; it has walkways, bikeways, jogging paths, sitting areas and picnic facilities.



The John T. Gregorio Recreation Center

Indoor recreation facilities include the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, Community Center Building, Linden Multi-Purpose Center, Wilson Park Recreation Center, Sunnyside Recreation

Center, Eighth Ward Recreation Center and Seventh Ward Recreation Center. In addition, 10 schools are used during evening hours for youth programs, including basketball, active games, passive games, dancing and handicrafts.

Adult programs include women's social clubs, Linden Ceramic Club, Garden Circle, Linden Art Association, bowling, basketball, softball and co-ed volleyball leagues.

The newest facility is the 14,000-square-foot Linden Multi-Purpose Center, at 1025 John Street, which was completed in October 1995. It has a gymnasium with bleachers, classrooms, multi-purpose room, exercise room, wrestling and boxing room, showers and locker rooms, kitchen and offices. Recreational, educational and community service programs are offered for children and adults.

The John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen Street, is the focal point for the department's senior citizens programs as well as activities such as children's art class exhibits and aerobics. It has an exercise room which is open to the public.

Senior citizens gather daily at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center for arts and crafts classes, ceramic classes, woodcarving and woodshop classes, billiards, pinochle, exercise programs, dance classes, the Program du Jour, clubs, trips, forums, identification card programs, college classes, Senior Reading Program and the Union County nutrition program.

Arts and crafts, club activities and exercise classes are also available to senior citizens at Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Edward Murawski Tower, Peach Orchard Tower, Seventh Ward Recreation Center, Eighth Ward Recreation Center, Sunnyside Recreation Center and Wilson Park Recreation Center.

Special events for senior citizens include presentation of the Outstanding Senior Citizen Award, St. Patrick's Day dance, and billiards tournament.



Linden's largest park is the 34.58 acre Memorial Park between S. Wood Avenue and Lower Road.

Concerts in the park are presented in the summer. Other special events include a fishing derby, garden program and Halloween parade. Picnic kits, game kits and Santa Claus suits are made available by the department at no or nominal charge.

SERVICES

The Recreation Department also makes some social services available to residents of Linden. Department staff members provide assistance in completing applications for the state's Pharmaceutical Assistance program and the Lifeline Credit program. Also available are income tax assistance, home heating energy assistance, New Jersey reduced fare program, Silver Saver discount program, dental/denture program and physicians' outreach.

The department officially began its Outreach Program in 1991. It provides services to those Linden residents unable to get out of their homes due to physical disability, illness or frail condition. Residents are assisted with Pharmaceutical

Assistance applications, Lifeline, home energy and income tax and receive home delivery of government surplus foods. During the holidays, small gifts and food are distributed. Also, a volunteer base has been established to help with daily phone calls and home visits to the homebound.

Bus transportation is available daily, on a fixed schedule, to take senior citizens shopping. Bus trips also are made weekly to Menlo Park and Woodbridge Center shopping malls. Buses for trips to points of interest outside the city may be provided on request to groups.

In cooperation with the Linden Board of Health, the Recreation Department provides monthly hypertension screenings and child examinations and immunizations. The department also holds glaucoma and mammography screenings and makes flu shots available annually.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 474-8600.

Seniors' Housing

Linden has two senior citizens' housing developments, both with waiting lists. They are the housing complex operated by the Linden Housing Authority, comprised of Peach Orchard Towers and Murawski Towers, and Morning Star Court, owned by Bishop Irvin Evans of Morning Star Church and operated by Ward & O'Donnell Management Co.

Built with federal funding, the Linden Housing Authority complex is now maintained with money from rentals.

Peach Orchard Towers is at 1601 Dill Ave., and Murawski Towers is at 1551 Dill Ave. Peach Orchard Towers has 201 apartment units, including one for a building superintendent; Murawski Towers has 151 units, including one for a superintendent.

To be eligible for an apartment, a prospective tenant must be at least 62 years old or disabled.

Other eligibility factors are income and assets.

The Linden Housing Authority, created in 1965, has seven non-salaried members who are appointed for five-year terms, one each year, one member appointed by the mayor, and one appointed by the governor. In addition, a state appointee serves at the pleasure of the state commissioner of community affairs.

There also is a full-time executive director, who is appointed by the commissioners.

Morning Star Court, at 701 Cranford Ave., has 61 units, including one for a superintendent. It is a moderate- and low-income facility with a minimum age of 62 for tenants. Services include lunches served by the Union County Nutrition Program. Center for Hope Hospice sponsors a weekly visit from a registered nurse.



Murawski Towers provides housing for senior citizens.

Social Services

The Department of Public Welfare provides financial assistance and medical attention to eligible needy persons who live in the city.

Standards for assistance are set by the New Jersey Department of Public Welfare. The local department is located at 302 S. Wood Avenue, telephone 474-8620.

The department is supervised by the Local Assistance Board and is composed of three persons appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council.

The board appoints a department director who serves for a five-year term, without tenure. The department staff also includes an account clerk, who has Civil Service status, and a physician.

The general assistance program provides aid to eligible individuals aged 18-65 without children. It is supervised by the N. J. Division of Public Welfare under two standards--employable and unemployable persons. Employable applicants participate in a workfare program in which they perform work for the community. The goal is to prepare the recipient for future employment.

During the winter months, from November through May, the department also takes applications from senior citizens for heating benefits.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children is administered by the Union County Board of Social Services, 342 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth. The board provides for children up to age 18 or age 21 if they are still attending school. However, assistance

is not provided to any child over the age of 16 who is not in school, in a GED program or in a training program.

Aid to the blind is available from the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, located in Newark. Applications are received by the Board of Social Services, which investigates and determines need. The program includes financial assistance, educational services in the home and school, remedial treatment when possible, psychiatric services, vocational training and job placement.

Indigent persons in need of hospitalization may be sent to one of the Elizabeth hospitals or any other hospital which meets their needs.

Outpatient treatment for welfare clients is provided at the Elizabeth hospitals at nominal charge. Transportation, if necessary, may be provided by Catholic Community Services, Red Cross or the Linden Ambulance Corps.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Eastern Union County makes visits to homes of needy patients. These patients are referred to the agency by the Department of Public Welfare, the Board of Social Services, the Board of Health or physicians. The VNA may recommend homemaker services. (The VNA also serves other patients who require intermittent nursing care.)

The State of New Jersey funds the general assistance program. However, administrative costs are funded by the city.

Public Health

The Linden Health Department staff consists of a state-licensed health officer, two state-licensed sanitary inspectors, one housing inspector, three public health nurses, three clerical workers and an animal control officer.

Free services offered by the department are:

Child health conferences: The public health nurses visit families of all newborns in Linden to explain the services offered by the health department for children from birth to 5 years of age. These include all required childhood immunizations, which are given at child health conferences held five times a month at the Gregorio Recreation Center. A licensed pediatrician is present at all child health conferences.

Screening programs: Hypertension screenings are held in the City Hall council chambers on the second Friday of each month; special programs also are run at various other sites several times a year. A diabetes screening is held annually, usually in November. A colo-rectal screening also is held annually, usually in April.

Pap smear: A pap smear screening is held in conjunction with Union Memorial Hospital, usually in April.

Flu shots: Flu shots are offered annually, usually in October, to Linden senior citizens and city residents who are chronically ill.

STD clinic: The department in conjunction with Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital, offers diagnosis and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases. The phone number for the clinic at Elizabeth General is 289-8600; at St. Elizabeth, 527-5000.

The housing inspector inspects all homes before they are sold. The inspector also handles complaints about residential properties, such as no heat or unsanitary conditions. The housing inspector can be reached at 474-8414.

Other inspections made by the health department are of retail food handling establishments, lunch trucks, professional schools, trailer courts, swimming pools, day care centers, motels and laundromats.

All reports of animal bites are investigated by the department. An animal that has bitten someone is placed in quarantine period. All animal bites must be reported to the Health Department. Call 474-8410.

The Linden Board of Health oversees the animal control program. An animal shelter located on Range Road, animals are available for adoption at no charge. But anyone who wants to visit the shelter is asked to call first to make sure the animal control officer is at the site. The number is 474-8541.

The board has a contract with the Middlesex County Health Department to investigate air pollution complaints. The 24-hour telephone number for reporting complaints is 745-4350.

The board consists of seven commissioners who are appointed by the city council for four-year terms and serve without pay, meets in City Hall at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public.

Other Public Services

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department collects trash and all materials to be recycled. A notice is sent in January to all householders giving detailed directions as to the type of refuse to be collected and the manner in which it is to be prepared for collection as well as the dates it will be picked up at the curb.

Garbage is collected twice a week except during the fall leaf collection period from late October to December 1, when it is picked up just once a week. Garbage is sent to the Union County incinerator in Rahway. Material to be recycled is sold to private concerns. Household "special waste," such as oil-based paint, pesticides, solvents, motor oil and the like, are not collected locally but must be taken to special drop-off centers situated around the county. These special collections take place six times a year and are advertised in local papers. Places for collection vary from year to year. The public works superintendent, who is appointed by the city council, has Civil Service status, as do all employees under him. The superintendent is in charge of road repairs, street cleaning, snow removal and garbage collection.

ENGINEERING

The city engineer, who is appointed by the council for a three-year term, plans all new roads, streets, sanitary sewers and sidewalks. The engineer handles all new construction work, such as the laying of storm sewers and the planning and developing of city parks and parking areas. The state exercises supervision in the case of a large project, such as a sewage disposal plant, and of all streams which have a drainage area larger than 0.5 square miles.

The engineer's office prepares the tax atlas and all official maps of the city, including sewer, paving, zoning, ward and assessment maps.

New streets, sewers and sidewalks are financed through appropriations in the city budget and by assessment of affected properties. They are maintained at city expense.

Property owners are assessed the full cost of curbs, gutters, sidewalks and sanitary sewers. The city pays

half the cost for paving the streets; the other half is assessed equally against the property owners affected. The full expense of constructing storm sewers is met by the city.

There are 110.4 miles of roads in Linden, of which 9.2 miles are county roads, 9.8 miles are state roads, 91.0 miles are municipal roads, and 0.40 miles are unimproved roads.

There are 274 streets in Linden, 98.0 miles of sanitary sewers and 25.0 miles of storm sewers. The Linden land surface is 11.05 square miles and water surface is .36 square miles.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Department of Weights and Measures is a one-person office. The superintendent of weights and measures checks supermarkets, stores, service stations, fuel depots and industry. Equipment and packaged goods are inspected to protect the consumer. Home heating oil trucks are tested for accuracy. The superintendent may initiate prosecution through the municipal court.

Most scales are now electronic digital. Industry also has added sophisticated packaging and weighing devices to its operations.

The public can report any irregularities to the Department of Weights and Measures at 474-8403.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Linden has three postal stations: the Main station at 400 North Wood Avenue, Station A at 340 West St. George Avenue and Grasselli, at 938 South Wood Avenue. The hours at the main station are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The other stations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and closed on Saturday.

There is one delivery daily and Saturday and special delivery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Post office boxes are available and mail can be picked up from those boxes whenever the lobby is open.

BUSES

All the bus services that affect Linden are run by New Jersey Transit.

NJ Transit #56 runs from Winfield to Elizabeth along Raritan Road and Wood Avenue to the Linden Plaza shopping center and on Routes 1 & 9 to Elizabeth.

NJ Transit #62 runs between Newark and Perth Amboy traveling on St. George Avenue through Linden.

NJ Transit #94 runs from the Linden railroad station to Elizabeth Avenue along Roselle Street to St. George Avenue and to Roselle on Chestnut. It continues on to Union, Newark, Bloomfield and Belleville.

NJ Transit #112 runs from Scotch Plains to the Port Authority bus terminal in New York. It runs along Raritan Road in Linden to N. Wood Avenue, where it proceeds to Amsterdam Avenue in Roselle. It picks up passengers at the corner of Drapkin Avenue and N. Wood Avenue.

NJ Transit #115 runs from Rahway to the Port Authority bus terminal in New York, along St. George Avenue in Linden.

A senior citizens bus is operated by the city.

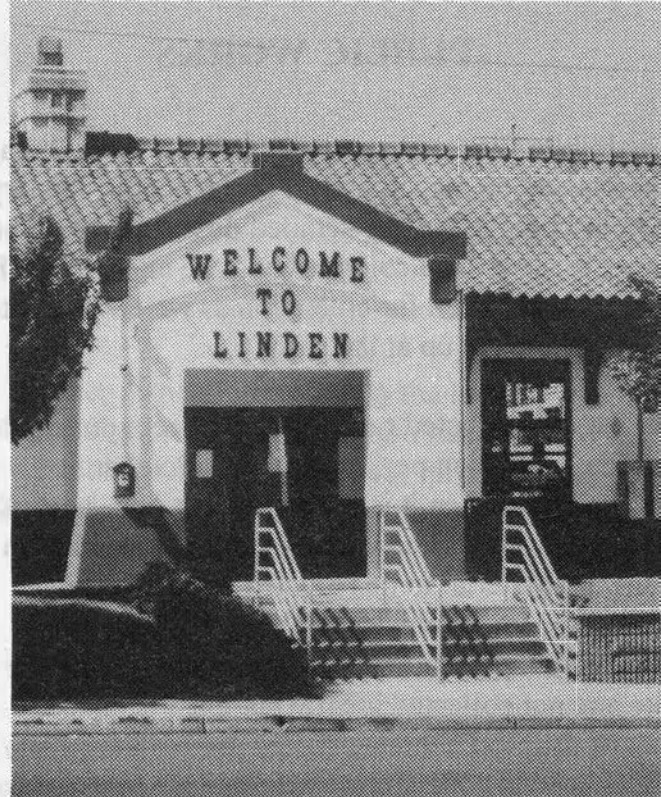
Charter service is provided by the Villani Bus Company.

TRAINS

Linden is on the Northeast Corridor Line of New Jersey Transit. The station is located on Wood Avenue between Elizabeth Avenue and Linden Avenue. Metered parking is provided in adjacent lots. All inbound trains stop in Elizabeth, Newark Penn Station and New York Penn Station.

Connections can be made from Newark Penn Station for the Raritan Valley Line, North Jersey Coast Line of NJ Transit, PATH tubes to Jersey City, Hoboken train station, World Trade Center and some Amtrak trains.

Outbound trains stop at Rahway and some continue on to Metropark, New Brunswick, Princeton Junction and Trenton. From Metropark one may change to Amtrak trains to Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and points south.



The train station on N. Wood Avenue.

For information call NJ Transit at 800-772-2222 (for Northern NJ only); 201-762-5100 (out of state); 800-872-7245 (Amtrak).

AIRPORT

The Linden Airport is owned by the city. It was established during World War II as a test field for Navy planes made at Eastern Aircraft (General Motors).

The field is used by non-scheduled freight planes, private planes and executive planes. Aircraft can be rented and student instruction is available.

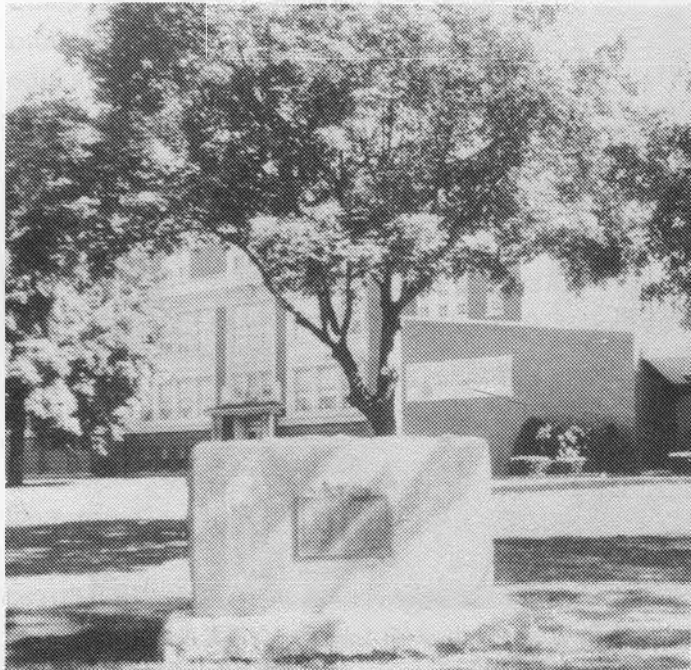
PUBLIC UTILITIES

There are four public utilities serving Linden residents: Elizabethtown Water Company, Bell Atlantic, Elizabethtown Gas Company and Public Service Electric and Gas Co. Linden receives franchise taxes and gross receipt taxes from these utilities.

Education

In colonial times, as early as 1750, the Wheatsheaf School located on King's Highway, the main road between New York and Philadelphia, provided the educational facilities for children in the area that is now known as Linden. The school was located at the junction of what is now St. Georges Avenue and Roselle Street. This school was a wooden structure 16 by 20 feet. The schoolroom, only 7 feet high, was heated by a box stove in the center. A second school, the Tremley Point School, was built in 1786 in the area that was south and east of what is now Route 1.

Linden Township was created by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature in 1861. The township contained five districts but the boundaries were not accurately defined. There were four school buildings in the township.



School No. 1 on Wood Avenue

Today the oldest school in Linden is School No. 1, located on North Wood Avenue. It was constructed in 1911.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Today Linden has eight elementary schools (five pre-kindergarten to grade 5, one pre-K to grade 2, one pre-K to grade 3 and one grades 3-5), two middle schools (grades 7 to 8), one high school (grades 9 to 12), and one vocational school.

Detailed information about each school is presented in the accompanying table.

Some statistics of interest are:

The total number of pupils attending school in 1996 was 5,010. The average class size was 26.2 for the elementary schools.

At the high school, the drop-out rate was 4 percent, and 70 percent of the graduates entered college.

Textbooks are replaced on a five-year cycle.

School facilities are available to organized groups whenever the buildings are not used for school purposes. Permission to use a school facility must be obtained from the office of the superintendent.

The Linden High School auditorium is accessible via a ramp at the side entrance leading to the gymnasium; an elevator inside will accommodate wheelchairs. The McManus Middle School is also accessible by means of a rear entrance and elevator.

Notices for emergency and special closings for inclement weather are broadcast over area radio station WOR(710).

Parent Teacher Associations are active in all schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Linden is a Type II school district with an elected board of education comprised of nine members, three of whom are elected each year. They serve three-year terms without pay.

In Type II school districts, the board of education sets a budget on which it holds a public hearing each year. The budget is presented to the voters at the annual school election in April. If it is defeated, it is submitted to the city council, which can leave it as it is or reduce it. The board can accept cuts made by the council or appeal them to the state commissioner of education.

The board of education holds regular public meetings at 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in Linden High School. Executive meetings, with some exceptions, are held on the Monday before the public meeting. Minutes of the meetings are on file in the office of the business administrator and are available to the public.

With a TV lab available at Linden High School, the board has begun televising its meetings. The business portion of its public meetings is taped and later shown on Channel 36.

SCHOOL STAFF

As of 1996, the school staff was comprised of a superintendent of schools; one administrative assistant to the superintendent; one business administrator/board secretary; three administrators and supervisors; 393 classroom teachers and specials, including child study team, librarians, nurses and guidance counselors; 59 secretaries; 50 custodians; 11 maintenance workers, and 78 support staff members.

PROGRAMS

Programs provided by the Linden school system include a preschool handicapped program, T.E.D.D.Y., for ages 3 to 5. Half-day pre-school programs are available for 4-year-olds and full day kindergarten is provided for all students. Assessments are conducted through observations of basic developmental areas and through administration of the kindergarten test. Portfolios (samples of student work) are developed in kindergarten and first grade.

All kindergarten children are screened to determine if they need speech correction. Teachers are encouraged to listen for defects and refer pupils for this service.

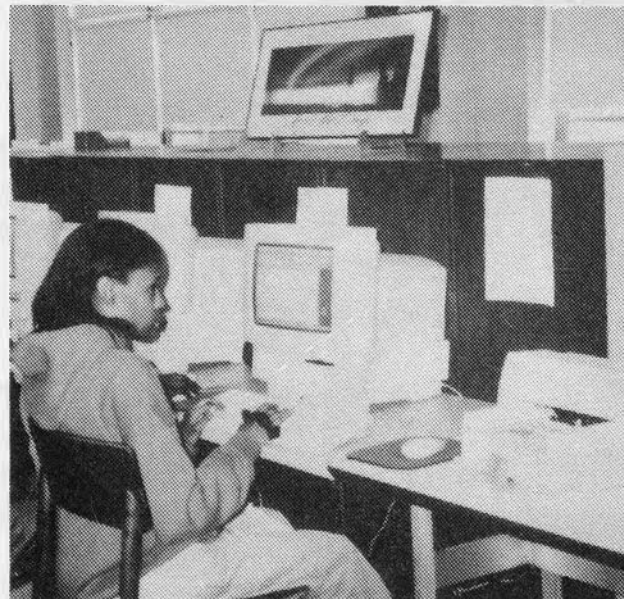
English as a Second Language (ESL) is available to all students having little or no knowledge of English.

Special education children are referred to the Department of Pupil Personnel Services by a child study team. These children are placed in classes and/or programs designed to help them function to the best of their abilities.

Gifted and Talented programs are available in the elementary and middle schools. Offered to the academically gifted children, lessons and activities are directed to advance thinking skills and processes, to produce active involvement and to encourage varied and personal response.

Art and music are offered to all students in the elementary and middle schools. Music electives in the high school range from band, orchestra and chorus to musical theater, keyboard, guitar and theory. Dance ensemble and art also are available at the high school level.

In the high school, advanced placement, college preparatory, business, general and vocational courses are offered. In addition, students can enroll in time-shared programs at Union County Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains.



Student at a computer in Linden High School.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

During the 1995-1996 school year, the fourth- and fifth-grade classes were equipped with computers. Plans are to continue to provide computers in the other elementary classes as funds become available.

At the middle schools and high school, computer facilities are available that provide networking capabilities for classroom use and libraries. At the high school arrangements are being made to

create a telecommunications laboratory that would allow students to access the Internet and to interact with distant learning centers, such as other schools, science centers, and museums.

SERVICES

Guidance services include two guidance counselors in each middle school. The emphasis is on good study habits and behavior. Six guidance counselors for the high school and vocational school provide help to students in selecting courses and reviewing career plans in preparation for college and the workplace.

Summer school is provided for eighth-grade students who need help in developing and strengthening skills in certain subjects and for high school seniors who need remedial work before they can graduate.

Transportation, as required by state law, is provided for students in grades K-8 who live more than two miles from school and those in grades 9-12 who live more than 2.5 miles from school. All special education students needing transportation are transported to school. Parochial and private school students who meet the requirements for mileage are given transportation.

Attendance service is handled by personnel who check absences and verify residences, as reported to them by the schools.

Health services are provided by the board of education. Medical examinations are given annually from pre-K to grade 5 and for grades 7, 9 and 11. They include tests for vision and hearing. Complete health records are maintained while the student is in the Linden school system.

Adult education programs are available at the high school. The scope of the courses offered depends on the budget for the year and ranges anywhere from single talks to ten-week courses. The topics cover a wide range of subjects from crafts to foreign languages, ESL, GED and computer education. Catalogs are mailed to residents during the fall and spring terms. In addition, Union County College offers continuing education courses for senior citizens in Linden in cooperation with the Linden Recreation Department.



Linden High School

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

St. Elizabeth's School, grades K-8, 170 Husa St.

St. John the Apostle School, pre-nursery to grade 8, Valley Road, Clark

St. Theresa's School, pre-kindergarten to grade 8, 705 Clinton St.

Victory Christian Academy, 4-year-olds to grade 12, 2301 Grier Ave.

PRE-SCHOOL & DAY CARE CENTERS

Born Again Day Care Center, 1301 Lincoln St.

Candy Mountain Day Care Center, Methodist Church, 3321 N. Wood Ave.

St. Elizabeth's Early Learning Center, ages 3-4, 220 E. Blancke St.

Morningstar Day Care Center, ages 2-11, 1238 E. St. Georges Ave.

Noah's Ark Nursery School, Reformed Church of Linden, 600 N. Wood Ave.

Wee Care Pre-School Learning Center, ages 3-4, 918 Lincoln St.

Linden Public Schools

SCHOOL	1	2	4- ANNEX	5	6	8	9	10	SOEHL	MCMANUS	HIGH SCHOOL	VO- TECH
LOCATION	N. Wood Avenue	S. Wood Avenue	Dill Ave.	Bower Street	E. Morris Ave.	W. Blancke Street	Deerfield Terrace	Highland Ave.	Coke Place	Edgewood Road	W. St. Georges Avenue	
YEAR BUILT	1911	1913	1964	1920	1923	1930	1957	1957	1926	1949	1925	1971
ADDITION TO ORIGINAL	1972	1919 1967	1969	1964	1967				1956 1970	1956	1932 1961	
GRADES	3 - 5	Pre-K - 5	Pre-K-3	Pre-K -2	Pre-K - 5	Pre-K - 5	Pre-K - 5	Pre-K - 5	6 - 8	6 - 8	9 - 12	
ENROLLMENT 1995-1996	286	313	326	399	335	324	329	281	580	504	1,335	
GYMNASIUM AUDITORIUM	Comb.	Comb.	Comb.	Comb.	Yes Yes	Comb.	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	
LUNCHROOM CAFETERIA	Yes	Yes	Comb. with above	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
LIBRARY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Places of Worship

Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Zion
Church
900 Baltimore Avenue
925-7089

Born Again Church of God in Christ
1301 Lincoln Street
486-4282

Burning Bush Garden of Prayer
1114 East St. Georges Avenue
486-3036

Calvin Prebysterian Church
128 Arthur Street
862-5446

Congregation Anshe Chesed Synagogue Center
Orchard Terrace and St. Georges Avenue
486-8616

Emanuel Tabernacle Assembly of God
416 Bower Street
925-1729

First Baptist Church Linden
929 Dill Avenue
486-4937

Grace Episcopal Church
2018 DeWitt Terrace
925-1535

Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
24 East 14th Street
862-7766

Greater Promise Baptist Church
1241 Union Street
486-2918

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
210 Monroe Street
862-1060

Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church
407 Ziegler Avenue
486-3624

Linden Presbyterian Church
1506 Orchard Terrace
486-3073

Linden United Methodist Church
321 North Wood Avenue
486-4237

Morning Star United Holy Church Inc.
1009 Chandler Avenue
925-7979

Mount Zion Freewill Baptist Church
1222 East St. Georges Avenue
925-6886

Reformed Church of Linden
600 North Wood Avenue
486-3714

St. Elizabeth Church (Roman Catholic)
220 East Blancke Street
486-2514

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church
417 McCandless Street
862-6500

St. John the Apostle Roman Catholic Church
1805 Penbrook Terrace
486-6363

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
45 East Elm Street
486-4090

St. Theresa's of the Child Jesus Church (Roman
Catholic)
131 East Edgar Road
862-1116

Temple Mekor Chayim-Suburban Jewish Center
Kent Place and Deerfield Terrace
925-2283

The First Pentecostal Church of Linden
31 East 18th Street
862-0888

United Holy Church
620 Union Street
486-4665

White Rock Baptist Church
1198 East St. Georges Avenue
925-7496

Cultural and Service Groups

Linden has something for everyone. Many programs and activities are offered through schools, places of worship, the Linden Recreation Department and the Senior Center. They may be contacted for more information. The Linden Public Library maintains a list of clubs and organizations with names of officers, telephone numbers and addresses.

Business and Professional

Linden Bar Association
Linden Education Foundation
Linden Industrial Association
Linden Merchants Association
Ministerial Association of Linden

Civic and Service

Cityline Coalition
Concerned Citizens of Linden
Deborah Hilda Gould Chapter
Friends of the Linden Library
Kiwanis Club
League of Women Voters
Linden Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Lions Club & Auxiliary
People for Animals
Rotary Club

Cultural

Cultural and Heritage Committee
Linden Summer Playhouse
Linden Debutante Scholarship Organization

Educational

Adult Education
Linden Education Association
Parent Teacher Associations

Ethnic

American Italian Mutual Association & Ladies Auxiliary
Polish National Home
Polish Women's Alliance
General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee
Spanish American Cultural Society

Fraternal

B'nai Brith Lodges
BPO Elks & Auxiliary
Catholic Daughters of America
Craftsmen's Club
Knights of Columbus & Auxiliary
Knights of Pythias
Masonic Temple Cornerstone Lodge

Moose Lodge & Auxiliary
Order of Eastern Star
Young Men of Zion

Homeowners Association

Linden Towers Condominium

Political

Democratic Ward Clubs
Linden Coalition for Political Action
Linden Democratic Club & Ladies Club
Linden Republican Club
Polish American Democratic Club

Religious

Church affiliated groups--Contact church of choice.
Fifty + Club of St. Elizabeth
Hadassah
Holy Name Societies
Intra-Faith Council of Linden
Sisterhoods

Recreation

Social clubs -- Contact Linden Recreation Department.

Retired

AARP

Senior Citizens

Special interest clubs -- Contact Gregorio Recreation Center.

Veterans

American Legion & Auxiliary
VFW & Auxiliary

Youth Activities

Boy Scouts of America
Catholic Youth Organization
Girl Scouts of America
Halloween Parade Committee
Mayor's Youth Commission
Police Athletic League
Summer sports and day camps - Contact Linden Recreation Department.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies

Ambulance, Fire, Police.....911
Fire (non-emergency)..... 486-3500
Police (non-emergency)..... 474-8500

City Hall

City Clerk..... 474-8445
Emergency Management-Civil Defense..... 474-8477
Engineering..... 474-8470
Health..... 474-8409
Mayor's Office..... 474-8493
Tax Collector 474-8431
Violations Bureau 474-8423
Welfare 474-8620

Board of Education 486-2800

Public Works 474-8666

Recreation Department..... 474-8600

Senior Citizens-Gregorio Center..... 474-8627

Hospitals and Care Centers

The principal facilities serving Linden are:

Elizabeth General Medical Center (Elizabeth)..... 289-8600
Overlook Hospital (Summit)..... 522-2000
Rahway Hospital (Rahway) 381-4200
St. Elizabeth Hospital (Elizabeth)..... 527-5000
Union Hospital (Union). 687-1900
Delaire Nursing and Care Center (Linden) .. 862-3399
Center for Hope-Hospice (Linden) 486-0700

Post Offices

Main Office, 400 N. Wood Ave..... 925-6420
Grasselli, 938 South Wood Ave..... 862-4122
Station A, 340 St. Georges Ave. 486-8900

Public Libraries

Main Branch, 31 E. Henry St..... 298-3830
East Branch, 1425 Dill Ave 289-3829
Sunnyside, 100 Edgewood Road 298-3839

Utilities

The principal providers of utilities in Linden are:

Gas: Elizabethtown Gas 289-6400
Electric: Public Service Electric & Gas 353-7000
Telephone: Bell Atlantic of New Jersey..... 1-800-621-9900
Sewage: Linden Roselle Sewerage Authority..... 862-7000
Water: Elizabethtown Water..... 1-800-272-1325

Community Service Organizations

American Red Cross 353-2500
CONTACT-We Care 232-2800
Literacy Volunteers of America, Union County 925-7755
Meals on Wheels..... 486-5100
Salvation Army 352-7057
United Way of Union County (First Call for Help)..... 353-7171

Crisis Hotlines

Ala-Call-Alcoholism 1-800-322-5552
Compulsive Gambler 1-800-426-2537
Drug Hotline 1-800-225-0196
Poison Control Center..... 1-800-764-7661
Runaway Hotline..... 1-800-231-6946
Youth Crisis 1-800-448-4663
Women's Referral Central 1-800-322-8092
Battered Women's Shelter 355-4357
Union County Rape Crisis Center..... 233-7273
NJ Child Abuse Reports..... 1-800-792-8610
Parents Anonymous/Family Hotline..... 1-800-843-5437
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline..... 1-800-572-7233

Information Hotlines

NJ Division on Civil Rights 1-201-648-2700
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection..... 1-609-292-7172
NJ Department of Motor Vehicles 1-609-292-6500
NJ Div. of Consumer Affairs-Action Line..... 1-201-504-6260
Consumer Credit Counseling Service 1-201-267-4324
Student Financial Aid 1-800-792-8670
Board of Elections (Union County) 527-4123
League of Women Voters Voting Information.. 1-800-792-8683
Veterans Administration. 1-201-645-2150

Federal Government

FBI..... 1-201-622-5613
Secret Service 1-201-645-2334
Social Security 1-800-772-1213

Sponsor

TOSCO

