

# bulletin

Roosevelt Borough



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## PCD II Discussion Continues Ordinance Not Yet Introduced

Mayor Lee Allen, Borough Attorney John Ross, the six Borough Council members and 15 Roosevelt residents present at the March 11 Regular Meeting of the Borough Council joined in discussions of a possible Planned Community Development ordinance, other ordinances, resolutions, reports, appointments and matters of concern. Bert Ellentuck began the first public portion of the meeting by objecting to the one page 1996 budget published and made available. Last year's budget had four pages. Borough Clerk Krystyna Olejnik explained that the full budget was available for inspection and the publication cost for the summary was \$750 less than for the full budget. (The law was recently changed to allow publication of summaries.) The public hearing on the budget was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March

18 at the Borough Hall instead of the March 11 meeting of the council because state law requires that the budget be advertised at least four weeks before the public hearing. The budget was introduced on February 12, and then advertised in the Asbury Park Press. The four week period is required in order to give the public adequate time to study the budget and prepare suggestions for revisions. Mr. Ellentuck made the point that not enough information was available to study. His question about \$208,000 for "debt service" for school purposes, shown on the summary, could not be answered. Mr. Ellentuck told this reporter two days later that Council member Paul Hoogsteden called him after the meeting to explain how the summary was wrong. The municipal budget includes no debt service for the school. Since the schools

Borough  
Council  
Report  
*by Herb Johnson*

(cont. on pg. 8)

## good news for all friends of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin

**We are pleased to announce that the Herman Goldman Foundation has once again generously agreed to provide a grant of \$5,000 to help support The Bulletin over the next three years.**

**All of us who are involved in the production of The Bulletin are most gratified to receive this most welcome note of confidence in our efforts to provide a quality local newspaper. All who have contributed may also take pride in the fact that their show of support has facilitated the receipt of this grant.**

**On behalf of all those to whom The Bulletin is important, we express our deep gratitude to the HERMAN GOLDMAN FOUNDATION.**

## congregation Anshei Roosevelt sponsoring trip to Washington

*by Michael Ticktin*

The board of trustees of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt invites all members, and all the interested Roosevelt residents, to join us on Sunday, May 26, on a bus trip to Washington to tour the U.S. Holocaust Museum. We will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. and will stop for dinner at a kosher restaurant in the Baltimore area, and expect to return by about 9:00 p.m.

The cost of the trip (dinner not included) will be \$25/adult and \$15/child for members and \$30/adults and \$18/child for non-members.

All are welcome to join us on our visit to this important historic memorial.

**A Rabies Clinic** has been scheduled for Saturday, May 11, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the borough garage. This clinic is free and available to cats and dogs. Dr. Petranto of the Twin Rivers Animal Hospital will be administering the vaccine.

**Dog license:** If you have not licensed your dog for 1996, the fee through April 30 is \$14.20 for altered dogs and \$17.20 for others. Dogs must be at least 7 months old and have a rabies vaccination valid through the end of 1996. Rabies and altered certificates must be presented when applying for a license.

**Litter Pick-up:** Sunday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. Those interested, please join in front of the Post Office.

**Large Garbage Day:** Monday, May 20. Look for Public Notice at the Borough Hall and Post Office.

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is distributed free of charge to Roosevelt residents. Out-of-town subscriptions are available for a yearly fee of \$6.50 for third class mailings, \$13.50 for first class.

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## progress reported on notterman tract development board discusses use of public lands

At its March 13 meeting, the Planning Board received a report from Borough Council representative Jeffrey Hunt that at least a couple of Council members had questioned whether permitted residential density should be decreased for the Notterman tract and increased for lands bordering the northern approaches to Roosevelt. Most of the Notterman tract, an area currently zoned by a planned community development ordinance (PCD I) to allow construction of about 54 dwellings, lies east of North Valley Road and south of Eleanor Lane. The Council is considering a similar zoning ordinance (PCD II) recommended by the Board for the northern farmlands, which are currently zoned to permit 10-acre lots.

Under PCD I, development would be clustered around an extension of Farm Lane connecting to Eleanor Lane. The rest of the land would remain open, especially near the Cemetery. Houses would be built on lots averaging half an acre in size. However, only one house would be allowed for every two acres. The balance of the land would be permanently preserved as open space. The PCD II proposal for the northern lands would also cluster dwellings, but with an average density ratio of four acres per unit. This would allow about 114 units in that area.

Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton said that if the Council as a body insists, the Board would, as required by the land use law, evaluate whether the PCD I and II densities should be changed, but she cautioned that "the time is ripe to act on the existing proposal" for the northern lands. She was referring to informal development concepts that have been presented in recent months by Calton Homes, which has options to purchase three properties in the area. She warned, "It may be better to leave



well enough alone from a practical standpoint." Mayor Lee Allen, also a member of the Planning Board, noted that while the concept of transferring development earmarked for the Notterman tract to the northern lands might appear attractive, "you would have physical constraints in the area where the density would be increased."

Abby Notterman, an owner of the Notterman tract, said Calton Homes had not been interested in a transfer of development rights from the Notterman tract to the northern lands. She noted that, after long negotiations with several developers, the tract owners were "about a hair's breadth away from signing a contract with a developer" that is willing to develop under the PCD I framework. She added that the deal would "just die" if the Council indicated it would alter the PCD I concept.

As of March 13, the Council had made no formal request for a Planning Board recommendation on any suggested changes in the PCD I or proposed PCD II ordinances. Mr. Hunt said he would convey the Board's discussion to the Council. The consensus seemed to be in favor of re-

taining PCD I and the current Board recommendation on PCD II.

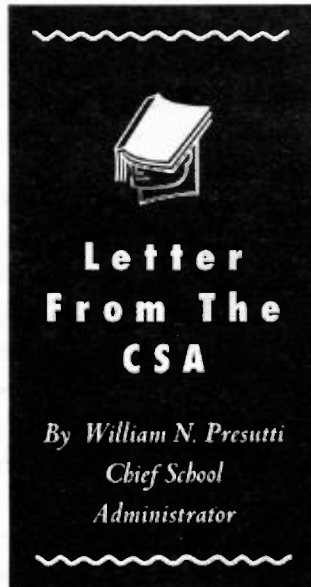
In other business, the Board discussed what might be done to prevent and eliminate private encroachments on public lands. Mayor Allen said that if the Board were to prepare a communication to residents concerning such encroachments, the Council would disseminate it. Chairwoman Hunton and Board member Bert Ellentuck agreed to draft a "letter to the people" regarding the importance of public lands and need to avoid and remove encroachments. Ms. Hunton noted that structures, fences, dumping and the like were problematic, rather than mere clearing of brush. Board member Michael Ticktin said a permit process might be advisable for any uses the Council wishes to allow. Ms. Hunton said the Environmental Commission should be consulted. The Board also discussed whether to review the rental to Footlight Farm of some Borough-owned property bought with state funds. The first couple hundred feet of pasturage along Route 571 is leased to the horse farm for \$100 per year.

The Board unanimously granted a side yard variance to Fred and Linda Septak to allow expansion of bedrooms on the east side of their home at the end of Brown Street. Mr. Ellentuck said that although he would ordinarily oppose such a variance, special circumstances made it appropriate for the Septak property. The existing structure already does not conform to the Borough's side yard requirements, and the property is bordered on two sides by the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

The school year continues to move with great speed. There are many exciting things happening over the next few months.

On Monday, April 22, 1996 we will be celebrating Earth Day. Gayle Donnelly and Kate John-Alder have been working very hard in helping the school prepare for this very special day. There will be an assembly in the morning beginning at 9:15 a.m. followed by various planting activities for the students including a butterfly garden. The day will end with a closing ceremony and sing-a-long led by David Brahinsky. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Looking ahead to May...Kindergarten Orientation is May 22, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. Our spring concert will be May 23, 1996 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. We will also have a Health Fair on May 29, 1996 that will center around



Our students continue to do amazing things in our school. As I write this letter, our art teacher, Mrs. Williams, is getting ready for Art Night. The work our students produce is outstanding. Whenever you can, stop into the school and pay us a visit. We are all a "community of learners."

Enjoy the spring...a time to bloom!!!

Health Careers. In addition, we are currently planning a day that will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Roosevelt for June. More information will be forthcoming.

A reminder...if you haven't registered your child for Kindergarten, Class of 2003, please stop at the school to do so. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate with a raised seal. The cut-off date for inclusion in this class is November 15, 1996.

## Library News

by Scott Hartman

**The Roosevelt Public Library is up and running and is committed to providing and enhancing service to the community. As a satellite branch of the Monmouth County Library System, the Roosevelt Library can request books from other Monmouth County libraries as a supplement to the variety of books currently on our shelves. Current operating hours are from 7 - 9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and from 1 - 3 p.m. Sunday.**

**As part of our commitment, we are asking for volunteers. If anyone has time or can offer ideas on ways to expand services to the Roosevelt community, please let us know. Expanded services now available include having, on our shelves for your reading, books authored by citizens of Roosevelt and, through the Monmouth County Library System, a wide variety of videos.**

**If anyone is interested in offering a community oriented idea to expand services at your library, or is interested in helping during library operating hours, please call Ellen Silverman (490-0557) or Scott Hartman (448-9556). Library cards for all ages can be applied for at the library during operating hours.**

**Please become involved and help us continue our commitment and to become a gateway of knowledge and enjoyment available to all ages for years to come.**

## Nursery School News



By Marsha Agress  
Head Teacher, RCNS

"April showers bring May flowers." The children will be making ducks with umbrellas, as well as rainbows and flowers to usher in April and spring. Hopefully the weather will soon turn sunny and warm after the snow, ice, fog and floods we've all experienced this winter.

Some of the other projects for this month include Ollie Octopus, planting flowers and painting. Numbers through 8 will be reviewed.

Earth Day is a special day celebrated in April. We will learn that it is important to take care of our planet, or "we" will not have a place to live. We should not litter or pollute our precious air, land or water.

Our Art Auction is April 20th. We are hoping for a large turn out of people. Please come and support the public school and the nursery school of Roosevelt!

We would like to wish everyone a happy Easter, a happy Passover and a healthy, happy spring season.

The ever active Roosevelt PTA will hit their stride this spring with many fun events. The first major event sponsored by the PTA this month will be the Dance and Walk A-Thon on April 15th. This event is run by Kathy Elliot, the gym teacher. The proceeds will pay for field day and other things for our active Roosevelt students. Thank you Kathy Elliot.

The Art Auction is coming up on April 20th. This wonderful event is sponsored by the PTA and the Roosevelt Community Nursery School and After School Program and the funds will be going to maintaining much needed programs and outdoor play equipment. Thanks go to Gail Ticktin and her core of hard working volunteers for this event.

Then there is Earth Day, April 22. Gayle Donnelly and the School always work together to plan a spectacular educational and fun program for that day and this year they have outdone themselves. Kate John-Alder has drawn up plans for a Butterfly Garden, Billy Kline is making butterfly houses, Jonathan Shahn will be making a plaque to mark its birth as the school's garden and Gayle Donnelly has virtually moved mountains, of dirt, compost and leaves, to give the plants a good home. On Earth Day, the students will plant this garden and the community is invited to come and help. Please do come, for this is definitely the place to be on Earth Day. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard to give our young citizens such a wonderful opportunity to know and appreciate our environment.

April 26 the PTA will sponsor the School Dance. Thanks again this year goes to Diane



Rocchia and her crew for the decorations especially for the traditional and very important balloon arch. Also to all those who have provided snacks and drinks.

On April 30th, Ozzie Alive, Wilderness Trails Assembly will be at the school.

The Roosevelt Library has been enriched by donations from those who have participated in the PTA Birthday Club. Each month Debbie Fischer sends home letters with those students who are celebrat-

ing their birthdays that month, alerting their families of a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this occasion by donating a book, perhaps one of their favorite, to the library, then a sticker is put inside the front cover to tell all who donated this book and for what occasion. The book becomes part of the library's permanent collection and is available to be checked out. I think this is a beautiful way to publicly commemorate our private joys. This service is not only for the students at the school or only to commemorate birthdays. Call Debbie Fischer if you would like to donate to this program to commemorate an important event for you and your family. Your neighbors would love to check out your joy for years to come.

Will the PTA take a rest after this very busy April? No way! Stay tuned for May with the Town-wide Yard Sale, Roosevelt Cookbook, Spring Concert and Health Fair. In June is Field Day.

Do not forget to vote on the School Budget and School Board Elections on April 16th. This will take place at the Borough Hall, not at the school.

Next PTA meeting will be Monday, April 15, at 8:00 in the school lobby. ❁

## Get Ready for the 4th of July!

by Ellen Silverman

**Plans are being made for the annual 4th of July and this year is special. It is also the 60th Anniversary of Roosevelt. There are plans for a parade, picnic and run to celebrate the day. But this day can only be special with your help, the 4th of July meetings, to plan for the celebration, will be on the fourth Wednesday of April, May and June, at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall. Bring your dreams of the perfect July 4th/50th Anniversary Celebration and let's work to make the best celebration ever. Hope to see you there, April 24th at 7:30 p.m.**

# Recent Poisonings Show Need For Warnings to Mushroom Pickers

by Rodham E. Tulloss

I love to eat wild mushrooms. In the early spring, I hope to find a few morels while some of my friends collect thousands. In mid-summer, I know a few patches that produce chanterelles with their delicate, apricot odor. In autumn, there are boletes and honey mushrooms. Throughout the fruiting season, there are many others. Morels, boletes, and honey mushrooms all occur in Roosevelt although not often in quantity.

In addition to eating wild mushrooms, I study them and, when needed, perform the unpleasant task of identifying poisonous mushrooms for hospital emergency rooms around the southern half of New Jersey. While I love mushrooms, there's nothing that takes the edge off of this love like being awakened at 1 a.m. because someone has poisoned him- or herself. It means a couple of hours work in the middle of the night; and, by the way, I have a day job.

When I was asked by Kathleen Hirsch of the Newcomb Medical Center Emergency Department to write an article on mushroom poisonings, I had two reasons for accepting the task. I would very much like to help people avoid the unpleasant and, sometimes, deadly experiences of mushroom poisoning. And I would like to be able to sleep through the night every night in the mushroom season.

## RECENT POISONINGS IN SOUTH JERSEY

In the last few years, the mushroom poisonings in southern New Jersey have been caused by a relatively small number of fungi. This gives reason to hope that articles such as this one can help people avoid the bad actors.

The persons poisoned range from toddlers who are "grazing" in a lawn to persons who claim to be experienced mushroom pickers. One thing that is common to all the cases of adult mushroom poisoning that I have seen is that the adult thought he or she knew more than they did. The old saw that "there are old mushroomers and bold mushroomers, but no old, bold mushroomers" holds true. Adults rely on hearsay, old wives' tales, simple rules they heard from a friend, advice from someone who is experienced only with the mushrooms of another country, etc. A little skepticism and the rule "when in doubt, throw it out" would be a big help to Jersey mushroomers. A few cases serve to illustrate the point.

"They were in a clean place." The most recent poisoning call from Newcomb involved an adult male, 58 years of age. He had heard from an acquaintance that mushrooms collected in clean places cannot be poisonous. He found some large, yellow mushrooms in a clean place under pine trees. He ate ten of them, and he got cleaned out himself. In this case, a European old wives' tale was accepted un-

critically by a recent immigrant from Latin America. The symptoms include chills, dizziness, vomiting, and diarrhea that may last up to 48 hours. The mushroom was the American Yellow Fly Agaric. It occurs in Roosevelt under pine and Norway spruce.

"They looked so white and pure." This is a European prejudice. In East Asia, white is often treated as the color of death. Because of ignorance of one single technique (taking the time to check the color of a mushroom's spores), several people a year are poisoned by a mushroom common to lawns in rainy summer periods. The poisoning lasts about 24 hours, is rarely fatal, but causes extended vomiting and diarrhea. The stately mushroom involved is pale colored and has a membranous ring on the slender stem. Its fully opened cap, after being cut from the stem and placed right side up on a sheet of white paper, will drop dingy green spores easily visible to the naked eye after they have been collecting for a couple of hours. The mushroom is the Green-Spored Parasol. This occurs in Roosevelt on lawns, including in profusion on one lawn on Pine Drive.

"I thought they were chanterelles." Now it takes some knowledge of mushrooms to make this mistake. The problem arises when the knowledge is only enough to get a person into trouble. First generation European immigrants have collected the Jack-O-Lantern mushroom thinking that it was the delectable chanterelle. The gas-

trointestinal irritants in the Jack-O-Lantern can ruin anybody's day. Chanterelles grow dispersed on the ground and lack well-formed gills under the cap. The Jack-O-Lantern grows in large clusters with the stem bases joined, has normal gills, and grows on wood. This species has not been recorded in Roosevelt, but it can occur anywhere on dead stumps.

"He was just hungry." An especially sad case several years ago involved a starving, homeless man who consumed a large quantity of mushrooms with pale tan caps and white stems having a round bulb at the base. For five days, he "went mad." He was so violent, that he had to be tied to his hospital bed. The mushroom (*Amanita*

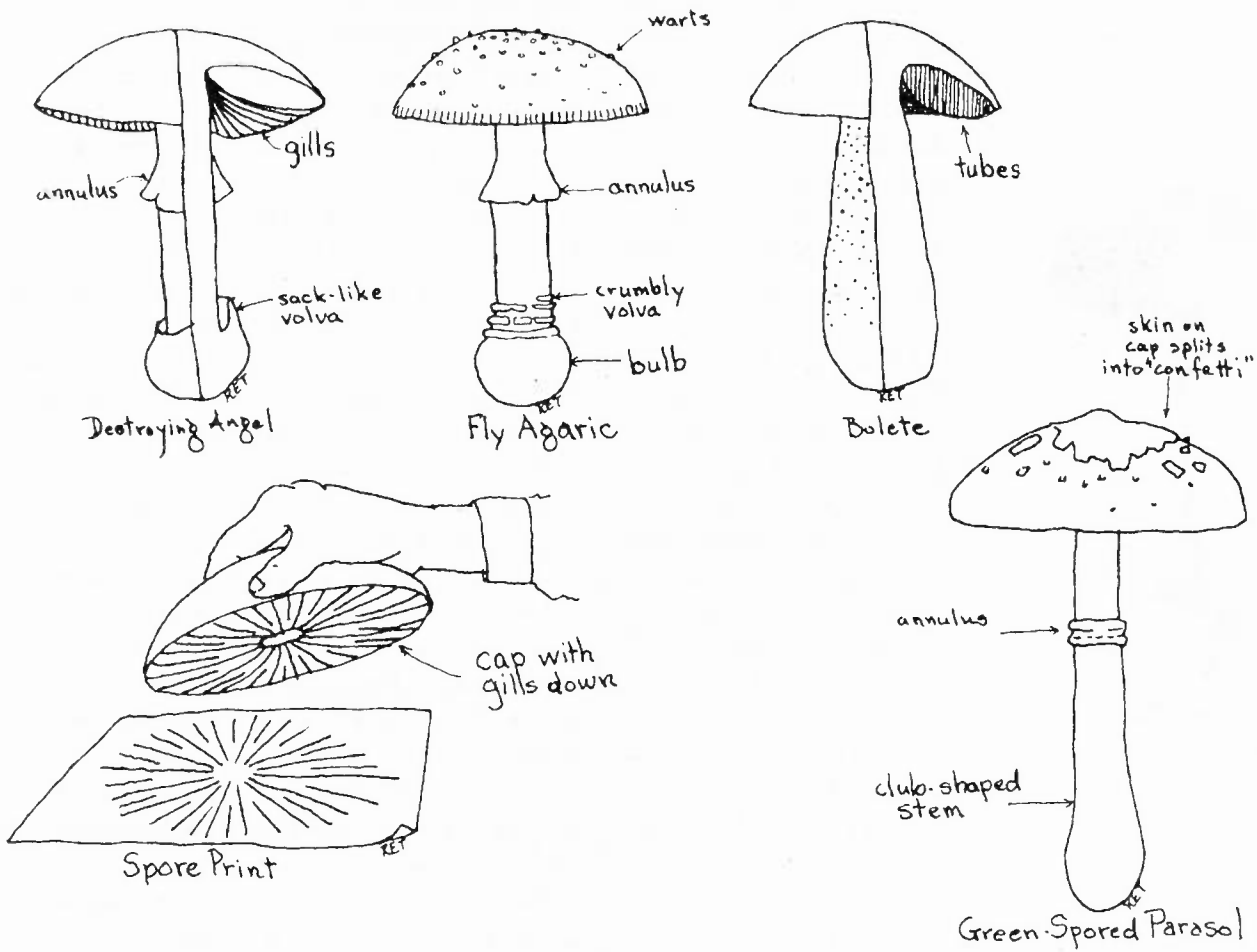
*crenulata*) has no English name, but is very common under cone-bearing trees in the fall. This occurs in Roosevelt under pine and Norway spruce.

"I'm Italian, and all Italians know mushrooms." In this case, a man of 80 saw a television film on mushrooming. Inspired, he went right out onto the lawn of his retirement community and picked a nice cluster of large, fleshy, yellow, pleasant smelling mushrooms. He chopped them up and added them to his spaghetti sauce. When he tasted the first mouthful, he was surprised to find that the mushrooms were terribly bitter. He picked them out of the sauce; and, not wanting to waste it, consumed the sauce entirely. Within a half-

hour, he was literally stoned blind. He was having his first "trip." Other than being totally terrified, he recovered. The mushroom was one of a group that are called Big Laughing Gym. I've seen this once in Roosevelt on North Rochdale at the corner of Oscar Drive. It apparently grows on dead or wounded tree roots or other buried wood.

(It is worth pointing out that it is illegal to possess many hallucinogenic mushrooms. And for those who choose to ignore this fact, it is further worthy of note that such mushrooms are very often sold by people who haven't the faintest idea what they are really selling and are selling their stuff in

(cont. on pg. 13)



**Be a good  
Citizen!  
Attend Borough  
Council  
Meetings the  
second Monday  
of each month.**



support  
the  
bulletin

(COUNCIL from pg. 1)

operate on a fiscal year that begins July 1, there is a balance of school tax funds collected but not yet paid to the Board of Education. Council members explained at the Financial Committee meeting on January 22 that the municipality used that balance to lower its tax rate to \$.09 per \$100 valued property for 1992, and somewhat in the following three years when rates were \$.58, \$.72 and \$.78 per \$100. Council member Rose Murphy said the Borough owed the school \$351,000. Apart from that, the \$208,000 "Debt Service" item represents \$200,000 to pay bond notes principal and \$8,100 for interest. (A question not answered yet is how that great amount can be paid when only \$123,445 was paid for those purposes in 1995.) Council members Kaufman and Hoogsteden replied to Nona Sherak's question about extra principal being paid on the Borough's debts, that the loan does not permit it.

Under Old Business, the Council passed, on second reading, an Ordinance to increase its CAP index rate limit from 3.5% to 5% after answering questions by Mary Alfare and Bert Ellentuck. Council members explained that about 50% of the municipal appropriations are limited by the state's Cap law to an index amount or 5%. Passing this Ordinance allows the Council to increase this year's CAP covered expenses by \$19,800. The Budget Summary of municipal general appropriations show that the '96 budget is 43.% greater than the '95 budget.

Then the Council continued the discussion of the PCD II proposal. Mayor Allen, responding to Kim Dexheimer's request at the February meeting (a request for the dollar amounts that present Roosevelt household tax rates and water/sewer rates would be reduced by the addition of the 168 dwelling units permitted by the PCD I and PCD II ordinances) said water/sewer rates could go down over \$30 per month, and certainly at least \$17 per month. The Borough's water supply and water treatment facilities are adequate to accommodate those extra dwellings, but an addition to the water storage tank would be needed.

Council member Rose Murphy declared that she would vote against the PCD II ordinance, if it keeps the ratio of dwelling units at one per four acres. She argued that the Planning Board is trying to prevent any developers from building homes in the northern 460 available acres by insisting on the low density which increases developer's costs. After four Council members expressed support for the one to four ratio, and Jeff Hunt discounted Mrs. Murphy's claim that the proposal was not "viable" for a developer (Mr. Hunt pointed out that three professional planners at the previous Council meeting insisted it was viable.), Mrs. Murphy angrily denounced the planners by saying, "This town is getting to be for rich snobs only." She continued, "I was told by someone who attended Planning Board meet-

ings that they want to keep 'them' out of Roosevelt."

Mr. Ellentuck interrupted from the audience, on a point of personal privilege, exclaiming, "That is terribly offensive, Rose, and ungrounded. We are encouraging middle and low income families to move to Roosevelt and stay here. Your remarks are deeply insulting to me and other Planning Board members."

Mr Hunt, the Council's representative on the Planning Board called Mrs. Murphy's remarks "baseless, insulting and incorrect." He affirmed that no one on the Planning Board ever proposed any plan to keep any persons from moving to Roosevelt.

The third and last item of old business was the "Second reading, continuation of public hearing and final adoption of Ordinance #97-23", the re-zoning of Block I Lot I, the 6.24 acre lot between Windsor-Perrineville Road and the Jersey Central Power & Light Company's high tension lines right-of-way west of Ely's corner. Planning Board Chair Gail Hunton's letter explained reasons why the Planning Board "voted not to endorse the re-zoning of Block I, Lot I from R-Ag to R-100" but "does endorse the passage of sections 4.410 (Water and Sewer Requirements) and 7.491 (Development with On-Site Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Facilities). The Council agreed and asked the Borough Clerk to re-advertise the ordinance with the re-zoning part omitted.

Beginning the new business part of the agenda, the Council approved of the introduction



of Ordinance #24-14 to reduce water/sewer rates \$5 per month per household. Its final adoption is scheduled for the April Council meeting. This will allow the rate reduction to take effect starting in June.

Then seven resolutions were presented. Council approved of the Monmouth County Planning Board's preference for developing passenger rail service from Lakewood to Monmouth Junction rather than "enhanced bus service" on Route 9.

Resolution #36, pertaining to requests from prospective employers about performance of present or past employees or contractors, was approved by three Council members; Donnelly, Hunt and Vasseur abstaining. A letter of reference may be sent if the letter was "prepared and agreed upon by the employer, professional or contractor in question and the Administration Committee of the Borough of Roosevelt."

Resolution #37 to amend the personnel policy, to grant three personal days off to full-time employees employed continuously for one or more consecutive years, and to grant to "any employee who, as of May 1, 1994, has been employed" at least one year: "twelve sick days, and not less than the number of vacation days to which they were entitled under the previous personnel policy..." The Council tabled the motion to get clarifications.

Resolution #38 to appropriate up to \$600 to the Senior Citizens of the Borough of Roosevelt was also tabled. The funds were to provide trans-

portation for the group's trips to functions during the year, in recognition of the following services it provides regularly:

"1) Prepare bulk mailings for the governing body and commissions; 2) Collate the Borough Bulletin for distribution; 3) Serve at the Borough's branch of the county library; 4) Distribute food items from the County to low income families; 5) Serve at blood drives; and, 6) provide transportation for needing citizens." Borough Attorney Ross asked for time to include some wording to make the resolution consistent with guidelines from the County Prosecutor.

Temporary appropriations, pending budget approval and transfer of \$111 to the Fire Department expense account, were approved.

Resolution #41, authorizing Schoor, DePalma & Canger Group to apply for additional State funds to perform further environmental investigations at the Roosevelt Auto & Truck site, at no cost to the Borough, was approved.

The Mayor appointed Diana Moore to the Cable Commission, chaired by Nona Sherak.

The Council approved of payment of bills totalling \$151,439 after questioning about five items.

Under Good & Welfare, before the Council recessed for an executive session to discuss personnel matters, four members of the public made comments.

Mary Alfare asked what was being done to Spruce Lane. Mr. Kaufman said it was being concreted in places.

Pearl Seligman asked if the Council would try to include

residents of Roosevelt in the HIP, an HMO medical plan, offered to Borough full-time employees. Mr. Kaufman agreed to see if it was possible. Mrs. Seligman said she belongs to that plan and has found it very satisfactory.

Nona Sherak opposed any Borough subsidy of the Roosevelt Summer Day Camp. Mr. Kaufman supported it, believing most taxpayers approve of the small amount it subsidizes the camp. Mr. Hoogsteden answered Ms. Sherak's question: it cost \$1,500 last year.

Herb Johnson read parts of the editorial of The Times, March 5 issue to express support of the Planning Board's PCD-II proposal. "The State Development and Redevelopment Plan is one of New Jersey's most important assets. Adopted in 1992... to ease two of the state's worst trends: *random sprawl in the suburbs* (emphasis by Johnson) and deterioration in the older cities and towns... Gov. Whitman has promised...to make sure that the plan "takes root across the state." She added: "New Jerseyans support planning... we can still make decisions to ensure a thriving, sustainable farm community... to provide enough open spaces in this densely populated state to ensure a high quality of life for generations of New Jerseyans who will follow us." Council member Hoogsteden had said at the March 11 meeting in support of the PCD-II ratio of 1 dwelling per four acres, "I want to preserve farmland as well as safeguard classroom size. We must be cautious to prevent known and unknown overloads."

## WATCH YOURSELF

**The speed limit on most streets in Roosevelt is 25 MPH, on School Lane it is 15 MPH. PLEASE be aware of your vehicle's speed. Our neighbors are very important to us.**

**Annual Mother's Day Plant & Flower Sale Saturday, May 4th**

**Sponsored By the First Aid Squad**

*Regretfully, Rebecca has told us that "it is time to sweep up the crumbs" and she will no longer be able to produce this column on a "regular basis."*

*"Crumbs From My Table" has become a most popular monthly feature for which we are all grateful and all readers of The Bulletin will sorely miss her wonderful contribution in each issue. We hope we can prevail upon her to fulfill her promise to contribute now and then.*

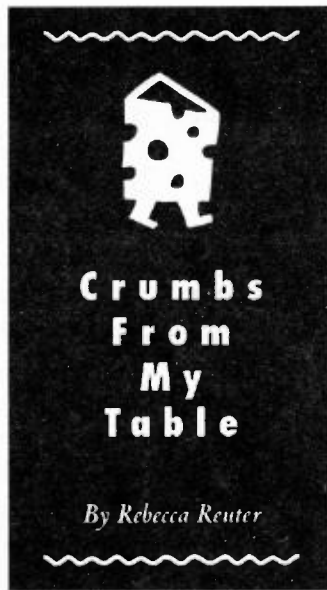
*In the meantime, rest assured we will call upon other Roosevelt talent to fill the void.*

I never learned the art of stalking the wild asparagus. I learned to run it down in a pickup truck. To recognize its particular shade of green at thirty miles per hour while my eyeballs jiggled up and the truck bumped down, always at odds, like the head and body of one of those wobbly-headed toy dogs that used to ride in the rear window of big cars before they were replaced by PBA caps. And with a real dog, too, along for the ride. Not a dog for hunting asparagus the way you take a dog to hunt truffles, that is, not for any good reason. Just for the fur gleaming in the sun, hot as the hood of a black Cadillac on a summer day. Just for the warm muzzle draped over a knee, for the brown eyes closed, serenity preserved against the jiggle and thump of the truck.

The truck that swerves to the side of the road and stops short. Two doors squeak open, dog wakes and thumps sleepily out onto the steep roadside. A knife through the warm grass, into the sharp dirt, to slice the stalk free from below the ground. A few stalks are cut for the basket, then back into the truck - feet, paws, stalks, tail - doors creak and slam and the hunt goes on.

When the earth is waking in spring and exhalations of sleepy steam are rising from patches of damp ground, and when the sun creeps over the fields in the morning like a warm hand on an unconscious shoulder, then the asparagus shoots grow straight up, mingled with new vines and the long straggling grasses of last summer, bent and tangled one way and another, the whole tumbled and tumbling from the steep roadsides. That's the time to take a look round for some 'sparagrass.

Probably the easiest way to find wild asparagus in the spring is to look for it in the fall, when it's tall and distinctive, then re-



member where you saw it. When the immature shoots that we recognize as asparagus are left to grow, they open out into three or four foot high Christmas tree shapes, complete with small red berries that hang like ornaments along the branches. Birds like the berries and are probably responsible for "planting" a lot of the wild asparagus growing in hedge rows and along roadsides around here. More and more housing developments have meant less and less wild asparagus in the area. Ten years ago, a walk from Clarksburg to Allentown would reap a basket

full, but now the roadsides have been clipped into lawns, and a lot of the asparagus is cleared away. It's still worth a look, though.

When choosing asparagus, in the field or in the market, look for smooth stalks with tightly closed tips. Some people swear that the thin stalks are best, while others stand by hefty sprouts. Generally, fat stalks rise from male plants, while the slender ones come from female plants, which reserve some of their energy for seed production. Whatever your personal taste, try to choose stalks that are of a consistent size so they'll all cook in the same amount of time. The bottom inch or two of any stalk may be tough, but all the unpleasantness is on the outside, so just pare away the hard skin and leave the more tender center.

As with all vegetables, freshness is the key to flavor. Though the degradation in flavor is not quite as marked as it is with, for instance, sweet corn, once cut from their roots, asparagus stalks begin converting their stored sugar into stringy fibers. That's a good reason to buy or pick your asparagus locally, in season. But just because it's local and abundant doesn't mean you ought to stock up and store it away. Canned asparagus is disgusting and frozen is just not very good. Sometimes it's sliced and dried for soups, and the old Romans (reputedly fond enough of asparagus to have incorporated it into the phrase "quicker than you can cook asparagus,") dried the stalks whole and then boiled them for a quick meal. Which sounds about as appealing as chipped beef. To really appreciate the flavor of spring, and the farms and fields of New Jersey, buy asparagus as fresh as you can, as often as you can, for as long as it lasts.

## One-Pot Asparagus and Pasta Dinner

Bring a large pot of water to a boil.

Add 1 pound of pasta and 1 teaspoon salt to the water. Begin timing the pasta.

When five minutes remain till the pasta is done, add to the pot:

1 pound or more of fresh asparagus, cleaned, tough ends trimmed, and spears cut into 1 1/2" pieces (cut any thick stalks or ends lengthwise first to even the cooking time).

When the pasta and asparagus are just tender, drain them in a colander in the sink.

While the pasta/asparagus is draining, heat 4 tablespoons olive oil (or 2 tblspn oil and 2 tblspn butter) in the now-empty pot.

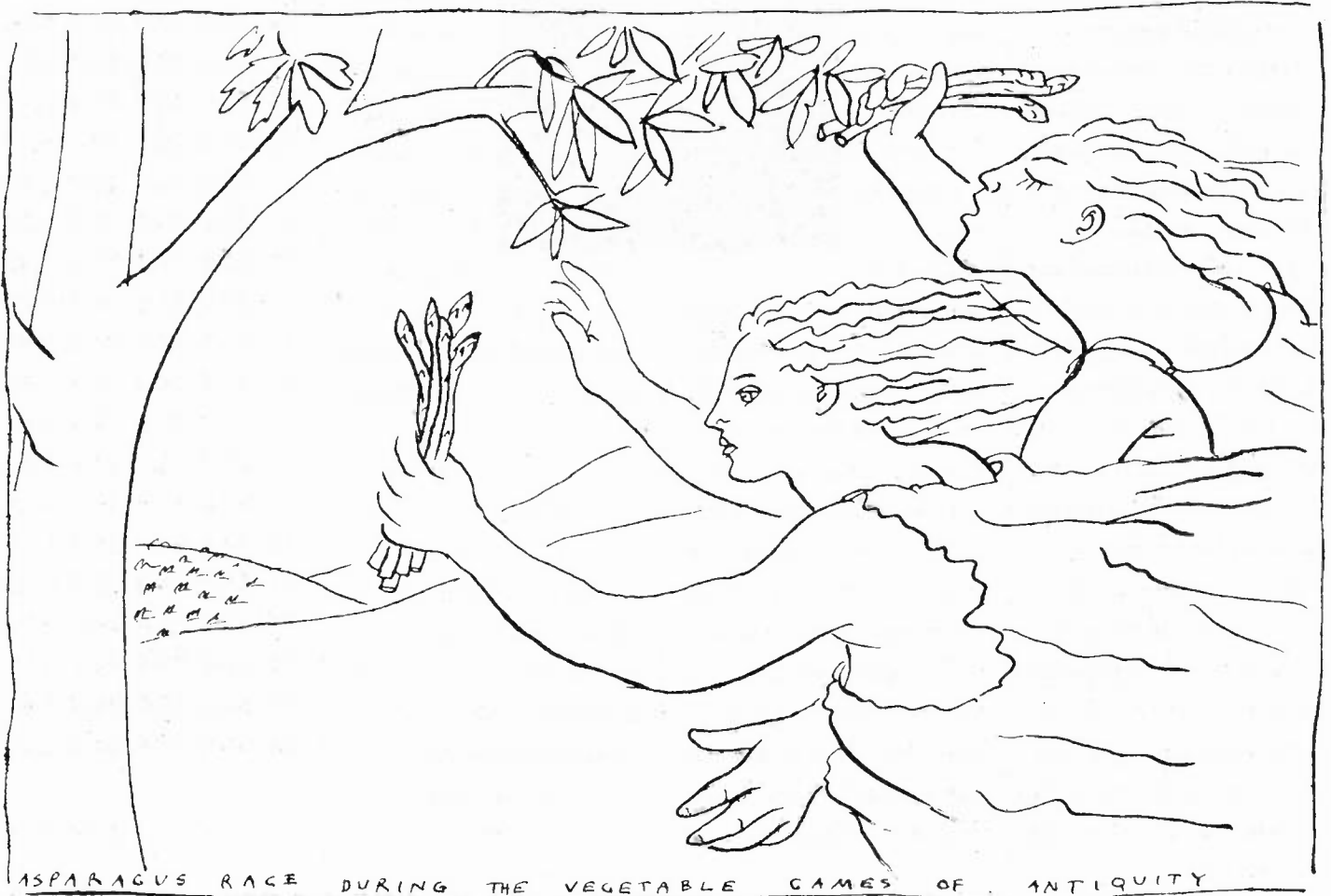
Add, according to your tolerance, 3 to 6 cloves of crushed and minced garlic, and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Don't let the garlic brown, but as soon as it sizzles add enough water to just cover the bottom of the pot (watch out for splatters).

Add the pasta/asparagus back to the pot, remove from the heat, and toss it well with the garlic and lots of freshly grated Romano or Parmesan cheese.

Add a few grinds of black pepper or 1/4 teaspoon of red chili pepper flakes.

The asparagus will tend to sink below the pasta, so you might want to turn it all out into a large serving bowl. Serve with green salad and good bread.

While passing through your body, asparagus alchemizes a certain of its chemical components into a certain other one, called methyl mercaptan. Methyl mercaptan makes your urine particularly malodorous. Do you care? Some scientists, who do care about this sort of thing, formerly believed that the ability to produce a sulfurous-smelling urine after eating asparagus was attributable to genetics, i.e., if you had the "stinky" gene, you could produce the stinky smell. Not so. Now it is known that everyone who eats asparagus produces (usually) smelly urine. However, you can only smell it if you have the "ability-to-smell-the-stink" gene. So do not feel superior and go around bragging that your urine doesn't stink (you wouldn't, would you?). It's really your nose that doesn't smell.



ASPARAGUS RACE DURING THE VEGETABLE GAMES OF ANTIQUITY

# April Showers Bring Rain Proverbs



"Rain on Good Friday foretells a fruitful year"

"A sunshiny shower won't last an hour"

"The rain does not fall on one roof alone"

"Bad weather is always worse through a window"

## WINTER '96

Despite the Swedish proverb, "In Spring no one thinks of the snow that fell last year," you are invited to join me to reflect on an extraordinary winter.

Seventy-five inches of snow fell from November '95 through March 15, 1996. Last year's snow accumulation for the same period was only 22.5 inches.

Those of us who shovel our driveways clear of winter's burden could take solace only in the fact that most of the snow that fell this year was of the very light and fluffy variety. This kind of snow is not the usual fare for our area.

It was a fine season for those who own snow blowers. The machines blew the light weight white wonder to record distances - maybe even into a neighbor's driveway. Owners of the machines could revel in their wise purchases.

It was a cold as well as white winter. The low temperatures for the 1995 and 1996 winter seasons are the same and yet vastly different. Last year's low temperature is seven degrees and this year's is seven degrees. The difference between the two is realized in the sign of the numbers. 1995's low is seven above zero and 1996's low is seven below zero. Our coldest day in Roosevelt this year fell on February 5.

Further evidence of a cold winter can be found in the number of days that the temperatures fell to thirty-two degrees or colder. The total number for the three months of meteorological winter, December, January and February, was seventy-two compared with sixty-one for the previous winter season.

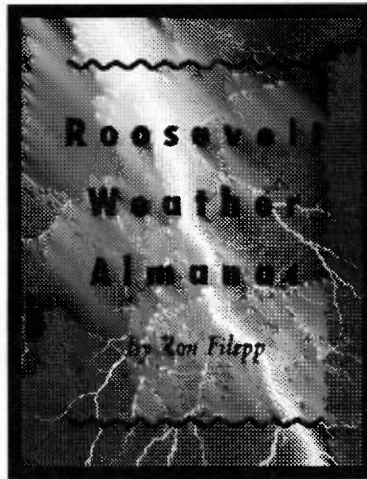
The high temperature failed to reach above freezing on twenty-six days. A year earlier the mercury failed to rise above 32 degrees on only nine days.

The winter of '94/'95 had an average temperature of 36.1 degrees. The winter of '95/'96 had an average temperature of 31.6 degrees.

## APRIL WEATHER EVENTS

On April 3, 1974 one-hundred and forty-eight tornadoes swept through twelve states in the Midwest. At least 309 people were killed in one town alone.

Closer to home, a storm on Easter Sunday (April 3) 1915 dropped 16 inches of snow in Trenton. Sixty-two miles per hour winds were recorded in Long Branch.



## WEATHER WORD

*When you hear a forecaster say there is a "chance of precipitation" he/she is talking about a 30 to 50 percent chance of occurrence of measurable precipitation unless otherwise quantified.*



## Weather Table

Dec. 15, 1995 - Jan. 15, 1996

	High	Low	Avg	Prec.
15	40.0	30.0	35.0	0.02
16	27.5	24.0	25.8	0.00
17	30.0	20.0	25.0	0.50
18	33.0	14.0	23.5	0.00
19	45.0	11.0	28.0	0.00
20	54.0	37.0	45.5	0.17
21	56.0	50.0	53.0	0.25
22	55.5	47.0	51.3	0.13
23	54.0	48.0	51.0	0.16
24	56.0	46.0	51.0	0.00
25	63.0	46.0	54.5	0.00
26	62.0	37.0	49.5	0.00
27	60.0	32.0	46.0	0.00
28	62.0	33.0	47.5	0.15
29	37.0	28.0	32.5	0.00
1	38.0	18.0	28.0	0.00
2	40.0	30.0	35.0	0.00
3	36.0	29.0	32.5	0.35
4	35.0	15.0	25.0	0.00
5	61.0	32.0	46.5	0.00
6	51.0	48.0	49.5	0.25
7	36.0	29.0	32.5	0.83
8	30.0	16.0	23.0	0.80
9	27.0	12.0	19.5	0.00
10	33.5	6.0	19.8	0.00
11	42.0	14.0	28.0	0.00
12	50.0	23.0	36.5	0.00
13	56.0	25.0	40.5	0.00
14	63.0	34.0	48.5	0.00
15	64.0	43.0	53.5	0.20

Total 3.81

(MUSHROOMS from pg 7)  
 plastic bags which promote rapid decay and the development of organisms that cause food poisoning. Is that really a turn on?)  
 Occasionally, deadly mushrooms are consumed in New Jersey. We have a few that are easily spotted, are large and fleshy, and seem to invite the mushroom picker. A group that are very important to avoid in South Jersey grow with pine and oak. One group of several species is collectively called the Angel of Death or the Destroying Angel. These mushrooms are starkly white. They have a skirt on the stem. The bottom of the stem has a globe-shaped bulb with flaps of white membrane rising around its edges. One mushroom of this type can be sufficient to kill an adult especially if treatment is not sought immediately. The insidious fact about the Destroying Angel is that the first symptoms do not occur for as much as six or seven hours. By that time, the victim is already suffering liver damage. A person poisoned by these mushrooms will often show a false turn for the better, after which the symptoms return with a vengeance. Such a person can be sent home from a hospital with very bad results. This illustrates why it is very important to have an accurate identification of fungi involved in poisonings. The Destroying

Angel occurs under oak and pine in Roosevelt.

A mushroom with similar effect to the Destroying Angel is the Death Cup. It is very similar in appearance to the Destroying Angel, but its cap is streaked with somewhat dingy olive, yellow, and/or brown. The Death Cup was inadvertently imported to the U.S. from Europe on the roots of pine and oak trees, probably during the Great Depression. The Death Cup is well established in pine plantations in Cape May Co. and has spread into the native pine barrens. It is still spreading and can be found from Rochester, New York to the southern end of the Chesapeake Bay (at least) and along much of the U.S. West Coast. This species has never been seen in Roosevelt.

#### SOME MUSHROOMING RULES OF THE ROAD

I. Make use of the experience available in mushrooming societies. The New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA) always welcomes new members. Most of its members joined because of their interest in collecting mushrooms for the table. Many are experienced collectors and love to share their knowledge. The club also includes professional and amateur scientists who can provide much useful information. Enquiries about the NJMA can

be directed to Mr. Bob Peabody, treasurer, 50 Alfa Hill, Milford, NJ 08848-1727.

2. Prospective pothunters, begin simply. First learn a half-dozen or so mushrooms by collecting with an experienced person and by reading about what you find. Here are some suggested, edible starters: Sulfur Shelf, Shaggy Mane, the King Bolete, and morels. With regard to any mushroom ingested for the first time, cook thoroughly, and eat only a few bites. As in the case of many foods, there are people who have allergic reactions to mushrooms that most people can eat prodigally. Retain under refrigeration (not in a plastic bag!) an uncooked specimen of what you have eaten.

3. Eat wisely. Don't over eat. Watch for spoilage. You can get food poisoning from mushrooms. And then you are making it doubly hard on a doctor treating you.

4. It is absolutely necessary that you be able to recognize and avoid certain, poisonous mushrooms that are common and attractive. Read the brief case histories listed above with an eye to the mushroom details. Don't eat anything that's bitter or peppery. (Such mushrooms often cause upset stomachs.) Collect a spore print from less familiar mushrooms and, especially from parasol mushrooms.

5. Don't believe old wives' tales: A silver coin (turning black or not) and rice (turning red or not) and all other such tales are useless. Sorry to any old wives out there.

6. Don't believe that a knowledge of mushrooms in another country is applicable in North America. Don't even think that knowledge from one coast of the U. S. is applicable on the other. Ain't so. There have been a lot of recent poisonings of Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese immigrants, before them it was Hungarian immigrants, and before them Italian immigrants. Only use mushroom field guides written by North American authors. The Audubon Society and Peterson field guides (by Gary Lincoff and Kent and Vera McKnight) are valuable as are the books published in the last 25 years by David Arora, Alan Bessette, Geoffrey Kibby, Orson and Hope Miller, Roger Phillips, Alexander and Helen Smith, Walter Sundberg, Nancy Smith Weber, and others. Understanding of mushrooms and their poisons is constantly improving. Belonging to a mushroom club is one way to keep up with important new knowledge.

7. Collect carefully and completely at least one specimen of each mushroom type you gather in a day. This specimen will help your identification. For

(cont. on pg. 14)

Advance Notice -  
Coming Event  
Mark Your  
Calendar

The Roosevelt Arts Project sponsored the Peddie School Concert of world class pianist, Boris Zarankin, in the winter of 1994.

Due to weather many could not attend.

Second Chance:

Boris Zarankin, his wife Inna Perkis, world class pianists, will perform July 20th 1996 at the Cultural Center (seats 1,000) in the senior community of Clearbrook in Cranbury, NJ. Admission by non-residents is by invitation of a resident. Ticket prices will be established in April.

If you will want tickets, advise Lee Drasin by mail. Tickets on a first come basis: Lee Drasin, 129B Balsome Plaza, Cranbury, NJ 08512; phone: 609-860-1679.

(MUSHROOMS from pg. 13) example, you may need to know whether a mushroom's stem has a bulb on it. You won't see a bulb on a stem base if it is buried in the dirt or leaf litter. Such a specimen should be the one preserved in case an emergency identification is required. Keep the mushroom in wax paper

or a paper bag, not a plastic bag. To get the whole mushroom, you'll need to use some sort of digging tool such as a garden trowel. An aluminum tent peg or old knife also will do the job. 8. Think of courtesy. Don't take what you don't want or can't use. Be selective. Don't crush or step on mushrooms that you

don't want. If you're going on private land, ask permission first. If you're going on public land, follow the regulations for collecting if there are any. Don't take a trail bike; they destroy the environment and especially the mushroom environment. Good collecting! Remember: \*When in doubt, throw it out.\*

A B r i e f G l o s s a r y o f M u s h r o o m T e r m s

**annulus** - skirt or ring on a mushroom's stem.

**bulb** - a marked swelling at the bottom of a mushroom's stem. Bulbs can be **abrupt** (meaning sort of flat on top so that it looks like the stem suddenly decided to get wider), **globose** (meaning that it's close to spherical), "rooting" (meaning extending extensively below ground by a narrowing projection). Many people confuse the bulb of a mushroom's stem with a **volva**, but they are very different structures (see **volva**, below).

**gills** - plates on the bottom of some mushrooms that are arranged like wagon wheel spokes around the stem. On the surfaces of these radially arranged plates, the gilled mushroom produces its spores. Often it is important to note the color of the gills both before and after the mushroom begins to discharge its spores. Of course, there are mushrooms without stems that have gills (in a fan-shaped arrangement, for example); and there are mushrooms with stems that don't have gills. (See **pore** and **tube**.)

**patches** - See **volva**.

**pore** (or **pore mouth**) - the openings of the bottoms of the tubes in mushrooms that have tubes instead of gills. Often it is important to note the color of the pore mouth before and after the mushroom begins to discharge its spores. (See **gill** and **tube**.)

**spore print** - The often delicate pattern of spores on white paper obtained by:

1. Removing a cap from a mushroom
2. Placing the cap, gill or pore side down, on white paper
3. Covering the cap with a bowl to reduce air currents
4. Waiting a few hours for the spores to drop.

**tube** - In many mushrooms that do not have gills, spores are produced on the inner surface of tubes that are arranged vertically with the **pore mouth** pointing downward on the underside of the mushroom's cap. (See **gill** and **pore**.)

**volva** - A covering of the young mushroom that is disrupted as the mushroom expands. Parts of this covering can be left on the mushroom's cap in little flecks and pieces that are called **warts** if they are small and **patches** if they are bigger. If the volva is more sturdy, it may make one or two big patches on the cap and/or have some remnants left as a sort of bag around the bottom of the stem. Some times the volva is so crumbly that much of it is left behind in the dirt when you collect the mushroom. The volva can vary in color as well as in form or structure. The volva is very important in identifying some mushrooms\* especially, the poisonous amanitas. (See **bulb**.)

**warts** - See **volva**.

## Our Town At 60 Do You Remember When?

*This column will be published throughout this anniversary year and we hope that many of you will make the sharing of our experiences and memories of living in Roosevelt worth retelling >*

*Please send your entries to the Bulletin, P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Deadlines are the 15th of each month.*

### As I Was Saying

By Bernarda Shahn

We were walking along the street one summer night in Washington where the three of us worked - Ben Shahn, painter, Alfred Kastner, Architect - a thick-accented German, Bauhaus-trained and I, also an artist. We were all employed in the Resettlement Administration - Rexford Guy Tugwell's Nut Project.

During the conversation we were having, Kastner said, "Ben, you've wanted to do a fresco mural - why don't you do it in my town?" Ben didn't react too enthusiastically - he doubted a little whether Kastner actually had the authority to make such an offer.

Kastner said, "I'll take you and Bernarda up there and you can see whether you like the idea." We said yes.

Over the following weekend we came to New Jersey - "That long paper-strewn stretch between the Pennsville Ferry and the Holland Tunnel." We came to Hightstown and then, fol-

lowing a dirt road, came to a village - the village, already laid out, partially under construction. There were heaps of mud everywhere, excavations, buildings partly under construction, the shape, pretty well along, of a huge center edifice which was to be the community center and school.

Ben and I explored while Kastner conferred with the builders and with the leaders, the actual organizers - the originators of the idea of what was to become Jersey Homesteads, later Roosevelt.

While Kastner conferred, Ben and I sat on a heap of earth just outside the "commissary", a make-shift grocery and assorted snack center located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Rochdale Avenue and Homestead Lane, a place where the workmen could get food and drinks of various sorts.

Ben said to me, "Have you ever tasted smoked whitefish?" and I answered, "Not that I know of."

Thereupon took place one of my first colossal experiences in this place that would ultimately be called "Roosevelt." I ate whitefish!

Ben came out of the com-

missary with a greasy looking package in his hands. He unfolded the paper, delicately filleted with his fingers some fish that he had bought and handed me a piece. Imagine, sitting on a heap of raw earth in a half built town and having there one of the most overwhelming gastronomic experiences of your life.

I can't say that I had yet actually begun to get the feel of Roosevelt - or "the Project", but the seed had been planted. Then came the evening:

We were invited - the three of us, to come to a picnic that would take place outside the new factory which was almost completely built. We came and sat deferentially on the outskirts of a group of men who had constructed a sort of "tepee" looking affair consisting of three standing poles tied together at the top from which were suspended certain cuts of meat. A fire was blazing underneath and already the schnapps was - or were - being passed around, the food now being consumed by men and women whom we began to know - the Katzenellenbogens, the Plungians, the Drasins, the Chasans, the Hechts and on and on. Then the singing began,

The song -

The song, which Ben translated for me as it progressed went something like this: well, I can't say it or sing it, but it was a song of great plans, dreams and then great frustrations, each verse ending with the refrain: "Dai dai enou, dai dai enou, dai enou, dai enou dai enou.." this part joined in by all present, wives and husbands. The unfolding "legend" of the song was the hopes that had so stirred the hearts of the new settlers; the refrain mourned the awful frustrations that had followed, each verse followed by wild laughter.

At one point, a high point of this wonderful evening, someone whispered to a little man - short, vigorous, a leading singer - that "Those Folks" there (Ben, Kastner and I) were from the government. We saw him crawl, humiliated through the weeds.

That was Herschel Katzenellenbogen, whom we later came to know and love as one of the great personalities of this town - which then we knew only as "Tugwell's Nut Project."

Such was my first day in Roosevelt

To be continued.



# Roosevelt String Band Concert

by Rod Tulloss

With the humor and panache to which we have become accustomed, the Roosevelt String Band created a two night stand at the Borough Hall that delighted Friday and Saturday night audiences (March 8 and 9). The all star performance overwhelmed and scrambled the brains of local newspaper reviewers resulting in a front page faux pas...which is old news. Despite the permutations of the local press, the performers were David Brahinsky (guitars and vocals), Ed Cedar (guitar, violin, etc. and vocals), Paul Prestopino (anything with strings and a harmonica), and Judy Trachtenberg (vocals). I have praised these folks highly in past reviews, and they're still the tops.

As a writer, I envy songs. They make a connection to the heart that words alone cannot duplicate. At the very least, toe tapping and humming are not often heard emanating from poetry audiences (not even in the exuberant audiences of famous poetry scenes gone by). And, if poetry is "news that stays news," then

must that not also be true of a good song? On Friday and Saturday night the musical news presented by the four singing heads of the Roosevelt public network was varied and stimulating.

Traditional elements of tragedy and humor, social protest and social irresponsibility were accounted for with gusto. One member of the audience remarked that the number of men lost at sea was considerably down this year (despite funding problems for OSHA). Indeed we lost only one seaman, and he was not following safety procedures (in Stan Rogers' "White Squall"). The teller of the tale accepted responsibility for not being sure the young man was wearing a line.

It was a year for understated social criticism at the String Band concert. In John Gorka's "I'm from New Jersey." The singer describes a sort of crazed Newtonian body at rest who, if the world ended tomorrow, would "adjust." Another view of New Jersey (dispassionate and geographic) came from Dave Van Ronk's "Garden

State Stomp," comprising solely the names of New Jersey towns, rivers, lakes, and mountains!

The irresponsible component was complete with multiple entendre and the romance of mountains and riding the rails. It was supplied by Ewan MacColl's "I'm a Rambler." And, from an unscientific observation of audiences, one of the Roosevelt folks' favorites—Tom Paxton's "My Rambling Boy."

A celebration of the non-city world was provided by Stan Rogers' lovely "Watching the Apples Grow."

Eric Bogle's plaintive and pointed "No Man's Land" provided the tragic news of war. The singer addresses the grave of a young man who died at 19 in the "war to end all wars":

*"Did they beat the drums slowly?*

*Did they sound the fife lowly?*

*Did the rifles fire o'er ye as they lowered you down?*

*Did the bugles sing the last part in chorus?*

*Did the pipes play the 'The Fleurs of the Forest'?"*

On the starkly political front, another Ewan MacColl song

sarcastically advised those who ignore signs of negative political change with the words of the title: If you say nothing and we fall on evil times, you won't be in trouble. If the evil is later vanquished, you can "say you didn't know."

A new variant in this year's program was provided by two songs with Buddhist-related themes. One (Buddha Ballad, Mahayana Madrigal, or Taoist Ditty?) was "Lee Le Lee La" by Reilly and Maloney. The other was the funny "Zen Gospel Singing," in which Mark Graham complains that his fellow zen-nists can only be brought to sing one note a day ("Om, Om, sweet Om").

The performance ended with a sing-along-memorial to Jerry Garcia—"Ripple" by Garcia and Robert Hunter:

*"Reach out your hand if your cup be empty.*

*If your cup be full, may it be again.*

*Let it be known, there is a fountain that was not made by the hand of man."*





# Community CPR a Huge Success

During the months of February and March, we held community CPR classes at the Borough Hall, and a total of 22 Roosevelt residents participated. All participants completed the course and are certified as such. Congratulations to all of you! And, a big "Thank You" for making the classes so successful!!

### MEMBERSHIP

The First Aid squad is pleased to have accepted the applications for three (3) new members. These newest members: Gayle Donnelly, Krys Olejnik and Nancy Warnick have all completed the CPR class recently held here in Roosevelt. They will also soon be attending the Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance (EMT-A) state certified training classes.

We are still in need of more members. Won't you think about volunteering some of your time to help out your neighbors in a



time of need? For more information on becoming a member of the Roosevelt Volunteer First Aid squad, please feel free to call any of the following:

Kathleen Hartman, President  
448-9556

Marilyn Magnes, Vice President  
448-6402

Elsbeth Battel, Captain  
448-7701

Mark Czeresnia, First Lieutenant  
448-5035

Jeff Klein, Second Lieutenant  
448-4818

Melissa Hecht, District Delegate  
448-9557

### ANNUAL PLANT SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

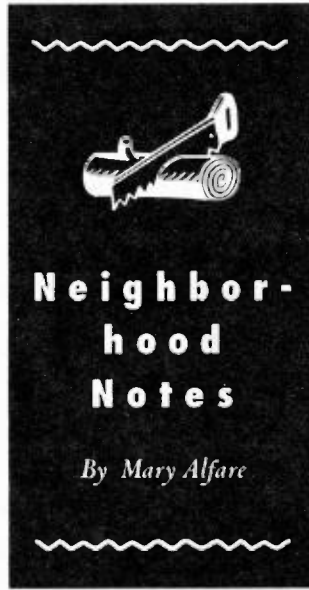
On Saturday, May 4th, the First Aid Squad will be holding its annual Mother's Day Plant Sale in the Post Office parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Once again, our selection of beautiful bedding flowers and sturdy vegetables will be supplied by Roosevelt resident, Steve Estenes. For those serious growers out there, we will also have available the squad's own, "special brand" of fertilizer, courtesy of Squad Captain, Elsbeth Battel and Footlight Farms. Please call Gayle Donnelly at 448-0539 to schedule your delivery. Price is \$25.00 for a truckload.

Come out and support your local Volunteer First Aid Squad.



**Be a good  
Citizen!  
Attend Borough  
Council  
Meetings the  
second Monday  
of each month.**





**Welcome New Neighbor:**

☞ Betty Marble to Solar Village. Mary Ann Gates and Joseph Block have moved into the former Unger house on Lake Drive with Alissa Gates (age 12) and Nicholas Gates (age 9).

**Welcome Home:**

☞ Michael Antosky to the Antosky/Wilson home on Homestead Lane after a 5 year stint in the U.S. Navy. At present he is working as a line chef at Merrill Lynch Corporate Center and will begin college this fall.

**Congratulations To the Famil of:**

☞ Sean Frederick Jaeger, born to Lorrie and Andrew Jaeger, on September 12, 1995 of Florence. The proud grandparents are Phil and Sheila Jaeger of North Rochdale, and Laura and Bill Williamson of Hamilton.

**Congratulations To:**

☞ Elizabeth Allen who has been accepted into the Marine Academy of Science and Technology "Tech Program" for September 1996. MAST is one of three specialized high school programs offered by the Monmouth County Vocational School District.

☞ Bernarda Bryson Shahn who received the "Best in Show" award for her oil painting, "Of Shadows Numberless" at the Ellarslie Museum of the City of Trenton. The exhibit continues through early April.

☞ Steven Antosky has been accepted at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania for September 1996, where he will major in Art Education.

**Special Birthday wishes to:**

☞ Bernarda Shahn who was 93 years on March 7.

**Special Thanks to:**

☞ Roosevelt's Girl Scouts and other residents who donated 75 of the 176 Teddy Bears collected by the Emley's Hill Methodist Church of Cream Ridge for the "Bears to Bosnia Program."

☞ From a number of people to all those seniors who donate their considerable time and hard work, month after month (and especially for the February/March issue) to collating the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin.

**Exhibitions:**

☞ Steven Antosky of Homestead Lane and David Zaleski of Lake Drive whose work has been included in the "Fine Arts Students' Exhibition" at The Gallery, Mercer County Community College. Michael's abstract oil is untitled, David's oil is titled "A-scent of Garlic".

☞ Bernarda Bryson Shahn has a show of her lithographs at the Bryn Mawr Gallery in Philadelphia beginning on March 20, as well as the painting mentioned above at Ellarslie Museum.

☞ Jacob Landau has a retrospective ex-

hibition of works on paper called "Old Man Mad About Drawing" at the Brandywine Workshop, 730 South Broad Street Philadelphia, that will run through April 20. For hours call: 215-546-3675.

☞ Bernarda Shahn and Jacob Landau have a two person print & drawing show at the Printmaking Council of New Jersey, 440 River Road, in North Branch station, New Jersey that will run from June through August. The opening will be on June 2. For hours and information call: 908-725-2110.

**Seniors on the move:**

☞ Eight members of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club joined the Clarksburg Seniors on a jaunt to Atlantic City on March 10. No one hit the jackpot but a good time was had by all.

**Volunteers Needed:**

☞ First Aid Squad needs members, especially to cover weekday and evening hours. The squad pays for training. For information, call Captain Beth Battel at 448-7701 or Mike Stiles at 426-4185.

☞ For information on joining the Roosevelt Fire Department, contact Chief Kim Dexheimer or leave a message at the Borough Hall, 448-0539.

**Lost and Found:**

☞ Several sets of keys and several other items have been left at the Post Office, and can be claimed during regular business hours.

**News From RPS:**

☞ February Students of the Month for Health and Physical Education:

☞ Health: Sarah Tulloss, Emily Silverstein, Jan Czyzewski, Meredith Lawson, Eric Cokeley, Wesley John-Alder and Brandon Lugannani.

☞ P.E.: Kevin Stiles, Corey Conover, Jennifer Rindt, Anthony Grasso, Brandon Tyers, Shiri Yeger and Shaun Conover. Dates to remember: April 20 - Art Auction; April 22 - Earth Day Celebration.

**From Kreps Middle School:**

☞ 8th Grader, Cassie Hatzfeld was named a "Student of the Month" for March.

**News From Hightstown High:**

☞ Eric Nachtmann of Eleanor Lane has been named to the Times Academic All Star Team for Science.

☞ Stephanie Miller of Tamara Drive assisted two of her teachers in providing a mid-year overview of a pilot interdisciplinary program, "Living in a World of Diversity", to the East Windsor Board of Education.

**Election News:**

☞ The School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, April 16, not at the Roosevelt Public School but at the Borough Hall between 2:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

☞ Deadline for voter registration and change of address for the Primary Election is Monday, May 6, at the Borough Hall from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

To have items included in this column, call Mary Alfaro to 443-4243 or mail to P.O. Box 58, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Please include contact name and phone number.



TO THE EDITOR

*This letter was sent to the Roosevelt School Board and Mr. Presutti in February, and Allison Edwards Petrilla wanted it to be published in the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin.*

Dear Mr. Hamilton and Board Members:

As a Roosevelt Public School graduate myself (RPS Class of '63, Hightstown High School Class of '67), I'm very disturbed by all the recent talk about bringing the seventh and eighth graders back from Kreps Middle school to RPS. Aside from the fact that this is a dubious financial proposition for the town (see below), I am even more concerned with the effect of such a move on our children:

1) By the end of sixth grade, these 11 or 12 kids have been together for 7 years of schooling at RPS and most have been together for a year or two of nursery school before that. While such closeness is usually fine for the younger children, by sixth grade our kids still have had little chance to learn or exercise vital skills since they meet virtually no non-Roosevelt kids on any sustained level. ("Pass the soccer ball!" does not constitute a social exchange.) Consequently, by grade 6 they have formed the habit of treating one another with the nonchalance (and occasionally the inconsideration) that characterizes interaction between brothers and sisters - not very appropriate behavior to prepare



them for forming new friendships or learning to work well with new classmates once they do enter another school, and a behavior that deepens every year they remain together.

Ironically, the RPS children are the ones who are going to be in special need of social skills whenever they do enter a larger school system. To explain: when my class of 12 entered a HHS class of 150 in ninth grade, we weren't the only "strangers" on hand - the kids from two other sending districts, Monroe and Cranbury, joined us in our general bewilderment and efforts to find a social niche for ourselves among the Hightstown students. When our 11 or 12 kids now enter Kreps in 7th grade, they're already at a disadvantage, since that East Windsor "melting pot" funnels in students from various elementary schools starting in sixth grade. If our students stay at RPS an additional two years, they'll enter a Hightstown High School class of 275 kids who have already been together as a group for 3 years - and unlike

my class, they won't have company in the "outsiders" role, since there are no other sending districts.

2) Kreps School currently offers our children a "late bus" home and a reason to take it - myriad extracurricular activities that our school's numbers simply couldn't allow, even if our budget could. Among these are several fine bands on various levels (concert, state and marching) which have daily rehearsals, a number of singing groups, including a group which puts on a full-scale musical each year, an after school art program, a large number of sports teams on both the JV and Varsity levels, cheerleading, a student newspaper and a popular club whose members perform charitable works in the community. If kept at RPS for another two years, our children would miss out on all these opportunities to explore their own gifts and talents and would only be introduced to such activities in high school - three years after the Kreps kids had already enjoyed them.

While RPS does have a small, weekly, school-hours band of beginning players, and after-school art and chorus programs, this is still a far cry from the richness and diversity offered at Kreps. This "menu" even falls short of the activities offered at RPS in my day, when we had at least four after school activities (Chess Club, French Club, Girls' Sports and Boys' Sports) in addition to in-school band practice. My RPS class

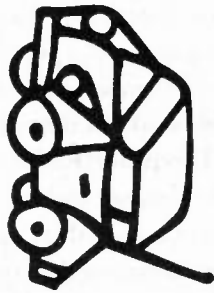
(cont. on pg. 21)



# Recycling Dates

March 6 & 20

April 3 & 17



# Take it Easy!

The Speed Limit is still

# 25mph

r o o s e v e l t a r t s p r o j e c t

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1995-1996 calendar of events, featuring **art** exhibits, the second annual fall **folk music** festival, a special evening of **poetry and music**, a community **sing** and the return of your favorite musicians and poets.

At all events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$5.00, only \$3.00 for students and seniors. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.



We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances and exhibits. For additional information, call Judith Trachtenberg at 426-8867 or any of the RAP trustees or artists.

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible in part by your support and a generous grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

april 13, 1996,

8:00 p.m.

Alan Mallach, Piano Recital

Little Known Masterworks

of the Romantic Era

Borough Hall

may 4, 1996,

8:00 p.m.

Poetry & Music

Borough Hall

Art at the Factory III

Please note! This event has

been postponed.

Date to be announced.

(LETTERS from pg. 19)

also spent our eighth grade year preparing for a year-end presentation of an entire Shakespeare play, "A Midsummer Nights' Dream." I can't imagine that our strapped school budget (kids have to bring their own pencils to school) could pay teachers to take on such additional activities; and, even if it could, there's still the problem of the kids being stuck with those same 10 or 11 classmates on any given project (or 5 classmates for all boy or all girl projects).

Children in "my day" were also lucky enough to have a choice of after-school community activities, including a community band, a variety of 4-H clubs (cooking, child care, folk dancing etc.), plus Cub Scouts, Boys Scout and Brownies. While we do have a winter floor hockey program now, there are no local 4-H clubs and Scouting seems to be for girls only. "Back then" there was also a "Teen Canteen" in Hightstown which was open to older RPS kids and was a social life-line for many. Now, all local social activities for kids in their early teens seem to center around Kreps.

3) Satisfying state requirements for the school has already cost the town a bundle, what with upgrades to the library facility, the new kindergarten classroom, new resource room and refurbished art/music room. Where would we put the newly returned seventh and eighth graders? And, once we build additional classrooms to house them, and add the mandated science labs and full scale

language programs, what about salaries for the teachers and the support staff the state would say we need to add? More importantly, what would happen if the long awaited (or long threatened) residential development takes place and we have many more young children added to the RPS rolls? I suspect that when push comes to shove for RPS classroom space, it's the seventh and eighth graders who'd be bussed out - again, not the kindergartners.

What do we gain by "bringing them back" then? Not relief from school taxes, until way up the pike when we've paid for the new classrooms and staffing - and who's to guarantee that future development won't force the 7th and 8th graders back on the road long before that?

Equally important, the move back would not provide a better school experience for our children, who'll be hampered by late entrance to the Golden Land of a Bigger School and will have missed out on a lot of fun and social experience in the meantime.

I'd like to close by noting that I really do love RPS, and I think that now, especially, under Mr. Presutti's inspired leadership, it's a terrific place for young children to live and learn. Because of its size, though, it's just not able to answer the needs of older children as well as a good, larger school can. I hope that misguided attempts to save taxpayers money won't make our kids pay the price.

*Alison Edwards Petrilla*

TO THE EDITOR

It seems that Council Woman Murphy hears the whisperings of people. I am concerned. Not that we all haven't at one time or another heard whisperings, but Ms. Murphy's are malevolent. They are whispering about the PCD II and the Planning Board. They are telling her that the sole intent of the PCD II is to inhibit development. They are telling her that the REASON the Planning Board wants to inhibit development is, "To keep THEM out of Roosevelt."

These whispering voices that Ms. Murphy hears are saying some pretty nasty things. Whispering voices can be nasty. They need to be challenged, quieted. Not elevated, as Ms. Murphy did at the March 11 council meeting when she shared their message with the Council and the public as if, what these whispering voices are saying is true.

Ms. Murphy might consider dismissing her whispering voices as most of us do, as the not too rational meanderings of our own consciousness, and debate public issues with factually substantiated data and professional reasoning.

*Arlene Stinson*

TO THE EDITOR

Council Member Stuart Kaufman is quoted in the Bulletin (February 1996) as follows: "He called the Notterman tract PCD a plan to 'gut' or 'rape' the land there. He also said that the

Borough should not have to wait until the Nottermans were willing to sell their land to a developer." Further, Mayor Lee Allen is quoted as saying "... the Nottermans were 'holding us hostage' by not coming to an agreement with a developer."

The land is now owned by my son and daughter, and they are quite capable of speaking for themselves. But as the senior Notterman, and one of the original settlers (among the first 10 to come to Jersey Homesteads), I have three reactions to the foregoing statements:

First, Mr. Kaufman must know that the Nottermans did not create the PCD plan. So just who is he accusing of "gutting" and "raping"? The Planning Board? The Council? And is it really necessary to use such violent metaphors?

Second, both Mr. Kaufman and Mayor Allen are now in the position of proving that the Nottermans have turned down any agreement with a developer that comes even close to fair market value, and is not contractually loaded in terms of contingencies that make the operation risk-free for the developer.

Third, given the statements quoted above, why would any potential developer be in a hurry to conclude an agreement? All a developer has to do is wait until he can obtain land for next to nothing, because of polemical assists from the Mayor and a Council Member. In short, if anyone is holding up development in Roosevelt, it is not the property owners.

*Joseph M. Notterman*

**Environmental  
Commission News**

by Kirk Rothfuss

During the March 6 Environmental Commission meeting Commissioner Kate John-Alder presented a landscape plan she prepared with the Roosevelt Public School for a butterfly garden in the area around the giant sweetgum tree preserved by the students during the school reconstruction. The butterfly garden is the first of several planned environmental projects by the students and faculty at the school for which financial assistance has been requested. The possible use of Clean Communities Grant funds to help pay for the planting materials for the garden was discussed by the Commission and will be taken up again at a later meeting.



The public was reminded that the semi-annual litter pick up will be held at 10:00 AM on April 14. We hope for a great turn out of volunteers again this year. Please meet at the post office to get materials and instructions. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Commissioner Chris Travis reported that we unfortunately did not receive a Green Communities Grant from the State of New Jersey for an environmental rehabilitation project planned near the school. We were encouraged to apply

again next year, although this is the third year we have been rejected for this grant as funds are very limited.

Commissioners Kate John-Alder and Kirk Rothfuss reported on progress in drafting the wetlands permit application necessary to proceed with the Roosevelt Nature Trail. The Department of Environmental Protection was very helpful in discussions on preparing the application and offered to review the application prior to its submission. Kate and Kirk will have a draft application for the commission to review at the next meeting.

Councilman Stu Kaufman presented plans for the School Lane reconstruction project. Several Commission members recommended dropping any sidewalk placement on School Lane north of Pine Drive. The main discussion centered around the storm outfall on school property discussed at the prior Commission meeting. The Commission voted to send a letter to the Council requesting the redesign of this outfall.

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall.



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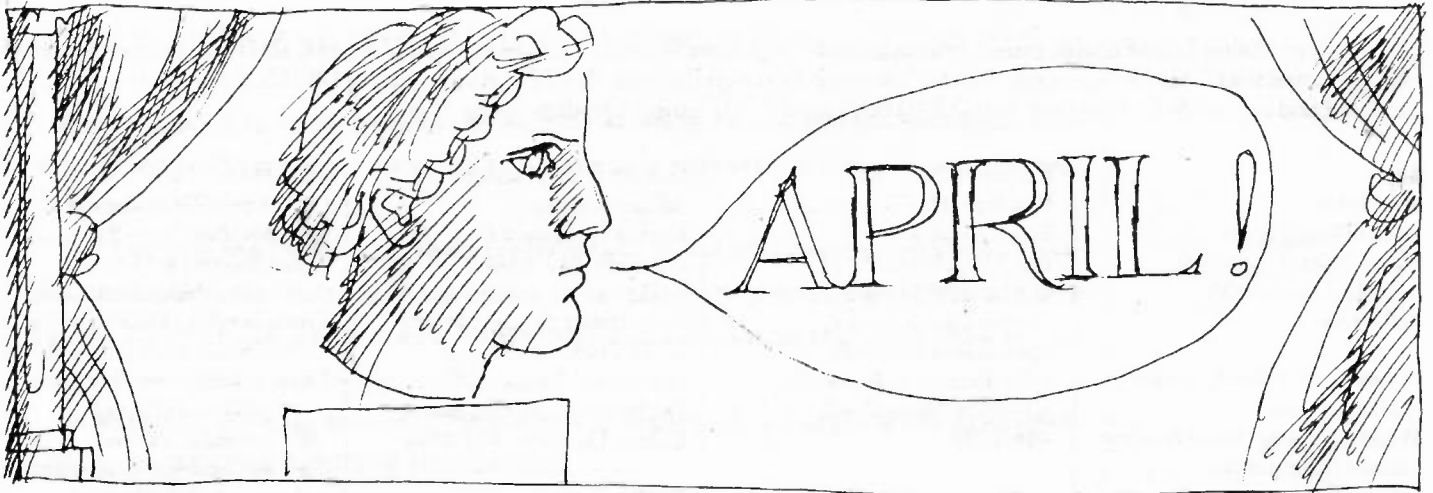
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**mon 1** 7:30 PM Council  
Agenda Mtg

**tue 2** 1 PM Blood Pressure  
Check Boro Hall  
2 PM Roosevelt Senior Citizens  
Mtg.-Jeanette Koffler, 448-2259  
6 PM Roosevelt Comm. T.V.-  
Cable Ch. 8  
7:30 PM First Aid Squad-  
Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185

**wed 3** ♻️ Recycle  
8 PM Environmental Comm.-  
John Towle, Chair 490-0692

**thur 4** Passover

**fri 5** Good Friday

**sat 6** 8 AM Stream Watch  
(Volunteer Water Testing)-Kirk  
Rothfuss-448-3713

**sun 7** Easter

**mon 8** 7:30 PM Council  
Action Mtg.

**tue 9** 6 PM Roosevelt  
Comm. TV Cable Ch 8

**wed 10** 8 PM Planning Bd.  
Mtg.-Gail Hunton, Chair. 426-  
4338

**thur 11** 7:30 PM Board of  
Ed. Agenda Mtg.-RPS- Mike  
Hamilton, Pres. 443-5227

**sat 13** 8 PM - RAP Program  
- Alan Mallach, Piano Recital -  
Boro Hall -Judith Trachtenberg  
426-8867

**sun 14** 10 AM Litter Pick-  
Up - Post Office - Gayle  
Donnelly - 426-1315

**mon 15** 7:30 PM Council  
Comm. Mtgs.  
8 PM Synagogue Board Mtg -  
Michael Ticktin, 448-0363  
8 PM PTA Meeting - RPS

**tue 16** 2:30 PM to 9 PM -  
School Board Elections - Boro  
Hall  
6 PM Roosevelt Comm. T.V.-  
Cable Ch. 8

**wed 17** ♻️ Recycle

**sat 20** 7 PM -PTA/Nursery  
School Art Auction - RPS

**mon 22** Earth Day  
Celebration Events - RPS -  
All Day  
7:30 PM Council Comm. Mtgs.

**tue 23** 6 PM Roosevelt  
Comm. TV Cable Ch 8  
7:30 PM - NJ Homestead Historic  
Advisory Committee - Boro Hall-  
Art Shapiro 443-3575

**wed 24** 7:30 PM - NJ  
Homestead Historical Advisory  
Committee -Art Shapiro 443-  
3575

**thur 25** 7:30 PM Board Of  
Education Reorganization Mtg

**fri 26** PTA Dance - RPS

*Please call Jane Rothfuss at 448-3713  
to put your organization's events on the  
calendar.*

**All meetings and  
events will be held at  
the Borough Hall un-  
less otherwise noted.**

**Mayor Lee Allen pre-  
sides at all Council  
mtgs. and can be  
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C A L E N D A R

APRIL (14) 10AM - LITTER PICK-UP  
AND PLANT EXCHANGE

APRIL 22 9AM - R.P.S. EARTH DAY  
AND PUPPET SHOW

MAY 4 8AM-NOON FIRST AID  
SQUAD PLANT AND  
COMPOST SALE

MAY 12 NATURE TRAIL  
WALK. MEET AT  
SEWER PLANT,  
(PINE DRIVE)  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MAY 18-19 TOWN-WIDE GARAGE  
SALE (P.T.A.)

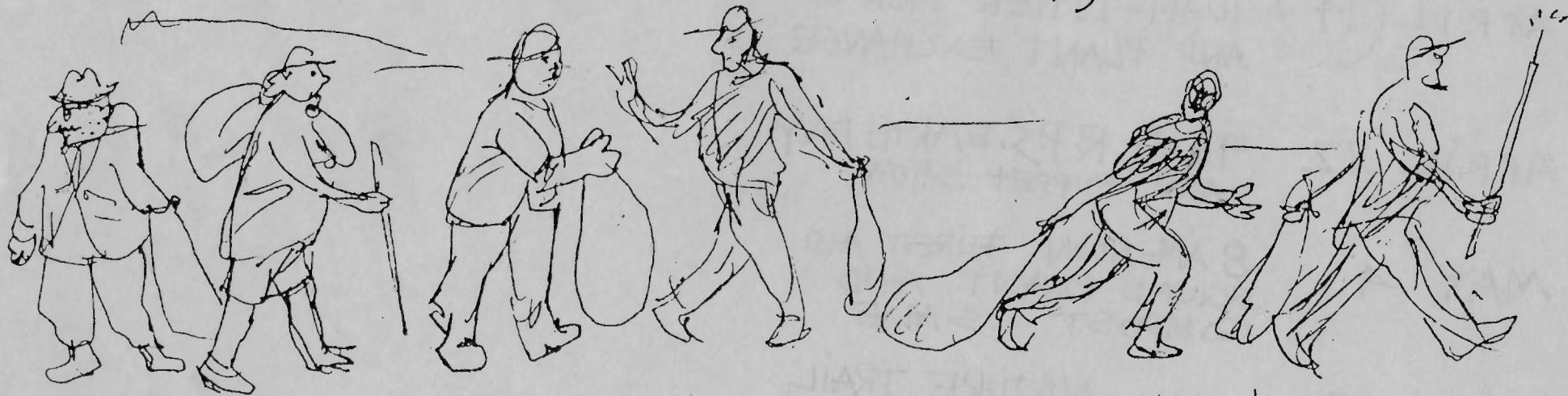
MAY 20 BIG GARBAGE DAY

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OVER

# THE GREAT SEMI-ANNUAL LITTER PICK-UP

(AND PLANT EXCHANGE)



THAT TIME OF YEAR HAS ROLLED AROUND AGAIN WHEN WE GO OUT AND PICK UP ALL THE TRASH BY THE ROAD AND IN THE WOODS (TOSSED THERE BY OTHERS) SO WHETHER YOU'VE JUST MOVED TO ROOSEVELT, OR ARE A 4th GENERATION "JERSEY HOMESTEADER" (OR JUST LIKE PICKING UP LITTER), NOW IS THE TIME TO COME OUT AND PITCH IN! SO.....

MEET AT 10<sup>00</sup> A.M. SUNDAY APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> IN FRONT OF THE POST OFFICE. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE TOO MUCH OF SOME KIND OF PLANT, OR SOME YOU DON'T WANT - BRING THEM TO THE POST OFFICE SUNDAY MORNING AND...TRADE PLANTS!

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