

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH

BULLETIN

20

Volume 21 Number 7

May 1997

■ BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

by Herb Johnson

Further Explanations on the Budget; Water Complaints Continue

During the first public portion of the April 14 Council Meeting, Bert Ellentuck probed for answers to questions about cash reserves, capital improvement funds, and surplus balances which were not dedicated for use in the following year's budget in each of the last five years. He frequently asked, "Where is the money?" and finally, "Does anybody know where the money is?" Councilman Paul Hoogsteden offered to review the accounting methods, identify what he has seen before that explains that accumulations of surpluses are not as great as Mr. Ellentuck suggested they might be, and give a copy of the explanation to him and *The Borough Bulletin*.

It has not been received in time for this report, but some answers the Mayor gave at this meeting and the Borough's Treasurer, Edward Debevec, gave at the last meeting threw some light on this difficult aspect of where the money is. Mr. Ellentuck referred to the Mayor's summary of the Water/Sewer Fund surplus balances at the end of each year from 1991 through 1995, based on the annual audits made in June each year. He also announced the sum of the amounts of those surpluses which were dedicated for use in the following year's budget. He said there were \$357,676 more in surpluses in the Water/Sewer Fund in those five years than were dedicated for use in the following years, as "Operating Surplus Anticipated." He added that 1996 ended with \$45,000 more in Surplus Realized than was put into the 1997 budget for water/sewer revenues, which when added to the amounts which surpluses were greater than dedicated in the previous five years, gives a total of over \$402,000 that he is asking to be accounted for. He clarified that he was not suspicious of any wrongdoing, for he believed there must be a simple, clear explanation.

This is a verbatim answer to a similar question asked at the March public hearing on the budget, given by Treasurer Debevec: "You are

(continued on pg. 14)

Come celebrate the history of Roosevelt on May 16 when representatives from the New Jersey Network will present the Roosevelt segment of **ROUND AND ABOUT NEW JERSEY** which they filmed earlier and will be aired later this year.

All are invited to see this preview at our assembly in the gym (Roosevelt School) beginning at 10 A.M. Don't miss it!

CONTENTS

Planning Board News
by Bob Clark
page 3

Letter From CSA
by William Presutti
page 4

Breaking Bread
by Sharlene Ellentuck
page 10

Weather Almanac
by Ron Filepp
page 8

Neighborhood Notes
by Mary Alfare
page 13

Announcements

THE ART WORK FROM THE ROOSEVELT SHOW will travel from the Twin Rivers Library, where it was on view during the month of April, to Hightstown High School in May. The opening will be on May 7th at 7:30 p.m.

THE REORGANIZATION MEETING of the newly constituted Board of Education on May 1st will be reported on in our next issue.

ROOSEVELT SECOND ANNUAL ART SHOW
Reception Sunday, June 1st. from 3—6 pm at The Factory,
Oscar Drive

THE GIRL SCOUTS met on May 10, Saturday, at 2:00 pm for an Adopt-A-Stream litter pick-up.

They met meet at the Boro Hall parking lot and went to Rising Sun Lake in the Assunpink. Adopt-A-Stream is co-sponsored by the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts and Monmouth County Clean Communities.

**WATCH YOURSELF
THE SPEED LIMIT
ON MOST STREETS
IN ROOSEVELT
IS 25 M.P.H.**

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is published monthly except July, August and January by Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

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■ PLANNING BOARD NEWS

by *Bob Clark*

At its April 9 meeting, the Planning Board considered issues involving driveway size and placement in connection with a conditional use application by Paul and Irza Hoogsteden of Lake Drive. Immediate neighbors, who had been notified of the application, did not attend the meeting to express any objection to the proposal to expand the driveway to 20 feet in width and to a point 12 and a half feet from the property line. The additional parking area would taper to the width of the original.

Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton expressed concern about the cumulative visual impact of another widened driveway in a neighborhood where several houses do not conform to the zoning ordinance. She said that widening too many driveways in that block might make the "street-scape read like a hard surface." Board member Bert Ellentuck said he was concerned about "secondary activities" on such driveways encroaching toward property lines. Both Ms. Hunton and Mr. Ellentuck stated that they would prefer that the expanded driveway be limited to 18 feet in width.

Other Board members indicated that they had no objection to a 20 foot width. When the discussion of the application was opened to the public, Bob Clark said that as a resident of Lake Drive with an expanded driveway, he felt that aesthetics and safety were improved by such widening, which reduced "gap-toothed" parking of cars on the street.

The Board approved the application by a vote of six to two. Voting in favor were Mayor Lee Allen, Harry Parker, Joseph Zahora, Mark Roberts, Paul Henry and Michael Ticktin. Voting against were Ms. Hunton and Mr. Ellentuck. Members Jeffrey Hunt and David Leff were not present.

The Board also received a letter advising that the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan is scheduled for re-examination this year. Joseph Rettagliata, Chairman of the Monmouth County Planning Board, asked the Borough to appoint a "Cross Acceptance" representative and alternate to help review and comment on the State Plan. Mayor Allen said he would obtain particulars about the duties of the job. Mr. Ticktin said that Mr. Allen and Mr. Ellentuck would be a "fine combination" for the task.

During the public participation portion of the meeting, Shan Ellentuck expressed concern that some residents are enclosing portions of public lands with fences. Mayor Allen noted that as part of the state-wide GIS Survey project, Roosevelt and several surrounding communities have applied for a grant to obtain an aerial survey with high resolution color photography. Mr. Ellentuck and Mr. Ticktin indicated that such a survey would reveal the more egregious encroachments. The Board will recommend language for a letter from the Mayor and Council to all property owners pointing out that infringement of public land will not be permitted.

Noting the previous meeting's discussion of sidewalk construction in conjunction with road projects, Mr. Ellentuck suggested that the town discuss restoring pathways that once existed in many places of public land. Ms. Hunton said the Environmental Commission, which is already planning to create a system of nature trails, might consider such a project. Mr. Ellentuck said the Board would have to approve the location of the pathways. Meanwhile, Mayor Allen said he had located an early town map that showed sidewalks in front of every original home in Jersey Homesteads.

■ Letter from the Chief School Administrator

by William Presutti

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff and most of all, the students, I would like to thank the community of Roosevelt for your support of the 1997-98 School Budget. Your commitment to quality education for the children in our community is most commendable. Congratulations to our elected Board of Education members - Sharlene Ellentuck, Michael Hamilton, Ellen Silverman and David Ticktin. I look forward to working with them on behalf of the students of RPS. A special thank you to Harry Parker. Harry served on the Board of Education for seven years and has contributed a great deal to our school community, particularly in the area of building and grounds. Thanks, Harry, for all your hard work.

On May 16, 1997, representatives from New Jersey Network (NJN) will be at the school to celebrate the premiere of the Roosevelt segment of *Round and About New Jersey*. The segment will air on NJN network after this date. In December, NJN came to the school for two days to film the current fourth grade along with Bernarda Shahn, Augusta Chasan, Ilene Levine and Rita Williams as they discussed the history of Roosevelt and the Ben Shahn mural. In addition, the

students sketched a portion of the mural that they liked best. The assembly will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the gym. I look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate with the children the history of Roosevelt. It will surely be a great event!!!

On Friday, June 2, 1997 at 9:00 a.m., the first and second graders will be presenting their annual multicultural assembly. This year it will focus on China. The students will be going to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia to see a children's exhibit on China as part of this instructional unit.

Graduation has been set for June 21, 1997 at 5:00 p.m. The sixth grade have been working hard on planning their graduation trip thanks to the community's support of their fund raising activities. This year the class will be going to Fairview Lake in Newton, New Jersey for an overnight outdoor experience. It will be an exciting two days for the students, Mrs. McArdle, their teacher, and the parents who will help chaperon.

TOGETHER...WE MAKE
GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!!!!

Nursery School News

by Marsha Rust, Head Teacher

May is always a special month for all of us at RCNS. The weather has turned warmer, the flowers are growing, there is more daylight and thoughts of summer are in the air.

Two special days in May are Mother's Day and Memorial Day. A special gift is planned for all the moms for Mother's Day. The children will also learn that Memorial Day is a day set aside each year to remember and honor all the soldiers who fought for our country's freedom.

The initial sounds of the letters o, p, q, r, s and t will be introduced when the children make Ollie Octopus, pussywillows, rulers, sprout gardens, and telephones. This month numbers through 9 will be reinforced. Black color bags will be made.

We would like to thank all the mommies and daddies who were able to come and play with us during our Parent Participation Day in April. This is a special day for parents to play pre-schooler and enter their child's world.

We look forward to our annual Etra Park picnic in June (date to be announced) as well as our graduation/promotion day.

Remember that if you have a child, ages 2 1/2 - 5 who would benefit from a nurturing pre-school environment, please call 426-9523 and come visit us. There are still openings for next year's program!



■ PTA News

by *Ellen Silverman*

Thanks go to all who helped make the Town-wide Yard Sale Weekend the happening event that it was.

Thank you to those who are letting our RPS teachers know how much we appreciate them during the Teachers' Appreciation Week, May 5 through May 9.

RPS students will be treated to a "Romp in the Swamp" assembly sponsored by the PTA on May 14.

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL ART SHOW

The art work from the Roosevelt show will travel from the Twin Rivers Library, where it was on view during the month of April, to Hightstown High School in May. The opening was on May 7th at 7:30 p.m.

WE HAD FUN! WE HELPED KEEP ROOSEVELT CLEAN!

by *Gayle Donnelly*

Once again, on Sunday, April 13, 60 volunteers picked up tremendous quantities of litter. This is the 8th spring we have had our semi-annual litter pick-up which is funded from the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy's Clean Communities Grant.

After picking up over a ton of trash, everyone gathered at Lenny and Michele Guye-Hillis' for a delicious lunch. Jonathan Shahn did our flyer and John Minton, the County Clean Communities Coordinator, joined us to haul our litter away.

Thank you to all our volunteers who not only make Roosevelt look better but also have fun and build community spirit.

SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED OVERWHELMINGLY ALL CANDIDATES ELECTED

by *Michael Ticktin*

A total of 149 Roosevelt Voters went to the polls for the Board of Education election on April 15. The main budget question was approved by a vote of 127 to 21, while the second budget question, concerning additional funding not required to meet the State Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards, won by a margin of 121 to 26.

Elected for full three-year terms were Sharlene Ellentuck, Michael Hamilton and David Ticktin, with 131, 110 and 73 votes respectively. Ellen Silverman, with 125 votes, was elected to the two-year unexpired term. No other candidates were on the ballot.

TAKE IT EASY!
The Speed Limit
is still 25 mph.



Exhibition of Roosevelt Junior Art

by Bernarda B. Shahn

For those who missed the exhibition of kid art displayed recently at the Roosevelt Public School, the same show was displayed at the Twin Rivers Public Library during the month of April and can be seen at the Hightstown High School during May. It was an assemblage of pictures that is uncommon in quality, outstanding in its display of talent and a lot of fun to look at.

The first thing that one notices and that characterizes the whole show is the free burst of talent that meets the eye on every side. The piece that stopped me in my tracks at first glance and kept me standing there, looking, probably laughing a little, was a long row of masks - great big faces, three-dimensional, modeled in clay and many of them plastered with gold. The first of these that I looked at is so engaging, so inventive that I wondered how an artist as young as its maker must be could produce so original a piece of art. But then, other masks followed, one after another, equally inventive and all different. One such piece is a big brown face with features drawn in black and a corn-husk for a nose. Another, a "King Tut" mask, is also covered with gold - not gold leaf, I'm sure, but it might as well be with its flashing elegance and studious workmanship. Many of the mask pieces are signed, some are not, so I have hesitated to list the names of the artists. Visitors can note them.

In another part of the exhibition room is a painting of a burning house with reddish-pink flame-like extrusions bursting from it, a beautiful picture and unlike any other in the show. In still another area is an image of a bird identified only by a wonderful fast-moving swirl of feathers - very impressive and very recognizable as a bird. Nearby, is a wonderful Purple House (no

title attached) and in still another place I saw an especially competent small painting of a yellow man on a yellow background, a purple book under his arm and a black umbrella in his hand - very well executed.

There is an area of collages, three of them especially impressive being made of rich blue and green colors overlaid with cutout trees in black paper.

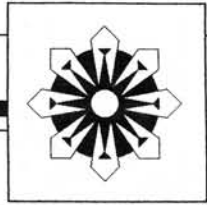
Perhaps the most utterly delightful bits of art in this entire Roosevelt show are the little mannikin-like figures, each entirely original and each one very different from the others. If one saw them in an antique store or in a foreign country, one would contemplate them seriously, one after another, and try to figure out the symbolism - for one may seem to be a "corn maiden" another a "plains Indian", and every other one seems to reveal some strange race of people or an abstruse message of some sort.

Next and last, there are the painted letters - very big, each one made into a picture, ornamental and sometimes very funny, as the solemn, surrealist "N" that looks at one with two huge eyes, has a shoe on one foot and is drawn in such a way as to gain a large nose in the space between the elements of the letter.

The genesis of this rare burst of what I've called, "Kid Art" is a young woman, an artist herself and a teacher who tells me that - above all else - she believes in freedom for young artists - for all young people - young learners. Her name is Rita Williams and she teaches art at the Roosevelt Public School.

She provides the children (and some of them are very young) with materials; she shows them how to use them. They work upon chosen themes but each

(Continued on page 9)



From the R.P.S. Art Room

by Rita R. Williams

“Niente senza gioia”. *“Nothing without Joy”*

“Niente senza gioia”.

“Nothing without Joy” is the motto for a school in Reggio Emilia, Italy that celebrates creativity in children. These children are part of an innovative approach to learning that draws on all of the intelligences, not just language and math. It is inspiring to read about all of the wonderful things that happen in that school which has become famous for keeping school delightful for all children.

I believe that it is very important for teachers to foster an atmosphere of joy so that children can create. Children need permission to be creative and they need to be able to have the courage to be creative. It is wonderful to watch how happy children are when truly involved in the creative process. In our art room at R.P.S., we try to create an atmosphere that encourages creativity. Sometimes it is messy, or musical, or urges us to wonder, daydream and visualize. More than anything, our art program at R.P.S. encourages the happiness that children naturally have. You will always hear the laughter coming from our art room -the joy is in our art!

If you came to R.P.S. on March 26 for our annual Artnight, you probably saw some of that joy that I am talking about. Our students created some fantastic art work that was all over our walls in the lobby and in the gym. As I walked around and spoke to our artists as they demonstrated their work, I was amazed at the strength of the creative spirit in our school.

It was an evening that felt enchanted. There was much happiness there that night and as I walked through the crowds of people, I felt that my dream had come true. I had hoped to make art come alive for children and I saw it happening before my eyes in a big way. It was an evening of magic. I was able to share with everyone the magic that I experience each day I teach art in the art room at R.P.S.

At the end of the evening after everyone had cleaned up and gone home, I walked to my car alone in the dark. I looked up and saw the comet and experienced even further joy...

During the month of April all of our students will be recycling and creating art work from “trash.” We will be exercising our creative problem solving skills by creating different types of sculpture. We will learn about the works of Henry Moore, Alexander Calder and Louise Nevelson.

“You have to be with the work and the work has to be with you. It absorbs you totally, and you absorb it totally” says the sculptress Louise Nevelson. We will be working on our Zen philosophies of concentration and focus and “becoming” part of our work.

We will always learn about art, creativity and ourselves in the R.P.S. art room WITH JOY!



ROOSEVELT WEATHER ALMANAC

Ron Filepp regrets that, except for the Weather Chart, because of personal considerations, he is unable to write his usual article this month. By next month, he will again be with us.

We know that our paper will seem incomplete without his interesting, informative and well written essay. We are sure our readers join us in thanking Ron for his devoted service to the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin* and look forward to its resumption.

The Editors

Senior Citizen News

by Helga Wisowaty

Our President, Jeanette Koffler, chaired the meeting on April 8, 1997.

Many events are on the agenda. RPS has invited the seniors to lunch - date to be established later.

The Senior Group from Clarksburg asked our Roosevelt Club to join them in a trip to the Amish community in Pennsylvania in August.

There are many shows at the Garden State Art Center which we are considering. Tickets for seniors are free and Jeanette has sent for them for the Donald O'Connor show in May.

In the later months of 1997, a trip to Hunterdon on December 13 along with the Clarksburg Group is a possibility.

Members who went to Longwood Gardens recently told us that they enjoyed everything including breakfast, lunch and dinner at their hotel. They said the food was delicious and the service was excellent. They had a wonderful time. They also went to the Wilmington Casino in Delaware and to Peddlar's Village for shopping.

MARCH 15 - APRIL 15, 1997

Day	High	Low	Average Precip	
15	44.0	38.0	41.0	0.74
16	40.0	25.0	32.5	0.00
17	52.0	20.5	36.3	0.00
18	52.0	34.0	43.0	0.00
19	47.0	37.0	42.0	0.00
20	51.0	38.0	44.5	0.00
21	58.0	30.5	44.3	0.00
22	60.0	34.0	47.0	0.00
23	43.5	26.0	34.8	0.00
24	46.0	26.0	36.0	0.00
25	58.0	30.0	44.0	0.00
26	54.0	40.5	47.3	0.40
27	66.0	32.0	49.0	0.10
28	71.5	40.0	55.8	0.00
29	70.0	47.5	58.8	0.00
30	68.0	52.0	60.0	0.55
31	48.0	35.0	41.5	0.84
1	47.5	32.5	40.0	0.48
2	58.0	34.0	46.0	0.00
3	66.0	32.0	49.0	0.00
4	69.5	47.0	58.3	0.00
5	64.0	48.0	56.0	0.00
6	70.5	48.0	59.3	0.00
7	72.0	60.0	66.0	0.14
8	58.0	40.0	49.0	0.00
9	42.5	32.0	37.3	0.00
10	49.0	28.0	38.5	0.00
11	56.0	30.0	43.0	0.00
12	56.5	35.0	45.8	0.00
13	68.0	54.0	61.0	0.73
14	56.0	40.5	48.3	0.00
15	57.5	32.0	44.8	0.00
Total Precipitation			3.98	



FAYE'S TRAVELS

by Faye Nulman

I recently had occasion to "travel" to Puerto Rico via a seminar. I was one of the many people who think of Puerto Rico only in terms of the port in Old San Juan. What a mistake! Did you know that Old San Juan is a U.N. designated National Historic Zone? The entire island is only 110 miles by 35 miles all around, surrounded by the Atlantic to the north and the Caribbean to the south.

Puerto Rico by air, is 2 1/2 hours southeast of Miami and 3 1/2 hours from New York. The island has everything from palm-lined beaches on four coastlines to rugged mountain ranges, gently rolling hills and even dry desert-like areas. The most notable forest reserve in Puerto Rico is the 28,000 acre El Yunque rain forest, which is part of the Caribbean National Forest and the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. Forest Service. Did you ever hear of a "dry forest"? Puerto Rico has one and it has the largest number of bird species on the island. There are also two bioluminescent bays.

English and Spanish are the two official languages of the island. What a great way to brush up your high school Spanish! It's like going to a foreign country without the hassles. Visitors from the U.S. mainland need no documents since Puerto Rico is a part of the U.S. For non-U.S. citizens, entry requirements are the same as those for visiting anywhere else in the U.S.!!! I particularly enjoyed the idea of not having to change money. The U.S. dollar is legal tender.

One city that was of particular interest to me was Ponce. It's Puerto Rico's second largest city and is just 90 minutes by car south of San Juan. The city has been restoring historic buildings dating from the mid 1800's to the 1930's. The Ponce Art Museum, designed by Edward Durrell Stone, is the most extensive in the Caribbean. It houses more than 1,000 paintings and 400 sculptures, and is noted for its late Renaissance and Baroque works. Ponce is also well known for its 1883 red and black firehouse (I saw an incredible picture of this place! I would go just to see it!). There is a pre-Columbian Tibes Indian Ceremonial Park which has the oldest Indian burial ground in the Antilles. And, for all of you coffee lovers, nearby is Hacienda Buena Vista. This is a recently restored 19th century coffee plantation and grain mill which is now open to the public as a museum. After seeing this, maybe we can appreciate the costs involved with fine coffee.

Wow! Just going over this information again has got the old wanderlust going. I think I'll go and check out some airfares...

Till we meet again! Ciao for now!

(School Art, continued from page 6)

child is free to execute whatever theme or project he or she chooses, and is free to do it in the way he or she wants to. The result can be seen in The Roosevelt School Art Show.

We are also much indebted to Ellen Silverman who transported the show from its original setting in the school and with loving devotion re-assembled it at the library. From there, it will move on to Hightstown High School on May 7th. It is highly recommended that it be seen.

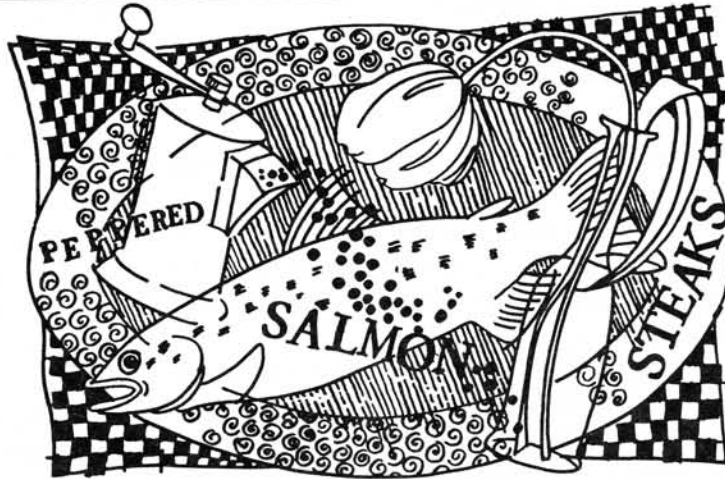
WATCH YOURSELF

**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.**



BREAKING BREAD

by Sharlene Ellentuck



Ah, spring. Spring is such an exciting time of the year. Everything is budding and blooming and coming alive again after the winter. Pansies are showing their sweet little faces everywhere. The sounds of children's voices reverberate through the air in the afternoon.

I've begun to work on the flower garden again. My garden is never finished and usually sports a few (all right, several) jaunty weeds. But I get such pleasure when I am greeted by flowers when I walk out the front door or pull into the driveway.

It is a different kind of pleasure we get from the vegetable garden. We have a tiny vegetable garden in the backyard. Our first full summer in the house Rebecca and Gayle arrived on my birthday in mid-June and planted a little vegetable garden. There were a few tomatoes, peppers, green beans, and basil.

Last year Hunter planted the garden. We had his favorite, sugar snap peas, and a new discovery (for him) arugala, along with some radishes and tomatoes. Hunter loves vegetables straight from the garden. As I write this, he reminds me of eating radishes and carrots pulled from Gayle's garden and consumed on the spot. Last year Rebecca, Zev and I had a blast one night taste testing the different varieties of tomatoes from Rebecca's garden. Ooooh, I can hardly wait for this year's fun!

Along with the delights of gardening, Spring also brings a renewed desire to entertain. Spring is the best time to enjoy the company of our friends and family while dining *al fresco*. The kids can run around the yard while the conversation buzzes around the adults as we enjoy good food and good wine.

Although we grill year round, for those who don't, this is a good time of the year to dust off the grill. Here is an easy yet tasty recipe to cook on the grill. It's great for entertaining, and satisfies non-meat-eating as well as carnivorous guests.

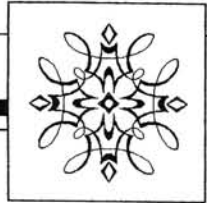
PEPPER CRUSTED SALMON STEAKS

- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 4 salmon steaks
- 2-4 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper, according to taste

Combine the soy sauce, garlic, lemon juice and sugar in a large ziplock bag and mix. Add the salmon steaks and coat well on both sides. Marinate up to 30 minutes in the bag, sealed and chilled, turning once. Remove the salmon, discard the marinade.

Generously coat each side of the salmon steaks with the pepper, pressing it into the flesh. Grill for the best flavor, or cook in olive oil in a heavy skillet. Salmon is like beef, some like it more well done than others. Cook to your individual taste.

Serve with a mixed green salad with balsamic vinaigrette, grilled vegetables, fresh Rossi's bread, and seasonal berries for dessert.



IN PRAISE OF THE CROW

Yours is the only voice I trust
the others all have their own agendas

they'd sooner listen to themselves than you
you who have always been so patient

when I feel your beak in my ear
I'm young enough again that
I would hold anyone's hand for hours

I'm surrendering to nuns again
their habits rippling from black to brown

I never tire of your song
a voice that could have been mine
syllables full of choking laughter

and that old man gait like Einstein
looking for reasons for his son's insanity

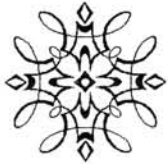
perhaps it's your size that scares them
slightly out of proportion
like the children of immigrants

look — the sound the crow makes makes me smile

it's the original first note that created the universe
scientists at Bell Labs got the Nobel for recording it

so what if everything the crow touches turns to shit
it's what your soul's been longing for all these years

Wes Czyzewski



CONCERT *for Alan Mallach*

After hearing Clara Schumann's
last composition with its apparent
coital nod to Johannes Brahms
we walked home in the snow
that had been falling all day
covering things so that
this part of the earth
was Platonistic again

taking on their eternal forms
the trees and cars and homes
were never lovelier or more remote

which made me feel more
like a member of a race
of assassins than ever

Wes Czyzewski

THE SECOND ANNUAL ROOSEVELT ART IN THE FACTORY SHOW

Sunday June 1st.
Show and reception
3-6 P.M.

ART AT THE FACTORY

- Everyone is invited to participate!
- You may submit up to three works.
- Work should be framed and ready to hang.
- Deliver work Sunday, June 1 between 10-11 am to The Factory. call 443-5191 or 426-4583 for more information.

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 1996 - 1997 SEASON

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1996-1997 calendar of events, featuring art exhibits, the third annual fall folk music festival, two special evenings of poetry and the return of your favorite performers.

At all events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$6.00, only \$4.00 for students and seniors. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and *The Bulletin* for additional details.

Sunday June 1, 1997 at 3:00 p.m.
ART AT THE FACTORY

Also during the year, RAP will be sponsoring THE ROOSEVELT ARTS EXCHANGE, a series of workshops for adults and children presented by members of the community. The Arts Exchange recognized that not all artists are performing artists, and it will provide a venue for townspeople to share their talents and share in the talents of others. Workshops may be offered in the theater arts, culinary arts, or the art of motorcycle maintenance, as well as the art of collage, garden or haiku. The Arts Exchange will offer you new opportunities to meet with your neighbors, exchanging talents in a participatory setting. Watch for details.

We hope to see all of you at these exciting new performances and exhibits.

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



■ NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

by Mary Alfare

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The 60 residents who turned out for the Litter Pick-up on April 13 and left our streets much cleaner by picking up 2,300 pounds of debris.

FOND FAREWELL TO:

Morris Geber, former Roosevelt resident, died April 4 at the age of 65.

Raymond V. Dexheimer, father of Kim Dexheimer, and grandfather and great-grandfather of several Roosevelt residents, died April 5 at the age of 83.

DON'T MISS EVENTS - MAY 3 & 4:

Town-wide Yard sale (sponsored by the PTA).

6th Grade Bake & Book Sale (class trip fund) at the Post Office.

First Aid Squad Flower Sale at the Post Office.

Nursery School Yard, Candy & Bake Sale.

Cub Scout Car Wash at Roosevelt Public School.

New Roosevelt Phone Books on Sale.

Rabies Clinic - May 3rd at the Borough garage.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Roosevelt Public Library needs volunteers to staff the library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings on a rotating basis. Call Helen Barth at 448-2798 if you can give some time.

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.

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

FROM RPS:

March Students of the Month - Physical Education: Joseph Albin, Mathew Stinson, Cecelia Tickin, Adam Adlerman, Eric Skye, Shiri Yeger, Leah Skye, Emily Silverstein, Jennifer Rindt, Ina Clark, Deirdre Lloyd and Nathaniel Kostar.

March Students of the Month - Health: Devin Kostar, Julia Grayson, Corey Conover, Jeremy Cokeley, Reuben Alt, Josh Butler, Matthew Lawson, Briana Parsons, Samantha Mateyka, Nicholas Gates, Lian Garton, George Jackson and Jessica Drewitz.

Needed by Ms. Williams of the Art Department: donation of a used blender to be used in making paper.

FROM KREPS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Student of the Month: Molly Petrilla for the second time as a 7th grader.

FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH:

Welcome Back From Their International Concert Tour: Roosevelt members of the high school chorus - Jessica Hermann and Ben Howse, and of the band - Kathleen Alfare, Jessica Hamilton, Liz Carroll, Joanna Giordano, Shoshi Grunwald and Jeanette Castro.

To have items included in this column, call Mary Alfare at 443-4243 or mail to Box 58, 08555. Please include contact name and phone number.



(Council continued from page 1)

saying, 'Why are we putting less surplus in,' so therefore it sounds like you assume [that because] we only put in \$194,000 this year, that money is laying out there in a bank somewhere. Well, it is not. That money is gone. The reason we are only putting \$194,000 in this year is because that is all we have. The rest is exhausted." As he continued his explanation he realized there was actually a greater surplus. He added, "Although there was a surplus of \$239,000, so there is \$45,000 left in the piggy bank." This reveals how complex this question is, and also how puzzling it is that the Treasurer believes there are no surplus funds "in a bank somewhere," but rather that there are some surplus funds in a "piggy bank" that was not identified as to its name or location.

There is a simple, convincing explanation of where the Water/Sewer Fund surpluses have gone. It is not revealed in the municipal budgets but rather in the work-sheets of the February 10, 1997 Municipal Budget Process Introduction Draft. Page 8 has an entry for 1996 and 1997 called "Amount of surplus available to following year." When the \$40,661 amount for 1996 was added to RESULTS OF OPERATIONS [income less expenses] it showed the exact amount of the "Surplus Balance at the End of Year," \$239,407.00. That makes it obvious that all of the surplus amounts are kept in the banks designated by the Council in January each year, with major portions of them being committed to budget and the remainder kept in reserve. Whether some is kept in savings accounts or not has not been reported.

Mayor Allen referred to the budget as a "checking account" and the "surplus" as a "savings account" when he explained to Mr. Ellentuck how he considered the approximately \$300,000 water/sewer surplus as "our running surplus balance for emergencies." The Council wanted to be prepared in the event extensive repairs became necessary, they could be made without borrowing large sums. In addition to the \$239,000 Water/

Sewer Fund surplus balance at the end of 1996, Mayor Allen had pointed out in the March 10 meeting: "We are showing a \$445,000 surplus balance for the Current Fund, but \$371,000 is earmarked for repaying the deferred school tax; the \$74,000 difference is functionally our Current Fund surplus." Nonetheless, it appears from the Mayor's statements and review of the March 10, 1997 Budget Hearing 27 pages prepared by the Mayor (made available to the public by his announcement), and review of the 8 budget workshop pages, that the Borough of Roosevelt's municipal governing body had \$816,000 in bank accounts, besides reserves to pay unpaid bills, on January 1, 1997. None is known to be in a "piggy bank."

Much other business was conducted at the April 14 meeting, after hearing other comments from the public. Mr. Ellentuck was told by Councilman David Donnelly that emergency generators are in place at the water and sewer facilities in case of a power failure as experienced this month which lasted 6 hours, and they are run regularly to be sure they are ready for use. Another suggestion from Mr. Ellentuck was to line the water pipes in the streets, for he has been getting brown water for three months and he has heard of the same problem in many parts of the Borough.

Mary Alfare thanked the Council for having the sewer repaired on Lake Drive.

Nona Sherak urged the Council to notify residents that Comcast Cablevision has corrected poor reception of channel 5 after a call from each individual to 655-1300. She threatened the Council with a lawsuit if the Borough does not correct the brown and fleck-filled water that is provided Maple Court residents.

Councilman Jeff Hunt said the tabled Resolution to have corner properties comply with Ordinance #53 about keeping vegetation under 30 inches high at corners, "where it shall be determined to be a safety hazard," has been referred to the Planning Board for its advice. Mayor Allen said the Borough Engineer has been requested to report on safety standards on Borough and County roads.

(Continued on next page)



(Council continued)

Mr. Ellentuck expressed hopes that a "Five Year Capital Projects Planning is still alive."

Under OLD BUSINESS, the Council approved of reintroduction of Ordinance #77 -1 to regulate placement and parking of trailers within the Borough.

Under NEW BUSINESS, the Council passed the following eight resolutions unanimously: 1. To hire two persons for the position of Part-time Public Works Employees, Dianna Moore for \$7.00 an hour for up to ten hours a week, and Jack Rindt for \$10.00 an hour for up to ten hours a week; 2. Appointment of Bert Ellentuck as Cross Acceptance Representative to the Office of State Planning and Mayor Lee Allen as Alternate; 3. Awarding contract to low-bidder Standard Industrial Services to repair the Sewer Plant Grit Collector for \$14,335; 4. Awarding contract to low-bidder Applied Wastewater Services to remove and haul away liquid sewage sludge from the sewer plant for two years for \$9,672 if 312,000 gallons are removed; 5. Urging State legislation to reimburse any municipality that is required to grant total exemption from property taxes for totally disabled veterans; 6. Endorsing the submission of a Recycling Tonnage Grant application; 7. and 8. Authorizing change orders to increase the contract price for sanitary sewer repairs on School Lane by \$720 to \$31,320 and to purchase additional chemicals for treatment of water and wastewater at the cost of \$2,230.

The Mayor proclaimed May 1997 to be "Older Americans Month." The Council passed a motion authorizing use of federal funds to hire 15 to 21 year old Roosevelt residents for a Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, and a motion to authorize Borough Engineer James DeMuro to advertise for bids for the reconstruction of the municipal parking lot at the Borough Hall. The Council also approved hiring Roosevelt resident Kelly Tyers to be Dog Census Taker for \$300.

The Council concluded its formal actions by authorizing the payment of \$124,880 from the Current Fund and \$36,328 from the Water/Sewer Operating Fund for

58 expenses of the last month.

In the final public portion of the meeting, complaints were made about paying a woman \$7 an hour for the same job that a man was to be paid \$10 an hour, and for not granting any increase in pay this year for the School Crossing Guards and some of the summer camp positions while 26 other positions were granted at least 4% increases. Councilwoman Murphy said the biggest cost to the Borough is for salaries and wages, and efforts are made to keep them under control. Nona Sherak questioned why the Council thought two part-time public works employees needed to be hired. She also faulted the Council for allegedly not advertising the Recycling Coordinator job. Council responded, "There are tasks it takes two people to do. The two would not be working at the same times except in emergencies." The explanation given for the difference in pay was that one position requires certain skills and the other does not.

During the "Good and Welfare" part of the meeting, Mayor Allen expressed resentment about the way *The Borough Bulletin* reported on the March 10 Borough Council meeting. He stated, "in the last issue of *The Bulletin*, there were some statements made which were attributed to me which were false and misleading. I am confident people who know me would be aware that I would not make any of those kind of statements. It is unfortunate for *The Bulletin* and for the reporter to impugn their credibility." He went on to say that "the article reported that I said there was no one qualified in this town to overview our sewer capital budget. I know several people in town who are qualified. I look forward to an apology along with the correction."

The audio tape showed that correction is needed. In response to the suggestion that a Citizen's Committee to Plan Five-year Capital Projects for the Water and Sewer Department, Councilwoman Rose Murphy exclaimed, "Where would we find people who have the expertise to know exactly what is going on with the utilities? We can't get people to come to our meeting..." Mayor Allen interrupted Mrs. Murphy to say, "It is a good idea. We'll have to explore it, but not now."

(Continued on next page)



(Council, continued from)

It clearly was the Councilwoman and not the Mayor who said that she "did not know of any Roosevelt residents with expertise in this field who would serve on such a committee."

The Borough Bulletin apologizes to Mayor Allen and Councilwoman Murphy for attributing Mrs. Murphy's remark to the Mayor. The Mayor and the six Council members have devoted many hours every month to achieving the tasks required of them without any remuneration. It is extremely important that no one misquote them. *The Bulletin* compliments the Mayor and Council on their efforts, and expresses the hope that many more residents will attend Council meetings, hear their officials as they consider and decide on proposals, ask them questions, give them advice or compliments, criticisms or offer to help during the public portions of the meetings, toward the goal of having the best government possible, and as well showing appreciation for their tireless volunteer efforts.



LETTERS

To Whom It May Concern,

I feel that I must respond to the article, "Borough Council News", written by Mr. Herb Johnson in the April issue of the *Bulletin*.

Contrary to what Mr. Johnson's article seemed to imply, Mr. Johnson asked questions, line item by line item, for over an hour at the budget hearing. The tape of the meeting shows every question asked received an answer. There was no attempt by the Mayor or any Council member to cut short his questions, in fact when Mr. Johnson reached the end of his questions he was asked if he was sure that he had no further questions or if he required any further explanations.

In his article, Mr. Johnson claimed that "no clear answer was given...as to why the Borough was anticipating a \$76,000 reduction in tax revenue." The Borough Council explained that the State has informed municipalities that it is going to eliminate Gross Franchise Receipt Taxes, which means a potential loss of \$60,000 in revenue for the Borough. In fact, the Borough took a loss of \$4,000 G.F.R.T. in this year's budget. This potential loss of \$60,000 has been discussed at many Council meetings, including this year's and last year's budget workshops and hearings. (I do not know where Mr. Johnson got the amount of \$76,000.)

It was explained to Mr. Johnson that the Council put together a budget that could absorb that loss without raising taxes or cutting municipal services.

As for the \$370,000 owed to the school, it was explained, again, that the Florio administration had forced municipalities to use monies that the towns collect on behalf of the schools to lower property taxes. At some point we are going to have to pay this money to the school and we do not have this amount in reserve. The Council had decided to save as much as was possible from its budget and put it in a reserve account towards repayment so that when repayment becomes necessary, we will not have to borrow that amount and pay interest, too.

In closing, I would like to say that if Mr. Johnson had attended the budget workshop, which is open to all, it would have been easier to understand how the budget was arrived at. Furthermore, if Mr. Johnson had had any more questions after the meeting, he could have called any Councilperson, the Mayor, the Chief Finance Officer, or the Auditor and his questions would have been answered.

Councilperson Rose D. Murphy

(Letters, continued on next page)



(Letters, continued)

To The Editors,

For the past two and a quarter years, I have had the honor to serve as your Councilman. Over that period, I have spoken to many of you and listened to your concerns and ideas in order to educate myself on the multitude of issues which affect us. I believe that my experience as a CPA, tax advisor and volunteer coupled with an independent mind will continue to serve your best interests. Accordingly, I seek your support as a Democratic candidate for Borough Council on Tuesday, June 3.

Councilperson Paul Hoogsteden

To The Editors,

I am running for my 3rd term on Borough Council in the June 3rd Democratic Primary. Most of you know that I've worked hard and tried to do a good job on Council. Your vote will be very much appreciated.

Councilperson Rose D. Murphy

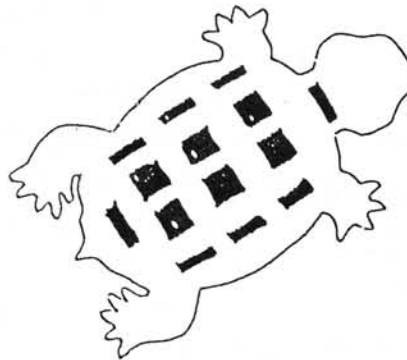
PROJECT TURTLE FIGHTS POLLUTION

by Gayle Donnelly

What are those green turtles doing on our storm drains?

The 5th and 6th grades took part in Project Turtle for an Earth Day Project. Bog turtles are stenciled with a "DON'T DUMP" message on storm drains to raise public awareness about how day-to-day activities affect New Jersey's waterways.

For more information on this important project, see next month's *Bulletin*.



RECYCLING DATES

**May 14th.
and 28th.**



NO LOCAL PRIMARY CONTESTS THIS YEAR

by Michael Ticktin

In the absence of any organized write-in campaigns, the results of this year's local primaries to be held on June 3, would appear to be a foregone conclusion.

Paul Hoogesteden and Rose Murphy are running unopposed for reelection in the Democratic primary, while Peter Warren is running alone in the Republican primary.

No independent candidates have filed for the November ballot.

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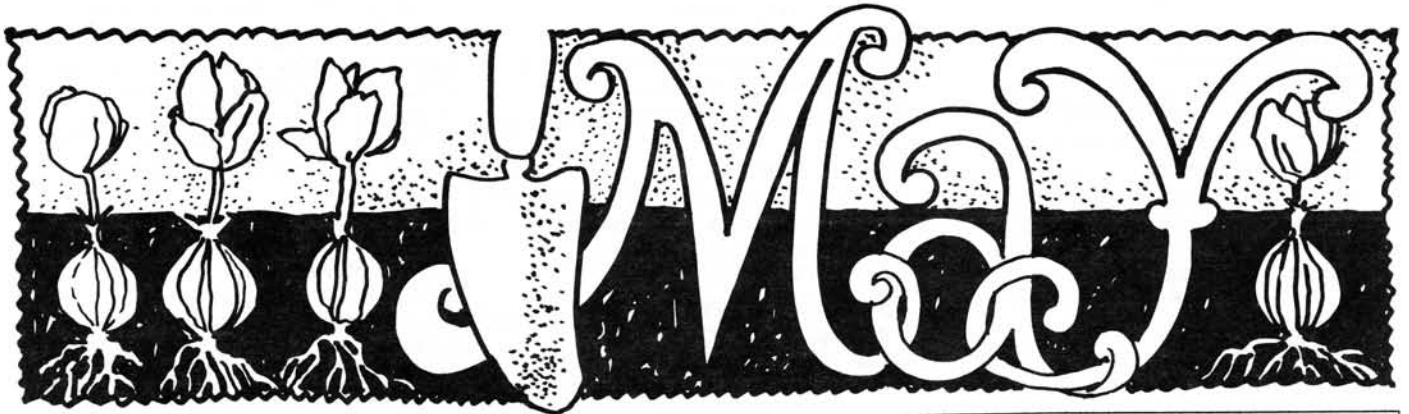
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Please call Jane Rothfuss at 448-3713 to put events on the calendar.

SAT.5/3 8:00 - NOON FIRST AID SQUAD PLANT SALE, POST OFFICE.
10:00 - 4:00 TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE, ELLEN SILVERMAN, 490-0557.

NURSERY SCHOOL YARD, CANDY & BAKE SALE.

CUB SCOUT CAR WASH, ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

6TH GRADE BAKE & BOOK SALE, POST OFFICE, 448-2798.

2:00 - 4:00 RABIES CLINIC, BOROUGH GARAGE, 448-0539.

SUN.5/4 10:00 - 4:00 TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE, ELLEN SILVERMAN, 490-0557.

MON.5/5 6:00 A.M. BIG GARBAGE PICK-UP, FOR INFORMATION CALL BOROUGH HALL, 448-0539.
7:30 P.M. COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING, BOROUGH HALL, MAYOR LEE ALLEN, 448-6978.

TUES.5/6 1:00 P.M. BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK, BOROUGH HALL.
2:00 P.M. ROOSEVELT SENIOR CITIZENS, BOROUGH HALL, JEANETTE KOFFLER, 448-2259.
5:30 P.M. ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV, CABLE CH 8.
7:30 P.M. FIRST AID SQUAD, BOROUGH HALL, CAPTAIN BETH BATTEL, 448-7701.
8:00 P.M. PTA MEETING, PRESIDENT DIANA MOORE, 448-7742.

WED.5/7 8:00 P.M. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, BOROUGH HALL, CHAIRMAN JOHN TOWLE, 490-0692.

SAT.5/10 8:00 A.M. STREAM WATCH (VOLUNTEER WATER TESTING), KIRK ROTHFUSS, 448,3713.

MON.5/12 7:30 P.M. COUNCIL ACTION MEETING, BOROUGH HALL, MAYOR LEE ALLEN, 448-6978.

TUES.5/13 RPS 4-HOUR SESSION, 12:30 DISMISSAL.
5:30 P.M. ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV, CABLE CH 8.

WED.5/14 **RECYCLING.**
8:00 P.M. PLANNING BOARD MEETING, BOROUGH HALL, CHAIRWOMAN GAIL HUNTON, 426-4338.

SAT.5/17 3:00 - 5:00 HILLTOP SWIM CLUB OPEN HOUSE, DIANA MOORE, 448-7742.

MON.5/19 7:30 P.M. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BOROUGH HALL, MAYOR LEE ALLEN, 448-6978.
7:30 P.M. RPS SPRING CONCERT, RPS, 448-2798.
8:00 P.M. SYNAGOGUE BOARD MEETING, MICHAEL TICKTIN, 448-0363.

TUES.5/20 5:30 P.M. ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV, CABLE CH 8.

MON.5/26 MEMORIAL DAY RPS CLOSED.

BOROUGH HALL CLOSED.

POST OFFICE CLOSED.

TUES.5/27 5:30 P.M. ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY TV, CABLE CH 8.
7:30 P.M. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BOROUGH HALL, MAYOR LEE ALLEN, 448-6978.

WED.5/28 **RECYCLING.**

SAT.5/31 3:00 - 5:00 HILLTOP SWIM CLUB OPEN HOUSE, DIANA MOORE, 448-7742.

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